

# Core Course – 403 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

## Objective :

Religion is an ubiquitous phenomenon and its relation to society, culture and polity raises important sociological issues. This paper introduces the students to the subfield of sociology of religion. After analysing the basic concepts and key interpretations of religion, it focuses on the interface between religion and society in India and the contestation over religion in contemporary times. It concludes with an analysis of social change in relation to religion.

## Course Outline :

### Unit - 1

Definition, Meaning subject matter and Nature of Sociology of Religion

### Unit - 2

Definition and its relationship with Philosophy, Ethics, Dharma, Science and Law.

Main components of Religion Belief, Rituals, Symbols and myths.

### Unit - 3

Approaches to the study of Religion,

Classification approach - Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Mauss

Contemporary approach, Phenomenological, New Marxist, structuralist, anthropological

### Unit - 4 Comparative Religion Approach

Religion in India

Regional and Sanskrit Hinduism

Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, Tribal

Religions.

Socio-Historical Perspectives.

Overview of population

Current levels

### Unit - 5

Religion, Secularism and communalism in India.

## Recommended Books :

- Asgarali Engineer - Communalism in India
- Achyutbhai Yagnik., Modern Gujarat, Penguin Publishing co.
- Baird, Robert D. (ed.) 1995 (3rd Edition). Religion in modern India. Delhi. Manohar.
- Jones, Kenneth W. 1989. Socio-religious reform movements in British India (The new Cambridge history of India III-1). Hyderabad : Orient Longman
- Madan, T. N. (ed.). 1992 (enlarged edition). Religion in India. New Delhi : Oxford University Press
- Muzumdar, H. T. 1986. India's religious heritage. New Delhi : Allied
- Roberts, Keith A. 1984. Religion in sociological perspective. New York : Dorsey Press.
- Shakir, Moin (ed.) 1989. Religion, state and politics in India. Delhi : Ajanta Publications.
- Turner, Bryan S. 1991 (2nd edition). Religion and social theory. London : Sage