

Buddhism and Jainism

The **6th Century B.C** was a period of religious turmoil in India. In this period, we notice a growing opposition to the ritualistic orthodox ideas of the Brahmanas. This ultimately led to the emergence of **many heterodox religious movements**. Among these **Buddhism and Jainism** developed into well organised popular religions.

Reasons for Rise of New Religions

- **Complexity of Vedic religion**-Sacrifices and rituals increased, became more elaborate, and expensive.
- **Dominance of Brahmanas**- As priests, they claimed the highest position in the society.
- **Contemporary and Political Conditions**-Kshatriyas (ruling class who were now more powerful due to the expansion of territories) and Vaishyas (traders who were now prosperous due to flourishing trade) were unhappy with Brahmanical domination.

Jainism

- 'Jain' is derived from 'jina' or 'jaina', meaning the 'Conqueror'.
- It is a nontheistic religion i.e. does not believe that there is a god or gods.
- Disciplined non-Violent ways of living to attain liberation, spiritual purity and enlightenment.
- It came into prominence in 6th century B.C., when Lord Mahavira (24th Tirthankara) propagated the religion.

24 Tirthankaras of Jainism

'Tirthankara' in Sanskrit means "Ford-maker". Tirthankaras are the people who had attained all knowledge (Moksha) while living and preached it to the people.

N o.	Name	Symb ol	N o.	Name	Symb ol	N o.	Name	Symbol
1	Lord Rishabha	Ox	2	Ajitanath	Elephant	3	Sambhavanatha	Horse
4	Abhinandanatha	Monkey	5	Sumatinatha	Goose	6	Padmaprabha	Lotus
7	Suparshvanath	Swastika	8	Chandraprabha	Moon	9	Suvidhina th Swami	Crocodile (Makara)
10	Sheetalnath	Wishing Tree	11	Shreyansanath	Rhinoceros	12	Vasupujya	Buffalo
13	Vimalnatha	Boar	14	Anatnatha	Bear	15	Dharamanath	Spike-headed Club
16	Santinath	Deer	17	Kunthunath	He-Goat	18	Aranath	Fish
19	Mallinath	Waterpot	20	Munisuvrata	Tortoise	21	Naminatha	Blue-Lotus

22	Neminatha	Conch	23	Parshwanath	Serpent	24	Mahavira	Lion
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Note:

- **Yajurveda** mentions **Rishabha, Ajinatha and Aristanemi**.
- **Arihant / Jina**-Arihant, literally means 'conqueror', is the one who conquered inner-passions such as ego, anger, greed, pride etc
- **Kevalins**- Kevalins are souls who attained 'Kevalagnana'/ supreme knowledge/ omniscience.
- **Siddhas**-Siddhas are liberated souls who have destroyed all karmas and have obtained moksha/ final liberation. Ultimately all Arihants and Tirthankaras become Siddhas.
- **Ganadharas**-They are primary disciples of Tirthankaras.
- **Sallekhana (Santhara)**-It is a highly respected Jain practice of undertaking voluntary death at the end of one's life.

Bahubali / Gomateswara was the son of Rishaba (1st Tirthankara); he abdicated the throne to his brother and became a Jain monk. He meditated for a whole year in **Kayotsarga posture** and attained **Kevala jnana** thus became an **Arihant**. According to Jain texts, he attained moksha at **Mt Kailash** and became a **Siddha**; thus he is a much revered one in Jainism .

Shravanabelagola in Karnataka is home to the 18 m high statue of Lord Gomateshwara; considered to be one of the world's tallest free-standing monolithic statues. Constructed in 981 AD by **Chamundaraya**, a Ganga warrior, it is carved out of a single block of granite and looms on the top of Vindhyagiri Hill. **Mahamastakabhisheka**, the head anointing ceremony of Lord Gomateshwara takes place every 12 years here.

