

Philosophies and Gurus

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1. Six darshanas and the Vedanta schools compared
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3. Alwars, Nayanars and Basava

1 Six darshanas and the Vedanta schools compared

The six orthodox darshanas (Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, Vedanta) accept the Veda's authority; Vedanta then split into schools, chiefly Shankara's Advaita, Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita, Madhva's Dvaita and Nimbarka's Dvaitadvaita, which differ on how the soul, the world and Brahman are related.

Core facts

- **Darshana**: the plain meaning is "**seeing**"; in philosophy it is a viewpoint for knowing the world, the soul, bondage and **moksha**.
- **Astika** does not mean "believes in God": it means one that **accepts the Veda's authority** (*pramanya*): the **six darshanas** (Shad-darshanas). **Nastika** (reject it): **Charvaka/Lokayata** (materialism, attributed to **Brihaspati**), **Buddhism**, **Jainism** (and the Ajivikas).
- **Six darshanas, founders and texts:**

Darshana	Founder	Basic text	Core idea
Nyaya	Gautama (Akshapada)	Nyaya Sutras	Logic; valid means of knowledge
Vaisheshika	Kanada (Uluka)	Vaisheshika Sutras	Atoms (paramanu); categories (padarthas)
Sankhya	Kapila	Ishvarakrishna's Sankhya Karika (oldest surviving); the Sankhya Sutras are late	Purusha and prakriti; 25 tattvas
Yoga	Patanjali	Yoga Sutras	Ashtanga yoga; stilling the mind
Purva Mimamsa	Jaimini	Mimamsa Sutras	Vedic ritual and dharma (karma kanda)
Uttara Mimamsa (Vedanta)	Badarayana (Vyasa)	Brahma Sutras	Brahman (jnana kanda, Upanishads)

- **Pairs**: Nyaya–Vaisheshika (grew into one tradition), Sankhya–Yoga, Mimamsa–Vedanta.
- **Main emphasis**: Nyaya **logic** (*tarka*); Vaisheshika the nature of **substances**; Sankhya **Prakriti and Purusha**; Yoga **practice** (*sadhana*); Purva Mimamsa **Vedic rites**; Uttara Mimamsa **knowledge of Brahman**.
- **Classical Sankhya** is **Nirishvara** (no creator Ishvara), yet it is **astika** because it accepts the Veda.
- **Names for release**: Nyaya **Apavarga**; Sankhya and Yoga **Kaivalya**; Vishishtadvaita **Vishnu-sayujya**. Four paths to moksha: **Bhakti**, **Karma**, **Raja** and **Jnana yoga**.
- **Prasthanatraya** (three bases of Vedanta): **Upanishads**, **Brahma Sutras**, **Bhagavad Gita**. Every Vedanta acharya comments on all three.
- **Brahma Sutras** are also called **Vedanta Sutras** and **Shariraka Sutras**; 4 adhyayas (about 555 sutras in Shankara's text).

- **Vedanta schools:**

School	Acharya	Brahma Sutra commentary	Soul and Brahman
Advaita (non-dualism)	Adi Shankaracharya	Shariraka (Brahma Sutra) Bhashya	Identical; world is maya
Vishishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism)	Ramanujacharya	Sri Bhashya	One Brahman with souls and matter as his body
Dvaita (dualism)	Madhvacharya	Brahma Sutra Bhashya, Anubhashya	Eternally different
Dvaitadvaita (difference-cum-non-difference)	Nimbarka	Vedanta Parijata Saurabha	Both different and non-different
Shuddhadvaita (pure non-dualism)	Vallabhacharya	Anubhashya	World is real, a form of Krishna; no maya
Achintya Bhedabheda	Chaitanya Mahaprabhu	(Govinda Bhashya, by Baladeva Vidyabhushana)	Inconceivably one and different

- **Shankara:** guru **Govinda Bhagavatpada**, whose guru was **Gaudapada** (Mandukya Karika). Born at **Kaladi** (Kerala). Founder of the **Chaturamnaya Peethas** (four mathas).
- **Shankara's works:** Brahma Sutra Bhashya, Gita Bhashya, Upanishad Bhashyas; *Vivekachudamani*, *Upadesha Sahasri*, **Prashnottara (Ratna) Malika**, *Bhaja Govindam*, *Saundarya Lahari*, *Shivananda Lahari* and many stotras.
- **Four disciples:** **Padmapada**, **Sureshvara** (formerly **Mandana Mishra**, husband of **Ubhaya Bharati**), **Hastamalaka**, **Totaka**.
- **Bhamati** (commentary on Shankara's Brahma Sutra Bhashya): **Vachaspati Mishra**, named after his wife.
- **Ramanuja:** born **Sriperumbudur**; first teacher **Yadava Prakasha** (an Advaitin); initiated in the line of **Yamunacharya** (Alavandar) by **Periya Nambi**. Preacher of the **Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya**; made the **Pancharatra Agama** popular. Lord in **5 forms**: Para, Vyuha, Vibhava, Antaryami, Archa.
- **Ramanuja's works:** Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha, Vedanta Sara, Vedanta Dipa, Gita Bhashya, **Gadya Traya** (Sharanagati, Sriranga, Vaikuntha Gadya).
- **Madhva:** also **Ananda Tirtha** and **Purnaprajna**; born at **Pajaka** near **Udupi**; guru **Achyutapreksha**. Works: Brahma Sutra Bhashya, **Anubhashya**, Anuvyakhyana, Gita Bhashya, Gita Tatparya Nirnaya, **Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya**. Founded the Udupi Krishna temple and its eight mathas. Three classes of jivas.
- **Raghavendra Swami** (Raghavendra Tirtha) belongs to **Madhva's Dvaita** tradition; his Brindavan is at **Mantralayam**.

Explained

Pramanas (valid means of knowledge).

School	Number	Which
Charvaka	1	Perception only
Vaisheshika, Buddhists	2	Perception, inference
Sankhya, Yoga	3	+ verbal testimony (shabda)
Nyaya	4	+ comparison (upamana)
Prabhakara Mimamsa	5	+ postulation (arthapatti)
Bhatta Mimamsa, Advaita	6	+ non-apprehension (anupalabdhi)

Each darshana in a few lines.

- **Nyaya:** knowledge must be tested by proof, not taken on belief; God is the maker of the world. Classic commentary: **Vatsyayana's** Nyaya Bhashya. **Navya-Nyaya** (new logic): **Gangesha** of Mithila, *Tattvachintamani*.
 - **16 padarthas** (topics of enquiry), from **Pramana** (first and **most important**: the means of right knowledge) to **Nigrahasthana** (point of defeat): Pramana, Prameya, Samshaya, Prayojana, Drishtanta, Siddhanta, Avayava, Tarka, Nirnaya, Vada, Jalpa, Vitanda, Hetvabhava, Chhala, Jati, Nigrahasthana.
 - **Four pramanas:** Pratyaksha (perception), **Anumana** (inference: fire inferred from smoke seen on a distant hill), **Upamana** (comparison), Shabda (verbal testimony).
 - When right knowledge removes ignorance, the cause of sorrow, the soul is released from sorrow: **Apavarga** (moksha).
- **Vaisheshika:** the world is made of eternal, very subtle **atoms** (*paramanu*), so it is India's old **atomic theory**. Six categories: substance (*dravya*), quality (*guna*), action (*karma*), generality (*samanya*), particularity (*vishesha*), inherence (*samavaya*); non-existence (**abhava**) was added later as the **seventh**. It also studies time, direction, soul and mind. The name comes from *vishesha*: every object has its own distinguishing mark.
- **Sankhya:** two eternal realities, conscious **purusha** (many) and inert **prakriti** made of three gunas, **sattva, rajas, tamas**; creation starts when their balance is disturbed. Effect already exists in the cause (**satkaryavada**; Nyaya–Vaisheshika hold the opposite, *asatkaryavada*). Classical Sankhya has no Ishvara (**Nirishvara Sankhya**).
 - **25 tattvas:** Mula-prakriti → **Mahat (Buddhi)** → **Ahankara** → Manas, 5 jnanendriyas, 5 karmendriyas, 5 tanmatras, 5 mahabhutas (24 in all), plus **Purusha** = 25.
 - Bondage is taking body and mind for the self; the discriminating knowledge "I am the Purusha, not the body or mind" frees it: **Kaivalya**.
 - Kapila is an avatara of Vishnu in the **Bhagavata Purana** (son of Kardama and Devahuti); in **Skandha 3** he teaches Sankhya and bhakti to his mother (the **Kapila Gita**).
- **Yoga:** Sankhya gives the theory, Yoga the practice. It accepts Sankhya's tattvas and adds **Ishvara**, a **special Purusha** (*Purusha-vishesha*) untouched by kleshas, karma and its fruits. **Ishvara-pranidhana**

