With the progression and expansion of civilisation the formulation, recognition and mutual relations between individual and group have been based on some thoughts, concepts, beliefs and approaches. With the emergence of social status, behaviours and relations, a conceptual stream has determined the norms, standards and traditions to make new junctures in society.

For a long, our social, cultural, religious and different heritages contributed a lot of concepts, viewpoints and perceptions. All have developed the inspirational and customary ideologies to create the platform of ethos.

**DEFINITIONS**

- **According to Swami Vivekananda**
  “Indian ethos serves ideas of honesty, integrity and morality”

- **According to Webster’s Dictionary**
  “Ethos denotes the characteristic spirit of culture, era or community”

- **According to Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary**
  “Ethos as the set of beliefs and ideas etc. about social behaviour and relationship of a person as group.”

Indian ethos basically are based on our social structure, culture and religions. Moreover, our Vedas, Upanishads, Shrutis, Purans, Bhagvat Geeta and Ramayan were also contributed to create and develop the holistic and value added aspects in ethos. As such, in the early period of history, there were various concepts, thoughts, views, traditions and attitudes developed by human being, were labelled as ethos.

**WHY TO STUDY INDIAN ETHOS**

It is a universal fact that Almighty has gifted us the human life. For a long Indian ethos provide us a platform on which we are going to make our intellectual personality as well as wisdom based humanity. It is the high time to locate and evaluate the amicable role and contribution of our ethos for the goodness of society.

We the people as human kind, have the responsibility to analyse and find out the ways and means to achieve most amicable and dignified platform for the well being of society. It is vitally required to
make intellectual and emotional capacity among people to meet out such responsibilities. Here, it is most essential to analyse and study the role of Indian ethos to make a spiritual and holistic approaches to meet out such responsibilities as briefly stated here:

1. We should be able to make self purification by means of truth and calmness,
2. We should develop full joyful feelings with highest material and spiritual streams,
3. We should develop mutual trust and cooperation, fellow feelings and respect within our social scenario,
4. We should required to search out and make some spiritual opportunities and ways of life within human beings,
5. We should be learned and analysed the holistic views, concepts and approaches for human beings,
6. We should determine and developed the set of beliefs, ideas and perceptions for most appropriate and acceptable behaviour and relationship for a person and a group in society.
7. We must recognise and accept the concept of work is worship with the inner feelings of spiritual divinity and unselfish work,
8. We must ensured our self to achieve the targets and to get successful ends at every stage of life,
9. We should pray the God to create and develop the strengthen and inspirational motives to perform the excellences in human life,
10. We should determine and develop the ethical norms and standards for the well being of an individual and group in society at large,
11. We should determine and develop the value oriented holistic group of the society for the well being of human kinds,
12. We should move towards eternal truth and enlightenment for positivism in our life.

**EVOLUTION OF ETHOS**

Over a long period of time, philosophers have attempted to study human behaviour and to create analytical views to judge the right or wrong conducts of human beings. Before ancient period of history, cavemen, as they were called, lived in groups and the groups decided the guidelines and pattern of right or wrong behaviour. As the civilisation improved with some new ideologies and customs, some new and worthwhile relations were developed between individual and group as well as the groups developed their identifications and assumptions. There were different environmental factors effects each group decided their own views on right and wrong behaviour. Our country is a multicultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic. There are several traditions, customs, attitudes and consequently different ethos are here. The different community have different customs like dowry system, sati system, killing of female child and child marriages etc. are being the part of social phenomenon. They have recently been considered as illegal but still they are the part of Indian traditions and customs. Moreover, we believes, recognise and developed the feelings of respect to every religion and as such, Indian ethos does not belong to any religion or culture. With such diversity of customs and traditions, we have developed a sense of tolerance, respect, kindness, fore-bearness, integrity, sacrifice, trust and harmony etc. These attitudes, customs, traits and habits etc. developed the platform of Indian ethos.

