
UNIT 19 STATE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Structure

- 19.0 Objectives
- 19.1 Introduction
- 19.2 The State
 - 19.2.1 Population
 - 19.2.2 Territory
 - 19.2.3 Government
 - 19.2.4 Sovereignty
- 19.3 State and the Government
- 19.4 State and Society
- 19.5 State and other Associations
- 19.6 State and the Nation
- 19.7 Institutions Under the Political System
 - 19.7.1 The Government Organisation
 - 19.7.1.1 The Legislature
 - 19.7.1.2 The Executive
 - 19.7.1.3 The Judiciary
 - 19.7.1.4 The Bureaucracy
 - 19.7.2 The Non-Government Agencies
 - 19.7.2.1 Political Parties
 - 19.7.2.2 Interest Groups
 - 19.7.2.3 The Press
- 19.8 The Individual and the State
- 19.9 Democracy and Individual
- 19.10 Let Us Sum Up
- 19.11 Key Words
- 19.12 Further Readings
- 19.13 Model Answers to Check Your Progress

19.0 OBJECTIVES

This unit introduces you to the state and other institutions of the society and specifically aims to:

- describe a state;
- explain the interrelationships between the state and other organisation of the society;
- discuss the major institutions of a political system; and
- highlight the position of individual in the state and democracy.

19.1 INTRODUCTION

In this unit we shall describe the state and other institutions of the political system. The institutions discussed here are the government institutions, that is, the executive, legislature, judiciary and bureaucracy and the non-governmental institutions, that is, political parties, interest groups and the press. The press is included as part of the political system because of the unique role it plays in influencing the other elements of the political system. The role of the individual in the state and in the democratic system is also given.

19.2 THE STATE

The term “political system” has been preferred by political sociologists instead of the conventional term “state” in order to accommodate several sub-systems that do not form a direct part of the state in the strict sense of the term. However, it is important to recognise the supremacy of the state, in an analysis of political system, as the state alone possesses coercive power in society. The term state has a different meaning in political science from the one given to it in ordinary parlance. In common talk, the term state is used for a variety of things. Thus we speak of Uttar Pradesh as a state, we speak of “state support”, etc., we have in mind the word government instead of the word “state”. Political scientists do not agree on a common definition for the term “state”. We may therefore give a few definitions that bring out all the attributes of the state.

Greek philosophers have viewed the state as a natural and necessary institution coming out of the needs of human beings as a political animal. Marxists have viewed the state as an instrument of exploitation in the hands of the ruling class. Sociologists have defined the state as an association which legally maintains social order within a community. The state has also been viewed as society, divided into government and subjects, claiming, within the allotted physical area, a supremacy over all other institutions. Some political scientists maintain that the state is the people organised for law within a given territory.

The marks of an independent state are that the community constituting it is permanently established for a political end, that it possesses a defined territory, and that it is independent of external control. Taking all the accepted elements of the state, the state could be defined as a community of persons, more or less in number, permanently occupying a fixed portion of territory, independent of external control and possessing an organised government to which the vast majority of people render obedience.

From the above definitions certain essential properties of the state emerge, viz., (i) a population, (ii) a territory, (iii) a government and iv) sovereignty. We may briefly examine these attributes.

19.2.1 Population

The state arises out of the gregarious instinct of human beings combined with his or her political instinct. The state comes into existence originating in the bare needs of life, and continues in existence for the sake of a good life. Here people are basic to the state. Without people, no state can exist. However, one single family or a group of families does not make a state. There should be a viable number of people in a state. China with over 100 crores of people and Maldives with a little over one lakh of people are both states. States with large populations have certain political advantage over states with very small populations.

19.2.2 Territory

Some writers feel that territory is not an indispensable attribute of a state. They say that nomadic people have political arrangements but they have to move from place to place in search of food. As such they cannot afford to have a fixed territory. However, the widely accepted view is that a state should have a fixed territory, the boundaries of which can be identified. There is no state at present which has no proper territory and no mechanism to enforce authority over citizens. Such a state cannot carry on relationship with other nations.

There is also another need for the state to have its territory. All states require revenue which will not be forthcoming. The economic base is provided by the land (including water) under the authority of the state. The state can establish authority over its subjects only if they live in a territory. Territory is very important because it identifies a certain population within it. As such it provides physical limits. It is quite evident that the Government of India cannot have any control over citizens staying outside its territory except with the help of the state of their residence. Territory is therefore a pre-requisite. Again, as in the case of population, there cannot be any rule regarding the minimum area required for a state. There are states like the Soviet Union with an area of 12.4 million sq. km. And there are small states such as Maldives with an area of only some hundred square kilometres.

