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Nyāya (Sanskrit: न्याय, nyā-yá), literally meaning "justice", "rules", "method" or "judgment",[1][2] is one of the six astika schools of Indian philosophy. Nyaya school's epistemology accepts four out of six Pramanas as reliable means of gaining knowledge – Pratyakṣa (perception), Anumāṇa (inference), Upamāṇa (comparison and analogy) and Śabda (word, testimony of past or present reliable experts).Nyaya school like other schools of Hinduism believes that there is a soul and self, with liberation (moksha) as a state of removal of ignorance, wrong knowledge, the gain of correct knowledge and unimpeded continuation of self

Nyaya is related to several other concepts and words used in Indian philosophies: Hetu-vidya (science of causes), Anviksiki (science of inquiry, systematic philosophy), Pramana-sastra (epistemology, science of correct knowledge), Tattva-sastra (science of categories), Tarka-vidya (science of reasoning, innovation, synthesis), Vadartha (science of discussion) and Phakkika-sastra (science of uncovering sophism, fraud, error, finding fakes).[18] Some of these subsume or deploy the tools of Nyaya.

The Nyaya metaphysics recognizes sixteen padarthas or categories Type theory and includes all six (or seven) categories of the Vaisheshika in the second one of them, called prameya.[27]

These sixteen categories are:

- pramāna (valid means of knowledgeor knowledge sources),
- prameya (objects of valid knowledge),
- samsaya (doubt),
- prayojana (aim),
- drstānta (example),
- siddhānta (conclusion or accepted position),
- avayava (members of syllogism or inferential components),
- tarka (hypothetical/suppositional reasoning),
- nirnaya (settlement or certainity),
- vāda (discussion or debate for truth),
- jalpa (wrangling or disputation),
- vitandā (cavilling or destructive debate),
- hetvābhāsa (fallacy or pseudo-proovers),
- chala (quibbling or equivocation),
- jāti (sophisticated refutation or misleading/futile objections) and
- nigrahasthāna (point of defeat or clinchers)
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