(surrender to Ishvara) is a key means. Yoga Sutras: 4 padas (Samadhi, Sadhana, Vibhuti, Kaivalya).

Definition: **chitta-vritti nirodha** (stilling the movements of the mind). Goal: **Kaivalya**. Classic commentary: **Vyasa's** Yoga Bhashya.

- Ashtanga** (in order): **yama** (ethical rules), **niyama** (personal discipline), **asana** (steady posture), **pranayama** (breath control), **pratyahara** (withdrawing the senses), **dharana** (concentration), **dhyana** (unbroken meditation), **samadhi** (the highest absorption).
- Purva Mimamsa** (also **Karma Mimamsa**): explains the Veda's **karma-kanda** (yajnas and duties). The Veda is eternal and authorless (**apaurusheya**), so it is the final authority on dharma. A rite yields its fruit later through an unseen power (**apurva**). It does not try to prove a creator God. Largest sutra text (12 adhyayas). Commentators: **Shabara**; then **Kumarila Bhatta** (Bhatta school) and **Prabhakara** (Prabhakara school).
 - Four kinds of karma**: **nitya** (daily, obligatory), **naimittika** (on special occasions), **kamya** (done for a desired fruit), **nishiddha** (forbidden).
- Vedanta** (Uttara Mimamsa): the word means the **end, or final purport, of the Vedas**; it teaches the Upanishads' Brahma-vidya through the Brahma Sutras of **Badarayana** (traditionally **Veda Vyasa**).

Moksha in each school.

School	What moksha is
Nyaya	Apavarga : release from sorrow by right knowledge
Sankhya	Kaivalya : knowing Purusha as distinct from Prakriti
Yoga	Kaivalya through nirvikalpa samadhi with Ishvara-pranidhana
Purva Mimamsa	Doing nitya karmas and avoiding nishiddha ones
Advaita	Experience that Brahman and Atma are one (<i>Brahmadvaitanubhuti</i>)
Vishishtadvaita	Vishnu-sayujya ; Ramanuja rates Bhagavat-sayujya (union with God while staying distinct and enjoying Him) above bare (<i>kevala</i>) moksha
Dvaita	By bhakti and jnana; even in moksha soul and God stay separate

Advaita, Vishishtadvaita, Dvaita compared.

Question	Advaita (Shankara)	Vishishtadvaita (Ramanuja)	Dvaita (Madhva)
Brahman	Nirguna, without attributes	Saguna: Narayana with all good qualities	Vishnu, fully independent (<i>svatantra</i>)
Soul (jiva)	Same as Brahman	Real, part of Brahman's body	Real, eternally distinct, dependent
World	Appearance (maya, mithya)	Real, Brahman's body	Real, distinct from God
Path	Knowledge (jnana)	Bhakti and surrender (prapatti)	Bhakti with knowledge; God's grace

Question	Advaita (Shankara)	Vishishtadvaita (Ramanuja)	Dvaita (Madhva)
Release	Soul merges, knows it is Brahman	Soul serves God in Vaikuntha, keeps individuality	Soul enjoys bliss by its own grade

- **Advaita in one sentence:** *Brahma satyam jagan mithya jivo brahmaiva naparah* (Brahman is real, the world is unreal, the soul is none other than Brahman). Error is superimposition (*adhyasa*); the world is an apparent change (*vivarta*) of Brahman, like a rope seen as a snake.
- **Vishishtadvaita:** three realities (*tattvatraya*): **chit** (souls), **achit** (matter), **Ishvara**. Souls and matter are the body of God (*sharira-shariri*), so Brahman is one but "qualified" by them.
- **Dvaita: five differences** (*pancha bheda*): God-soul, God-matter, soul-soul, soul-matter, matter-matter. **Hari sarvottama, Vayu jivottama** (Vishnu is supreme, Vayu the highest soul; Madhva is held to be the third avatar of Vayu after Hanuman and Bhima). **Three classes of jivas:** *mukti-yogya* (fit for release), *nitya-samsarin* (ever in rebirth), *tamo-yogya* (bound for darkness).
- **Dvaitadvaita (Nimbarka):** souls and the world are both different from and one with Brahman, as waves are with the sea; worship of **Radha-Krishna**; short work *Dashashloki*.

Shankara's four mathas (Chaturamnaya Peethas).

Direction	Matha	Veda	Mahavakya; first head
South	Sringeri (Sharada Peetham), Karnataka	Yajurveda	Aham Brahmasmi; Sureshvara
West	Dwaraka (Kalika/Sharada Peetham), Gujarat	Samaveda	Tat tvam asi; Hastamalaka
East	Puri (Govardhana Peetham), Odisha	Rigveda	Prajnanam Brahma; Padmapada
North	Jyotirmath (Badrinath), Uttarakhand	Atharvaveda	Ayam Atma Brahma; Totaka

The Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham also traces itself to Shankara by its own tradition. Shankara's monks belong to the **Dashanami** (ten names) orders, such as Giri, Puri, Bharati, Saraswati, Tirtha and Aranya.

Four Vaishnava sampradayas (by tradition): **Sri** (Ramanuja, from Lakshmi), **Brahma** (Madhva), **Rudra** (Vishnuswami, later Vallabha), **Kumara/Sanaka** (Nimbarka).

AP angle

- **Mantralayam** (Kurnool district, on the Tungabhadra): Brindavan of **Raghavendra Swami** (Dvaita); the matha is the **Sri Raghavendra Swamy Matham**.
- **Ahobilam** (Nandyal district): seat of the **Ahobila Matham**, a Vadakalai Sri Vaishnava matha (founder Adi Van Satakopa Jeeyar), which looks after the nine Narasimha shrines.
- **Tirumala:** Sri Vaishnava tradition credits **Ramanuja** with organising worship at Tirumala and setting up the **Pedda Jeeyar** and **Chinna Jeeyar** mathas that still supervise the temple's rituals. The temple itself follows the **Vaikhanasa** Agama.
- **Chattada (Sattada) Srivaishnavas** follow **Ramanuja's** philosophy (asked in 2023).
- **Pushpagiri Peetham** (YSR Kadapa district) is an Advaita matha in Andhra; tradition says Shankara composed *Shivananda Lahari* at **Srisailam**.

Common traps

✗ "Madhva taught Dvaitadvaita" (the course book's chapter title and the syllabus say so). ✓ Madhva taught **Dvaita**; Dvaitadvaita is **Nimbarka's**.

✗ "Shankara's guru was Gaudapada." ✓ **Govinda Bhagavatpada**; Gaudapada was his guru's guru.

