

**SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE I**

**COURSE: BA LLB SEMESTER I**

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**MODULE: MODULE VI, INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHTS:**

**(a) CLASSICAL HINDU CONCEPTION OF STATE**

**(b) ISLAMIC CONCEPTION OF STATE**

### **THE SAPTANGA THEORY: ELEMENTS OF STATE**

The historic method being then unknown, the evolution of the state through various stages is not discussed by ancient Indian writers. It is the first time in Arthashastra of Kautilya find enumerated seven elements of state. The state as seven-limbed is contemplated by ancient Hindu thinkers. The state is defined for the first time in the Arthashastra of Kautilya as consisting of seven elements. In Manusmriti, Manu deals with seven Prakritis of the state like king, the ministers, the capital, the realm, the treasure, the army and ally. But Kautilya in his Arthashastra put the same in a different order like the swami, the Amatyas, the Janapada, the Durgas, the Kosha, the Danda, the Mitra and the enemy. He changed the previous order to priority and added a new element viz. the enemy. Kautilya also reduces the elements of the state when he writes the king and kingdom are the primary elements of the state because all other elements revolve round these two elements.

The King heads the list of seven constituent elements of the state . There is no doubt that the saptanga theory as given by Kautilya was almost universally accepted as the standard definition to know the nature of the ancient India. It has been generally recognized that the modern constituents of the state such as sovereignty, government, territory and population are covered by the elements of Swami, amatya and Janapada in the saptang theory of the state. The seven limbs as enumerated by Kautilya represent all the four essential features of the state: territory, population, unity and organization. Territory and population are covered by Janapada. There is no Janapada since without people. The two other elements unity and organization are provided by swami, an independent on Sovereign and amatya. The organization through which sovereignty is exercised over the Janapada territory and its people. But king is above all other elements. Kautilya's Saptanga doctrine represents a scheme of categorisation of the various elements that comprise the kingdom Kautilya restated the relative importance of the different elements of state and then ultimately reduced their number in the following words, Swami, Amatya, Janapada, Durga, Kosha, Danda, Mitrani Prakritayan to seven

Kautilya enumerated seven prakritis or essential organs of the state. They are as follow:

(i) Swami (The Ruler)

- (ii) Amatya (The Minister)
- (iii) Janapada (The Population)
- (iv) Durga (The Fortified Capital)
- (v) Kosha (The Treasury)
- (vi) Danda (The Army)
- (vii) Mitra (Ally and Friend)

**(i) Swami(The Ruler)**

It is the first and the most important element. Swami means the monarch. He should be a native of the soil and born in a noble family. He should be brave and well learned. He makes all the important appointments and supervises the government. He has to be virtuous and should treat his subjects like his own children. Kautilya has given extensive powers to the monarch but those powers are meant for the welfare of them subjects. In the welfare and happiness of his subjects, lies his own happiness.

**(ii) Amatya (The Minister)**

It refers to the council of ministers as well as the supporting officials and subordinate staffs. They are meant for assisting the monarch in day to day affairs of the state. Amatya gives suggestions to king, collects taxes, develops new villages and cities, ensures defense of the state and all other tasks as assigned by the king.

**(iii) Janpada (The Population)**

It refers to territory and people of the state. The territory of the state should be fertile and should have abundance of forest, rivers, mountains, minerals, wild life etc. It should have good climate. People should be loyal to their king, hard working, disciplined, religious, ready to fight for their motherland, should pay taxes regularly and happily.

**(iv) Durga (The Fortified Capital)**

It refers to forts. The state should have sufficient number of forts across its territory at strategic locations for ensuring defense against foreign invasions. Forts should be built near hills/mountains, deserts, dense forests and big water bodies. They garrison soldiers, store food grains for emergency and also serve as a hideout for the king when his life in danger.

**REFERENCES:**

- <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/193190/4/07%20chapter%202.pdf>
- Myneni. S.R. (2018), *Political Science for Law Students*, Allahabad Law Agency, Faridabad