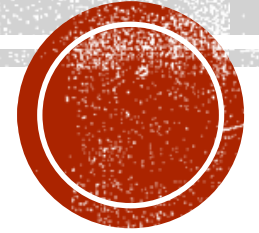


मास्टर्स इन कौटिल्य राज्यशास्त्र और अर्थशास्त्र
पेपर 02 - भारतीय राजकीय, आर्थिक और
सामाजिक विचार

व्याख्यान 2 – 21.11.23



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For Kanikaniti (Mahabharata)

<https://archive.org/details/mahabharatam-vol.-1-with-nilkanthi-bhashya-by-pt.-ram-chandra-shastri-second-ed/page/n273/mode/2up>



राजा का दैवी व्यक्तिमत्त्व Divine Personality of the King

मनुस्मृती - राजधर्मप्रकरण

यस्मादेषां सुरेन्द्राणां मात्राभ्यो निर्मितो नृपः।

तस्मादभिभवत्येष सर्वभूतानि तेजसा ॥

विष्णु पुराण - 1.13-14

ब्रह्मा जनार्दनो रुद्र इन्द्रो वायुर्यमो रविः। हुतभुग्वरुणो धाता पूषा भूमिर्निशाकरः॥

एते चान्ये च ये देवाः शापानुग्रहकारिणः। नृपस्यैते शरीरस्थाः सर्वदेवमयो नृपः॥



राज्यसंस्था पर नियन्त्रण Control on Rajyasanstha -

सभा

समिती

विदथ

सभा च मां समितिश्चावतां दुहितरौ संविदाने।

Sabha and Samiti are twin daughters of Prajapati and both should protect me.



In Vedic times, both these institutes – Sabha and Samiti were of utmost importance.

Sabha – A group of people (elder / learned) chosen by the common people of the village.

Samiti – Group of people at the capital of Kingdom.



The Samiti समिति

सम् + इति। Meeting together – Assembly

This was the National Assembly of विशः (Commoners).

A sovereign body from the constitutional point of view.

Chief of Samiti - ईशान

Functions of Samiti may be gathered from various references –

- Election of a King / Re-electing a King
- Matters of state (मन्त्र) were discussed in the समिति

समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी – Common policy of state

समानं व्रत सह चित्तमेषाम् – Common aim and common mind



King used to attend the Samiti and it was necessary for him to do so. Such a King attending Samiti from time to time was supposed to be an ideal or true King.

Rigveda – 9.92.6 - राजा न सत्यः समितीरियानः । - Like a true King going to a Samiti...

So, it seems that it was the duty of the King to attend the Samiti and he would be considered 'untrue' if he fails to do so.

This practice of the King presenting himself before the Samiti continued probably as long as the Samiti existed.



In the deliberations held at Samiti, people were anxious to make speeches agreeable to the assembled ones –

ये सङ्ग्रामाः समितयस्तेषु चारु वदेम ते। (अथर्ववेद, 7.12.1)

The Speaker wanted to prove himself 'brilliant', 'not to be contradicted', in the Samiti.



A prayer in the Atharvaveda(11.27), refers to these deliberations –

“May the enemy not win the debate...overcome the debate of those that debate against us, render them devoid of force!”

“You overcome the debate of him, that is hostile to us, O Indra!
Encourage us with your might! Render me superior in debate!”



Questions other than political, were also discussed in the Samiti.

Ex. Shvetaketu – A young man of great learning.

Chandogya (5.3) and Brihadaranyaka (6.2) Upanishad mention of a young man Shvetaketu, who had just completed his education, presented himself before the Samiti – also called the Parishad of the Panchala-s. He had got proud at that time.

पञ्चालानां समितिमेयाय, पञ्चालानां परिषदमाजगाम।

The King in the assembly of the Panchala nation - प्रवहण जैवलि – put before Shvetaketu 5 philosophical questions. Shvetaketu could answer none of those.



जैवल्लि, then remarked – 'How could anyone who does not know these things, say that he has been educated?

The above story shows that Samiti also acted as a National Assembly.



The Sabha सभा

सभा सहधर्मेण सद्भिर्वा भाति इति सभा। - A body of men shining together
न सा सभा यत्र न सन्ति वृद्धाः वृद्धाः न ते ये न वदन्ति धर्मम्। (महाभारत)
सभा भान्ति अभिष्टनिश्चयार्थं एकत्र यत्र गृहे। - People coming together and
discussing for arriving at a favourable decision.

