

Concept of God (ईश्वरसङ्कल्पः)

- ईश्वरः -
 1. ईष्टे इति = one who governs.
 2. अश्रुते व्याप्नोति इति = one who pervades - He has created whole universe from Himself.
- ईश्वर can be understood from different levels/view-points - निर्गुण निराकार, सगुण निराकार & सगुण साकार - निर्गुण निराकार (Attribute-less & Formless - ब्रह्म) -> सगुण निराकार (With attributes & Formless - ईश्वर) -> सगुण साकार (With attributes & With Form - God).

निर्गुण निराकार भाव of ईश्वर

- ब्रह्मन् - That which is one without second, undivided & of the nature of Existence-Consciousness-Bliss (सत्-चित्त-आनन्द). - It has no properties & no form. - निर्गुण & निराकार.
- This is so-to-say most pure form of ईश्वर. The concept of God as Supreme is not there in any other religion, tradition or culture. This is the highest understanding of सनातनधर्म.

सगुण निराकार भाव of ईश्वर

- कः ईश्वरः? - पञ्चकृत्य-परायणो ईश्वरः। - सृष्टि-स्थिति-लय-तिरोधान-अनुग्रहकरो ईश्वरः। - There are 5 functions/manifestations/jobs that He has. They are - सृष्टि (creation), स्थिति (sustain), लय (dissolution), तिरोधान (conceal/cover - We see God, as He is everything. But we don't feel we are seeing God. He is as though concealing everything.) & अनुग्रह (bless - He blesses/uncovers everything, so that we can realize.)
- चित्त-आनन्द-इच्छा-ज्ञान-क्रिया-शक्तिमान् ईश्वरः। - One who has these 5 powers - चित्त (Pure Knowledge), आनन्द (Unlimited/Infinite/Total freedom), इच्छा (Desire), ज्ञान (Power of knowledge or Power to think) & क्रिया (Action/Power to act).
- सृष्टि-पोषण-पालन-भरण-लयकरो ईश्वरः। - He does 5 things - सृष्टि (Creates), पोषण (Nourishes), पालन (Protects), भरण (Controls/governs - Dances in everything - Aspect of कर्मफलदाता) & लय (Dissolves - Absorbs everything back into Him).
- अभिन्न-निमित्त-उपादान-कारणः ईश्वरः। - In the creation of the world, ईश्वर is all these 3 kinds of cause. Ex - Spider. - 3 kinds of cause (कारण) - निमित्तकारण (Efficient cause - A person who knows how to create), उपादानकारण (Material cause - things required for creation or raw material) & सहकारिकारण (Instrumental cause - helping instruments).

सगुण साकार भाव of ईश्वर

- If you say God is omnipotent, but can't take any form, you are contradicting yourself. - सर्वशक्तः = कर्तुम् अकर्तुम् अन्यथा वा कर्तुं शक्तः ईश्वरः।
- 3 manifestations as सगुण साकार -
 1. देवताः - Form of our desire - विष्णु, शिव, देवी, गणेश, कार्तिकेय, etc. - इष्टदेवता
 2. विराट् - The entire universe - All objects, things & beings.
 3. अवताराः - Incarnations - श्रीराम, श्रीकृष्ण, etc.