An argument is sometimes advanced that small states are more conducive to democracy than big states. The abode of direct democracy, Switzerland, is cited as an example. But with rapid developments in the means of transport and communication, it has been possible to make democratic systems of government work efficiently in bigger states. At the same time, states with large territories have the advantage of mobilising huge natural resources which small states do not have, especially when resources dry over time.

19.2.3 Government

As stated earlier, there is a confusion in common language between the state and government. Actually the government is the agency of the state, and exists for carrying out the will of the state. Without a government a state cannot function. As a matter of fact, the very justification for a state is that it provides people with a machinery for orderly life. The state does this through a government. A state cannot be conceived of without a government.

19.2.4 Sovereignty

The word sovereignty means ultimate power. The distinguishing character of a state is the monopoly of coercive power over all individuals and institutions within its territory. No one can question this power of the state. But sovereignty is not confined to the area within the state. It extends to the relationship with other sovereign states. No state has power to impose restriction on another state and this is recognised by international law. Indeed, all writers on the state agree that sovereignty is the outstanding characteristic of a state.

From the foregoing discussion it is evident that in order to be called a state, the institution should have all the four attributes referred to above. If it misses any of them, it ceases to be a state.

It is necessary at this point to give a few clarifications which are related to the state. These are given in sub-sections 3 to 6 below.

We have discussed several features of the state. We hope you have read and understood this section. You will know the levels of your understanding by doing the exercises given below:

Activity 1

“Is India a state or a Nation” write an essay of one page on this topic. You can take the help of other books or articles, if possible. Compare your essay with those of other learners at your study centre, and discuss the topic with your Academic Counsellor.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Use the space below for your answers.

b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1) What are the essential attributes of a state? Use five lines for your answer.

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2) Is sovereignty an essential criterion of a state? Give reasons for your answer. Use about five lines for your answer.

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3) Uttar Pradesh is a State with all the attributes of an independent State. Yes No

4) A government has control over the population even outside the territory. Yes No

19.3 STATE AND THE GOVERNMENT

In everyday language, the terms state and government are often used interchangeably. But they are, by no means, the same. Government can exist independent of the state as in the so called stateless societies. Historically the family preceded the state. But while a government can exist without a state, a state cannot exist without a government. Government, as we have seen earlier is an element of the state. It is created to achieve the goal of the state. Without government, a population would be a mass of incoherent, unorganised anarchic people with no means of collective action. Government is an instrument of the state to carry out its will. For this purpose it is vested with sovereignty. Government can take different forms such as democratic, totalitarian etc., and can have different goals such as communism, socialism, capitalism, welfare ideology, etc.

The difference between the state and the government may now be summarised.

- i) The state is an abstraction, but the government is a concrete element of the state.
- ii) The state is a supreme body, but the government is an element of the state.
- iii) The state is more or less permanent, whereas the government's authority is derived and limited by the terms of the Constitution. Sovereignty is an attribute of the state and not of the government.

19.4 STATE AND SOCIETY

The state is the agency which performs the political function in society and as such is a sub-system of the society. The political function is different from the functions performed by other agencies in a society but is functionally integrated with those functions. Thus, while the society is concerned with the functions of procuring food and meeting other economic needs, related integration needs, and security and related political needs, the state is invested with ensuring the satisfaction of all these needs in a smooth and continuous manner. The state does this by using the coercive power vested in it. This coercive power, further, enables the state to ensure that all individual, institution, associations and agencies within its territory, perform their appropriate roles. Besides this the state has also to protect the citizens from external interference. The state has also to pursue its interests in the international field. For this, the state is endowed with the additional attribute, the sovereignty, which the society does not have. Indeed, it is this attribute that differentiates the state from the society and it is this that enables the state to rule over the members of the society. It is possible that the territorial boundary and population of a state may be coterminous with the territory and population of the society as in many of the countries of the world (e.g. England and France).

