

Vol 6 Issue 8 May 2017

ISSN No : 2249-894X

---

*Monthly Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal*

*Review Of  
Research Journal*

Chief Editors

---

**Ashok Yakkaldevi**  
A R Burla College, India

**Ecaterina Patrascu**  
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

**Kamani Perera**  
Regional Centre For Strategic Studies,  
Sri Lanka

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### Regional Editor

Manichander Thammishetty  
Ph.d Research Scholar, Faculty of Education IASE, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

### Advisory Board

Kamani Perera Regional Centre For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Mabel Miao Center for China and Globalization, China
Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Xiaohua Yang University of San Francisco, San Francisco	Ruth Wolf University Walla, Israel
Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Karina Xavier Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA	Jie Hao University of Sydney, Australia
Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania	May Hongmei Gao Kennesaw State University, USA	Pei-Shan Kao Andrea University of Essex, United Kingdom
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Marc Fetscherin Rollins College, USA	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania
	Liu Chen Beijing Foreign Studies University, China	Ilie Pinteau Spiru Haret University, Romania
Mahdi Moharrampour Islamic Azad University buinzahra Branch, Qazvin, Iran	Nimita Khanna Director, Isara Institute of Management, New Delhi	Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai
Titus Pop PhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania	Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain
J. K. VIJAYAKUMAR King Abdullah University of Science & Technology, Saudi Arabia.	P. Malyadri Government Degree College, Tandur, A.P.	Jayashree Patil-Dake MBA Department of Badruka College Commerce and Arts Post Graduate Centre (BCCAPGC), Kachiguda, Hyderabad
George - Calin SERITAN Postdoctoral Researcher Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi	S. D. Sindkhedkar PSGVP Mandal's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada [ M.S. ]	Maj. Dr. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director, Hyderabad AP India.
REZA KAFIPOUR Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Shiraz, Iran	Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	AR. SARAVANAKUMARALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY, KARAIKUDI, TN
Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur	C. D. Balaji Panimalar Engineering College, Chennai	V.MAHALAKSHMI Dean, Panimalar Engineering College
	Bhavana vivek patole PhD, Elphinstone college mumbai-32	S.KANNAN Ph.D , Annamalai University
	Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play (Trust), Meerut (U.P.)	Kanwar Dinesh Singh Dept.English, Government Postgraduate College , solan

More.....



## PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNANCE IN ANCIENT INDIA

**Dr. Sikder Babul Hussain**

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Uttar Barpeta College.

### ABSTRACT:

**W**e get various information about ancient Indian polity mainly from the religious literature of the Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. We also hardly possess European independent works on polity during the ancient times. However, the religious works provided us useful information about the political theories. Some of the important religious works which provide us useful information about ancient Indian polity. The Rig-Veda and Atharvaveda also provide us useful information about the polity during that time. Even Yajurveda and Brahmins are useful source of information and enable us to acquire knowledge about the coronation ceremonies and the various sacrifices performed at the time of coronation. Another work which provides us useful information about ancient polity is Arthashastra of Kautilya, which contains references about several writers on politics which preceded Kautilya. After Kautilya also a number of other writers wrote on polity. These include Kamandaka, the author of Nitisara, who probably wrote during the gupta period. Sukranitisara produced by Sukracharya was another notable work on ancient India polity. Manusmriti was finally composed by sumati, the son of Bhrgu, which gives essential reference about ancient Indian polity.

**KEYWORD:** *Brahmins, Rajan, Maharaj, Yuba-raj, Puruhita, Ratins, sacivas, satrap, Amatya etc.*

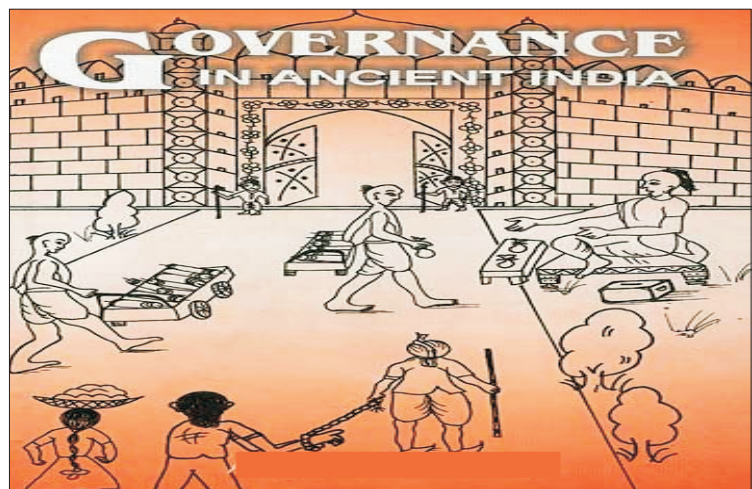
### INTRODUCTION :

