

responsibilities. Democracy ideally is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. All people in a democracy have to realise that the rules of the game of democracy have to be honestly observed not only to achieve the goal but to keep the game going.

Check Your Progress 4

Note: a) Use the space below for your answers.

b) Compare your answers with those given at the end of this unit.

1) What are the fundamental rights conferred on the citizens by modern democratic state? Use about five lines for your answer.

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2) What are the civic responsibilities of the citizen of democracy. Use about five lines for your answer.

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3) Democracy can be safeguarded by:

- a) Vigilant citizenry
- b) Strong Military power
- c) Strong Executive
- d) Vigilant bureaucracy

(Tick mark the correct answer)

4) In a democracy a citizen should have knowledge about:

- a) Rights only
- b) Duties only
- c) Both rights and duties
- d) None of the above

(Tick mark the correct answer)

19.10 LET US SUM UP

The state is a distinguishing social organisation. The state has been defined as a community of persons. More or less in number permanently occupying a definite part of a territory. It is independent of external control and possesses an organised government to which the majority of citizens remain obedient. Political scientists, however, recognise the following essential properties of the state viz. a population, a territory, a government and sovereignty. Sovereignty, indeed, confers the ultimate power on the state.

Nationalism is the growth of a feeling of oneness among people based on the same attributes to contribute to nationality. The nation is the peoples consciousness of unity.

Government is an essential element of a state as the day to day function of the state is carried out by the government. Though the terms government and the state are used interchangeably, to speak of differences: (i) the government is concrete while the state is an abstraction: (ii) the state is supreme while the Government is an element, (iii) the state is permanent, but government is not, (iv) the authority of the state is unlimited, but for the government it is limited (v) the states have common attributes, while types of government vary. The state performs the political functions as the political sub-system of the society. There are some other organisations in the society looking after the welfare and other activities. Though the political pluralists claim the state to be one of the associations of the many associations of the Society, but the State stands to be a distinctive organisation because of its sovereign power.

A state, however, carries on its function through two main types of organisations; (i) Governmental organisation viz, executive, legislative, judiciary and bureaucracy (ii) Non-government agencies viz-political parties, interest groups and the press & other mass media. These organisation, indeed, perform distinctive functions in their respective fields of specialisation.

The relationship between the individual and the state is not uniform all over the world as there are different forms of governments. A modern democratic state confers certain fundamental rights on its citizens viz the right to life, property, liberty, expression, equality and education. In return citizens are also expected to perform certain duties of the state viz, obey law, pay taxes, to be loyal to the state, exercise voting rights, avoidance of unconstitutional means to achieve one's goal. It also expects citizens to be knowledgeable about their rights and duties.

19.11 KEY WORDS

Fundamental Rights : Certain rights guaranteed by the state to its citizens and given in the Constitution. These include civil liberties like freedom of expression, freedom of speech and religion, equality before law

Nationalism : Growth of a feeling of oneness among the people based on some common attributes to contribute to nationhood or nationality. These could include religion, economics, politics, language culture and so on.

Political Pluralism : Political thought of a group of thinkers who propagate that there are multiple social organisation in the society and the state is only one of them.

Sovereignty : The supreme power of the state over individuals and organisation.

19.12 FURTHER READINGS

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19.13 MODEL ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) a) a population b) a territory c) a government and
e) sovereignty.

- 2) Yes

It confers ultimate power to the state in exercising its monopoly of power over all individual and institutions within its territory. Again, it extends to the relationship with other sovereign states and formulates its own policy avoiding external interference.

- 3) No

- 4) No

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) The state is an abstraction while the government is concrete; (ii) the state is supreme but the government is an element of the state only; (iii) the states have similar attributes, but types of government vary, (iv) the state is permanent but the government can change and (v) authority of the state is unlimited but that of the government is limited.

- 2) No

- 3) No

- 4) Yes

Check Your Progress 3

- 1) Executive, legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy are the major governmental organisations of the state. Besides these, there are several non-governmental organisations viz. political parties, interest groups and the press.

- 2) Yes

- 3) a) Uni-cameral b) Bi-cameral

- 4) a) Democracy

- 5) Yes

- 6) No

Check Your Progress 4

The fundamental rights are:

- 1) Right to life, right to liberty and (limited rights to) property, right to freedom of speech and religion, right to equality, right to education and right to public offices.

The civic responsibilities are:

- 2) Duty to obey law, paying taxes, loyalty to the state, exercising voting rights, tolerance of the opposition, performing duties and avoidance of unconstitutional methods to achieve one's goal.
- 3) a) Vigilant citizenry.
- 4) c) Both rights and duties.



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