19.5 STATE AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

There are other associations which perform important roles within the state. But for them, the citizens will be denied many things that enrich their life. While they are important, each in its own way, the overriding power of the state enables it to control and regulate them and even to dissolve them at will. However, in some states the associations have become so strong that they are able, to put a break on the state's arbitrary use of power. These associations argue that the state is only one among them. Though they are willing to grant it the primacy of place. This argument is called **Political Pluralism**. In countries such as U.K. and U.S.A. where democracy has reached some level of maturity, pluralism has become a very strong challenge to the state's arbitrary use of power. Because of the threat from these associations, many states with oligarchic forms of government do not encourage the growth of associations, especially if they develop into **interest groups**. However, it is admitted, even by pluralists, that the state has, and should have, the ultimate and coercive power which alone will, in the last analysis, enable the associations to function properly and settle disputes among them. In the days of multi-national organisations, the need for the state's help in pursuing their activities abroad is more strongly felt.

19.6 STATE AND THE NATION

There is a difference between the state and nation. The word nation is derived from the Latin word *nation* which means "born". This means that a nation is a people

descended from a common stock. The ethnic attribute of nation is seen in most of the definitions of nation. The nation has been defined as a population of an ethnic unity, inhabiting a territory of a geographic unity. By ethnic unity, we mean a population having a common custom and a common consciousness of rights and wrongs. Actually the ties that bind people together into a nation are more psychological and spiritual than ethnic, linguistic or religious. **A nation is the people's consciousness of unity.** Once this consciousness is achieved, ethnic difference lose their importance. Switzerland is a good example. It is inhabited by three ethnic groups.

We may now examine the distinction between state and nation. The theory of one-nation-one state, or the creation of states on the basis of self-determination, became practical politics after World War I. New nation-states were created and the term nation and state began to be accepted as synonymous. Even now we hear and read of countries being described as nations when the word 'states' should have been more appropriate. The United Nations Organisation (UNO) is a union of sovereign states and not of nations. The state is different from the nation in the following respects.

- i) The state is a people organised for law within a definite territory, whereas a nation is a people psychologically bound together..
- ii) Statehood is objective, nationhood is subjective.
- iii) Statehood is an obligation enforceable by law, whereas nationhood is a condition of the mind, a spiritual possession.
- iv) A state may consist of one nation (Rumania, Albania, France) or different nations, (India, Canada). For the same reason, a nation may be split into two or more states (North and South Korea, People's Republic of China and Republic of China).

Related to the word nation are two other words, nationality, and nationalism. Nationality is a spiritual or psychological identification among people having common affinities like common origin, race, language, tradition or history and common political aspirations. It is a way of feeling, thinking and living together. Nationalism is the growth of a feeling of oneness among people based on the same attributes that contribute to nationhood and nationality. Nationalism brings together people into a nation by creating in them a sense of identity (nationality).

In conclusion, we may say that states will be more viable if they are formed on the basis of single nations but many of the pluri-national states have also proved to be viable, showing that nationalism is only one aspect of a state's strength.

Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Use the space below for your answers.

b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

- 1) What are the fundamental differences between the sate and a government?
Use five lines for your answer.

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2)	Political pluralism recognises the state to be the only important association.	Yes	No
3)	Self-determination means right of self-development of the citizens.	Yes	No
4)	United Nation’s Organisation is a union of only sovereign states of the world.	Yes	No

19.7 INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

In this section, we shall describe two sets of institutions that enable the state to function in modern societies:

- i) Government organisations, and
- ii) Non-government organisations.

Government organisation are:

- i) Executive,
- ii) Legislature,
- iii) Judiciary, and
- iv) Bureaucracy.

The non-governmental organisations are:

- i) Political parties,
- ii) Interest groups, and
- iii) The press.

19.7.1 Governmental Organisation

Depending upon the number of persons sharing authority, we can speak of rule by one or rule by many persons. The former can be a monarchy or a dictatorship. Rule by many can take different forms. If power is in the hands of a few persons, it is called oligarchy, if it is in many hands, it is a democracy. **These descriptions are not precise but only approximations.** Democracy can take different forms Parliamentary and Presidential, the former means that the Parliament is the supreme body in the state. United Kingdom and India are examples of Parliamentary democracy. In fact India borrowed its democratic set-up from the United Kingdom. Presidential democracy is one where the President holds supreme power and is not answerable to the legislature. United States of America is the best example of Presidential democracy. In India, the Prime Minister, who heads the Union Cabinet, can be removed by a vote of Parliament. In the United States of America, the President can be removed only by impeachment by the two-third majority of the Congress (American equivalent of Parliament). Yet another distinction in the form of government is whether it is of the Unitary or the Federal type. The Unitary type exists where the government is centralised and there is local autonomy (e.g. Sri Lanka). In the Federal type, the local governments have autonomy over limited area of power (e.g. U.S.A., India).

