

## Culture VI- Class 7

### God and Characteristics of God

#### What is God

- Hindu religion believes in one Supreme Being or God
- God created the Universe out of Himself and so it is not separate from Him. Each object in the Universe has a small portion of God in them
- God guides the evolution of everything over vast spans of time and ultimately absorbs the Universe back into Himself
- This cycle of creation, preservation and absorption repeats without end
- According to the Upanishads “What you see when you look into another person’s eyes, the atman or soul, which is immortal and beyond fear, is God”

#### Characteristics of God

- God is omniscient i.e. has infinite knowledge of all things
- God is omnipresent i.e. he can be found in all things e.g. –dream
- God is worshipped in various male and female forms
- *Jñāna* (Omniscience), defined as the power to know about all beings simultaneously;
- *Aishvarya* (Sovereignty derived from the word Ishvara), which consists in unchallenged rule over all;
- *Shakti* (Energy), or power, which is the capacity to make the impossible possible;
- *Bala* (Strength), which is the capacity to support everything by will and without any fatigue;
- *Tejas* (Splendor), which expresses his self-sufficiency and the capacity to overpower everything by his spiritual strength

#### Other Characteristics of God

- *Vairagya* (Detachment)
- *Yashas* (Fame)
- *Srī* (Glory) and
- *Dharma* (Righteousness)
- *Gambhīrya* (grandeur)
- *Audārya* (generosity)
- *Kārunya* (compassion)