



Jainism and Buddhism

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❖ JAINISM

➤ Background

- It is founded by the first Tirthankara **Adinath** or **Rishabhdev**.
- **Mahavira** is not the legendary founder of Jainism rather he is reformer of Jainism. And being a reformer Mahavira is called the real founder of the Jainism.
- Jina (that is a route what of Jain means conqueror), Mahavira was born in 540 BC at **Kundalgrama**, Vaishali (in Bihar).
- At the age of the 30 years he left the home in pursuit of spiritual awakening (Diksha). For 12 and half years he roamed here and there and in intense meditation and severe extreme penance.
- In around 468 BC at the age of 42, he attained *kaivalya* (Nirvana) or **Enlightenment**, i.e. the supreme knowledge and final deliverance from the bonds of pleasure and pain and so he is also called as Vardhmana (prosperity). He was the last (24th) Tirthankara.
- He attained the enlightenment under the Sal tree on the River **Rijupipala** in **Jimbhikagram**.
- Then Vardhmana became **Arihant (Worthy)**, **Mahavira (Courageous)**, **Tirthankara (Path Finder)**, **Nirgrantha (Free from bonds)**, and **Jina (Conqueror of his desires)**.
- For 30 years he taught his philosophy which is based on **ahimsa, Satya, asteya, Brahmacharya and Aparigraha**. He attained Nirvana at the age of 72 in **Pawapuri, Rajgriha**.



➤ Doctrines (Panch Mahavratas) of Jainism

1. **Ahimsa** : Don't commit violence, walk, talk and eat carefully.
2. **Satya** : Don't tell a lie, think before you speak, don't speak in anger.
3. **Asteya** : Don't steal.
4. **Aparigraha** : Don't acquire property.
5. **Brahmacharya (celibacy)** : Don't talk, see or think about any women, don't where there are women, take simple food.

(the 5th doctrine was added by Mahavira)

➤ Philosophy of Jainism

- **Anekantavada or Syadvada**: It is most important and fundamental **Doctrines of Jainism**. It talks about Pluralism, multiplicity of viewpoints.
 - It's based on the notion that truth and reality are perceived differently from diverse points of view, and that no single point of view is the complete truth.
 - It's similar to Gautama Buddha's **Pratitya Samutpada** i.e. there is a reason behind everything.
 - **Mahavira** rejected authority of Vedas and Vedic rituals and didn't believe in existence of God.
 - According to Jainism, Man is architect of his own destiny.



Tirthankara (path finders) : Total 24, Adinath / Rishab Dev (1st), Aristanemi (22nd), Paravnatha (23rd), Mahavira Swami 24th and the last Tirthankara (Lion Symbol).

➤ Jain Councils:-

1. Patliputra, 300 BC (in Patna, Bihar).

It was under **Sthulabhadra** (Name of President), Jaina teaching were compiled in Angas.

It relates to division of Jainism into two.

- First was **Digambara** (Didn't wear cloths). They believed in old teachings of Mahavira and most prevalent in South India.
- Second is **Shvetambara** (Wear white cloths), they can change or modify religious rules and it was prevalent in Magadha areas and North India.

2. Vallabhi (in Gujarat), 512 AD.

President was Devarshi Khemashramana.

Council no.	Time period	Held at	President	Outcomes
1	300 BC	Patliputra	Sthulabhadra	division of Jainism into Digambara and
2	512 AD	Vallabhi	Devarshi Khemashramana	It was decided to reduce down to writing sacred texts (Jain Agama) that had so far been transmitted orally

➤ Jain literature

- Jain literature is known by the collective term, **Agamas**. They are written in **Ardhamagadhi**, a form of Prakrit similar to the Buddhist literature written in Pali.
- Jain Agamas contain sermons of the Tirthankara which were codified by their disciples in later times.
- Since most of the early disciples were Missionaries, with an aim of spreading the Jaina philosophy and teachings to the masses, they chose to codify the sermons of the Tirthankara in the language popularly used by the common man.
- Agamas contain the inspired wisdom of Lord Mahavira when he had attained Kevala Jnana (omniscience and perfection). **Ganadharas** who were his chief disciples later codified his sermons into the **Agamas**.



➤ Agamas:

- The Agama literature consists of 12 Angas, 12 Upngas, 4 Mulas, 2 Chulika Sutras, 6 Cheda Sutras, and 10 Prakirnakas.
- Agamas have commentaries like the **Niryuktis** and **Bhasyas** which are in poetry style, while the commentaries written in prose style are known as **Curnis**.
- **Niryuktis** - said to be composed by **Bhadrabahu**, the second. They contain philosophical discussions on matters such as the existence of the soul, analysis of knowledge, and meaning etc.
- **Bhasyas** contain a detailed account of all the subjects of Jaina philosophy. Jinabhadra and Sanghadas Gani were the two famous **Bhasyakaras**. **Jinabhadra's Bhasyas** contain information on multiple subjects while Sanghadas Gani had limited himself to the problems of epistemology and the ethics of Jain Sadhus.
- **Curnis** are short commentaries in prose similar to the **Jatakas** of Buddhist literature. **Jinadasa Mahattara** is a prominent **Curnikara**.

