

Vidyasthaanaas (18)

Vedams (4)	Vedaangams (6)	Upaangams (4)	Upavedams (4)
Rig(Pyla)	Siksha	Mimamsa (Poorva and Uttara)	Aayurvedamu
Yaju(Vysampayana)	Vyaakaranamu	Nyaaya Vistara	Dhanurvedamu
Sama(Jaimini)	Chandas	Puranamu	Gandharva vedamu
Atharva(Sumantha)	Niruktamu	Dhrama Sastramu	Artha Sastramu
	Jyotishyamu		
	Kalpamu		

Further, there are many more like
Itihaasams, Aagamams, 6 Darshanams, 10
Maha Vidyaas

Vedams

- Each consists of four parts - Samhitas(contain mantras), Brahmanams(rituals), Aranyakams(inherent concepts of Mantrams), Upanishads(like Eesha, Kena, Katha, Prashna, Mundaka, Mandookya, Taittireeya, Aitareya, Chandogya, Brihadaranyaka, Swetaswatara, Subala, Kausheetaki etc. dealing about Paramaatma)
- can also be classified into two divisions Karma Kaanda(about rituals and Suuktams etc.) and Brahma Kaanda(Upanishads)
- Poorva Bhaaga also deals with Vidhis i.e Nitya, Naimittika, Praayaschittaa and Kaamya
- Upanishads deal with Paramaatma, Aatma, Prakriti and their relation etc.

Rig Veda

- Rigveda starts with the hymn “Agni Meede Purohitam’ and ends with the hymn “Samaani Va Aakootih”
- It comes from the root word “**Rik**” meaning “praise”.
- “**Rik Samhita**” is divided into various “**Mandalams**” and “**Suuktams**”.
- “Suuktams” are of four types. They are 1. Rishi Suuktam 2. Devata Sauuktam 3. Chandahsuuktam 4. Arthasuuktam.
- The Rig Veda has two surviving Shakhas(out of 1131). Sakala Shakha and the Bashkala Shakha.
- The **Sakala Shakha** contains the **Aitareya Brahmana** and the **Aitareya Aranyaka**.
- The **Bashkala Shakha** contains the **Kaushitaki Brahmana** and the **Shankhayana Aranyaka**.
- There are 10(/ 11) Mandalams and 1017(/1028) Suuktas in Riksamhita(bracketed considering Valakhilya Mandalam).
- 95% of Sama, 25% Yajus, 20% of Atharva are based on Rigveda.
- **Ayurveda which deals with health and medicine is the upaveda of Rigveda.**

Yajurveda

- starts with the hymn “Ishotvorjetva...” and ends with Samudramudaram antariksham Paayuh”
- Yajus means “worship” i.e. worship of Gods(for conducting Yagnyams)
- Yajurveda comes in two forms, **Shukla** (or white) and **Krishna** (or black).
- **The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, the Eesha Upanishad, the Taittiriya Upanishad, the Katha Upanishad, the Shvetashvatara Upanishad and the Maitri Upanishad** are also part of Yajurveda.
- Yajurveda originally consisted of 86 Shakhaas. But, now the Shukla Yajur Veda has two surviving Shakhas, the **Madhyandina Shakha** and **the Kanva Shakha**.
- The Madhyandina Shakha contains one version of the Shatapatha Brahmana and one version of the Brihad Aranyaka
- The Kanva Shakha contains another version of the Shatapatha Brahmana and another version of the Brihad Aranyaka.
- The Krishna Yajur Veda has three surviving Shakhas: **the Taittiriya Shakha, the Maitrayaniya Shakha, and the Kathaka Shakha**.
- **Dhanurveda(about of techniques of warfare)** is the Upaveda for Yajurveda.

Samaveda

- Samaveda means Singing.
- is considered is most important among the Vedas as per Bhagavadgita.
- Out of 1008 Shaakhaas, now Samaveda has only three surviving Shakhas: the **Kauthuma Shakha**, the **Ranayaniya Shakha**, and the **Jaiminiya Shakha**.
- The Samhita is divided into “**Poorvarchikam**” and “**uttaraarchikam**”
- There are 585 Mantrams in Poorvanchikam and 1220 Mantrams in Uttaranchikam.
- “**Gaandharvaveda** “(about Music and Melody) is the **Upaveda of Samaveda**.