**PIOENEERING ASPECTS CONTRIBUTED BY INDIAN ETHOS**

Indian ethos provides basic ideas and thoughts to formulate the visions of spirituality and intellectual concepts. The ideologies, concepts, thoughts and approaches as laid down by Indian ethos are the
combination of our religion, culture and holy books and heritages. In fact, we the people give due honour to the spiritual essence as contributed by our ethos. As such the valuable and pioneering aspects of Indian ethos are briefly stating here –

1. **Know Oneself**

Within conceptual framework of Indian ethos, a great emphasise is placed on knowing oneself. It is emphasised that ‘Self’ is a part of supreme soul or supreme conscience. There are different divine feature like honesty, purity, truthfulness, integrity, loyalty, patience and forgiveness are within us. By means of our inner purification, we should be knows ourself and developed our latent qualities for the well-being of human life.

2. **Purification of Mind**

Indian ethos believe in developing purity of mind, which implies purifying emotions, feelings, impulses, etc. It is called Chitta Shuddhi which needs to create inner harmony within the mental set up of persons. Christ has also said- “Blessed are those who are pure by heart.” Here the concept of Karma Yoga is a good pathway for self purification to overcome of passion, jealousy, hatred, greed, anger and arrogance etc. As such, mind purification must be given preference over body.

3. **Humanity**

The concept of humanity and human approach to life is the foremost message of our ethos, All living beings are part of supreme soul and humanity is the basic approach in this context. We are committed to a morality of good consequences by our human nature. This principle emphasise on the fundamental theory of “always treat a human being as an end and never as a means.” We cannot develop our existence and behaviour without the purview of humanity.

4. **Mutual Trust**

Indian ethos believes and emphasise to create mutual trust to develop loyalty and harmony in society. It is noble motive to emphasise that each person should create and contribute their role and behaviour on the basis of mutual trust for the well being of society. We should practice listening to our inner wisdom through meditation and prayers. This will direct us to trust ourselves on a deeper level.

5. **Self Introspection**

Indian ethos believed that self analysis, self evaluation, self criticism and self examination are needful to locate the attributes of friction, disharmony and challenges. The persons may create one’s own thoughts, feelings, emotions through prayers, meditation, holy readings and unselfish work for excellences in work with self.

6. **Intuition**

There is a significant part that we should give immediate cognition to inner feelings and perception with inner mind. It may be helpful for taking prompt and sound judgments and to create innovative and gentleness within our life scenario.

7. **Value Oriented Services**

Indian ethos believes to provide services with the spirit of sacrifice and impartiality. Service without ego
and for the welfare of all are the basic aspect to our ethos. We believe that we are only means, actual giver is supreme soul and we are grateful to the one who receives from us. Services should be based on self – motives and value oriented holistic approaches.

8. Spirit of Sacrifice
Indian ethos believe in sacrifice for the sake of others. We must be satisfied on all the things whatever we are acquired in our normal situation. If the attitude and feeling of sacrifice in our life first, then it gives us inner peace and harmony in our life.

9. Unity of Diversity
In our country there are different people to have different social customs, concepts and beliefs and life styles. They have different religions and cultural value, yet they coexist and live together only due to holistic approach that all human beings are a part of infinite self. Very important feature of Indian society is the coexistence of different ethnic groups. These groups formulate inter group behaviour. Hence, there is no mutual interference as also no merging of their identity.

10. Peace
Foremost we the people love the peace. Peace is tolerance based and created from love for all and the idea of mutual coexistence. Great Indians like Gautam Buddha, Mahavir Swami, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi etc. have advocated and contributed their whole life for peace for human beings.

11. Team Spirit
Indian ethos emphasise that all human beings can live together, protect each other and our all efforts be through and trustful and to develop the spiritual love and relationship with each other. Moreover, we must be loyal and trustful with each other and as such, it suppresses I and believes in we approach.

12. Self Realisation
The concept of Indian ethos is that all human beings are part of supreme soul, they have to tap their dormant potential. Each individual can create and develop their abilities and qualities for the interest of human being lead to peace and happiness.

