

SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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The term "Six Systems of Indian Philosophy," also known as "Shad-Darshana" in Sanskrit, refers to the six major philosophical schools that have emerged in ancient India. These schools encompass diverse perspectives on various aspects of reality, ethics, and the nature of existence. Each system offers a unique approach to understanding the world and human existence. The six systems are:

- 1. **Nyaya:** Nyaya is a school of logic and epistemology. It focuses on understanding the nature of knowledge, perception, inference, and valid reasoning. Nyaya philosophers developed sophisticated systems of logic to analyze and classify different types of knowledge.
- 2. **Vaisheshika:** The Vaisheshika school is primarily concerned with metaphysics and ontology. It explores the nature of reality by analyzing various categories of substances and their characteristics. This school is known for its atomistic theory of reality, where everything is composed of tiny indivisible particles.
- 3. **Sankhya:** Sankhya philosophy delves into the nature of existence and consciousness. It postulates the existence of multiple eternal and distinct realities, including purusha (consciousness) and prakriti (matter). Sankhya seeks to liberate individuals from suffering by understanding the distinction between these eternal realities.
- 4. **Yoga:** Yoga, as a philosophical system, focuses on the spiritual and practical aspects of human life. It emphasizes the path of discipline, meditation, and self-realization to achieve liberation (moksha). Yoga is not only a physical practice but also a mental and spiritual journey.
- 5. **Mimamsa:** Mimamsa is a school of philosophy that primarily deals with the interpretation of the Vedas, the ancient sacred texts of Hinduism. It provides a system of principles for understanding rituals, duties, and the proper performance of religious practices. Mimamsa is concerned with ethical and practical matters.
- 6. **Vedanta:** Vedanta is one of the most influential philosophical schools in Hinduism. It interprets the concluding parts of the Vedas and explores the nature of reality, the self (atman), and the ultimate reality (Brahman). Vedanta encompasses different sub-schools, including Advaita (non-dualism), Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism), and Dvaita (dualism).

These six systems represent some of the foundational philosophical traditions in India. Each system addresses different aspects of human experience and offers unique perspectives on the nature of reality, knowledge, ethics, and liberation. It's important to note that while these systems have distinct features, they also share common threads and have influenced each other over the centuries.