19.7.1.1 The Legislature

The legislature is one of the three branches of the government. It is the law-making body of a state. In parliamentary democracies, the legislature has unlimited power to make or annul any law, but in states where the Presidential form of government prevails, or in oligarchies or dictatorships, the legislature's power to make or annul laws is limited. Even in democracies where the Constitution safeguards the legislature's supremacy in law-making, the ruling elite can, in several ways, undermine this and install its laws through the backdoor.

Thus legislatures differ both in type and composition. The two major types are unicameral and bi-cameral; whereas in the former there is only one law-making house in the state (e.g. Norway, Israel) in the latter the legislature consists of two houses, generally called the Assembly (lower house) and the Council (upper house). Almost all the states in the world, including India, have the bi-cameral system. In India, the lower house is called Lok Sabha and the upper house, Rajya Sabha. In England they are respectively called the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In both India and England, the two houses are together called the Parliament. In U.S.A., the House of Representatives is the lower house and the Senate is the upper house. Together, they are called the Congress. Many Indian States have the bi-cameral system (e.g. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar) but many other states (e.g. Kerala, Andhra Pradesh) have house.

The composition of the legislature also differs from state to state. In some states which are under the dictatorial rule, all the members of the legislature, or at least, a majority of them will be the nominees of the ruler. Sometimes the members of the upper house will be elected by the people directly. In India, the Lok Sabha consists of members directly elected by the people while the Rajya Sabha members are elected by the members of State Legislative Assemblies. In the United Kingdom, the House of Lords (Upper House) consists of hereditary nobles (except the Church officials). In U.S.A. members of both houses of the Congress are directly elected.

When there are two houses for making law, the upper house will have lesser power than the lower house (except in U.S.A.). Both in India and the United Kingdom, the upper house has only limited powers.

It has to be mentioned that even though the main purpose of legislatures is law-making, in almost all states of the world, they have financial as well as judicial functions. As all of us know, the annual budget of the government has to be passed by it. A large part of the time of the legislature is spent on deliberations or discussion of the work of the government.

19.7.1.2 The Executive

This is the second branch of the government. The term is used to designate all those officers of the government, whose business is to execute or put into effect the laws passed by the enforcement of the law alone. The formulation of policy and its implementation through programmes are also the work of the executive. These activities vest in the executive's enormous power and, as a result, many of the legislators will look towards the executive for patronage.

The executive can be one person such as a dictator or king or several persons such as a Council or Cabinet. Even when the latter form exists, the executive is still known by the person who is its chief—the King, President, Prime Minister, Chairman etc.

An important question regarding the executive is the mode of appointment. The following are the ways through which the chief executive comes to power.

a) **Hereditary Principle**

This is the way Kings come to power. There are only very few monarchs as heads of state in modern times and even though they rule with limited power, most well-known hereditary rulers are the Queen of England, the King of Saudi Arabia, the King of Nepal, the King of Thailand, the King of Japan etc.

b) **Election**

Prime Minister of India is elected. So also are the Presidents of the United States of America, France and most of the democratic countries of the world. Elected executives rule only for a limited period, as prescribed by the Constitution and the country concerned.

In some cases the chief executive comes to power through unconstitutional means, a revolution or **coup d'etat**. For example. Zia-ul-Haq, the late President of Pakistan, came into power through coup d'etat.

19.7.1.3 The Judiciary

The Judiciary is the body which adjudicates the laws made by the legislature. The judiciary consists of a hierarchy of courts. Usually at the lower level, there are two parallel systems of courts-the civil courts and criminal courts. The highest court is usually called Supreme Court. In England, it is the Privy Council. In India, the highest court at the state level is called High Court. There are district (Zilla) and Munsiff or Magistrates Courts at the lower levels.

Courts at the lower level have original jurisdiction while courts at higher level have appellate jurisdiction (hearing of appeals on the judgement) of lower courts. The High Courts and the Supreme Court in India take up both original and appellate petitions. They have also the power of dealing with constitutional issues.

