

Semester 6 MJC 12

Manu's Concept of State

Manu's concept of state is an ancient Indian idea outlined in the Manusmriti, a key Hindu text. It provides insights into the role of the state, governance, and social order.

Key Features of Manu's Concept of State

1. Divine Origin: The state is considered a divine institution, created to protect people and maintain order.
2. Role of the King: The king is seen as God's representative, responsible for upholding Dharma (duty) and protecting subjects.
3. Dharma: Central to Manu's

concept, Dharma guides the king and subjects in their duties.

4. Social Hierarchy: Manu's state is based on a rigid social hierarchy (Varna system):

- Brahmins (priests and scholars)
- Kshatriyas (warriors and rulers)
- Vaishyas (merchants and traders)
- Shudras (labourers)

Functions of the State

1. Protection: Safeguard life and property.

2. Law and Order: Maintain order, punish wrongdoers.

3. Welfare: Promote subjects' well-being.

4. Justice: Administer justice, with

the king as the ultimate judge.

Criticisms

Manu's concept has been criticized for its rigid social hierarchy and perceived oppression of lower castes.

Relevance

Despite criticisms, Manu's ideas influence Indian political thought and discussions on governance and social order.