'Pancha Kalyanakas' (Five Auspicious Events in the life of a Tirthankara)

Event	Description
Garbha Kalyanak	Tirthankar's soul departs from its last life and is conceived in the mother's womb.
Janma Kalyanak	Tirthankar's soul is born.
Diksha Kalyanak	Tirthankar's soul gives up all his/her worldly possessions and becomes a monk/nun.
Kevalgyan Kalyanak	Tirthankar's soul attains the Kevaljnana (absolute knowledge).
Nirvana Kalyanak	Tirthankar's soul is liberated from this worldly physical existence forever and becomes a Siddha.

Vardhamana Mahavira (540-468 BCE)

- **Birth:** In 540 B.C.in Kundagrama near Vaishali.
- **Father:** Siddhartha (head of the Jnathrika Kshatriya clan)
- **Mother:** Trisala (Sister of Lichchhavi chief Chetaka).
- **Wife:** Yasoda and had a daughter Priyadarsana.
- **Teachers:** Alarakama and Udraka Ramputra.
- **Kaivalya (highest spiritual knowledge):** At age of 42 under Sal tree on the banks of the Rijupalika river.
- **First sermon:** At Pava
- **Death/ Siddha (fully liberated):** At Pava near Rajagriha at the age of 72.
- **Symbol:** Lion.
- **Other Name:** Jina Jitendriya (one who conquered his senses), Nigrantha (free from all bonds).

- Mahavira is a contemporary to Buddha.

Teachings of Jainism

Belief in God

- Jainism does not believe in God as a creator, survivor, and destroyer of the universe but as a perfect being (lower than Jina).

Karma Theory

- A person is born in higher or lower varna as the consequence of the sins or the virtues in the previous birth. Thus, Jainism believes in the “transmigration of the soul”.

Varna System

- It **did not condemn the varna system** but attempted to mitigate the evils of the varna order and the ritualistic Vedic religion.

Triratna

- It must be followed to achieve the liberation of the soul. These are:

Triratna	Description
Samyag Darshana (Right faith)	Means seeing (hearing, feeling, etc.) things properly, avoiding preconceptions and superstitions that get in the way of seeing clearly.
Samyag Jnana (Right knowledge)	Having an accurate and sufficient knowledge of the real universe.
Samyag Charitra (Right conduct)	To avoid harming living beings and freeing oneself from attachment and other impure thoughts and attitudes.

Five Doctrines of Jainism

To attain Triratna, one has to observe Pancha Mahavrat (five great vows). Five Vows articulated in the Tattvartha Sutra are:

1. **Ahimsa:** Non-injury to living being
2. **Satya:** Do not speak a lie
3. **Asteya:** Do not steal
4. **Aparigraha:** Do not acquire property
5. **Brahmacharya:** Observe continence.

Principles of Jainism

Anekantavada (Theory of Plurality)

- It refers to the simultaneous acceptance of multiple, diverse, even contradictory viewpoints.
- It states that all entities have three aspects: substance (dravya), quality (guna), and mode (paryaya).

Syadavada (Relativity of Knowledge)

- It means the ‘method of examining different probabilities’.
- The infinite aspects of reality are all relative; therefore all judgments are relative, conditional and limited.

Nayavada

- Theory of partial standpoints/viewpoints: It signifies the system of describing reality from different points of view.
- “Naya” can be understood as partially true statements but they cannot lay claim to absolute validity..

Schools of Jainism

- The first split in the Jaina order was between the **Digambaras** (sky clad or naked) and **Svetambaras** (clad in white) during 3rd BC.
- According to Hemachandra's "**Parisista Parvan**", a great famine occurred in the Magadhan region at the beginning of 3rd c BCE. A large group of Jain monks led by Bhadrabahu, accompanied by the then Emperor Chandragupta Maurya who abdicated the throne in favor of his son Bindusara, migrated to South India and stayed at **Sravanabelagola (Karnataka)**.

