



## Indian Schools of Philosophy (Part I)

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# INDIAN SCHOOLS OF PHILOSOPHY (ORTHODOX)

Indian Philosophy refers to traditions of philosophical thought, originated in the Indian subcontinent. It is divided into 2 schools of thought: Orthodox and Heterodox

Orthodox school believed that Vedas were the supreme revered scriptures that hold the secrets to salvation.

## Samkhya School

- ↳ Founded by Kapil Muni.
- ↳ Oldest school of philosophy.
- ↳ Postulates that reality stems from purusha (self, soul or mind) and prakriti (matter, creative agency, energy).
- ↳ **It went through two phases of development:**
  - ⊗ Original Samkhya (Materialistic Philosophy)
  - ⊗ New Samkhya (Spiritual Philosophy)

## Yoga School (Union of two major entities)

- ↳ Founded by Patanjali.
- ↳ Humans can achieve salvation by combining meditation and physical yogic techniques.

Means of Achieving Freedom	Ways of Achieving
Yama	Practicing self-control
Niyama	Observation of the rules governing one's life
Pratyahara	Choosing an object
Dharna	Fixing the mind (over the chosen object)
Dhyana	Concentrating on the (above-mentioned) chosen object
Samadhi	It is the merging of the mind and the object and that leads to the final dissolution of the self

## Nyaya School

- ↳ Founded by Gautama rishi.
- ↳ Everything should be in accordance with reason and experience.
- ↳ **Means of Attaining Knowledge:** perception, inference, comparison, and verbal testimony.

## Vaisheshika School

- ↳ Founded by Kanada rishi.
- ↳ Everything is created by fire, air, water, earth and ether (sky).
- ↳ Developed atomic theory (all material objects are made of atoms).
- ↳ **Reliance:**
  - ⊗ God is the guiding principle.
  - ⊗ Laws of Karma guide this universe.

## Mimamsa School/ Purva Mimamsa

- ↳ Founded by Kanada rishi.
- ↳ Vedas are eternal and possess all knowledge.
- ↳ Religion means the fulfilment of duties prescribed by the Vedas.

## Vedanta School (End of the Vedas/Upanishads)

- ↳ Philosophical teachings of the Upanishads (mystic/spiritual contemplations within Vedas).
- ↳ **Sub-schools:**
  - ⊗ Advaita (Adi Shankara): Both the individual self (Atman) and Brahman are same.
  - ⊗ Visishtadvaita (Ramanuja): All diversity is subsumed to a unified whole.
  - ⊗ Dvaita (Madhvacharya): Brahman and Atman as 2 different entities.
    - ◆ Bhakti is route to salvation.
  - ⊗ Dvaitadvaita (Nimbarka): Brahman is the highest reality.
  - ⊗ Shuddhadvaita (Vallabhacharya): God and the individual self are the same.
  - ⊗ Achintya Bheda Abheda (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu): Individual self (Jivatman) is both different and not different from Brahman.



Drishti IAS

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