Atharvaveda

- starts with Hymn “**Ye trashastaah pariyanti**” and ends with “**Panaayyam tadashvina kritam**”.
- It has two surviving Shakhas, the Shaunaka Shakha and the Pippalada Shakha.
- There are 736 Suuktaas, 5918 Mantraas in Shaunaka Shaakha(with one surviving Braahmana i.e. **Gopatha Braahmana**) .
- **Mundaka, Madookya and Prasna Upanishads** are part of the Atharva Veda.
- There are many magical poems in this Veda for all sorts of healing, treating variety of ailments,harmony and peace and sorcery and even witchcraft.
- Some components of Atharvaveda include Sarpa veda,Pishacha veda, Asura Veda, Itihasa Veda, Purana Veda etc. (Most of them are not available in our country now, presumed to have been stolen by westerners)
- **Artha Saastra**, on economics and politics, law and order and administration, is the **Upaveda of Atharvaveda**. (includes “The Duties of Government Superintendents and regulation”, “spying and publicity”, “managing mines and other national resources”, “wild life and forests”, “Tax collection and management of revenues”, “Concerning Laws”, “The Removal of problems of governance”, “the Conduct of Courtiers”, “Sovereign States”, “Concerning Vices and Calamities”, “the Work of an Invader”, “all relating to War and peace”, “the Conduct of Corporations”, “concerning a Powerful Enemy”, “strategic Means to Capture a Fortress” etc.)

Vedangas

- **Siksha:** It is the science of pronunciation and phonetics. It explains how each syllable should be pronounced, in which context and the psychic effects of the same. Altering the pronunciation alters the meaning of what is being chanted and the results of chanting.
- **Vyaakarana:** It is the science that informs use of the right and wrong words and their usages including the science of linguistics and structure of language. It scientifically explains the origin of letters, formation of words, sentences etc.
- **Chandas:** The science of “metres” i.e. poetry relating to both Vedic and non vedic literature. There is lot of science as to which Chandas is to be used for which purpose etc. because of which the Hymns will become powerful and auspicious.
- **Nirukta:** The meanings of the words used in vedic Sanskrit along with etymology etc. is Niruktam. It explains the word-roots and derivation of meanings of words in different contexts.

- **Jyotisham:** Jyotisham is the science of astronomy and astrology which tells what to do when i.e. which Yagnyam is to be performed at what point of time etc as well as planetary movements, their effects on individuals etc.
- **Kalpamu:** The procedures to perform Vedic rituals and other related aspects. There are four divisions called “**Sulabha suutraas**”, and “**Srauta Suutras**”, “**Gruhya Suutraas**” and “Dharma Suutrams”
 - 1. Sulabha Sutras: contain the geometry of altars along with mathematical deductions for the geometry.
 - 2. Srauta Sutras: contain guidelines for conducting sacrifices(Yagnyams).
 - 3. Gṛihyasūtram: The saṃskāras (ceremonies of purification, such as Vivāha – marriage) are dealt with in this branch.
 - 4. Dharmasūtram: Different aspects of Vedic Culture and ethics, both mundane and spiritual, are discussed in terms of Dharma.

Upaangaas

- **Meemamsa** means "critical investigation" and thus refers to a tradition of contemplation which reflected on the meanings of the Vedic texts.(by jaimni)
- **Nyaaya Vistara.** The Sanskrit root meaning is "neeyate iti Nyayah" It means "rules", "method" or "judgment". It is also the name of one of the six orthodox schools of Hinduism. This school's most significant contributions to Indian philosophy was systematic development of the theory of logic, methodology, and its treatises on epistemology i.e. theory of knowledge. The means of knowing is called as Pramana. Although there are many types of Pramanams, the most important of them are Pratyaksha(Perception), Anumaana(Inference) and Sabda(Verbal testimony).
- **Puraanam** means puraapi navam i.e."ancient, still new". They describe the process creation and further generations etc. The Puranic literature is encyclopedic, and includes genealogies of gods, goddesses, kings, heroes, sages, and demigods, pilgrimages, temples, medicine, astronomy, grammar, mineralogy, humor, love stories, as well as theology and philosophy, and stories of various generations. They are a vast genre of Indian literature about a wide range of topics, particularly legends and other traditional lore. There are 18 Puraanams and 18 Upa Puraanams.
- Names of Puraanams
- Vishnu, Narada, Bhagavata, Garuda, Padma, Varaaha(Sattvika)
- Brahmaanda, Brahma Vaivata, mARKANDEYA, Bhavishya, Vaamana, Brahma(Raajasa)
- Matsya, Koorma, Linga, Siva, Skanda, Agni(Taamasa)

