

Agamas

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Agamas Latest News

The Supreme Court recently requested a committee formed by the Madras High Court to identify Agamic temples as against non-Agamic temples in Tamil Nadu in three months.

About Agamas

- The Agamas are a **collection of scriptures of Hindu devotional schools**.
- The term **literally means tradition or “that which has come down”**, and the Agama texts **describe cosmology, epistemology, philosophical doctrines, precepts on meditation** and practices, four kinds of **yoga, mantras, temple construction, deity worship, and ways to attain sixfold desires**.
- The **origin** and chronology of Agamas is **unclear**.
- The **3 main branches** of Agama texts are **Shaivism** (of Lord Shiva), **Vaishnavism** (of Lord Vishnu), and **Shaktism** (of Adi Shakti).
- The Agamic traditions are **sometimes called Tantrism**, although the term “Tantra” is usually used specifically to refer to Shakta Agamas.

- The Agamas **do not derive their authority from the Vedas**, but are **not antagonistic to them**.
- They are **all Vedic in spirit and character**. That is the reason why they are regarded as authoritative.
- **Many South Indian temples**, especially in Tamil Nadu, **follow Agamic traditions for daily rituals and festivals**.

Agamas FAQs

Q1: What are the Agamas primarily known for?

Ans: Scriptures of Hindu devotional schools

Q2: How do Agamas relate to the Vedas?

Ans: They do not derive authority from the Vedas but are in harmony with them.

Q3: In which region of India are Agamic traditions especially followed in temple rituals?

Ans: South India (especially Tamil Nadu)

Source: TH

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