✗ "Sri Bhashya is Shankara's commentary." ✓ It is **Ramanuja's**; Shankara's is the Shariraka Bhashya.

✗ "Bhamati was written by Padmapada." ✓ By **Vachaspati Mishra**.

✗ "Ubhaya Bharati was Kumarila Bhatta's wife." ✓ She was **Mandana Mishra's** wife.

✗ "Kapila wrote the Mimamsa Sutras." ✓ **Jaimini** wrote them; Kapila founded **Sankhya**; Gautama, Nyaya; Kanada, Vaisheshika.

✗ "The Brahma Sutras are by Patanjali." ✓ By **Badarayana**; Patanjali wrote the Yoga Sutras.

✗ "Sringeri is linked with the Rigveda." ✓ Sringeri: **Yajurveda**; Puri: Rigveda; Dwaraka: Samaveda; Jyotirmath: Atharvaveda.

✗ "Padmapada headed Dwaraka and Hastamalaka Puri" (the course book's table). ✓ **Puri: Padmapada; Dwaraka: Hastamalaka**.

✗ "Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya is by Ramanuja." ✓ By **Madhva**.

✗ "Pratyabhijna is a Vaishnava school." ✓ It is **Kashmir Shaivism**.

✗ "Astika means a believer in God, so Sankhya is nastika." ✓ Astika = **accepts the Veda**; Nirishvara Sankhya is **astika**.

✗ "Sankhya has 24 tattvas and Yoga adds Ishvara as the 25th" (the course book's summary). ✓ Sankhya counts **25** (24 of Prakriti + Purusha); Yoga's Ishvara is an extra, **26th** principle.

✗ "Arthapatti is one of Nyaya's pramanas." ✓ Nyaya has **four**: pratyaksha, anumana, upamana, shabda; arthapatti is Mimamsa's and Advaita's.

✗ "Nyaya calls liberation Kaivalya." ✓ Nyaya: **Apavarga**; Kaivalya is Sankhya-Yoga's word.

✗ "Aham Brahmasmi comes from the Mundaka Upanishad." ✓ **Brihadaranyaka**; *Satyameva Jayate* is from the Mundaka.

Quick revision

- Nyaya–Gautama, Vaisheshika–Kanada, Sankhya–Kapila, Yoga–Patanjali, Mimamsa–Jaimini, Vedanta–Badarayana.
- Nastika: Charvaka (perception only), Buddhism, Jainism; astika = accepts the Veda, so Nirishvara Sankhya is astika.
- Nyaya: 16 padarthas (Pramana first), 4 pramanas, Apavarga; Vaisheshika: atoms, 6 + abhava = 7 padarthas.
- Sankhya: 25 tattvas, Mahat first, Kaivalya; Yoga: chitta-vritti nirodha, 8 limbs, Ishvara-pranidhana; Mimamsa: apurva, nitya-naimittika-karma-nishiddha.
- Advaita–Shankara; Vishishtadvaita–Ramanuja; Dvaita–Madhva; Dvaitadvaita–Nimbarka; Shuddhadvaita–Vallabha; Sri Bhashya (Ramanuja), Anubhashya (Madhva).
- Shankara: guru Govinda Bhagavatpada; four mathas; Prashnottara Malika.
- Disciples: Padmapada, Sureshvara (Mandana Mishra), Hastamalaka, Totaka; Bhamati = Vachaspati Mishra.
- Ramanuja: Pancharatra, prapatti, Lord in 5 forms; Chattada Srivaishnavas follow him.
- Madhva: five differences, three classes of jivas; Raghavendra at Mantralayam.
- Sringeri–Yajur, Puri–Rig, Dwaraka–Sama, Jyotirmath–Atharva.

2 Sankara, Ramanuja and Madhva: lives, works and mathas

Three acharyas read the same Vedanta texts in three ways: Sankara taught Advaita (the self is Brahman), Ramanuja Vishishtadvaita (souls and matter are the real body of Brahman) and Madhva Dvaita (God, souls and matter are forever distinct); each founded mathas that still run temples and teaching today.

Core facts

Sankara (Adi Shankaracharya, Shankara Bhagavatpada)

- School: **Advaita** (non-dualism): Atman and Brahman are one; the world is *maya*.
- Born at **Kalady (Kaladi)**, Kerala, on the Purna (Periyar) river; parents **Shivaguru** and **Aryamba**. Usual dates **788–820 CE** (the Kanchi matha's tradition says **509 BCE**); lived only **32 years**.
- Guru: **Govinda Bhagavatpada**, at **Omkara kshetra** on the **Narmada**. Govinda's guru was **Gaudapada** (author of the *Mandukya Karika*), so Gaudapada is Sankara's *parama-guru*.
- Four chief disciples: **Padmapada, Sureshwara, Hastamalaka, Totaka**.
- Main works: bhashyas on the **Prasthanatraya: Brahma Sutra Bhashya** (also called **Shariraka Bhashya**; its opening is the **Adhyasa Bhashya**), Upanishad bhashyas, **Gita Bhashya**.
- Bhashyas on the **ten principal Upanishads (Dashopanishads)**: Isha, Kena, Katha, Prashna, Mundaka, Mandukya, Taittiriya, Aitareya, Chandogya, Brihadaranyaka.
- **Prakarana granthas** (short primers on Vedanta, by tradition): **Vivekachudamani, Upadesha Sahasri, Atma Bodha, Tattva Bodha, Aparokshanubhuti, Shatashloki, Dashashloki, Manisha Panchakam, Prashnottaramalika** (Prashnottara Ratna Malika).
- **Stotras: Bhaja Govindam** (also *Moha Mudgaram*), **Soundarya Lahari, Shivananda Lahari, Kanakadhara Stotram, Dakshinamurthy Stotram, Kalabhairavashtakam**; also a **Vishnu Sahasranama Bhashya**.
- Founded the **four amnaya peethas (Chaturamnaya Peethas)**, one in each direction (table below).
- Organised sanyasis into the **Dashanami** order (ten names); called **Shanmata Sthapanacharya**: he reconciled the six sects (**Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakteya, Ganapatya, Saura, Kaumara** = Skanda) through **Panchayatana puja: Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganapati, Surya** on one pedestal (**not Brahma**).
- Reformer: condemned **human sacrifice** and **Vamachara** of the **Kapalikas**; taught **Mayavada** (the world appears but is not ultimately real).
- **Bhamati** (on Sankara's Brahma Sutra Bhashya) was written by **Vachaspati Mishra**, not by a disciple.
- Shankara Jayanti: **Vaishakha Shukla Panchami**.