Other sources of Knowledge

- Aagmams (Pancharaatra and Vaikhanasa etc.especially dealing with temple rituals, procedures, customs and systems etc.)
- 64 Arts (Kalaas)
- Although Itihaasams are not separately mentioned in the above list of 18 Vidyasthaanams, they are also considered along with Puranams as the supporting documents(Upa Brumhanams) for understanding of the Vedas. Itihasa, in Sanskrit means “it happened this way” generally meaning history. **The Ramayana and The Mahabharata** are Itihaasams.

Upavedams

- **Dharma-shastra** (“Righteousness Science”) is an ancient Indian body of jurisprudence that is the basis, subject to legislative modification, of the family law of Hindus living in territories both within and outside India (e.g., Pakistan, Malaysia, East Africa). Dharmashastra is primarily concerned with the right course of conduct in every dilemma.
- The Dharma-shastra literature, written in Sanskrit, exceeds 5,000 titles. It can be divided into three categories:
 - (1) **sutras** (terse maxims) ..available are of Apastamba, Gautama, Baudhayana, and Vasistha
 - (2) **smritis** (shorter or longer treatises in stanzas) like Manu smriti, Parasara Smriti etc.
 - (3) **nibandhas** (digests of smriti verses from various quarters) and **vrittis** (commentaries upon individual continuous smritis). These are essentially digests and commentaries to explain or clarify the conflict and disagreements on a particular subject across the various Dharma texts.

Darshanams (6)

- **Nyaya** – Nyaya is the basic principles of Indian logic system. It is a system of logical realism, founded by Sage **Gautama**. It is concerned with means of acquiring correct knowledge with its tools like enquiry and rules for argumentation.
- **Vaiseshika** – Vishesha means “difference” or “Speciality”. Vaiseshika or atomism is an add-on extension to Nyaya. Sage **Kanaada** contributed to the composition for Vaiseshika, who also happened to be the first to describe atoms and how the matter is composed of atoms.
- **Sankhya** – Sankhya Darshana or Sankhya system was introduced by sage **Kapila**. Sankhya is primarily concerned with categories of Tattvas which are considered to be 25 in number. The first two are unmanifest Purusha and Manifest Prakriti. Prakriti, out of which all things evolve, consists of three Gunas i.e. Sattva, Rajas and Tamas.
- **Yoga** – Yoga is a supplement of Sankhya Darshana. It was created by sage **Patanjali** who mentioned elaborately ashtaanga Yoga etc. in his yoga sutras. Sankhya and Yoga are considered as inseparable pair whose principles permeate all of Hinduism.

Darshanams (6)

- **Mimamsa** – Poorva Mimamsa is deals with the rituals mentioned in Hindu Vedas i.e. Karma Kaanda. It is proposed by sage **Jaimini**, who himself is a great disciple of great sage Vyasa(commentary by **Sabara**)
- **Vedanta** – It explains the teachings of Upanishads. Sage **Badarayana** composed the Vedanta Sutras or Brahma-Sutras for which **Sankara Bhagavadpada**, **Bhagavadramanuja and Madhvaacharya** (besides many other scholars) have written commentaries as per their line of thinking which are called Advaita, Visishtadvaita and Dvaita respectively.

These six darshanas, generally deal with five topics – the existence and nature of Brahma or the Paramaatma, nature of the Jiva or the individual Aatma, Jagat or the creation of the world, how Aatma returns to Brahma which is known as the Moksha or liberation which is the ultimate goal for the Aatma and what are the obstructions for Aatma to achieve that and how to achieve that.