On democracies, the courts are free from the interference of other branches of the government. To ensure their freedom, judges, once appointed, cannot be removed except for very grave offences. In totalitarian states, the judiciary is a wing of the executive as is the legislature, and will have to obey the command of the dictator.

19.7.1.4 The Bureaucracy

This is an arm of the executive. In modern times, the functions of the state have increased by leaps and bounds, and many of these functions (e.g. planning and programming) have become highly technical. Under this circumstance, the executive will have neither the time nor the expertise to perform its role efficiently. Therefore, the civil service has stepped in to fill the gap. The Civil Service, in the modern state, is recruited on modern lines. Officials are recruited through competitive examinations, usually by an impartial agency such as, the Public Service Commission – which enables the appointment of the person maximally suited for the job. Elaborate rules are framed for guiding the officials in their work. The whole system has been highly professionalised. This system is called bureaucracy – rule by bureaucrats. The bureaucrats are not just servants of the executive. In many cases, they perform the functions of the executive in their limited area. The ordinary citizen generally sees the bureaucrat as a person wielding enormous power. In some states such as France, recruitment to the executive is mostly from the top bureaucracy so that the difference between the two gets blurred. It is the unique role of the bureaucracy in policy

making and programme implementation (though next only to the executive), that has enabled it to consider as a vital part of the political system.

19.7.2 The Non-Government Agencies

We have listed three agencies – political parties, interest groups and the press as important units of this sub-system. Let us cover these three important areas. This will make their functioning clear.

19.7.2.1 Political Parties

These are organised groups of citizens who hold common views on public issues and, acting as political units, seek to obtain control of the government with a view to further the programme and policy which they profess. A political party has been defined as an association organised in support of some principle or policy which, by constitutional means, it endeavours to make the determinant of government.

Political parties are indispensable for the working of a democratic government. They are the connecting link between the people and the government. They are the vehicle through which individuals and groups work to secure and exercise political power. They make people politically conscious of their role as citizens. They are the agencies that maintain a continuous link between the people and those who represent them in government or in the opposition.

Political parties may differ on ideologies, and consequently, on their goals and means. The modern trend is to divide them broadly into two categories - right and left. The rightist parties are conservative and status quo oriented whereas the leftist parties are revolutionary and change-oriented. In many European countries there are centrist parties which do not belong either to the right or to the left. Of late, religious fundamentalism has also entered the arena of political parties. Several states in the world today are under the grip of religious fundamentalism (e.g. Iran). In India religious fundamentalism is gathering strength every day among all major communities (Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs)

The number of political parties functioning within a state is also an important aspect of a political system. There are states with only one political party (For eg. China). There are also states with a number of parties. A few states have only two parties (e.g. U.K. and U.S.A.). The number of parties does not affect a political system in any serious manner even though a two-party system can be more healthy for a democracy. In states with multiple parties, political coalition have emerged. Parties with similar ideologies may decide to make a common front to achieve their common objectives. In a multiparty system where the coalition government consists of a number of small parties, there can be political instability as some parties may withdraw their allegiance from the ruling coalition and join the opposition on flimsy grounds. The chances for such change of allegiance are greater when the differences between parties are less ideological and when party loyalties are based on personal considerations and loyalties. France, before the coming of Charles de Gulle, is a good example. Till then in France, the ministries used to come and go within months. Currently, Italy is an example.

In India, we have a multiparty system. In some states there are coalition cabinets. In the Centre, at present in Sept. 2004. Congress and its allies i.e. the UPA is at the Centre. But in some of the states such as Uttar Pradesh, the alliance of BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) headed by Chief Minister Mayawati who belongs to BSP, had existed. Each faction followed a separate leader. Transfer of loyalty by members of the legislature is quite common in these states as this has led to the instability of cabinets.

In fact Communist countries and non-communist totalitarian states do not tolerate any opposition. They have only one political party. Pakistan, a non-communist country, until recently had one political party. Other parties then worked under severe restrictions.

A multiparty system is a basic requirement for the survival and growth of democracy. The presence of several parties competing for the loyalty of the citizens and acting as a control on one another is the strongest safeguard for democracy. If there is only one party, it can become indifferent to the needs of the people and can use its power arbitrarily, there is no check on the ruling party as it does not have to face any opposition either from the legislature or from the people.

Political parties play a very important part in the political system of a country. They socialise the people into political behaviour, sort out the needs and aspirations of the people and place them before the people in the form of a party programme (manifesto), present the people's needs and demands before the government and provide a link between people and their elected representatives. The citizens pick up the parties of their choice and the ambitious among them use the party as a channel for mobility and for fulfilling their political aspirations.

