



Department of Sanskrit
University of Delhi
Under Graduate Course for Sanskrit
B.A. Honours & Programme Under UGCF-22

DSE 6: Political Thought in Sanskrit Literature

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Pre-requisite of the course	Department Offering the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Political Thought in Sanskrit Literature	04	3	1	0	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit	Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

Fundamental Concepts of Bharatiya Political thought have been discussed in Dharma-śāstra literature as the scientific branches of knowledge in ancient India. The aim of this course is to make the students acquainted with various aspects of Bharatiya Political Thought and institutions of Polity as propounded in the ancient Sanskrit texts such as Vedic Samhitā, Mahābhārata, Purāṇas, Kautilya's Arthaśāstra and other works known as Nītiśāstra.

Learning outcomes

This course will enable the students to

- appreciate the fundamental concepts of Bharatiya political thoughts discussed in ancient Sanskrit texts such as Vedic Samhitā, Mahābhārata, Purāṇas, Arthaśāstra, and other works known as Nītiśāstra.
- create an awareness of the various aspects of Bharatiya political thoughts and institutions of polity
- make the people politically conscious from time to time.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit 1- Name and Sources of Ancient Bharatiya Political Thought:

1 Credit

- Various Names of Ancient Bharatiya Political Treatises: 'Daṇḍanīti', 'Arthshastra', 'Dharmaśāstra', 'Rajshastra', 'Nītiśāstra'.
- Sources of Ancient Bharatiya Political Thought: Vedic Literature, Rāmāyaṇa,



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- iii) Mahābhārata, Purāṇa, Dharmaśāstra, Nītiśāstra
 Prominent Bharatiya Political Thinkers: Manu, Śukrācārya, Kautilya, Kāmandaka, Somadeva Suri

Unit 2- Nature and types of the state:

1 Credit

- (i) Nature of the State - Arthaśāstra (6.1) and Manusmṛti (9.294).
 (ii) Types of the State - Rājya, Svarājya, Bhojya, Vairājya, Mahārājya, Sāmarājya (Aitreya Brāhmaṇa, 8.3.13-14; 8.4.15-16)

Unit 3- Ancient Bharatiya Political Thought: Origin and Development

1 Credit

- (i) Vedic Literature - Election of King by the People 'Visas' in Vedic period: (R̥gveda, 10.173; 10.174, Atharvaveda, 3.4.2; 6.87.1-2), Parliamentary Institutions: 'Sabhā', 'Samiti' and 'Vidatha'
 (ii) Post Vedic literature - Kautilya's concept of the Welfare State (Arthaśāstra, 1.13); Essential Qualities of King (Arthaśāstra, 6.1.16-18); Duties of King and State 'Rajadharma' (Mahābhārata, Śāntiparva, 120.1-15; Manusmṛti, 7.1-15; Śukranīti, 1.1-15), Constituent Elements (Somadeva's Nītivākyaṃṛta, 9.1.18 and, 19.1.10)

Unit 4- Cardinal Theories of Ancient Bharatiya Polity

1 Credit

- i) 'Saptāṅga' Theory: Svāmī, Amātya, Janapada, Pura, Kośa, Daṇḍa and Mitra
 ii) 'Maṇḍala' Theory of Inter-state Relations
 iii) 'Śāḍguṇya' Policy of war and peace Diplomacy: Sandhi, Vighraha, Yāna, Āsana, Saṃśraya and Dvaidhībhāva.
 iv) 'Chaturvidha Upāya' for balancing of power of state: Sāma, Dāma, Daṇḍa, Bheda.
 v) Three types of State Power 'Śakti': Prabhu Śakti, Mantra Śakti, and Utsāha Śakti.

Essential readings -

1. R.P Kangale (ed.) Arthashastra of Kautilya, Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi, 1965.
2. R.T.H. Griffith (Trans.), Atharvaveda Samhita, 1896-97, rept. (2 Vols) 1968.
3. H.P. Shastri, Mahabharata (7 Vols), London, 1952-59.
4. P. Olivelle (ed. & trans.), Manu's Code of Law: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Manava- Dharmashastra, OUP, New Delhi, 2006.
5. H.P. Shastri (trans.), Ramayana of Valmiki (3 Vols), London, 1952-59.
6. H.H. Wilson (trans.), R̥gveda samhita (6 Vols), Bangalore Printing & Publishing Co., Bangalore, 1946.
7. A.S. Altekar, State and Government in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi, 73
8. S.K. Belvalkar, Mahabharata: Santi Parvam, 1954.
9. D.R. Bhandarkar, Some Aspects of Ancient Bharatiya Hindu Polity, Banaras Hindu University.
10. J.R. Gharpure, Teaching of Dharmashastra, Lucknow University, 1956.



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11. U.N. Ghosal, A History of Bharatiya Political Ideas, Bombay, 1959.
12. K.P. Jayaswal, Hindu Polity, Bangalore, 1967.
13. उदयवीर शास्त्री (अनुवा.), कौटिल्यीय अर्थशास्त्र, मेहरचन्द लक्ष्मनदास, दिल्ली, 1968
14. ब्रह्मशंकर मिश्र, शुक्रनीति हिन्दी अनुवाद, चौखम्भा संस्कृत सीरीज, वाराणसी, 1968
15. शशि तिवारी, संस्कृत साहित्य में राष्ट्रवाद एवं भारतीय राजशास्त्र, विद्यानिधि प्रकाशन दिल्ली, 2013
16. जे. कश्यप, दीर्घनिकाय (1-2 भाग), बिहार ।
17. डॉ पंकजा घई कौशिक, संस्कृत में राजनीतिक चिन्तन, विद्यानिधि प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, 2020

Recommended readings

1. प्रेमकुमारी दीक्षित, प्राचीन भारत में अन्तराष्ट्रीय सम्बन्ध, उत्तर प्रदेश हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी, लखनऊ, 1977
2. प्रकाश नारायण नाटाणी, प्राचीन भारत में राजनीतिक विचारक, पोइन्टर पब्लिशर्स जयपुर, 2002
3. N. S Law, Aspect of Ancient Bharatiya Polity, Calcutta, 1960.
4. S.R. Maheshwari, Local Government in India, Orient Longman, New Delhi,
5. Beni Prasad, Theory of Government in Ancient India, Allahabad, 1968.
6. B.A. Saletore, Ancient Bharatiya Political Thought, and Institutions, Bombay, 1963.
7. R. S. Sharma, Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Delhi, 1996.
8. K.N. Sinha, Sovereignty in Ancient Bharatiya Polity, London, 1938.
9. V.P. Verma, Studies in Hindu Political Thought and its Metaphysical Foundations, Delhi, 1954.

Examination scheme and mode: Subject to directions from the Examination Branch/University of Delhi from time to time.