The Nalayira Divya Prabandham

A collection of 4,000 verses composed by the 12 alvars is called as **“The Nalayira Divya Prabandham”**. Due to their divinity they are called as divya Prabandhams. (**“Divya”** means **Divine in Sanskrit** and **“Naalayira”** in Tamil means 'four thousand' and **“Prabandham”** means **“work”**) Poigai alvar (Mudal Tiruvandaadi-100), Bhoothathalvar (Irandaam Tiruvandaadi-100), Peyalvar (Moonram Tiruvandaadi-100), Thirumalisai alvar (Tiruchhandaviruttam-216), Periyalvar (Perialwar Tirumoli-473), Aandaal (Nachaiar Tirumoli and Tiruppavai-173), Thondaradippodi alvar (Tirumalai, Tiruppalliezhichi-55), Thirumangai alvar (Periya Tirumadal, Siriya Tirumadal, Tiruvezhukkurirukkai-1253), Thiruppaan alvar (Amalanaadipiraan-10), Kulasekara alvar (Perumal Tirumoli-105), Nammalvar (Tiruvoymoli, Tiruviruttam, Tiruvasirium, Perya Tiruvandadi 1296), Madurakavialvar (Kanninun Siruttambu-11) after including the Thiruvarangathamudhanar’s Ramanuja noorandhathi (108) the Divya prabandhams became 4000 in number.

It was compiled in its present form by **Nathamuni** during the 9th – 10th centuries.

The Nalayira Divya Prabandham

Legend has it that once **Nathamuni** heard some people reciting the decade of 'Aaraavamude' of Nammaazhvaar at Kumbakonam. Captivated by these paasurams, he wanted to know more about them. One of the verses also mentioned '**aayiraththul ippaththu**' (Tamil which means "these 10 out of the 1000")

Nathamuni proceeded to Thirukkurugoor and asked the people there about Swami **Nammazhwar**'s 1000 verses. The people there did not know the 1000 that Nathamuni wanted, but they told him about 11 pasurams (known as **Kanninun Siruthaambu**) of **Madhurakavi Alvar**, who was the disciple of Nammaazhvaar. They asked him to go to **Thirukkurugoor**, the place where Nammaalvaar lived, and recite these 11 pasurams for 12000 times. Nathamuni did as advised, and pleased with his penance, Nammaalvaar granted him not only his 1000 pasurams, but the entire 4000 pasurams of all the alvars.

Other Tamil Works for Visishtadvaita

- Bhagavadvishayam (By Swami Nambillai written by Vadakku Tiruveedhi Pillai)
- 18 Rahasya Granthams by Pillai Lokachariar(Mumukshppadi, Sri Vachana Bhushanam, Archiraadi, Tattvatrayam, Navarathan Maalai, SamSaara aamrajyam, Artha Panchakam, Prameya Sekharam, Tattva Sekharam, Yadruchika padi, Paranda Padi, Tani Dwayam, Tani Charamam, Tani Pranavam etc.)
- Commentaries of Nalayira Prabandhams by various Achaaryaas like Periya Vachchaan Pillai
- Commentaries on other Rahasya Granthams

Works of Bhagavad Ramanuja

- Sribhashyam (Commentary on Brahma Sutrams of Veda Vyaasa)
- Vedartha Sangraham
- Vedanta Deepam
- Vedanta Saaram
- Bhagavadgita Bhashyam
- Saranagati Gadyam
- Sriranga Gadyam
- Vaikuntha Gadyam
- Nitya Grantham

Other important Visishtadvaita Literature

- There are more than 125 works by Swami Vedanta Desika (like Rahatraya Saaram etc.) and many works of Koorattalwan, Swami Manavaala Maamunigal (Upadesa Ratna Malai etc.), Parasara Bhattar (Srivishnu sahasra Naama Vyaakhya etc.), Aalvandaar (Stotra Ranam etc.), and many more works and stotrams etc. by our Poorva Acharyaas as well as many of our Acharyas even today.
- Some of them are in Sanskrit, Tamil or a mixture of both Sanskrit and Tamil named Mani Pravala Language and some of them are in Telugu as well.