

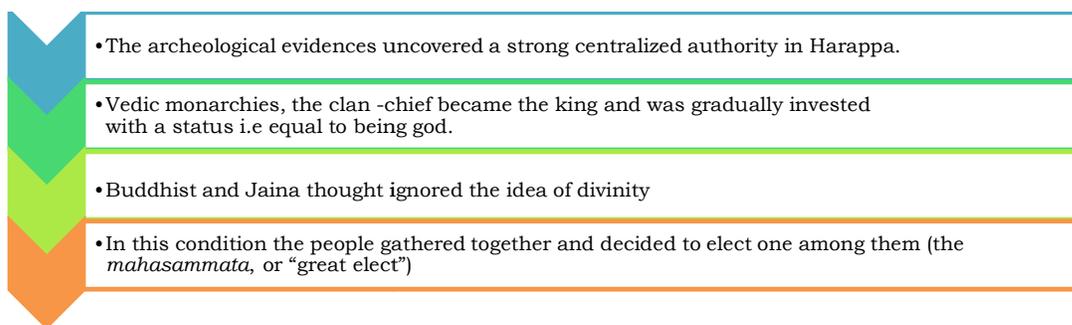
# Lesson 30A

## Early States

### Summary

The forms of the states kept changing from time to time. During the Vedic monarchies the clan chief became the king. During this period there existed political units like Jana which later became Janpada and Mahajanpada. During the time of Mahajanpada various forms of government emerged. A highly centralized system of government was established during the time of the Mauryas. The centralized system of Maurya was replaced by decentralized governments which were ruled by various smaller kings. Later the Gupta state emerged which was less centralized than the Mauryan state. In South India a powerful Chola kingdom emerged.

### GROWTH OF IDEA OF KINGSHIP



### INDUS AND VEDIC POLITICAL/OR GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS: PRE-STATE TO STATE



### MAHAJANPADAS



### THE MAURYAN STATES

- The Arthashastra and the Edicts of Ashoka are primary sources of written records of the Mauryan times.
- The Mauryan Empire consisted of a great variety of political

formations and ecological zones: it contained forest peoples and nomads, chieftaincies and oligarchies like the gana-sangha confederacies of chiefs.

- Different parts of the empire like the core, the metropolis and the peripheries were administered in different ways.

### THE MAURYAN BUREAUCRACY

- The Empire was divided into four provinces, with the royal capital at Pataliputra
- The head of the provincial administration was the Kumara (royal prince)
- The kumara was assisted by mahamatyas and council of ministers.
- This organizational structure was reflected at the imperial level with the Emperor and his Mantriparishad (Council of Ministers).

### THE GUPTA ADMINISTRATION

- Gupta state was divided into provinces called desa or bhukti, and these in turn into smaller units, the pradesa or visaya
- The provinces were governed by kumaramatyas, high imperial (royal) officers or members of the royal family
- Municipal board (adhisthana-adhikarana), consist of the guild president (nagarasresthin), the chief merchant (sarthavaha), and representatives of the artisans and of the scribes.
- The Gupta monarchs maintained a standing army
- For the first time Civil and Criminal Laws were differentiated.

### EVOLUTION OF CHOLA ADMINISTRATION

- The king was the supreme commander and a benevolent dictator
- There is no definite evidence of the existence of a council of ministers
- A powerful bureaucracy assisted the king in the tasks of administration and in executing his orders.
- king's orders dependent on the goodness of the man and in his belief in Dharma – sense of fairness and justice
- Every village was a self governing unit.
- The activities of the officials of the bureaucracy were under constant audit and scrutiny
- Justice was mostly a local matter in the Chola Empire
- Revenue officials were responsible for the tax collection

### Evaluate Yourself

- Q. Assess the evolution of Chola Administration.
- Q. Mention the main feature of the Gupta administration.
- Q. Differentiate between Monarchical and Republican or Oligarchic Mahajanpadas.