13. Cooperation
According to Indian ethos the cooperation is a way of life for a human being. Cooperation makes one less self – centered by widening his area of concern. By mutual cooperation, respect and fellow feelings, all of us will be enjoyed. It brings in concept of US and WE in our mind and dissolve I and THEM. Cooperative attitudes gives in happiness, friendship, love and relationship

14. Self Management
It is called the systematise way to learn and manage the things by consciousness. The basic aspect of self management is to first know and manage one self and then manage others. Here, the self analysis and self control makes us to manage ourselves.

15. Wishless Work
Indian ethos emphasise that every task which is perform by us, is no need to have self interest. Geeta
also emphasise that ‘Sawadharma’ is the key to achieve Karmayoga in its true sense. All work should also be carried on for the general welfare of the society. We should discourage the attitudes of selfishness and selfless services to others. Lord Krishna says that we have the right only to action and never to the fruits of our actions, nor be attached to in action.

16. Dynamic Meditation
Meditation is the essence of the purification of mind and it is the transformation of lower consciousness into higher consciousness. Through meditation in a silent and calm mind, one reaches a higher level of consciousness which create intuitions to tackle negative and challenging environment.

17. Happiness
Indian ethos emphasise that one should know about the root of happiness lies in righteous action. By the views of holistic approaches, we can develop the attitudes of happiness in people. All work should also be carried on for the general welfare as well as happiness of the society.

18. Means are Equally Important
Indian ethos emphasise that all the means and resources as gifted by God have some valuable importance in our life. The most applicable and sustainable gains from means and resources can be achieved only by ethical and moral conducts. We should protect and utilise the available means with justified manners so that mental peace and inner satisfaction can be attained.

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN ETHOS
Indian ethos contributed basic ideas and thoughts to formulate the vision of spirituality and proper amicable way for the well-being of society. In fact we the people give due honour to truth, honesty and humanity which are the essence of our ethos. The ideologies, concepts, thoughts and approaches as laid down by Indian ethos, are the combination of our religion, culture and social aspect. The valuable significance of Indian ethos are briefly stating here -

1. Indian ethos are sense of ultimate values and it provide the sum total of values.
2. Indian ethos determined the way of life inspired by fundamental values in which people live.
3. Indian ethos provide the holistic approaches by which we may be developed the purification of mind for harmony in society,
4. Indian ethos determines and provides basic parameters and norms towards social relations,
5. Indian ethos provide several ways and means to create truth fullness, well heartedness, loyalty, cooperation towards making team spirit in society,
6. Indian ethos provide the spirit of sacrifices and impartiality toward inspired the service attitudes in social life,
7. Indian ethos determine the beliefs, concepts, outlooks, customs, knowledge and practices for the well being of human society,
8. Indian ethos provide the values of creativity, intellectuality, and energetically to create sense of work is worship.

With the evolution and growth of society, some attributes and perceptions were emerged. They have been determined the role and behaviour of persons with amicable ways. We the people as human kind have the responsibility to analyse and evaluate that why to study the Indian ethos in present
social scenario. There are certain responsibilities as commitments for us to fulfill them for the well being of society. Through the valuable streams and concepts of Indian ethos, we may be able to fulfill the responsibilities for our society. A brief attempt was made on the evolution of Indian ethos. Some pioneering aspects as contributed by Indian ethos are also discussed. The aspects are knows oneself, purification of mind, humanity, mutual trust, self introspection, intuition, value oriented services, spirit of sacrifice, unity of diversity, peace, team spirit, self realisation, cooperation, self management wish less work dynamic mediation, happiness and means are equally important etc. included here. An attempt is also made to analyse the significance of Indian ethos in this chapter.

**QUESTIONS**

(A) Short Questions

1. Define Indian Ethos.
2. Describe two responsive causes to be responsible to study Indian Ethos.
3. What is meant by self introspection?
4. Define purification of mind.
5. Define the team ‘Humanity’.
7. Define Spirit of Sacrifice.
8. What is meant by Dynamic Meditation?