The new contemptative mood of the philosophers formed fuller expression in the upanisada being the last leg of the vedic literature they are known as Vedangs as well. The Brahmins, Khastiyas, vaisyas and even ladies such as Gargi and Maitreyi, made significant contribution to the growth of the upanisadic thought. The vedic literature is

predominantly veligeo-philosophical. However if contains some important though casual, references to ancient Indian polity including bureaucracy.

The Arthashastra also a unique sources of study of the socio-economic, political and diplomatic institutions in Ancient India.

The two epics Mahabharata and Ramayana also a sources of information regarding numerous aspects of ancient Indian polity. They shed profuse light on administrative and bureaucratic setup of



states. Some of the Buddhist works give valuable information about ancient Indian bureaucracy.

The coins also contain the titles of rulers such as Rajan, Maharaja, rajadhiraj etc. Among the Gupta coins the Chandragupta-kumardevi type of coins is unique in so far as it suggests the joint rule of India king and his queen for the first and the last time.

The foreign accounts too gives us some valuable information regarding ancient Indian polity. The first foreign writer to supply us valuable information regarding our subjects was Megasthenese, the Greek ambassador, sent to Chandragupta Maurya by Selucus. Inscription too constitutes very important sources of ancient Indian polity.

**The Vedas:-** The Vedas are the most important source of our information about polity in early vedic and later vedic period. They contain references about several big and small kingdoms as well as the basis on which these kingdoms were organized. It is from the vedic literature the we learn there were not exist any strong empire during the vedic period. We also learn that the king was assisted in the discharged of his duties by a council of ministers and advisers. The vedic period also witnessed the emergence of extensive kingdoms ruled by such powerful kings as Divodasa, Sudas, Purukutsu. Prominent characteristic of the vedic bureaucracy was grahpatis, ganapatis, vrajapatis, grahpa etc.

Puruhita was influence on the king and was the chief guide in temporal and spritual matters. Senapati was the commander-in-chief of the army. Grahpatis heads of the state, village head was gramini. Ratnins were represented in the different segments of the society. Puruhit represented the Brahmana and senani represented the khastriya.

**Governance in our Epics:-** The two epics of India the Ramayana and Mahabharata also provide us with useful information on the subject. Ancient Indian thinkers were invariably opposed to one man rule. They could not think of monarchy. The king should do anything with the approval of royal priest, Brahmanas and the amatyas. The most important and qualified amatyas were appointed as ministers called mantrin and saciva. Amatyas were generally various departments of the states and were executive officer and the ministers were involved in the process of decision making. High principles of governance, which guided monarchy, must have been the guideline principles of the civil service.

The political horizon of the Mahabharata age was so far larger than of that of the Ramayana. Mahabharata gives us important information about polity during the period under study. The duties of the king as well as his ministers also find enumeration in this part. It also devotes considerable space to the problem of taxation, problem of peace and war and diplomacy. In this time the states had different types of govt., though monarchy was by far and large the most popular. The most popular word for civil service continued to be Amatya.

**Governance during the period of imperial unity:-** The political supremacy of Magadha kingdom, which started during the reign of Bimbisara in the sixth century B.C, reached its complete fruition by the time of Chandragupta Maurya who presided over all India. As a result of an expanist policy, Magadha annexed to it the small republican and monarchical states to transform itself into a huge empire.

The Mauryas organized a bureaucracy which had no parallel in the preceding and following age in northern India. Though the word is old as the Rgveda, its nature; scope and functions kept on steadily increasing. The Amatyas would be that body of officials which would always be near or with the king. All the Amatyas were classified under three grades—

### 1) Top one.

- A) Tirthas were top ranking officer of the Mauryan govt.
- B) 18 tirthas is headed by mantrin. There was another body to executive policies and that was the mantriparishad.
- C) Puruhita- Senapati (48,000 panas) army was divided into infantry, cavalry, elephantry and chariotry.
- D) Yubaraja- Crown prince, generally the oldest son of the king.

E) Duarika- Door keeper of fort.

2) The middle one.

3) The average one.