❖ BUDDHISM



➤ Basic facts about Buddha

- **Siddhartha Gautama** is the original name of Buddha and was born to king **Shudhodana** and queen **Mahamaya** 624 BC, in a Shakya clan in Lumbini near Kapilvastu (Nepal).
- He was married to Yashodhara and had a son Rahula.

➤ Siddhartha Gautama to Buddha

- When Prince Siddhartha Gautama was 29 years old he decided to abandon material life.
- He left his palace, with **Channa- the charioteer** and his favorite horse, **Kanthaka** in search of 'Mahabhinishkramana' (Great Renunciation).
- He wandered for 6 years and initially meditated with **Alara Kama**, first teacher of Buddha. But he was not convinced that **Alara Kama** could help him obtain liberation from sorrow by mental discipline and knowledge.
 - **Udraka Ramputra** was his second teacher.
- He attained 'Nirvana' or 'Enlightenment' at 35 at **Gaya** in **Magadha** (Bihar) under a pipal tree.
- He delivered the first sermon at **Sarnath** known as 'Dharmachakrapravartana'.
- The 'Dharmachakrapravartana' means 'Turning of the Wheel of Law'.
- He attained **Mahaparinirvana** at **Kushinagar** in 483 BC at the age of 80 in the **Malla** republic.

➤ Three Ratnas of Buddhism

1. **Buddha** – Embodiment of spirituality and Enlightened One
2. **Dhamma** – The teachings of Buddha
3. **Sangha** – Community of Buddhist monks and nuns.



➤ Tenets of Buddhism

- Buddha asked his followers to avoid the two extremes of indulgence in worldly pleasure and the practice of strict abstinence and asceticism.
- He ascribed instead the '**Madhyam Marg**' or the middle path which was to be followed.
- According to him everyone was responsible for their own happiness in life, stressing upon the individualistic component of Buddhism.
- **Dukkha** and its extinction are central to the Buddha's doctrine. Suffering is not limited to the actual pain but also to the potential to experience these things.
- The essence of Buddhism is the attainment of enlightenment. It points to a way of life that avoids self-indulgence and self-denial. There is no supreme god or deity in Buddhism.
- The ultimate goal of Buddha's teaching was the attainment of nirvana which was not a place but an experience, and could be attained in this life.

➤ **The Four Nobel Truths:**

- The world is full of sorrow and misery (Dukkha).
- The cause of all pain and misery is desire (Dukkha Samuddaya).
- Pain and misery can be ended by killing or controlling desire. (Dukkha Nirodha).
- Desire can be controlled by following the **Eight Fold Path i.e. Ashtanga Marga** (Dukkha nirodhagamini-pratipada). The Eight fold path is:
 1. Right livelihood
 2. Right observation
 3. Right determination
 4. Right action
 5. Right meditation
 6. Right exercise
 7. Right speech
 8. Right memory

➤ **Beliefs**

- **Belief in Nirvana:** When desire and rebirth ends, nirvana is attained. It is possible by following the 8-fold path. Buddhism does not recognize the existence of God and soul.
- **Belief in Ahimsa:** The concept of Ahimsa means one should not cause harm to any living being, animal or man.
- **Law of Karma:** According to Law of Karma, Man reaps the fruits of his past deeds.

 Sangha

- The word Sangha is a combination of **Pali** and **Sanskrit** languages.
- The Sangha is most commonly referred to the monastic community of **bhikkhus (monks)** and **bhikkhunis (nuns)**.
- Buddha also established **code of conduct** both for the monastic order and the laymen to follow which are also known as the Five Precepts or **Panchashil**.
 - No Violence
 - No stealing



- No sexual misconduct
- No lying or gossip
- Avoid intoxicating substances e.g. drugs or drink.
- Apart from Sangha, the worshippers were called **Upasakas**.

➤ Major Buddhist Texts

- The Buddha's teaching was oral. He taught for 45 years, adapting the teaching to suit the group he was addressing.
- The Sangha memorized the teachings which were rehearsed and authenticated at the First Council and were divided in **Three Pitakas** in 483 BC.
- His teachings were written down around 25 B.C.E. in Pali.

➤ Three Pitakas

- **Vinaya Pitaka** consists of rules of conduct and discipline applicable to the monastic life of the monks and nuns.
- **Sutta Pitaka** consists of the main teaching or Dhamma of Buddha. It is divided into five **Nikayas** or collections:
 - **Digha Nikaya**
 - **Majjhima Nikaya**
 - **Samyutta Nikaya**
 - **Anguttara Nikaya**
 - **Khuddaka Nikaya**
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka** is a philosophical analysis and systematization of the teaching and the scholarly activity of the monks.
- Other important Buddhist texts include **Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panho** etc.

