

Lesson – 3

Distinction Between Society, Nation, State and Government

Summary –

State and society are different terms, state being a political concept, maintains the external social order; society, being a social concept, has in it a multitude of associations and organizations. The state is an association, but it is distinct from other associations; it alone has sovereignty, the other associations accept the sovereign predominance of the state.

State

- State is a political society with its four elements - population, fixed territory, government, and sovereignty. It acts through law & it has certain powers by which it performs its functions.

Society

- Society is both an organization as well as a system of social relationships. It is a social organization encompassing a web of social relationships.

State & Other Associations – an association is an organized group of people which achieve the specific objectives through joint efforts.

Features of Association:

- (a) Organization of the people.
- (b) Common/ specific objectives.
- (c) Joint efforts.

Distinction between State & Society –

State –

- ✚ The state is a political organization.
- ✚ State has started at a later stage of social development.
- ✚ State is artificial & created institution.
- ✚ The state is sovereign.
- ✚ The state must have a definite territory.
- ✚ The state has the laws.

Society -

- ✚ Society is a natural, instinctive institution & social organization.
- ✚ Society came in existence prior to the state.
- ✚ The society is not sovereign.
- ✚ Society does have a territory, but its territory is not permanent.
- ✚ The society has general rules of conduct, and they are called rituals, norms, habits.

Distinguish between State & Other Associations –

State –

- ✚ People are involved in all the associations including the state.
- ✚ membership of the state is compulsory.
- ✚ A person is a member of one state at a time.
- ✚ The area must be fixed for a state.
- ✚ The objectives of the state are always general and all inclusive.
- ✚ The character of the state is national.
- ✚ It is sovereign.
- ✚ Violation of state laws is accompanied by imprisonment like punishment.

Other Associations –

- ✚ Membership of associations is voluntary.
- ✚ A person can be a member of multiple associations at the same time.
- ✚ The purpose of associations is usually special.
- ✚ The character of associations can be local, provincial, national, and even international.
- ✚ Associations are not sovereign.
- ✚ They do not have the power to punish anybody physically.

State & Government – Government is an element of the state.

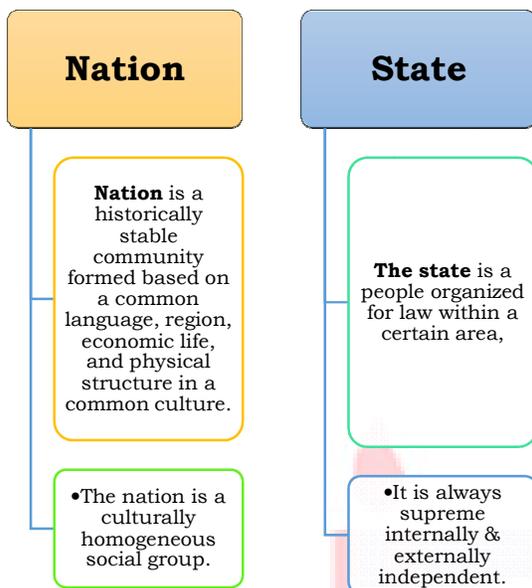
- ✚ It is the agency through which laws are made, enforced and those who violate laws are punished.
- ✚ It includes all those individuals, institutions, and agencies through which the will of the state is expressed and implemented.
- ✚ The state speaks through the government.

Distinguish between state & Government –

- ✚ Government is not a permanent sector.
- ✚ Government is a relatively small entity.
- ✚ Government is the form of the idea of the state.
- ✚ Criticism of the government is not rebellion.
- ✚ Government is only an element of the state.

The state is a large entity –

- ✚ We are all citizens of the state,
- ✚ The state is a permanent institution.
- ✚ The area of the state is always fixed.
- ✚ The powers of the state are real and fundamental.
- ✚ We never condemn the state.
- ✚ State has four elements - population, certain area, government, and sovereignty.



Distinguish between State & Nation –

- ✚ A nation may not be always a state and a state may not always be a nation.
- ✚ Sovereignty is the chief characteristic of a state, Sovereignty is not a feature of the nation.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Laws bind the people together in a state; sentiments and emotions bind the people in a nation.
- ✚ An element of force connected with the state, but with the nation, the element of persuasion.
- ✚ A state may be larger than a nation, conversely a nation may be larger than a state.

Evaluate Yourself –

1. Write down the difference between state and society with suitable examples.
2. Write down the Definition of the state and explain the difference between the state and other associations in your own words.
3. “The Government powers are delegated and derived”, explain the given statement with suitable examples.