The four amnaya peethas of Sankara

Direction	Peetham (place)	Veda / Mahavakya	First head
South	Sringeri Sharada Peetham (Karnataka, on the Tunga)	Yajur / <i>Aham Brahmasmi</i>	Sureshwara
West	Dwaraka Sharada Peetham (Gujarat)	Sama / <i>Tat Tvam Asi</i>	Hastamalaka
East	Govardhana Peetham, Puri (Odisha)	Rig / <i>Prajnanam Brahma</i>	Padmapada
North	Jyotirmath (Joshimath, near Badrinath, Uttarakhand)	Atharva / <i>Ayam Atma Brahma</i>	Totaka

Ramanuja (Ramanujacharya)

- School: **Vishishtadvaita** (qualified non-dualism); founder-preacher of the **Sri Vaishnava Sampradayam**.
- Born **1017** at **Sriperumbudur** (Tamil Nadu); parents **Asuri Keshava Somayaji** and **Kantimati**; traditional life of **120 years** (1017-1137).
- First teacher **Yadavaprakasha** (an Advaitin) at Kanchi, who turned against him (tradition says he even plotted to kill him) and later became his disciple. Gurus named in the course book: **Periya Nambi, Tirukkachi Nambi, Goshtipurna** (Tirukkottiyur Nambi). Spiritual heir of **Yamunacharya** (Alavandar) of Srirangam, whom he never met alive.
- Took sanyasa at **Kanchipuram**; titles **Yatiraja, Udayavar, Emperumanar, Bhashyakara, Ilaya Perumal**. Seen as an *amsha* of **Adishesha** (Lakshmana).
- Commentary on the Brahma Sutras: **Sri Bhashya**.
- His **nine** Sanskrit works (the **Navaratnas**) include the Sri Bhashya, **Vedantha Sangraha, Vedanta Sara, Vedanta Dipa, Gita Bhashya, Gadya Trayam** (Sharanagati, Sriranga and Vaikuntha Gadya) and **Nitya Grantha**.
- Social reform: proclaimed the **Ashtakshari** (*Om Namo Narayanaya*) to all from a temple gopuram; first to give **temple entry** to the **Panchamas** (called them **Tirukulattar**, "Lakshmi's clan") at **Melkote**.
- Made the **Pancharatra Agama** popular in temple worship; head of the **Srirangam** temple.
- Path to liberation: **bhakti** and **prapatti** (*sharanagati*, total surrender to Vishnu).
- God appears in **five forms**: **Para, Vyuha, Vibhava, Antaryami, Archa**.
- Three realities (*tattva-traya*): **chit** (souls: countless, eternal, dependent on God), **achit** (matter, ever changing), **Ishvara** (Narayana: **Saguna**, full of auspicious qualities, the indweller of all), against Sankara's **Nirguna** Brahman (*Kevaladvaita*).
- Fled Chola persecution to **Melkote** (Tirunarayanapuram, Karnataka); the Hoysala king **Bittideva** became **Vishnuvardhana** under his influence.

Madhva (Madhvacharya)

- School: **Dvaita** (dualism): God, souls and matter are eternally different.
- Born **1238** (some sources give **1199**) at **Pajaka**, near **Udupi** (Karnataka); childhood name **Vasudeva**; parents **Madhyageha Bhatta** and **Vedavati**. Traditional dates 1238-1317.
- Guru **Achyuta Preksha** of Udupi (an Advaitin who came round to Madhva's view); sanyasa name **Purnaprajna**; also **Anandatirtha**. Held to be the third avatara of **Vayu** (after **Hanuman** and

Bhima).

- Works (the 37 *Sarvamula* granthas): **Brahma Sutra Bhashya**, **Anubhashya**, **Anuvyakhyana**, **Gita Bhashya**, **Gita Tatparya Nirnaya**, **Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya**, **Bhagavata Tatparya Nirnaya**, **Vishnu Tattva Nirnaya**, **Dvadasha Stotra**, ten Upanishad bhashyas.
- Installed the **Krishna** image at **Udupi**; set up the **eight (Ashta) mathas** of Udupi.
- Three classes of jiva: **Mukti-yogya**, **Nitya-samsarin**, **Tamo-yogya**.
- Five eternal differences: **Pancha-bheda**. Only Vishnu is **Swatantra** (independent); souls and matter are **Paratantra**. Motto: *Hari sarvottama, Vayu jivottama*.
- Four kinds of mukti: **Salokya** (in God's world), **Samipya** (near God), **Sarupya** (a form like God's), **Sayujya** (in God, yet distinct).
- His influence gave rise to the **Dasakuta** ("band of God's servants", the Haridasas) movement of Karnataka: **Purandaradasa**, **Kanakadasa**; they sang of **Vitthala of Pandharpur**.
- Madhva Jayanti: **Vijaya Dashami**; Madhva Navami (his disappearance): **Magha Shukla Navami**.

Raghavendra Swami (Raghavendra Tirtha), a Dvaita saint

- Born **1595** (traditional date) at **Bhuvanagiri** (Tamil Nadu) as **Venkatanatha**; guru **Sudhindra Tirtha** of the Kumbakonam matha.
- Entered **Brindavana** alive (*jiva samadhi*) in **1671** at **Mantralayam** on the **Tungabhadra** (Kurnool district, AP).
- Held to be an incarnation of **Prahlada**; known as **Parimalacharya** for his *Parimala*, a gloss on Jayatirtha's *Nyaya Sudha*.
- **Aradhana**: Shravana Bahula Dvitiya (August), the main festival at Mantralayam.

Explained**The three schools side by side**

Point	Advaita (Sankara)	Vishishtadvaita (Ramanuja)	Dvaita (Madhva)
Brahman	One, without qualities (<i>nirguna</i>)	One, full of auspicious qualities, with souls and matter as its body	Vishnu (Hari), supreme and independent
Soul and God	Identical	Distinct but inseparable (body and indweller)	Eternally different, soul fully dependent
World	Appearance (<i>maya</i> , <i>vivarta</i>)	Real, a mode of Brahman	Real and distinct
Way to moksha	Jnana (knowledge)	Bhakti and prapatti	Bhakti with knowledge, by Vishnu's grace

Sankara.

- Key line of Advaita: *Brahma satyam jagan mithya, jivo brahmaiva naparah* (Brahman is real, the world is unreal, the self is Brahman alone).

- **Adhyasa** (superimposition): we mistake the self for the body as one mistakes a rope for a snake. **Avidya** (ignorance) causes it; knowledge removes it.
- **Three levels of reality** (*satyas*):
 - **Pratibhasika** (apparent): a dream, or a rope taken for a snake in the dark; known false on waking or when light comes.
 - **Vyavaharika** (empirical): everyday life, where "I, you and the world" seem real until Brahma-jnana dawns.
 - **Paramarthika** (absolute): Brahman, unchanged in all three times; the only reality left after knowledge.
- Life (Shankara Digvijaya tradition): took sanyasa as a boy after the "crocodile" episode at the Purna river, with his mother's consent; met Govinda Bhagavatpada at Omkareshwar on the Narmada; after a stay at Kashi wrote the bhashyas at **Badari** (Badrinath); defeated **Mandana Mishra** (a Mimamsaka) in debate at **Mahishmati**, judged by Mandana's wife **Ubhaya Bharati**; Mandana became the disciple **Sureshwara** (tradition identifies the two).
- Travelled all of India (*digvijaya*), debating Mimamsakas, Buddhists and others. Tradition says he passed away at **Kedarnath** (Kanchi tradition says Kanchipuram).
- Disciples' works: Padmapada **Panchapadika**; Sureshwara **Naishkarmya Siddhi** and *varttikas* on the Brihadaranyaka and Taittiriya bhashyas; Totaka **Totakashtakam**.

Ramanuja.

