**Question: Explain Philosophy of Proudhon on anarchism**

The political thinker who first declared himself an anarchist was the French man Joseph Proudhan. He was a philosophical anarchist and opposed the idea of revolutionary anarchist. He has been rightly called the father of anarchism. His doctrine of archaism may be discussed under the following points:

**Proudhon Philosophy of Anarchism:**

1. **Private property:** The anarchist idea of Proudhan was mostly based on private property. In his book *‘What is property?* he declared it was a theft. According to him property is the root cause of all evils and which enable the rich to exploit the poor. For eliminating private capital, Proudhan advocated the establishment of a ‘Bank of the people’ and which will be empowered to issue ‘Labour Notes’ in the form of paper money. It would encourage voluntary cooperation. He called this mutualism as positive anarchy. However, he merely condemned the monopolistic and exploitative nature of the institution of private property. He never disfavoured the property held for personal use.
2. **Existence of state:** Proudhan also attacked the state as it support property interest and the protector of few against many. The state is responsible for facilitating and instigating the exploitation of men by man. The state has always acted on the side of capitalist and the laws of the state always harmful and had not serves useful purposes. It imposes excessive taxes upon the people by dint of its force. Proudhan, hence, found no justification for the existence of state.
3. **Government and political authority:** Proudhan opposed any form of government and authority. His championed the cause of liberty and freedom and condemned the government. His book ‘*Philosophy of Poverty’* explicitly enunciated the doctrine of government and political authority. The government of man over man in every form is an oppression which denies individual freedom and liberty. Proudhan held that government and political authority were scourge of God.
4. **Religion:** Proudhan also wanted to free the individuals from the grasp of church. He held the view that religion is opposed to science and progress. The state is the younger brother of church. The church always supported the state and acted as the handmaid of rich people against which the common people have no right to rebel. So, Proudhan condemned church and pleaded for its abolition.