

# PRELIMS PINNACLE – 2023

YOUR ROADMAP TO SUCCESS IN PRELIMS 2023

## POLITY HANDOUTS



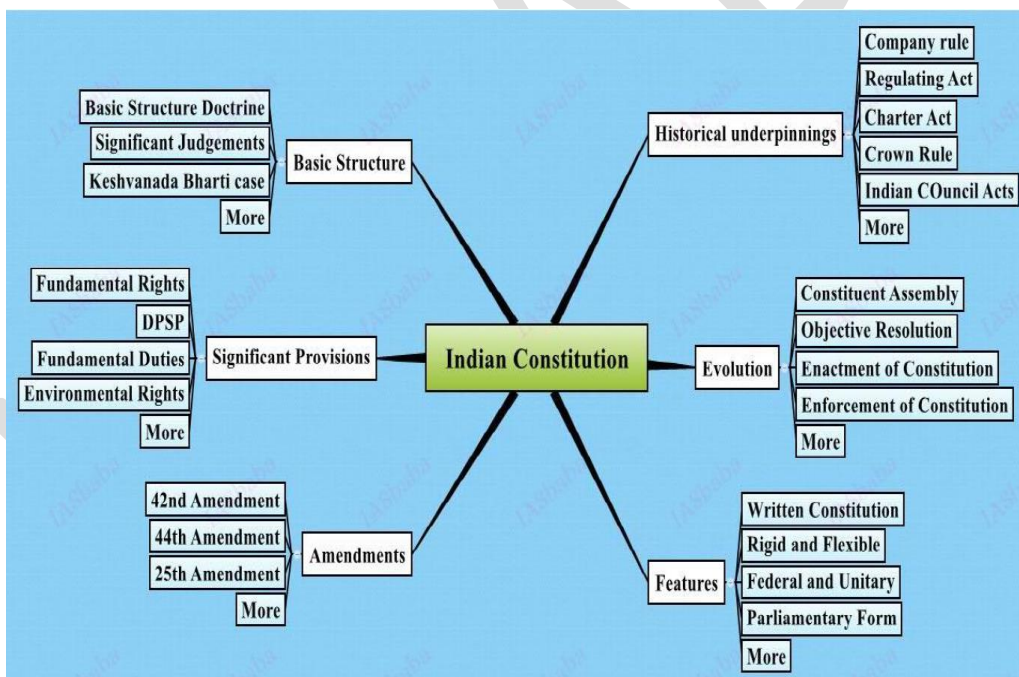


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### TOPICS:

Basic concepts- State,  
Nation,  
Country,  
Types of Governments.  
Historical development of Constitution- Need for Constitution,  
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Preamble - Nature of State and Objectives





## STATE

[Notes](#)

In ancient times human beings lived in communities. The obvious fact is that human beings are social animals and they cannot live in isolation. They belong to society. The collective life that they need assumes certain rules and regulations and gradually such a group life has led to the formation of political communities and the emergence of State

The term 'State' in its modern sense was first used by Machiavelli (1469-1527), the Italian statesman. The State consists of four elements. These are:

- The people;
- The territory on which they live;
- The government to rule and regulate the lives of the people
- Sovereignty, which implies unrestricted authority to take decisions and manage its own affairs.

The state to act as 'trustee' of the people means that it should hold people's power as a trust for welfare of the people. It should not consider people as helpless subjects, but as co-rulers in its governance.

Some of the definitions of the concept of State are as follows:

- "The State is the politically organized people of a definite territory" –Bluntschli
- State is "a community of persons, more or less numerous, permanently occupying a definite portion of territory, independent, or nearly so, of external control, and possessing an organized government to which the great body of inhabitants render habitual obedience."  
–Garner
- State is "a territorial society divided into governments and subjects, whether individuals or associations of individuals, whose relationships are determined by the exercise of this supreme coercive power." –Laski
- State "is a people organized for law within a definite territory". –Woodrow Wilson
- "The State is a concept of political science, and a moral reality which exists where a number of people, living on a definite territory, are unified under a government which in internal matters is the organ of expressing their sovereignty, and in external matters is independent of other governments." –Gilchrist



IASBABA

### Distinction between State and Society

We must differentiate between state and society otherwise we will be justifying state interference in all aspects of human life, thereby affecting human liberty.

