



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous Institution
Coimbatore-35



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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER

19HST105 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UNIT I ANCIENT INDIA & STATE POLITY
Political ideals in Ancient India



POLITICAL IDEALS IN ANCIENT INDIA

- Political ideals like liberty, justice, fraternity and nationalism are a product of the modern age.
- If viewed strictly from the lens of the contemporary period, we can't find any systematic expression of these ideals, in ancient India. But seen from a different perspective, ancient Indians did have these ideals in a undeveloped form.
- Showing the importance of freedom the *Vedas* state that independence is necessary for mankind and those who are not independent are worse than dead.
- In *varnāshrama* institution too, an independent living has been kept in mind.
- A man lived independently during *Grihasthāshrama* and when he was likely to be dependent on the offspring coming of age, there is the provision of the older people resorting to *Vānprastha* and then to *Sanyāsa*, again living freely in the solitude of hills and dales rather than living as dependent on their children.
- For disposal of justice the Mauryan state had a system of judiciary.
- *Dharmasthīya* was the civil court and *kantakashodhana* was organised to deal with a large number of economic crimes.



- The *Rāmāyana* extols this country as a *karmabhūmi*, the land of pious acts.
- This shows the belongingness of people to land and their fellow beings.
- The early seeds of nationalism can be traced in this instance.
- Similarly, the ideal of ancient Indian thinkers was *vasudhaivakutumbakam* (treating the whole world like a family.) This was the concept of universal brotherhood or fraternity.

Conclusion: From the days of Plato and Aristotle, European thought has turned its attention to such questions as the origin of the state, the ideal form of government, and the basis of law, and the politics has long been looked on as a branch of philosophy. From the above discussion, it is clear that ancient India also thought about such questions, but she had no schools of political philosophy in the Western sense.



THANK YOU