

# Manu: The Exponent of Dharmaśāstra

## \* Famous Book - (Manusmriti)

- Time 500 BCE to 200 CE
- Laws of Manu
- Dharma - Śāstra literature
- It deals with the duties, rights and laws governing individuals and society
- Manu's political thought represents the ancient Hindu vision of moral and cosmic order, where politics, religion, and ethics were deeply interconnected.

## \* Concept of (Dharma)

- For Manu, Dharma was not just religion. It was the universal law that maintained harmony in the universe.
- Every individual and ruler has a duty (Sudharma) to follow this order.
- The King's main function is to protect Dharma, not to rule for personal power.
- Thus, for Manu, the state exists to preserve moral order, not merely to enforce political control.