- **Five teachers** (disciples of Yamunacharya): **Periya Nambi** (Mahapurna, gave him *pancha-samskara* at Madhurantakam), **Tirukkottiyur Nambi** (Goshthipurna, taught him the secret Ashtakshara mantra), **Tirumalai Nambi** (Shailapurna, his maternal uncle, taught him the Ramayana at **Tirumala**), **Tirumalai Andan** (Maladhara, taught him Nammalwar's *Tiruvaymozhi*) and **Tiruvarangapperumal Arayar**. **Tirukkachi Nambi** (Kanchipurna) carried messages from Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi.
- **The secret mantra**: Tirukkottiyur Nambi told him to keep the Ashtakshara (*Om Namo Narayanaya*) secret; Ramanuja proclaimed it to all from the temple tower, saying he would gladly suffer if all others were saved.
- **Yamunacharya's three folded fingers**: when Ramanuja reached the body of Yamuna at Srirangam, three fingers were folded, read as three unfulfilled wishes: write a commentary on the Brahma Sutras (done: **Sri Bhashya**), honour **Parashara** (author of the Vishnu Purana) and honour **Nammalwar** (Shatakopa).
- **Five forms of God** (taken from Pancharatra): **Para** (in Vaikuntha), **Vyuha** (Vasudeva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna, Aniruddha), **Vibhava** (avatars), **Antaryami** (dweller in the heart), **Archa** (the consecrated temple image).
- **Body-soul relation** (*sharira-shariri bhava*): souls and matter are the body of God; they cannot exist apart (*aprthak-siddhi*).
- Appointed **74 Simhasanadhipatis** (heads of Sri Vaishnava families) to spread the teaching; organised Srirangam temple worship.
- Ramanuja Jayanti: **Ardra** (Tiruvadirai) star in the Tamil month **Chittirai** (April-May).
- **Two branches after Ramanuja**:

Branch	Leader	Stresses	Grace (analogy)
Vadakalai (northern)	Vedanta Desika	Sanskrit Vedas and karma	Markata Kishora Nyaya : the baby monkey clings, so the soul must also strive
Tenkalai (southern)	Pillai Lokacharya , later Manavala Mamuni	Tamil Divya Prabandham , prapatti	Marjara Kishora Nyaya : the cat carries its kitten, God does all

Madhva.

- **Pancha-bheda**: God–soul, God–matter, soul–soul, soul–matter, matter–matter differences are real and eternal.
- **Svatantra and paratantra**: only Vishnu is independent; souls and matter are dependent.
- **Taratamya**: souls are graded, even in liberation. The three classes: *mukti-yogya* (fit for liberation: gods, sages, good people), *nitya-samsarin* (forever in rebirth), *tamo-yogya* (bound for darkness).
- Udupi **Krishna** image: tradition says it came in a block of *gopichandana* clay from a ship near Malpe. The **eight mathas** (Pejawar, Puttige, Palimaru, Adamaru, Sodhe, Kaniyur, Shirur, Krishnapura) take turns at worship: the **Paryaya**, now every **two years** (fixed by **Vadiraja Tirtha**).
- Later Dvaita teachers: **Padmanabha Tirtha**, **Narahari Tirtha**, **Jayatirtha** (*Tikacharya*; *Nyaya Sudha*), **Vyasatirtha** (raja-guru of **Krishnadevaraya**; *Nyayamrita*, *Tarka Tandava*), **Vadiraja Tirtha**, then **Raghavendra Tirtha**. The Kannada **Haridasa** singers (**Purandaradasa**, **Kanakadasa**) grew from this school.

Raghavendra Swami.

- Grew up in a family of scholars; studied at Kumbakonam under **Sudhindra Tirtha**, who gave him sanyasa at **Thanjavur** (1621) with the name Raghavendra Tirtha.
- Wrote **Parimala**, **Tantra Dipika**, **Nyaya Muktaavali** and glosses on Madhva and Jayatirtha.
- Tradition: in earlier births he was **Prahlada**, **Bahlika** (Mahabharata) and **Vyasatirtha**. The village of Manchale (Mantralayam) was granted by **Siddi Masud Khan**, the Adoni governor under the Adil Shahis.

AP angle

- **Mantralayam** (Kurnool district) on the Tungabhadra holds Raghavendra Swami's Brindavana; it is among the most visited Dvaita centres in India. Tradition says he did penance at **Panchamukhi** nearby, where Anjaneya appeared with **five faces**.
- **Tirumala and Ramanuja**. Tradition credits him with confirming the deity as Vishnu (Venkateswara), systematising the Tirumala **kainkaryas** under the **Vaikhanasa** Agama, installing the **Govindaraja** idol at **Tirupati** (**1130 CE**; the town grew around this temple) and setting up the **Pedda Jeeyar** and **Chinna Jeeyar** mathas that oversee temple rituals. Worship at Tirumala still follows **Vaikhanasa**, not Pancharatra.
- **Vaishnavism in Andhra** grew strong with Ramanuja's visit in the **11th century**: he is linked with **Tirupati**, **Simhachalam**, **Srikakulam** (Andhra Mahavishnu) and **Srikurmam**.
- **Ahobilam** (Nandyal district) is the seat of the **Ahobila Matha** (Vadakalai Sri Vaishnava), founded in the 14th century by **Adivan Satakopa Jeeyar**.

- **Chattada Srivaishnavas** (Satanis), a non-Brahmin temple-service community of Andhra, follow **Ramanuja's** philosophy.
- **Srikurmam** (Srikakulam district): inscriptions of Madhva's disciple **Narahari Tirtha**, who served in the Eastern Ganga (Kalinga) kingdom.
- **Srisailem**: tradition says Sankara visited and composed the **Shivananda Lahari** and a hymn to Bhramaramba there.
- **Statue of Equality** (216 ft) of Ramanuja at Muchintal near Hyderabad was unveiled in **2022** during the celebrations of his millennium (1,000 years from his birth in 1017; Telangana).

Common traps

✗ "Sankara's guru was Gaudapada." ✓ **Govinda Bhagavatpada**; Gaudapada was Govinda's guru.

✗ "Bhamati was written by Sureshwara (or Padmapada)." ✓ **Vachaspati Mishra**.

✗ "Shariraka Bhashya is Ramanuja's." ✓ It is **Sankara's** Brahma Sutra Bhashya. Ramanuja's is the **Sri Bhashya**; Nimbarka's is the *Vedanta Parijata Saurabha*.

✗ "Vidyaranya founded the Chaturamnaya Peethas." ✓ **Sankara** founded them; Vidyaranya was a later Sringeri head.

✗ "Puri's mahavakya is Tat Tvam Asi." ✓ Puri **Prajnanam Brahma**; Dwaraka *Tat Tvam Asi*; Sringeri *Aham Brahmasmi*; Jyotirmath *Ayam Atma Brahma*.

✗ "Ramanuja made the Vaikhanasa Agama popular." ✓ **Pancharatra**; Tirumala keeps **Vaikhanasa**.

✗ "Ramanuja's God has eight (or twelve) forms." ✓ **Five**: Para, Vyuha, Vibhava, Antaryami, Archa.

✗ "Madhva's Dvaita is Dvaitadvaita." ✓ Dvaitadvaita is **Nimbarka's** school; Madhva is **Dvaita**.

✗ "Madhva classes jivas into five types." ✓ **Three**: mukti-yogya, nitya-samsarin, tamo-yogya. Five is the number of **differences** (pancha-bheda).

✗ "Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya is by Sankara." ✓ **Madhva**. Anubhashya in the EO key is also **Madhva**.

✗ "Raghavendra's Brindavana is at Udupi." ✓ **Mantralayam**, on the Tungabhadra.

✗ "Padmapada was the first head at Dwaraka and Hastamalaka at Puri" (the course book's table). ✓ **Puri (Govardhana): Padmapada; Dwaraka: Hastamalaka**.

✗ "Brahma is one of the five Panchayatana deities." ✓ **Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganapati, Surya**; no Brahma.

✗ "Sankara's ten Upanishad bhashyas include the Shvetashvatara." ✓ The **Dashopanishads** are Isha to Brihadaranyaka; Shvetashvatara is not among them.

✗ "Kalabhairavashtakam is a prakarana grantha." ✓ It is a **stotra**; Vivekachudamani, Atma Bodha, Tattva Bodha are prakaranas.

✗ "Tenkalai uses the monkey analogy." ✓ Tenkalai: **cat** (Marjara); Vadakalai: **monkey** (Markata).

✗ "Ramanuja wrote the Vedanta Sangraha" (the course book's spelling). ✓ **Vedartha Sangraha**.

