**Explain the concept of Statecraft of Machiavelli. (2016)**

**Answer**

**Introduction:** According Machiavelli the citizens of normal state are faithful and law-abiding. They have the spirit of patriotism and they are always ready to sacrifice themselves to defend their motherland from foreign aggression. The normal state has the tendency to expand and grow. The expansion is the symbol normal state. The normal state is self-sufficient state. On the other hand, the perverted state is completely opposite to the normal state. In perverted state these qualities are absent.

**Important Role of the State**

Some of the important roles of the state as said by Machiavelli are mentioned as follows;

1. **Reliable Troops:** The first and foremost role of the state is create reliable troops for the protection it national territory from the foreign aggression. The troops should be native and state should not depend on foreign mercenary troops for its own defense.
2. **Monarchical State:**  Machiavelli preferred to the Republican form of government, but the existing political situation was not suitable for that type of government. It is monarchical system of government which can rescue Italy from the clutches of chaos. Therefore, he preferred the monarchical state system for the sake Italy. But, it should be mention here that he was against the despotic government.
3. **Secular role of State:** Machiavelli’s state was fully secular in its nature. He did not have faith on the Divine Theory of state. There no any unearthly reasons for its existence. He always subordinated the Church to the state. However, realizing that the Church was still a powerful institution and people have faith on it he advised the prince to respect religion.
4. **Expansion Role:** The expansion policy is a natural tendency of either Republican or Monarchical system of government. The Monarchical system follows this policy because it is the craving of monarch to preserve his power; On the other hand, the existing competitive world order compels the Republican government to follow the expansionist policy.
5. **Recognition of Good Laws:** Law occupies a pre-dominant position in the state. Though the Machiavelli regarded that the force and fear are important instrument to rule the state yet he also considers that good law is the corner stone of the foundation of the state.

**Conclusion**

Machiavelli thus had very clear views about the role of state. He was very clear that the state must expand or it will simply shrink and die. In the making of state law givers and legislature have big role to play.

**Question: Explain Machiavelli’s concept of separation of politics from religion. (2015)**

**Answer**

**Introduction**

Machiavelli was the first thinker who freed political science or theory from the clutches of religion and morality. He was not interested in high moral or religious principles. His main concern was power and the practical or political interests of the state. It would be the primary concern of the prince in particular and government in general to protect the interests of state. In other words Machiavelli was the first thinker who took an unequivocal stand in regard to the relationship between religion, morality and virtue on the one hand and politics on the other. He adopted a very clear stand about politics, religion and morality.

1. **He did not use religion in conventional way:** Machiavelli strongly advocated a dichotomy between morality and religion on the one hand and politics on the other. In The Prince he emphasized that the prince must follow a virtue which is “creative”—creative in the sense that the virtue of the prince would be able to maintain the state. With the help of his virtues the prince would “fight off” his enemies. We, therefore, find that Machiavelli used the word “virtue” not in any conventional sense. The supreme objective of a prince is always to maintain the unity of his state and to bring it under good administration.

1. **Religion should be kept aside for special and personal use:** Machiavelli was not against morality, religion, ethics etc. Rather, he was indif­ferent. That is, he adopted an indifferent stand or attitude towards these. It is called moral indifference. In Discourses he made the following observation “our religion places the supreme happiness in humility, lowliness, and a contempt for worldly objects, whilst the others on the contrary, places the supreme good in grandeur of soul, strength of body. These principles seem to me to have made men feeble and caused them to become an easy prey to evil minded men”. In this passage we find that he did not suggest being immoral or anti-religious. He was of opinion that religion; morality etc. should be kept aside for special and personal use.
2. **Machiavelli recommends a double standard of Religion:** If a prince wants to achieve success he must make serious efforts to separate religion and morality from politics. The prince must not hesitate to use immoral means and unethical ways and corrupt practices to achieve success in political fields. A prince should not run after admiration. His subjects may throw him eulogy and admiration for being honest and religious minded. But they will never forgive him for his failure in political affairs. Machiavelli recommends a double standard of morality and ethics—one for the ruler and the other for the private citizens or persons. The reason suggested by Machiavelli is that the supreme objective of the prince is to achieve success in political fields: Religion, morality and ethics should not be allowed to stand on the way of success. But the private persons have not such objectives and naturally they have the freedom to follow moral and religious ways. Machiavelli has suggested that the virtue of a prince is different from that of an ordinary person.
3. **Autonomy of Politics**: He should be least concerned with what happens in religion or morality. By recommending the above Machiavelli clearly indicated the separation between politics and religion. This may also be called the “autonomy of politics”, which implies that the politics has an exclusively different world. This is called secularism of politics or secularization of politics. Machiavelli thought that politics and religion are different because their fields are separate.
4. **Separation from religion from Politics establishes good administration:** He had a firm belief that for all sorts of corruption in politics, religion is absolutely responsible. A prince or a political man could never achieve success by scrupulously following religious, moral and ethical means. If a man becomes prince he should avoid moral and religious ways by all means to establish good administration in the state. There is emotion in morality and religion. A prince true to his name must give no recognition to the religious and moral feelings. to maintain his state he will have to shake off the demands of Christian virtue, It is to be noted here that “to maintain the state” and reason of the state are concepts of immense importance and Machiavelli took these seriously. A state must be maintained in the face of all odds or adverse situations and a judicious prince must reject the conventional religion and morality.

**Conclusion:**

To him religion, ethics and morality were mystical concepts but the state was a real element. He was out and out a materialist and for that reason he refused to give proper recognition to the mystical elements such as religion and morality State or politics has a separate and at the same time real or concrete domain. Florence was the birthplace of Machiavelli and birthplace of several celebrities. But this Florence was in an ignoble position or situation which he could not tolerate. His idea was that Florence or any other state was reality.