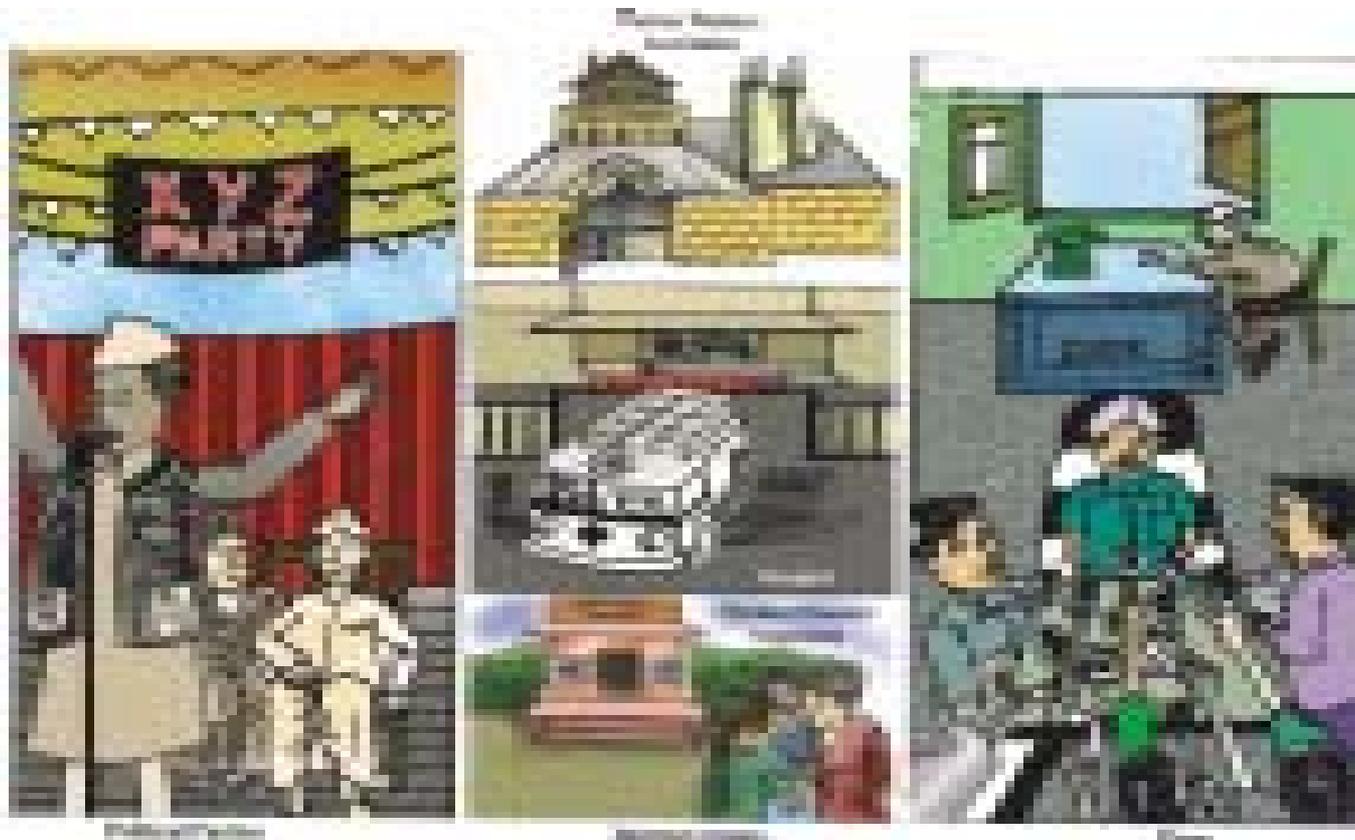
19.7.2.2 Interest Groups

These are associations or groups which have objectives different from those of political parties. Some times members of these groups may join political parties but this is much more to further their particularistic interests than out of conviction in the party's ideology or action programme. Interest groups may be based on economic, ethnic, linguistic, religious, regional or other considerations. Sometimes they would convert themselves into political parties or win over some members of the government (ruling party) and pressure the government to concede their demands. In this case, the group could be considered as a pressure group. Within the legislature, their friends and fellow-travellers could form an informal (or even formal groups and may lobby their cause. Such groups are called pressure lobbies. The Federation of Indian Chamber of commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the All India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AIMA) are examples of interest groups. At times, when the government introduces a bill or the budget proposal in Parliament, the interest groups will use their influence and lobby the Parliament members to use pressure on the government either to withdraw or to amend it in a form acceptable to them. Interest groups and pressure groups use a number of strategies to influence the government and to get their demands accepted. These strategies include threats of direct action like boycott, threat of holding back essential services, protest closure of shops and agitation's such as street demonstrations and strikes. However, the strategy is decided by the probability of success. Interest groups play an important part in government decision-making.