Quick revision

- Sankara: Kalady on the Purna, Shivaguru and Aryamba; guru Govinda Bhagavatpada (parama-guru Gaudapada); died at 32; Panchayatana (no Brahma).
- Disciples: Padmapada (Puri), Sureshwara (Sringeri), Hastamalaka (Dwaraka), Totaka (Jyotirmath).
- Sankara works: Shariraka Bhashya, Dashopanishad bhashyas; prakaranas (Vivekachudamani, Prashnottaramalika); stotras (Bhaja Govindam); Bhamati by Vachaspati Mishra.
- Ramanuja: Sriperumbudur 1017, Adishesha's amsha; Vishishtadvaita; 9 works (Navaratnas): Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha, Gadya Trayam.
- Ramanuja: Pancharatra, prapatti, Ashtakshari from the gopuram, Panchamas (Tirukulattar) into Melkote; Vadakalai monkey, Tenkalai cat.
- Madhva: Pajaka near Udupi 1238; Purnaprajna, Anandatirtha; Vayu's avatara; Dvaita.
- Madhva works: Anubhashya, Anuvyakhyana, Gita Tatparya Nirnaya, Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya.
- Madhva: pancha-bheda, three classes of jiva, four muktis (Salokya, Samipya, Sarupya, Sayujya), 37 Sarvamula works; Dasakuta (Purandaradasa, Kanakadasa).
- Raghavendra: Venkatanatha, guru Sudhindra Tirtha, Parimalacharya, Brindavana at Mantralayam 1671.
- Distractors: Nimbarka Dvaitadvaita, Vallabha Shuddhadvaita, Chaitanya Achintya Bhedabheda.

3 Alwars, Nayanars and Basava

The 12 Alwars sang of Vishnu and the 63 Nayanars of Shiva in Tamil between about the 6th and 9th centuries; their hymns became the Divya Prabandham and the Tirumurai, and in 12th-century Karnataka Basava turned Shiva bhakti into the Veerashaiva (Lingayat) movement.

Core facts

The Bhakti movement

- Began in the **Tamil country** in the **6th–7th centuries CE**, partly to check the spread of **Jainism and Buddhism**; it taught that pure devotion, open to every caste and to women, is enough to reach God.
- Two groups of saints: the **Alwars** (Vishnu) and the **Nayanars** (Shiva). It spread to Karnataka as Basava's **Veerashaivism** and Madhva's **Dasakuta**, and later north (Kabir, Mirabai, Tulsidas).

Alwars (Vaishnava saints)

- **12 Alwars**; the word means one "immersed" in God (also read as "mines of knowledge" and "protectors"). Held to be amshas of Vishnu's weapons, ornaments and attendants. Their Tamil songs are **pasurams**.
- **Mudhal (first) Alwars: Poigai, Bhuthathalwar** (Bhutam), **Peyalwar** (Pey).
- **Nammalwar** (**Shathakopa**, Maran, Parankusa) is the greatest; his **Tiruvaymozhi** is called the **Dravida (Tamil) Veda**. Born at **Tirukkurugur** (Alwarthirunagari); sat in silence under a **tamarind tree**. The **Shathagopam** (Shatari) placed on devotees' heads in Vishnu temples is named after him.
- **Madhurakavi Alwar** sang only of his guru **Nammalwar** (*Kanninun Siruttambu*, 11 verses).
- **Andal** is the **only woman Alwar**; also called **Goda / Godadevi** and **Chudikodutta Nachiyar** ("she who gave the garland she had worn"); held to be an avatar of **Bhudevi**. Works: **Tiruppavai** (30 verses) and **Nachiyar Tirumozhi**. Married **Lord Ranganatha** of Srirangam.
- **Periyalwar** (**Vishnuchitta**) of **Srivilliputtur**: foster father of Andal; wrote **Tiruppallandu** (*Pallandu*, a blessing on the Lord that opens every Prabandham recital); loved the Lord as his child (**vatsalya bhakti**).
- **Kulasekhara Alwar**: a **Chera** king of Kerala, a great devotee of **Rama**; *Perumal Tirumozhi* (Tamil) and **Mukundamala** (Sanskrit). The Tirumala sanctum threshold is the **Kulasekhara Padi**.
- **Tirumangai Alwar** (Parakala, Kaliyan): once a **commander** (chieftain) under the **Chola** king; the most hymns on Divya Desams (*Periya Tirumozhi*; six prabandhams); title *Narkavi-perumal* (master of four kinds of poetry).
- **Nalayira Divya Prabandham** ("four thousand sacred hymns", about 4,000 pasurams of all 12 Alwars) was compiled by **Nathamuni** (9th–10th century); revered as the **Dravida Veda**.
- **108 Divya Desams**: Vishnu shrines sung by the Alwars. **Two in AP: Tirumala and Ahobilam**.

The 12 Alwars at a glance

Alwar	Other name / birthplace	Main work	Note
Poigai	Saroyogi; Kanchipuram (in a golden lotus in a temple tank)	Mudal Tiruvandadi	First Alwar; ayonija
Bhuthathalwar	Bhutayogi; Mamallapuram (in a Madhavi flower)	Irاندam Tiruvandadi	Mudhal Alwar
Peyalwar	Mahayogi; Mylapore (in a water-lily)	Moonram Tiruvandadi	Mudhal Alwar
Tirumazhisai	Bhaktisara; Tirumazhisai	Nanmugan Tiruvandadi, Tiruchanda Viruttam	Kanchi Lord became Yathoktakari
Nammalwar	Shatakopa; Tirukkurugur	Tiruvaymozhi, Tiruviruttam	Dravida Veda
Madhurakavi	Tirukkolor	Kanninun Siruttambu	Sang of Nammalwar
Kulasekhara	Chera king	Perumal Tirumozhi, Mukundamala	Rama devotee; Kulasekhara padi
Periyalwar	Vishnuchitta; Srivilliputtur	Tiruppallandu, Periyalwar Tirumozhi	Andal's father; vatsalya
Andal	Goda; Srivilliputtur	Tiruppavai, Nachiyar Tirumozhi	Only woman; Bhudevi's avatar
Tondaradippodi	Vipranarayana; Tirumandangudi	Tirumalai, Tiruppalliyezhuchi	Garland service
Tiruppan	Munivahana; Uraiyur	Amalanadipiran (10 pasurams)	Panar (minstrel) caste
Tirumangai	Parakala; Tirukkuraiyalur	Periya Tirumozhi, Tirunedundandakam	Most Divya Desams; ex-Chola commander

Nayanars (Shaiva saints)

- **63 Nayanars** ("leaders", venerable ones); in Tamil the 63 are the **Aravattumavar**. Hymns in **Tamil**. Idols of all **63** stand in the **Srikalahasti** temple.
- They worshipped Shiva in many moods (*bhavas*): as mother, father, friend, master.
- **Nalvar** ("the four"), the foremost Shaiva saints: **Appar**, **Sambandar**, **Sundarar**, **Manikkavasagar**.
- Their lives: **Periya Puranam** (also *Tirutondar Puranam*) by **Sekkizhar**, minister of the Chola king **Kulottunga II** (12th century).
- Shaiva hymn canon: **Tirumurai** (12 books). **Nambiyandar Nambi** (10th century, time of **Rajaraja I**) arranged the first **11**; Periya Puranam was added as the **12th** book.
- **Tevaram** (Tirumurai 1–7): **Sambandar** (1–3; the **child** saint), **Appar** (4–6; once a **Jain**), **Sundarar** (7; Shiva as his **friend**).
- **Manikkavasagar** wrote the **Tiruvasagam** (Tirumurai 8). He is one of the four **Samaya Kuravar** (with Appar, Sambandar, Sundarar) but **not** one of the 63.