The distinction between the state and the society can be explained as under:

- Strictly speaking, the **state is a political organization**; it is society politically organized. Society, on the other hand, is a social organization and has within it, all types of associations (social, economic, religious, political, cultural and the like). **Society is both broader as well as narrower than the state.** It is broader when it is used to describe the whole community of mankind; it is narrower when it is used to describe a small group of a village.
- In terms of origin, **society is prior to the state.** Society may be said to have been born the day the human life must have begun. But the state did not begin with the society; it must have started at a later stage of social development. Human beings are social being first and then political being
- Being prior to the state, **society is clearly a natural** and therefore, an instinctive institution. The **state is artificial, a created institution**; it was made when it was needed.
- The state exists for the society in the same way as a means exists for its end. The state is, therefore, a means and the society is an end.
- The state is sovereign: no sovereignty means no state; the society is not sovereign; it exists without being sovereign. As sovereign, the state is supreme over all other organizations, institutions and individuals within its boundaries; as sovereign, the state is independent of all other like states; sovereignty gives the state a separate and independent existence.
- The **state has to have a definite territory.** It is, therefore, a territorial organization in so far as it stays on the definite portion of territory: its territorial boundaries are fixed, definite and permanent. Society does have a territory but its territory is not permanent; its place of operation may extend or may get limited. The Islamic society, for example, transcends national boundaries.
- The **state has general rules of conduct called the laws**; the society, too, has general rules of conduct but they are called rituals, norms, habits and the like. Laws of the state are written, definite and clear; those of the society, are unwritten, indefinite and vague.
- The state's laws have a binding sanction. The violation of the laws of the state is followed by punishment: physical or otherwise or both. The rules of the society, if violated, lead to social boycott, i.e. social exclusion.
- The area of the state, we may say, is the area of that of taking action in case of disobedience; it has power is force. The area of society, on the other hand, is the area of voluntary cooperation and its power is goodwill; its method is its flexibility.

[Notes](#)



### Nation and State

By nation, we mean a historically constituted stable community of people formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life and physiological make up manifested in a common culture.

NATION connotes the concept of people who are conscious of their historical and cultural background and who wish to perpetuate this background politically, i.e. within the framework of a state.

The state, as we know, is a people organized for law within a definite territory; it is always sovereign-supreme internally and independent externally. The nation is a group of people psychologically bound together while sharing common joys and sorrows. The distinction between state and nation can be explained as under:

- Nation and state are distinct entities. A nation may not be always a state; India was not a state before August, 1947. A state may not always be a nation. Austria - Hungary was a state but not a nation before World War I because the heterogeneous people did not form a culturally homogeneous people.
- The state is a state because it is sovereign. The nation is not a state if it is not sovereign. A nation becomes a nation-state when the nation attains statehood.
- The state is a political concept while the nation is a cultural, and a psychological body. Nation is primarily cultural, and only incidentally political. What it means is that nation is not a political concept, it is only spiritual.
- There is an element of force connected with the state. The state's laws are binding. There is a coercion exercised by the state if its authority is defied. In the case of the nation, there is the element of persuasion.

### Distinction between the nation and nationality is a thin one:

- Nationality is a cultural term. It is a psychological, which is generated in a group of people having geographical unity and who belong to a common race, common history, religion, customs and traditions, economic interests and common hopes and aspirations.
- The people of a nationality must have a sense of unity. They must feel that they have something in common which differentiates them from other people. But nation is a people organised; a people united. **What unites people in a nation are feelings of oneness.** Nation gives an idea of an organisation; nationality gives an idea of sentiment.
- The evolution of the state has shown that there may be states with more than one nationalities and there may be nationalities spread over more than one states. The former USSR, as a state, had a considerable number of nationalities; the Korean



nationality, to take another example, is spread over two states. Thus a state may or may not co-exist with nationality.

### State and the Government

The government is one element of the state. It is the agency through which laws are made, enforced and those who violate laws, are punished. It is the visible manifestation of state authority. It consists of all the persons, institutions and agencies through which the will of the state is expressed and carried out. Though the state speaks through the government, it is proper to differentiate between the two.

- The state has authority inherent in itself whereas the government has no inherent powers. The government gets its structure, authority and **power from the Constitution of the State.**
- The **state is a larger entity that includes all the citizens**; the government is, relatively a smaller unit that includes only those who are employed to perform its functions. We are all citizens of the state, but we are all not functionaries of the government.
  - The government is an essential organ or agency of the state but it is no more than the state itself than the board of directors of a corporation is itself the corporation.
- The **idea of state is quite abstract.** The government is the concretization of the idea of the state. We see the government, not the state.
- The **state is a near permanent institution**; it is so because it does not die unless it is attacked and made a part of the other state. The government is temporary; it is so because it may change: today's rulers may not be tomorrow's rulers.
- The state may be the same everywhere whereas, the government may vary from one state to another. India, the United States, Great Britain and France for example, are all states. But the governments which work in these states may not be of the same type.
- The opposition to the state is different from the opposition of the government. We criticize the government; we never condemn the state. The **criticism of the state is a revolt**; the criticism of the government is not a rebellion.
  - We would never hear from an Indian that India is bad; but we would usually hear that the policies of the Indian Government headed by a political party/parties are bad. It is a crime to condemn one's state; it is a duty, in fact it is a right to criticise one's government.

- **Parliamentary Government** is a system of government where the legislative organ of the government is closely related to its executive organ; the cabinet is taken from the legislature and is responsible to it, especially to the lower house of the legislature.
- **Presidential government** is a system of government where the legislative organ of the government is independent of the executive organ; the executive exists separately from the legislature and is not responsible to it.