19.7.2.3 The Press

We have taken only the press from among the mass communication media and avoided the radio and television in our discussion because the latter are controlled by the government in almost all countries. In some totalitarian countries, the press also is controlled. By and large, the press has become an important part of all political parties. A free press is the strongest safeguard of democracy. In fact a free press has become synonymous with real democracy. The press enables the citizens to know what is really happening in the country, especially what the government does or does not, for them. In this way, they could mould the citizens' attitude and behaviour towards the government and the party in power, and show their support

or opposition at the next election. For a political party, the press is a sure medium for propagating their programmes. Since the press itself may have political leaning, each newspaper may become partisan, but since all parties have the freedom to have their own media of communication, the disadvantages of this will be, to a great extent, neutralised. In any case, the citizen would be best informed about the political developments and political processes in the state through the press and other mass media like, Radio & T.V., Internet, etc.



Non Government Agencies

Check Your Progress 3

Note: a) Use the space below for your answers.

b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1) What are the major institutions of a political system? Use about five lines for your answer.

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2) In parliamentary democracy parliament is supreme. Yes No

3) Name major types of legislatures with examples:

a)

b)

- 4) Tick mark the correct answer
Multi-party system is indispensable in:
- a) Democracy
b) Oligarchy
- 5) Opposition parties are not tolerated in the Communist countries. Yes No
- 6) Free press is dangerous to the democracy Yes No

19.8 THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE STATE

Some political writers were of the view that the individual exists for the state. This view was also advocated by Fascism and Nazism. Both Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany advocated this view. However, from early times, the opposite view also was voiced. According to this view, the state came into existence to meet the needs of life and continues to exist to assure a good life. Modern welfare theories have accepted this view. The declared goal of all government is the welfare of their citizens. While the state has the responsibility to cater to the needs of the individual, the individual, in turn, also has the responsibility to enable the State to perform its task by discharging his or her duties towards the state. The relationship is reciprocal. The modern democratic state confers the following rights on the individual: right to life, liberty and (limited right to) property; right to freedom of speech and religion, right to equality, right to education and right to public offices. These rights to education and right to public offices are sometimes called “Fundamental Rights” and are embodied in the Constitution. The Indian Constitution contains a chapter on fundamental rights. In return for these rights, the individual has the following duties to the state: (i) duty to obey the law, (ii) duty to pay taxes and, above all, (iii) duty to be loyal to the state.

Activity 2

List out at least five duties that you have as a citizen of the state to which you belong and to the Indian Nation. Write a note of one page on these duties and your performance of these duties. Compare your answer with those of other learners at your study centre. You may further discuss your rights and duties as a citizen with your Academic Counsellor.

19.9 DEMOCRACY AND INDIVIDUAL

We are living in a democratic state and it is necessary to know what democracy brings to us. Many of us have a tendency to take democracy for granted, and very few of us realise that democracy is a form of government whose continuance can be guaranteed only by a vigilant citizenry. Democracy is most vulnerable to ills like mobocracy (rule by the mob) or dictatorship (rule by one person). In either case, the majority (mobocracy) or arbitration of a single person (dictatorship) will replace. It is very necessary that the two extreme forms of democracy are avoided. **This can be best ensured only if the citizens are enlightened.** Enlightenment has several attributes. These are participation in the political process, especially exercise of voting rights, tolerance of, if not respect for, the opposition and other points of view, knowledge about one’s rights and duties and honest exercise of rights and performance of duties and avoidance of unconstitutional or extra-constitutional methods to achieve one’s goals. All these could be subsumed in the term civic

responsibilities. Democracy ideally is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. All people in a democracy have to realise that the rules of the game of democracy have to be honestly observed not only to achieve the goal but to keep the game going.

