

# UNIT 3 : VARNA PROLIFERATION OF JATIS

CHANGING NORMS OF MARRIAGE AND PROPERTY.

# WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY VARNAS?

- ▶ IN MAHABHARAT, VARNAS MEANS 'COLOUR', RACE, TRIBE ETC.
- ▶ VARNAS REFER TO FOUR CLASSES IN THE MANU SMRITI.
- ▶ THE FIRST REFERENCE TO VARNAS SYSTEM IS IN THE PURUSASUKTA HYMN OF THE RIG VEDA.
- ▶ THERE ARE 4 MAIN VARNAS :
  1. BRAHMIN - HEAD
  2. ARMS/HAND - KSHATRIYA
  3. THIGH - VAISHYA
  4. FEET- SHUDRAS.

- **JATI** - MEANS COMMUNITY/ THERE ARE FOUR VARNAS OR CASTE BUT THOUSANDS OF JATIS.(EX- BRAHMIN CASTE AND ASSAMESE JATI)

#### PROLIFERATION OF CASTE -

1. IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, RESEARCHER REFER TO THOUSANDS OF MIXED CASTE.THIS WAS DUE TO VARIOUS REASONS LIKE CONQUEST, SPREAD OF TRADE , EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RELATED ACTIVITY ETC.
2. SECOND REASON WAS CRAFT TURNED INTO CASTE GROUP. EX-EMERGENCE OF LOCAL CRAFTS INTO NEW CASTE GROUP LIKE CITRAKARA.
3. THIRDLY, IT WAS ALSO RELATED TO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.THE EMERGENCE OF VARIOUS SECTS HAD CLOSE AFFINITY WITH THE JATIS THEY EMERGED FROM AND THE GODS THEY WORSHIPPED.

# CHANGING NORMS OF MARRIAGE & PROPERTY

IN ANCIENT INDIA - THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF MARRIAGE FOLLOWED.

1. EXOGAMY - MARRIAGE OUTSIDE OF ONE'S TRIBE.
2. ENDOGAMY - MARRIAGE WITHIN SAME GROUP OR TRIBE.

DURING POST VEDIC PERIOD , MANU REFER TO 8 TYPES OF MARRIAGE

1. BRAHMA
2. DAIVA
3. ARSHA
4. PRAJAPATYA
5. ASURA
6. GANDHARVA
7. RAKSHASA
8. PAISACHA

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO PROPERTY WAS RECOGNISED BY MANU AND KATYAYANA. WOMEN WERE ALSO GIVEN RIGHT TO REGAIN SOCIAL STATUS, IF MOLESTED OR ROBBED.