- **Sundarar's** *Tiruttondattokai* first listed the devotees; Periya Puranam expands it.
- **Tirumular** wrote the **Tirumandiram** (Tirumurai 10).
- Women Nayanars (three): **Karaikkal Ammaiyar**, **Mangayarkkarasi** (Pandia queen), **Isaignaniyar** (Sundarar's mother).
- **Kannappa Nayanar**, the hunter **Tinnadu** (Tamil Tinnan) who offered his eyes to Shiva, is linked to **Srikalahasti** (AP); the course book places his birth at **Ootukur** near **Rajampet** (Kadapa region), making him a Telugu Nayanar.

Basava and Veerashaivism

- **Basava** (Basavanna, **Basaveshwara**), **12th century** (c. **1134–1196**); born at **Bagewadi** (Vijayapura district, Karnataka); parents **Madarasa** and **Madamba** (Madalambike).
- Refused the **upanayanam** as a boy and went to **Kudalasangama** (Krishna–Malaprabha confluence), where he worshipped **Sangameshwara**; his vachanas end with the signature **Kudalasangamadeva**.
- Rose from **treasurer** (*Bhandari*) to **chief minister** of the **Kalachuri** king **Bijjala II** at **Kalyana** (Basavakalyan), who ruled the old Kalyani Chalukya lands.
- Propagated **Veerashaivism** (Lingayat faith), a sect of **Shaivism**; his followers are **Lingayats** or **Sharanas**.
- Founded the **Anubhava Mantapa** ("hall of experience") at **Kalyana**, called the **first religious parliament**: sharanas of every caste and both sexes met there; presided over by **Allama Prabhu**.
- Followers wear the **Ishtalinga** on the body in place of temple images: "the **body is the temple**" (*dehame devalayam*). Teachings in Kannada **vachanas** (short prose-poems).
- Key ideas: **Kayakave Kailasa** (work is worship) and **Dasoha** (sharing what one earns).
- Fellow saints (*sharanas*): **Allama Prabhu**, **Akka Mahadevi** (devotee of **Chennamallikarjuna**), **Channabasavanna** (his nephew), **Siddharama**.
- **Basava Jayanti: Vaishakha Shukla Tritiya** (Akshaya Tritiya).
- **Basava Puranam** (Telugu, *dwipada* metre) by **Palkuriki Somanatha**.
- In **Andhra** Veerashaivism flourished under the **Kakatiyas**; its chief propagator **Mallikarjuna Panditaradhy**a kept Vedic custom with bhakti: **Aradhya Shaivam**.

Explained

Alwar stories worth knowing.

- **Tirukkovalur**: on a rainy night the three Mudhal Alwars crowded into a small shelter; they felt a fourth person press in, Vishnu himself. Their three *Tiruvandadis* (100 verses each) begin there: Poigai lit a lamp with the world as the bowl, the ocean as the ghee and the sun as the flame; Bhutam lit one with love as the bowl and longing as the ghee; by their light Pey saw Narayana with Lakshmi.
- **Tirumazhisai** (born of the panchama class, held to be an amsha of the **Chakra**): when he left Kanchi, the Lord rolled up his serpent bed and followed him, so the Kanchi Lord is called **Yathoktakari** ("one who does as he is told").

- **Nammalwar** is said never to have cried or fed as a baby; his parents left him at the temple, where he sat in meditation under a tamarind tree for 16 years until Madhurakavi came.
- **Andal** was found by Periyalwar under a **tulasi** plant. She secretly wore the garlands meant for the Lord; the Lord told Periyalwar he preferred those garlands. Tiruppavai is sung in the month of **Margazhi** (Dhanurmasa).
- **Periyalwar** won a debate at the Pandya court; Vishnu appeared on Garuda and Periyalwar sang *Tiruppallandu* to ward off the evil eye.
- **Kulasekhara** wished to be a step at **Tiruvenkatam** (Tirumala) so that devotees would tread on him; hence **Kulasekhara padi**, the step at the sanctum.
- **Tondaradippodi** (born **Vipranarayana**; renamed himself "dust of the devotees' feet") kept a flower garden at Srirangam and strung garlands for the Lord; he wrote *Tiruppalliyezhuchi*, the waking song for Ranganatha.
- **Tiruppan**, of the Panar community, was carried into Srirangam on the shoulders of the priest **Lokasaranga Muni** at the Lord's command, so he is called **Munivahana** ("carried by a sage").
- **Tirumangai** robbed to fund temple service; Vishnu stopped him, taught him the Ashtakshara, and he became a devotee; he is linked with the walls of Srirangam.

Divya Prabandham.

- **Nathamuni** heard a few Tiruvaymozhi verses sung at Kumbakonam, went to Tirukkurugur, recited Madhurakavi's verses 12,000 times, and Nammalwar appeared and gave him all four thousand.
- Four parts of about 1,000 each: **Mudal Ayiram**, **Periya Tirumozhi**, **Iyarpa**, **Tiruvaymozhi**. Some counts add **Ramanuja Nootrandadi** of **Tiruvarangathu Amudhanar** to reach 4,000.
- Sri Vaishnavas call the hymns the **Tamil Veda** and the system **Ubhaya Vedanta** (Sanskrit and Tamil Vedas together). Ramanuja's school took the Alwars as its foundation.

Nayanars: the four great teachers and their paths (margas).

Saint	Other name	Path (marga)	Note
Appar	Tirunavukkarasar ("king of speech")	Dasa (servant)	Once a Jain monk (Dharmasena); converted Pallava Mahendravarman I
Sambandar	Tirujnana Sambandar	Satputra (son)	Child saint of Sirkazhi, fed milk by Parvati; converted the Pandya king
Sundarar	Sundaramurti	Sakha (friend)	Wrote Tiruttondattokai; Tiruvarur
Manikkavasagar		San (knowledge)	Pandya minister; Tiruvasagam; not among the 63

Nayanars worth knowing.

- **Kannappa** (Tinnan), a hunter, offered meat and water carried in his mouth; when the linga's eye bled he gave his own eyes. Shiva stopped him at the second eye. **Srikalahasti**.
- **Karaikkal Ammai** (Punithavathi): the mango miracle; she gave up beauty for a ghost-like form and climbed Kailasa on her hands; Shiva called her "mother"; her *Tiruvalangattu Mutta Tiruppadigam* is in Tirumurai 11.

- **Nandanar** (Tirunalaippar), of a low caste, entered **Chidambaram** after a fire ordeal.
- **Siruttondar** (Paranjoti), the Pallava general who took **Vatapi**, offered his own son to Shiva disguised as a guest.
- **Kochengat Chola**, a spider at Tiruvanaikaval in his former birth, built many *madakkoil* temples.
- **Chandeshvara**, a cowherd boy, poured milk on a sand linga; his shrine stands in every big Shiva temple (offerings are "reported" to him).
- **Pusalar** built a temple to Shiva in his mind; tradition links it with the Pallava Rajasimha's Kailasanatha temple.

Shaiva sects of the Telugu country (named in the Malkapuram and Tripurantakam inscriptions).

Sect	Founder / centre	Marks
Pashupata	Lakulisha (held to be Shiva's avatar)	Based on Nyaya-Vaisheshika; ash on the body, staff in hand, song, dance and the <i>huduk</i> sound
Kalamukha	Followers of Lakulisha's disciple; Srisailam, Alampur	Learning centres (<i>Simha-parishads</i>); names ending in Rashi, Pandita or Shakti
Kapalika	Worship of Bhairava	Vamachara: the five "m"s (<i>panchamakaras</i>), skull bowl, human sacrifice
Siddha Shaivism	Srisailam	Yoga for the eight siddhis (<i>Rasayoga</i>)
Tantra (Mishra) Shaivism		Shiva creates only with Shakti; chakra puja
Veerashaivism	Basava (Karnataka)	Ishtalinga, anti-caste, Kayakave Kailasa

Basava and the sharanas.