(B) Descriptive Questions

1. Describe the evolution and growth of Indian Ethos.
2. Define Indian Ethos. Why to study Indian Ethos?
3. Describe different pioneering aspects as contributed by Indian Ethos.
4. Describe the significance of Indian Ethos.
In order to make ethical based social framework and value oriented behavioral aspects, it is most required that our social phenomenon should be based on ‘Truth with Nature’. It is also well known and acceptable things that ethical values and norms are needed to make such worthwhile social platform.

It is stated that Indian religion, culture and different heritages have been contributing the streams, ideologies and convictions in the form of ethos and ethical inspirational. Indian ethos are the valuable and spiritual beliefs to create optimism and positivism view points for the well being of society.

**SOURCES OF INDIAN ETHOS AND ETHICAL INSPIRATION**

Most honourable Indian religions, culture and heritages contributes the ethos and ethical inspirational viewpoints and value base virtues. Broadly, the sources of Indian ethos and ethical viewpoints may be divided into four parts as given here:

(i) Contribution of Indian religion,
(ii) Inspirational concepts of holy books,
(iii) Contribution of scholars and holy persons,
(iv) Conceptual views of renowned prominent rulers.

**1. CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS**

There are different religions in our country. Some of them in context of their ethical inspirational viewpoints are briefly described here:-

**Jainism**

Mahaveer (Vardhamana) was the founder of Jainism. The religion propagated by him is called Jain. He was called 24th thirthankar, who introduced and guides the basic norms and disciplines along the right path. Jain believe that theirs is the earliest religion and Vedas contains reference of ‘Thirthankars’. Jains have two major concepts ‘Shwetambers’ (white clothes) and ‘Digambers’ (naked).

The principles of Jainism are as:

(i) Ahimsa (Nonviolence),
(ii) Satyam (Truthfulness),
(iii) Asteya (Nonstealing),
(iv) Aparigraha (Nonconventeous),
(v) Brahmacharya (Celibacy),
(vi) Sympathise,
(vii) Sacrifice,
(viii) Simplicity,
(ix) Humanity.

Jains believes in the theory of ‘Paap’ and ‘Punya’ and the path of ‘Nirvana’ is the attainment through right faith, right knowledge and right conduct as indicated in the scriptures.

### Christianity

Christianity was founded by Jesus Christ. He was a Jew, born in Bethlehem (Israel). Initially he learned in the preaching of John, the Baptist at Jerusalem. The basic idea which he propagated was that kingdom of God is within all of us. Jesus taught the percepts:

(i) Love for God,
(ii) Forgiveness,
(iii) Charity with mind and heart,
(iv) Noncovetousness,
(v) Devotion,
(vi) Love for everybody,
(vii) Truth and purity and
(viii) Service to others

### Sikhism

Sikhism is a monotheistic religion based on the concepts and teaching of ‘Guru Nanak Devji’ and ten successive gurus. It is the one of the largest organised religion in the world. The holistic and religious philosophy and viewpoints have been traditionally known as ‘Gurumat’ (counsel of guru). The teaching of ten Sikh gurus and contribution of many devotees have been included in the holy scripture entitled ‘Guru Garanth Sahibji’. The basic concepts of it are given here:

(i) The basic concept of Sikhism is that there is one God i.e. is called ‘Wahe Guru’.
(ii) The main essence of Sikh teaching is the truthfulness in human life.
(iii) It believes in universality of God.
(iv) It states that God is omnipresent and is infinite.
(v) It believes that God is true source to create the entire cosmos.
(vi) It emphasise that God can be seen only by means of our heart or inner feelings.
(vii) We must meditate to progress towards enlightenment and reaching the ‘supreme soul’ – The ‘God’

### Buddhism’s

Lord Buddha was borne about 623 BC in Lumbini, in Nepal as a prince named Siddhartha. Seeing the several sorrowful and inhumanities in society, prince Siddhartha left his family and spent a long
period under Bodhi tree. After a long period, he attained enlightenment and propagated a religion called Buddhism.