❖ Buddhist Councils

- Buddhist Councils marked important turning points in the early Buddhism.
- These councils resulted in sectarian clashes and the eventual Great Schism that resulted in the two major schools, Theravada and Mahayana.
- In total, 4 major Buddhist councils were convened:

1) First Council

- It was held soon after the Mahaparinirvana of the Buddha, around 483 BC under the patronage of King **Ajatshatru** and was presided by **Mahakashyap**, a monk.
- The council was held in **Sattapani cave** at **Rajgriha**.
- The council was held with the purpose of preserving Buddha's teachings (Sutta) and rules for disciples. During this council, the teachings of Buddha were divided into three Pitakas.



2) Second Council

- It was held in **Vaishali**, in Bihar under the patronage of the king **Kalasoka** in 383 BC. It was presided by **Sabakami**.

3) Third Council

- It was held in 250 BC in **Patliputra** under the patronage of **Ashoka** and was presided over by **Moggaliputta Tissa**.

4) Forth Council

- It was held in 72 AD at **Kundalvana**, Kashmir. It was presided by **Vasumitra**, while **Ashvaghosha** was his deputy under the patronage of King Kaniska of Kushana Empire.
- Buddhism was divided into two sects namely **Mahayana** and **Hinayana**.

Council No.	Time period	Held at	President	Royal Patronage	Outcomes
1	483 BC	Sattapani cave at Rajgriha	Mahakashyap	Ajatashatru	Purpose: preserving Buddha's teachings (Sutta) and rules for disciples. - During this council, the teachings of Buddha were divided into three Pitakas.
2	383 BC	Vaishali, in Bihar	Sabakami.	king Kalasoka	Division between Theravada and Maha Sanghika
3	250 BC	Patliputra	Moggaliputta Tissa	King Ashoka	- Sent missionary monks to different regions around India to spread Buddhism. - Final Compositio of Abhidamma Pitaka
4	72AD	Kundalvana, Kashmir	by Vasumitra, while Ashvaghosha was his deputy	King Kaniska of Kushana Empire.	Buddhism split into Hinyana and Mahayana Budhist sect

➤ Schools of Buddhism

- Mahayana:**
 - It is one of the two main schools of Buddhism.
 - The term **Mahayana** is a Sanskrit word which literally means "**Great Vehicle**".
 - It **believes in the heavenliness of Buddha and Idol worship of Buddha** and **Bodhisattvas (incarnations of Buddha)** embodying Buddha's Nature.



- It originated in northern India and Kashmir and then spread east into Central Asia, East Asia and some areas of Southeast Asia.
- Buddhist schools embedded in **China, Korea, Tibet and Japan** belong to the **Mahayana** tradition.
- **Hinayana**
 - Literally a Lesser vehicle, also known as Abandoned Vehicle or Defective vehicle. It believes in the original teaching of Buddha or Doctrine of elders.
 - It does not believe in Idol worship and tries to attain individual salvation through self discipline and meditation.
 - Theravada is a Hinayana sect.
- **Theravada**
 - It is the most ancient branch of extant Buddhism today.
 - It remains closest to the original teachings of the Buddha.
 - **Theravada Buddhism** developed in **Sri Lanka** and subsequently spread to the rest of Southeast Asia. It is the dominant form of religion in **Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.**
- **Vajrayana**
 - Vajrayana means “The Vehicle of the Thunderbolt”, also known as tantric Buddhism.
 - This Buddhist school developed in India around 900 CE.
 - It is grounded on esoteric elements and very complex set of rituals compared with the rest of the Buddhist schools.

➤ Spread of Buddhism:

- Pali language has a prominent role in the spread of Buddhism.
- Emperor **Ashoka and Kaniska** had a keen interest in spreading Buddhism.
- Buddha also organized the Sangha as a religious order, whose doors were open to everybody, irrespective of caste and sex.
- They promoted education through residential universities like Vallabhi, Nalanda and Vikramshila.
- After the death of Buddha, the monks assembled four times and the effect of these events had a great impact of spreading of Buddha.



Previous Year Prelims Questions

1. **With reference to the religious practices in India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to**
a) Buddhism b) Jainism c) Vaishnavism d) Shaivism

2. **With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:**
1) Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2) Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only b) 2 only c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. **With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following was/were common to both Buddhism and Jainism?**
1) Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment
2) Indifference to the authority of the Vedas
3) Denial of efficacy of rituals
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 only b) 2 and 3 only c) 1 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3

4. **With reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?** (2018)
a) Avalokiteshvara b) Lokeshvara c) Maitreya d) Padmapani

5. **With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:** (2016)
1) The concept of Bodhisattva is central to the Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
2) Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
3) Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only b) 2 and 3 only c) 2 only d) 1, 2 and 3

6. **Which one of the following describes best the concept of Nirvana in Buddhism?** (2013)
a) The extinction of the flame of desire b) The complete annihilation of self
c) A state of bliss and rest d) A mental stage beyond all comprehension

7. **Lord Buddha's image is sometimes shown with the hand gesture called 'Bhumisparsha Mudra'. It symbolizes** (2012)
a) Buddha's calling of the Earth to watch over Mara and to prevent Mara from disturbing his meditation
b) Buddha's calling of the Earth to witness his purity and chastity despite the temptations of Mara
c) Buddha's reminder to his followers that they all arise from the Earth and finally dissolve into the Earth, and thus this life is transitory
d) Both the statements (a) and (b) are correct in this context