

### **Section 3: Epics and Puranas**

#### **Shulka: Concept and Consequences**

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**The paper will present a discussion of the term 'shulka' in the Indian tradition in which it is employed in two different spheres of social activities. The etymological explanations of the term are given as - (1) toll tax, duty, and (2) bride-price. Both the meanings respectively refer to Polity (Rajaniti) as related to the state economy and in the context of marriage as well as the property of women. They, therefore, occur in the Arthashastra and Dharmashastra traditions, and their usages and significance are given accordingly.**

**The paper will then focus on (1) comparing and correlating both the connotations and subsequently (2) bringing out its positive and negative impacts on social life.**

**Discussion will thereafter will consist of illustrations from the Epic literature to justify both the points, such as those of (1) Dasharatha from the Ramayana, and (2) Shantanu from the Mahabharata.**

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