



# FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

**COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester**

**SUBJECT: HISTORY - I**

**SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102**

**NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Sadhna Trivedi**

# Lecture-16



# State, Polity and Governance

## Nature of State

A **state** is a polity under a system of governance. There is no undisputed definition of a state. A widely used definition from the German sociologist Max Weber is that a "state" is a polity that maintains a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence, although other definitions are not uncommon.

Some states are sovereign (known as sovereign states), while others are subject to external sovereignty or hegemony, wherein supreme authority lies in another state. The term "state" also applies to federated states that are members of a federation, in which sovereignty is shared between member states and a federal body.

Most of the human population has existed within a state system for millennia; however, for most of prehistory people lived in stateless societies. The first states arose about 5,500 years ago in conjunction with rapid growth of cities, invention of writing and codification of new forms of religion. Over time, a variety of different forms developed, employing a variety of justifications for their existence (such as divine right, the theory of the social contract, etc.). Today, the modern nation state is the predominant form of state to which people are subject.

State in Ancient India State has been the key concept in political science since the period of grand thinkers like Plato and Aristotle. To look into the origin and evolution of the state has been one of the greatest issues in Political Science. In ancient India also thinkers like Bhisma, Narada, Brihaspati, Kautilya, Kamandaka have looked at the problem. On the basis of the writings of these thinkers we can detect four important theories regarding the origin of the state in ancient India, namely— a) Evolutionary Theory b) Force Theory c) Mystical Theory d) Contract Theory 26 Out of these four theories the theory of mystical origin and the theory of contractual origin are more prevalent. We will look at these theories one by one.

### MCQ

1. The rulers of which dynasty were first to make land grants to Brahmanas?

- [A] Maurya
- [B] Sunga
- [C] Satvahana
- [D] Kanvas

2. Who were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins attributed to the Kings?

- [A] Sungas
- [B] Kanvas
- [C] Indo Greeks
- [D] Sakas

3. What symbol represents birth of Gautama Buddha?

- [A] Bodh tree
- [B] Lotus
- [C] Horse
- [D] Wheel

4. What symbol represents nirvana of Gautama Buddha?

- [A] Lotus
- [B] Wheel
- [C] Horse
- [D] Bodhi Tree

5. Who presided Second Buddhist Council?

- [A] Mahakassapa
- [B] Vasumitra
- [C] Moggliputra Tissa
- [D] Sabakami