Check Your Progress 4

Note: a) Use the space below for your answers.

b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1) What are the fundamental rights conferred on the citizens by modern democratic state? Use about five lines for your answer.

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2) What are the civic responsibilities of the citizen of democracy. Use about five lines for your answer.

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3) Democracy can be safeguarded by:

- a) Vigilant citizenry
- b) Strong Military power
- c) Strong Executive
- d) Vigilant bureaucracy

(Tick mark the correct answer)

4) In a democracy a citizen should have knowledge about:

- a) Rights only
- b) Duties only
- c) Both rights and duties
- d) None of the above

(Tick mark the correct answer)

19.10 LET US SUM UP

The state is a distinguishing social organisation. The state has been defined as a community of persons. More or less in number permanently occupying a definite part of a territory. It is independent of external control and possesses an organised government to which the majority of citizens remain obedient. Political scientists, however, recognise the following essential properties of the state viz. a population, a territory, a government and sovereignty. Sovereignty, indeed, confers the ultimate power on the state.

Nationalism is the growth of a feeling of oneness among people based on the same attributes to contribute to nationality. The nation is the peoples consciousness of unity.

Government is an essential element of a state as the day to day function of the state is carried out by the government. Though the terms government and the state are used interchangeably, to speak of differences: (i) the government is concrete while the state is an abstraction: (ii) the state is supreme while the Government is an element, (iii) the state is permanent, but government is not, (iv) the authority of the state is unlimited, but for the government it is limited (v) the states have common attributes, while types of government vary. The state performs the political functions as the political sub-system of the society. There are some other organisations in the society looking after the welfare and other activities. Though the political pluralists claim the state to be one of the associations of the many associations of the Society, but the State stands to be a distinctive organisation because of its sovereign power.

A state, however, carries on its function through two main types of organisations; (i) Governmental organisation viz, executive, legislative, judiciary and bureaucracy (ii) Non-government agencies viz-political parties, interest groups and the press & other mass media. These organisation, indeed, perform distinctive functions in their respective fields of specialisation.

The relationship between the individual and the state is not uniform all over the world as there are different forms of governments. A modern democratic state confers certain fundamental rights on its citizens viz the right to life, property, liberty, expression, equality and education. In return citizens are also expected to perform certain duties of the state viz, obey law, pay taxes, to be loyal to the state, exercise voting rights, avoidance of unconstitutional means to achieve one's goal. It also expects citizens to be knowledgeable about their rights and duties.

19.11 KEY WORDS

- Fundamental Rights** : Certain rights guaranteed by the state to its citizens and given in the Constitution. These include civil liberties like freedom of expression, freedom of speech and religion, equality before law
- Nationalism** : Growth of a feeling of oneness among the people based on some common attributes to contribute to nationhood or nationality. These could include religion, economics, politics, language culture and so on.
- Political Pluralism** : Political thought of a group of thinkers who propagate that there are multiple social organisation in the society and the state is only one of them.
- Sovereignty** : The supreme power of the state over individuals and organisation.

19.12 FURTHER READINGS

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19.13 MODEL ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

1) a) a population b) a territory c) a government and
e) sovereignty.

2) Yes

It confers ultimate power to the state in exercising its monopoly of power over all individual and institutions within its territory. Again, it extends to the relationship with other sovereign states and formulates its own policy avoiding external interference.

3) No

4) No

Check Your Progress 2

1) The state is an abstraction while the government is concrete; (ii) the state is supreme but the government is an element of the state only; (iii) the states have similar attributes, but types of government vary, (iv) the state is permanent but the government can change and (v) authority of the state is unlimited but that of the government is limited.

2) No

3) No

4) Yes

Check Your Progress 3

1) Executive, legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy are the major governmental organisations of the state. Besides these, there are several non-governmental organisations viz. political parties, interest groups and the press.

2) Yes

3) a) Uni-cameral b) Bi-cameral

4) a) Democracy

5) Yes

6) No

Check Your Progress 4

The fundamental rights are:

1) Right to life, right to liberty and (limited rights to) property, right to freedom of speech and religion, right to equality, right to education and right to public offices.

The civic responsibilities are:

- 2) Duty to obey law, paying taxes, loyalty to the state, exercising voting rights, tolerance of the opposition, performing duties and avoidance of unconstitutional methods to achieve one's goal.
- 3) a) Vigilant citizenry.
- 4) c) Both rights and duties.

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