Another noteworthy constitutional organisation from Vedic age.

Described as – Sister of Samiti

This was also a popular body.




Prayers for co-operation in the Sabha show that discord in the Sabha was as much disliked and dreaded as in the Samiti.

- Prayer in the Atharvaveda (7.13)

May Samiti and Sabha, 2 daughters of Prajapati, concurrently aid me. May he, with whom I shall meet, co-operate with me. May I speak agreeably to those assembled.

We know your name, O assembly! नरिष्ट is your name. May all those that sit assembled in you, utter speech in harmony with me.

Of them, that are sitting together, I take to myself the power and the understanding in this entire gathering! O Indra, render me successful. 

Free discussion was held in Sabha and a resolution of Sabha was considered binding on all and inviolable.

So, from these references, one can see that Sabha was equally important as Samiti.



The Sena सेना

Army – A constitutional unit.

तं सभा च समितिश्च सेना च। (अथर्ववेद, 15.9.2)



The Vidatha विदथ

Samiti and Sabha were not the only popular institutions of Vedic times. The religious life was organised through Vidatha. This existed even earlier than Samiti.

Rigveda 1.60 – Agni is called the flag (Ketu) of Vidatha.

Vidatha seems to have been the parent folk-assembly from which Samiti, Sabha and Sena differentiated.



Administration in Ramayana

- Part of Ayodhya Kanda (Sarga 100)
- Almost every verse contains the word – कच्चित् – hence called as Kaccid Sarga
- Rama's advice to Bharata as regards to the duties of a king and polity under an ideal monarchy.
- When Rama went for exile and Bharata came to know about it, he followed Rama along with his paraphernalia to bring his elder brother back to the throne.
- This conversation takes place in the forest.



- Rama saw Bharata, with matted locks, wearing bark-robles and, with joined palms, lying on the ground, incapable of being seen as the sun at the time of the dissolution of the world.
- Rama asks Bharata, 'My dear brother! Is the king alive, that you have come here? I hope the miserable king has not indeed departed to the other world, all of a sudden.'
- "I hope that the King Dasharatha is well, he who is true to his promise, he who performs Rajasuya and Ashvamedha Sacrifices and he who has a righteous resolve."
- "My dear! Are you treating respectfully as before that preceptor of the Ikshvaku's, the one who knows the sacred scriptures, the learned who constantly keep up the virtues and he who has a great splendour?"
- "O, my dear! I hope that you treat with due respect; Sudhanva, your teacher in archery, who is furnished with the most excellent arrows and darts and well-versed in political economy."



- "I hope that ministers who are valiant like you, learned, masters of their senses of noble birth and skilled interpreting internal sentiments by external gesture, are assigned to you."
- "The source of victory for kings indeed comes from a concealed counsel by ministers, who are well-versed in political sciences and who can hide their thoughts within themselves."
- "I hope you do not fall a prey to excess of sleep and do wake up at appropriate time. I hope you contemplate during the latter half of the night, about the adroitness / skill for an action."
- "I hope that you do not deliberate alone nor indeed with numerous men. I hope your decision arrived at by you through such deliberation does not flow to the public (even before it is carried out)".
- "O, Bharata! I hope considering your interest fully, you launch an undertaking, which has maximum benefit with minimum cost and indeed do not delay it further."



- "I hope the other kings know your entire undertakings only after they have been successfully completed as well as those which have taken a shape, but not your proposed undertakings."
- "My dear! I hope that others are not knowing, by their enquiries or strategies or by any other approaches not mentioned, the details of discussions you make with your ministers."
- "I hope you solicit for one wise man rather than for a thousand stupid for, a wise man can be of a great help to you in difficult matters."
- "Even if a king employs thousand or tens of thousands of fools, they will not be helpful to him."
- "Even one wise, valiant, sagacious/intelligent and efficient minister alone can cause to secure a great prosperity to the king or to one who enjoys royal authority."
- "I hope that superior servants are assigned superior works only, mediocre servants are put in mediocre works and inferior servants are given works as per their capacity."
- "I hope you are appointing those ministers, who are eminent, incorruptible, forbears of good family and who are full of integrity in matters of great importance."