- Parents **Madarasa** and **Madalambike**; tradition says he refused the sacred thread and went to Kudalasangama, where he studied under **Jatavedamuni**.
- At Kalyana he rose from accountant to chief minister of **Bijjala II**. His wives: **Gangambike** and **Neelambike**.
- **Allama Prabhu** (vachana signature **Guheshwara**) presided over the Anubhava Mantapa from the **Shunya Simhasana** ("throne of the void").
- **Akka Mahadevi** of **Udutadi** left the king Kaushika, came to Kalyana and ended her life at **Kadalivana** in **Srisailam**.
- **Kalyana Kranti** (c. 1167): to break caste walls Basava backed an inter-varna marriage, a **Brahmin girl** to a **cobbler's son**; it angered the orthodox; on Bijjala's orders the families were put to death (the course book says the couple were killed), violence followed and the sharanas scattered. Grieved, Basava gave up office and returned to **Kudalasangama**, where he died.
- **Teachings: Kayakave Kailasa** (work is worship; the course book likens it to *Shramayeva Jayate*), so no begging; God is formless, stone images are futile; astrology, vastu, yajnas and pilgrimages are rejected. **Pancha Sutras: Arivu** (knowledge), *Achara* (conduct), *Anubhava* (experience), *Kayaka* (work), *Dasoha* (offering). He influenced **Vemana** and **Veerabrahmendra Swamy**.

- **What Veerashaivas reject:** caste rank, untouchability, Vedic sacrifice, temple-centred ritual and pilgrimage, and ideas of ritual pollution. Their dead are **buried**, seated, not cremated.

Core Veerashaiva terms.

- **Ashtavarana** (eight shields): **Guru, Linga, Jangama, Vibhuti, Rudraksha, Padodaka, Prasada, Panchakshari mantra** (*Om Namah Shivaya*).
- **Panchachara** (five conducts): Lingachara, Sadachara, Shivachara, Bhrittyachara, Ganachara.
- **Shatsthala** (six stages of the soul's ascent): Bhakta, Maheshvara, Prasadi, Pranalingi, Sharana, **Aikya** (union).
- **Jangama:** a wandering Veerashaiva teacher; treated as Shiva himself.

AP angle

- **Tirumala** (Tiruvenkatam) and **Ahobilam** are the two Divya Desams in Andhra Pradesh; Tirumangai Alwar sang of Ahobilam (Singavel Kunram).
- At **Tirumala**, **Tiruppavai** replaces the Suprabhatam during **Dhanurmasa**; the step into the sanctum is the **Kulasekhara padi**; the Divya Prabandham is recited before the Lord daily and in the **Adhyayanotsavam** around Vaikuntha Ekadashi.
- **Goda Kalyanam** (Andal's wedding to Ranganatha) is held in Andhra Vaishnava temples on **Bhogi**, the last day of Dhanurmasa.
- **Srikalahasti** (Tirupati district): Kannappa's shrine stands on the hill near the temple; idols of all 63 Nayanars stand in the temple. Kannappa's birthplace is placed at **Ootukur** near **Rajampet**.
- **Telugu Vaishnava culture:** **Krishnadevaraya's** *Amuktamalyada* (Andal's story), **Annamacharya's** **32,000** sankirtanas on Venkateswara, **Potana's** *Bhagavatam*, and Tiruppavai in Dhanurmasa.
- **Srisailem:** Akka Mahadevi's caves at Kadalivana, and the **Srisaile Jagadguru Peetham**, one of the five Panchacharya peethas.
- **Telugu Veerashaiva poets** (*Shivakavulu*): **Palkuriki Somanatha** (*Basava Puranam*, *Panditaradhya Charitra*) and **Mallikarjuna Panditaradhya** (*Shivatattvasara*), chief propagator of **Aradhya Shaivism** in the Kakatiya period. The Telugu *Basava Puranam* is one of the earliest full lives of Basava.

Common traps

✗ "Nammalwar is Godadevi." ✓ **Andal** is Goda / Godadevi.

✗ "Ramanuja compiled the Divya Prabandham." ✓ **Nathamuni**.

✗ "Periya Puranam was written by Nambiyandar Nambi." ✓ **Sekkizhar**; Nambi arranged the first eleven Tirumurai books.

✗ "Manikkavasagar is one of the 63 Nayanars." ✓ He is a **Samaya Kuravar**, not among the 63.

✗ "The anthology of Nayanar lives is the Basava Puranam (or Linga Purana)." ✓ **Periya Puranam**.

✗ "Kulasekhara Alwar was a Chola king." ✓ A **Chera** king.

✗ "Kannappa is linked to Srisailam." ✓ **Srikalahasti**.

✗ "Basava was minister of the Hoysalas (or Chalukyas)." ✓ **Kalachuri Bijjala II** at Kalyana.

✗ "Veerashaivism is a Vaishnava sect." ✓ It is a sect of **Shaivism**.

✗ "Pratyabhijna belongs to Veerashaivism." ✓ **Kashmir Shaivism**.

✗ "Tiruppavai is by Periyalwar." ✓ **Andal**; Periyalwar wrote Tiruppallandu.

✗ "Kannappa was one of the Alvars" (a slip in the course book). ✓ Kannappa is a **Nayanar** (Shaiva); Alvars are Vaishnava.

✗ "Kannappa is one of the Nalvar." ✓ Nalvar: **Appar, Sambandar, Sundarar, Manikkavasagar**.

✗ "Sundarar is an Alwar." ✓ A **Nayanar** (Tevaram poet).

✗ "Manikkavasagar is the 64th Nayanar" (the course book). ✓ He is one of the **Nalvar**; standard lists of the 63 do not add him.

✗ "Mallikarjuna Panditaradhya lived before Basava" (the course book). ✓ He is usually taken as Basava's **contemporary** (12th century).

✗ "Basava left 64 lakh vachanas" (the course book). ✓ A traditional figure; about **1,300** of his vachanas survive.

Quick revision

- Bhakti began in Tamil Nadu (6th–7th c.); 12 Alvars; first three Poigai, Bhutam, Pey; Andal the only woman (Goda, Bhudevi's avatar).
- Nammalwar: Tiruvaymozhi, Dravida Veda; Madhurakavi sang only of Nammalwar.
- Andal: Tiruppavai (30, Dhanurmasa), Nachiyar Tirumozhi; married Ranganatha; Periyalwar her father.
- Kulasekhara (Chera king): Mukundamala; Kulasekhara padi at Tirumala.
- Divya Prabandham (4,000) compiled by Nathamuni; 108 Divya Desams, Tirumala and Ahobilam in AP.
- 63 Nayanars; Periya Puranam by Sekkizhar (Kulottunga II); Tirumurai 12 books, Tevaram 1–7.
- Appar dasa, Sambandar satputra, Sundarar sakha, Manikkavasagar san (not among 63).
- Kannappa (Tinnadu, Ootukur): Srikalahasti; Nalvar: Appar, Sambandar, Sundarar, Manikkavasagar; Pashupata–Lakulisha.
- Basava (c. 1134–1196): Bagewadi, Kudalasangama, treasurer then chief minister of Kalachuri Bijjala II; Anubhava Mantapa at Kalyana, first religious parliament.

- Veerashaivism: Ishtalinga, Kayakave Kailasa, Ashtavarana; Lingayats/Sharanas; Andhra: Aradhya Shaivam (Mallikarjuna Panditaradhya, Kakatiyas); Basava Puranam by Palkuriki Somanatha.