



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

An Autonomous Institution

Coimbatore-35



Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A+'
Grade Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University,
Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER

19HST105 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UNIT I ANCIENT INDIA & STATE POLITY

Stages in State formation in Ancient India



STAGES OF STATE FORMATION



Stages of State Formation in Ancient India

Six main stages in the history of ancient Indian polity can be identified.

1. **The Earliest (First) Stage:** It was that of tribal military democracy in which tribal assemblies, which had some place for women were mainly pre-occupied with war. The age of *Rig Veda* was primarily a period of assemblies.
2. **The Second Stage:** It saw the break-up of the tribal polity under the stress of constant conflicts between the *rājanyakshatriya* and the ordinary businessman called the *vis*. The chiefs were helped by the priesthood called the **brahmins**. This stage saw the beginning of taxes and classes or **varnas** which came to be firmly established in the third stage.
3. **The Third Stage:** It was marked by the formation of the full-fledged state. There arose large territorial monarchies of **Kosala** and **Magadha** and **tribal oligarchies** in North-Western India and at the foot of the Himalayas. For the first time we hear of large standing armies and organized machinery for the collection of land revenue.
4. **The Fourth Stage/ The Maurya phase:** It saw bureaucratic centralization based on the expanding economic activities of the state. The state with the help of its bureaucracy controlled various aspects of the life of its subjects.
5. **The Fifth Stage:** It was marked by the process of decentralized administration in which towns, feudatories and military elements came to the forefront in both the Deccan and North India. This was partly neutralized by the emphasis on the divinity of the king.
6. **The Last Stage:** It is identical with the Gupta period, may be called the period of proto-feudal polity. Land grants now played an important part in the formation of the political structure and those made by the Gupta feudatories conferred fiscal and administrative privileges on priestly beneficiaries.



THANK YOU