Lord Buddha’s concept on ethical values are being summed up in ‘Dhamma’ which were based on the concept of ‘purity’ and ‘goodness’ in human life. It was emphasised purity in human life may be based on good conducts. In order to reduce some evils of mind, the performance of mind and body may be balanced.

Lord Buddha also identity the noble eight fold paths or ways towards removing the evils as:

(i) Right speech,
(ii) Right concentration,
(iii) Right living,
(iv) Right efforts,
(v) Right understanding,
(vi) Right alternatives,
(vii) Right mindfulness and
(viii) Right actions.

Islam

Islam is monotheistic religious tradition the developed in Middle East in the seventh century CE. Islam was founded on the teaching of the Prophet Mohammed, with the expression of ‘Surrender to the will of Allah’. It believes in universal brotherhood of man. The concepts of Islam is ‘except Allah, there in no other God and Mohammed is the prophet’.

(i) Speak with kindness and create good conducts,
(ii) Spiritual wisdom is the best way for better human life,
(iii) Assist any oppressed an needy person,
(iv) To develop fair and justified attitudes and behaviour,
(v) The best of man is the one from whom, good accrues to all humanity and
(vi) Trust in God and his angels.

Sufism’s Concept on Ethics

Sufis have been brought in India by Muslim conquest. Sufis are very nearer with our cultural and social systems. The life patterns are very simple and they are not fully agreed for growing luxuries in the world. According to the concept of sufism, the path to God or likely to achieve a true scenario of ethics, may be reached by various seven stages.

(i) By server to the God,
(ii) By love to the God,
(iii) By making knowledge about God,
(iv) By union and seeing the God,
(v) Be inner joy and respect the God,
(vi) By absorption the efficacy of God and
(vii) By renunciation of all wordily desires with the God.
II. INSPIRATIONAL CONCEPTS OF HOLY BOOKS

The contribution of holy books are given here –

**Ethical Values by Bhagavat Geeta**

The honoured ‘Bhagvat Geeta’ had been an eminent source and origin of ethical conducts. It was itself a ‘Yoga Shastra’ as well as ‘Dharma Shastra’ also. Bhagvat Geeta is the holy book of authority for us and it has honoured the real essence of Vedas and in true sense, real essence of life. The ethical values as given in Bhagvad Geeta are briefly stating here:-

(i) The ethos of ‘work is worship’ has emphasised in Geeta as ‘karma’ as driving force in life and any work should be performed by ethical – ways

(ii) Man is born in this life as human kind so he must perform his prescribed duties with devotion, sincerely and humanity to do well to society.

(iii) God is everywhere, he/she comes wherever there is perfection, purity, cleanliness and excellences etc.

(iv) The performance in human society should be done with devotion, pure soul and non cruelty.

(v) Be non egoistic and conduct the morale attitudes because it is a path of heaven.

**Exhibit–1**

**Showing the Ethical and Inspirational Values of Bhagavat Geeta**

Bhagavat Geeta provide different valuable ethical norms and values which are most venerable for the well being of society. Some of them are stating here:–

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<td>3</td>
<td>Impersonalisation</td>
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<td>Truthfulness</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Commitment of divine knowledge</td>
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<td>Cleanliness and courageous</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Forgiveness</td>
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<td>Non-egoistic/non-Greedy</td>
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<td>Welfare for others</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Giving or sacrifice</td>
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<td>Devotion</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Work is worship</td>
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<td>Non cruelty</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Mental peace</td>
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<td>Skill and wisdom</td>
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<td>Kindness</td>
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**Vedantic Ethics**

The Vedantic ethos originated the ethical concepts, thoughts and values by Vedas, upnishads, smritis and purans. In fact that the important vedantic values in our society are briefly stating here:–

(i) To pay respect to elders specially teachers.

(ii) To fear and love to God in all walk of life.