**Civil service during the reign of Foreigners:-** India witnessed the flowering of two types of polity at one and the same time. Where as the main feature of the foreign polity are brought to light mainly by their coins and inscriptions. There were several foreign rulers in this period as- Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Pahlavas and the Kushanas. Sungha-Satavahana civil service:- The word of Amatyas continued to denote the civil service in general in this period. Nasika cave Inscription Gautami putra Satakarni, the amatyas were the civil service, the sacivas stood for the councilors. According to Manu, the ministers were worked for good governance of the country. The latter category comprised the executive officers who manned different dept. of the govt.

The king used to be the highest court of justice. Local govt. was entrusted to the care of a minister. The headman of the village was gramini. The functionaries were not salaries officers of the state and were maintained by the villagers themselves out of their resources and cultivable land.

**Indo-Greek civil service:-** The Yavana invasion of the second century B.C. brought about the Indo Greek rule in India. The Greek had divided their dominions into provinces and districts. One of the main features of the Indo-Greek rule was joint rule system. The fact that the gramini also called gramika.

**Saka-Pallava civil service:-** Like Indo-Greek, the Sakas and the Pallavas of north west India also had divided their kingdom into provinces and districts. The system of joint rule also adopted by the Sakas and Pallavas from the Indo-Greek. Under it the king was called Mahasatrapa and the associate sub king –Satrapa. Many of the post had become hereditary during the Saka period.

**Kushana civil service:-** The Kushana polity had inherited several elements of the Greek, Saka-Pallava and Indian polity and introduced several others to suit its extensive empire based on autocracy and military force. The system of joint rule was preserved by the Kushanas also. The Local self govt. seems to have continued during the reign of the Kushanas as well. The Kushanas must have played an important role in the district administration; especially they had acquired great wealth and prestige due to the increased foreign trade during the Kushana period,

**Frame work of governance during the classical age:-** The Guptas had never allowed the harem to accompany them on their military expeditions. But the Harshacharita believed, the king along with army.

The Vardhana civil service was denoted by a number of words- raja-purusas, amatyas, kumaramatya, raja vallabas. Bana informs us the royal court had among others appointed rajas who were amatya.

**Yubaraja:-** The Vardhanas had a traditional form of monarchial govt-under which the oldest son normally was the yubaraja. The princes were given thorough education, both academic and military. They were associated with their fathers administration.

The Vardhana empire was divided into several bhuktis. The combined testimony of the Banskhera and Madhubana inscription place rajasthaniya, Kumaramatya and uprika before visayapati. The more important provinces were entrusted to care of the special class of the governors called rajasthaniyas.

## CONCLUSION:-

The existence of the civil service in Ancient India is indicated by a number of technical words, such as amatya, ratin, tirtha, rajapurusa, kumaramatya etc. Functionally, they can be classified under two heads dhi-sacivas- and karma sarivas. It is significant that the ancient Indian polity was dominated by the civil element rather than the military element. It is also true that appointments were not made on caste consideration. Like monarchy, ancient Indian civil service tended to be hereditary. Though the Mauryan period does not indicate hereditary character of the civil service, It is much in evidence during the Gupta and vardhana period.

The principle of 'one man, one post' did not commend itself to the ancient India rulers. There was also no separation of executive functions from the judicial functions. At times, one and the same officer held more than one post simultaneously.

The civil service upto the Mauryan period was, by and large paid in cash. The ancient Indian civil service, at last the most important of them like prime-minister and Senapati were provided residential quarters at the capital.

In fact, nothing important in the state could take place without the initiation, concurrence and co operation of the civil service. While enjoying great power, civil servants had to observe a code of conduct and decorum towards, and in the presence of the king.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY :**

- \* Arthasastra of Kautilya.
- \* Asvaghosa.
- \* Secondary sources.
- \* History of Ancient India-S.C.Ray Choudhury.



**Dr. Sikder Babul Hussain**

**Assistant Professor, Department of History, Uttar Barpeta College.**

# Publish Research Article

## International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal

### For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Books Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

### Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ Directory Of Research Journal Indexing
- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium Scientific
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

### Associated and Indexed, USA

- DOAJ
- EBSCO
- Crossref DOI
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database

Review Of Research Journal  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-[ayisrj@yahoo.in](mailto:ayisrj@yahoo.in)/[ayisrj2011@gmail.com](mailto:ayisrj2011@gmail.com)  
Website : [www.ror.isrj.org](http://www.ror.isrj.org)