

# Classical Indian Philosophy

COURSE CODE: SIUAPHI 51

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# General Features of Indian Philosophy

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## ➤ India

- Systematic articulation of wisdom with help of logical arguments
- Systems of philosophy in India – Darsana
- Prajna – wisdom; prama – knowledge; pramata – opinion

## ➤ West

- Etymological meaning Philo – love; Sophia – wisdom
- Episteme – knowledge; doxa – opinion; aesthesis – sensation

# Subject matter of Philosophy

Differs from formal sciences, natural sciences & social sciences

An inquiry into

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- ❖ Nature of reality – Metaphysics – Theories of Reality
  - Nature of self (jiva), world (jagat) & God (Ishvara) – Rational psychology, cosmology & theology
- ❖ On the basis of valid source of knowledge – Epistemology – Theories of Knowledge
  - Pramanas - Various sources of knowledge: main are Pratyaksha, Anumana, Shabda
- ❖ To attain the highest/supreme idea of good – Axiology – Theories of Value
  - Purusharthas – Dharma, Artha, Kama & Moksha

Distinction is made between the pleasant (preyas), the good (shreyas) & the supreme good (nihshreyas)

# Different ways of classifications

On the basis of **tradition** into

Astika/Brahmana

1. Nyaya
2. Vaisesika
3. Samkhya
4. Yoga
5. Mimamsa
6. Vedanta

Nastika/Shramana

7. Buddhism
8. Jainism
9. Carvaka

# Different ways of classifications

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## On the basis of

### Metaphysical doctrines

- materialism – spiritualism
- realism – idealism
- monism, dualism, pluralism
- theism -atheism

### Purusharthas

- ❑ those accepting artha and kama
- ❑ those accepting dharma, artha, kama
- ❑ those accepting dharma, artha, kama & moksha

# Classification of 9 systems of Indian Philosophy

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Based on epistemology

- a) How many pramanas are accepted in a system?
- b) Which of them are regarded as adequate to know the reality?
- c) Which of them are primary and secondary sources of knowing the reality?
- d) How do you know?
  - ❖ Fire burns
  - ❖ The Principal is in the office

# Different ways of classifications

## On the basis of Epistemology

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Pramanas: Pratyaksha, Anumana, Shabda

- ❖ **Empiricism:** perception is the only source of knowledge (Caravaka) and so deny
  - Existence of god, soul, rebirth, heaven, hell
- ❖ **Rationalism:** that which is not directly perceived, can be inferred
  - Wherever there is burning experienced wood, gas stove, smoke on the hill, etc., we infer fire
  - Perception of intelligible order in the universe, a theist infers omniscient & omnipotent God
- ❖ **Experience-Anubhuti** - Supra-rational experience: mystic experience
  - Kevalajnani, Sakshatkari, Atmajnani, Brahmajnani, the enlightened one (Buddha)

# Indian Epistemology

## Adhyaksika - Empiricism

1. Pratyaksham ekameva pramanam
2. Perception is the primary source
3. Inference and testimony are subordinate within empirical sphere
4. Caravaka

## Tarkika - Rationalism

- a. Perception and inference valid sources of knowledge
- b. Inference is the primary source
- c. Perception is the secondary source
- d. Nyaya-Vaisesika, Samkhya-Yoga & Buddhism

## Shabdika - Testimony

- Reality is neither known by perception nor by inference
- Only known by supra-rational immediate revelation
- Scriptures records such revelations
- Perception and inference valid sources of knowledge with regard to scriptures or empirical matters
- Intuition is the primary source
- Perception and inference are secondary source
- Mimamsa, Vedanta & Jainism



# Indian Philosophical Schools

Sr. No.	Philosopher	System	Text
1	Brhaspati	Carvakadarsana	Brhaspatya sutra
2	Mahavir	Jainadarsana	Agama sahitya
3	Gautama Buddha	Bauddhadarsana	Bauddha Tripitaka
4	Aksapada Gotama	Nyayadarsana	Nyaya sutra
5	Kanada	Vaisesikadarsana	Vaisesika sutra
6	Kapila	Samkhyadarsana	Samkhya sutra
7	Patanjali	Yogadarsana	Yoga sutra
8	Jaimini	Mimamsadarsana	Mimamsa sutra
9	Badarayana	Vedantadarsana	Vedanta sutra

# Philosophical Teachings of Shat Darsana

Darsana	Teacher	Teachings
Nyaya	Aksapada Gautama	Epistemology & Logic
Vaisesika	Kanada	Physics, Theory of Atomism
Samkhya	Kapila	Physics & Metaphysics
Yoga	Patanjali	Psycho-spiritual practices
Mimamsa	Jaimini	Hermeneutics and significance of ritual
Vedanta	Badarayana	Metaphysics