	Digambara	Svetambara
About	- It literally means "sky clad". - They represent the Jainas who moved to the south under the leadership of Bhadrabahu when the great famine took place in Magadha.	- It literally means "white clad". - They represent the Jainas who stayed back in Magadha under the leadership of Sthulabhadra when the famine struck.
Beliefs	- Emphasize on nudity, as it is the absolute prerequisite to attain salvation. - On attaining enlightenment, an omniscient does not experience hunger, thirst, sleep, disease or fear. - Allowed to have Rajoharana (peacock feather broom to brush away insects) and a Kamandalu (a wooden water pot for toilet hygiene). - Follow all five vows (Satya, Ahimsa, Asteya, Aparigraha and Brahmacharya).	- Assert that complete nudity is not important for salvation. - An omniscient person does require food. - Allowed to have fourteen belongings including loin-cloth, shoulder cloth, etc. - Follow only 4 vows (except brahmacharya).
On Women	Believe women cannot achieve liberation.	Sabastra Mukti: Anyone can achieve salvation, be it a householder, women or a monk.
Major Sects	1. Mula Sangh, 2. Bisapantha, 3. Terapantha, 4. Taranpantha or Samaiyapantha. Minor Sub-Sects 1. Gumanapantha 2. Totapantha	1. Murtipujaka 2. Sthanakvasi 3. Terapanthi
Literature	Original and genuine texts were lost long ago and refused to accept the achievements of the first council.	Believe in the validity and sacredness of literature, i.e, the 12 angas and sutras .

Later Developments

- From among the **Svetambaras**, a reformist sect arose about the 15th century by name **Sthanakvasi Sect**: criticizing image-worship, and temple-cult because it was not even mentioned once in the Scriptures.
- On the contrary **Lonka Sa** pointed out that the practice was not lawful. So there arose after him **Lonka Sa Sect**.

- From the Lonka Jains still another reformer arose, **Viraji** of Surat. He was critical of the Sadhus that they were leading less austere life.
- In the 16th century there arose two sects from among the Digambaras too. As against **Vishvapanthis (or Bispanthis)** who install images of gods like Bhairava in their temples, cover idols with saffron clothes, offer flowers, sweets and wave lights etc., the **Terapanthis** did not accept any of these.

Jaina Councils

Council	Chairperson	Venue	Output
First Council (300BC)	Sthulbhadra	Patliputra	Compilation of 12 Angas
Second Council (512AD)	Devardhi Kshmasramana	Vallabhi	Final compilation of 12 Angas and 12 upanga.

Jain Literature

Jain literature is broadly divided into - **Canonical (Sacred)** and **Non-canonical** Jain literature.

Canonical Literature of Shvetambaras (Jain Agamas)

These Jain Agamas were written in **Prakrit** and were finally compiled in the sixth century AD in Vallabhi in Gujarat presided over by the famous monk Devarddhi Kshamasramana. Agamas are considered as the original texts of Jainism based on Mahavira's teachings. This canonical literature/Agamas are divided into the following six sections (46 treatises)-

- Twelve Angas or limbs**- Based on Canonical sermons of Mahavira.
- Twelve Upangas**, or secondary limbs -Appended to Angas; provide further explanation of Angas.
- Ten Painnas**, or 'Scattered pieces'-On miscellaneous subjects.
- Six Cheya-Suttas** -On conduct and behavior of Jain monks.
- Two Kulika Sutras**-Texts further enhancing the meaning of Angas; includes "Nandisutra" which contains the contents of 14 Purvas.
- Four Mula-Suttas**-A basis for the earlier stages of monk-hood.

Canonical Literature of Digambaras (Anuyoga)

- This category of Scriptures was written in **Sanskrit** largely from 700 to 900 CE.
- They are distinguished into **four groups** and named them as **Four Vedas**:
 - The first Veda deals with history.
 - The second Veda deals with Cosmography.
 - The third Veda with Philosophy.
 - The Fourth Veda deals with Ethics and rituals .

Non-Canonical Literature

- This consists of commentary and explanation of Agam literature and independent works, compiled by elder monks, nuns, and scholars.
- They are written in many languages such as Prakrit, Sanskrit, Old Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, German, and English. For example,
- Trishashthikshana Mahapurana** is a major Jain text composed largely by Acharya Jinasaena during the rule of Rashtrakutas.

Gujarati	"Bharatesvara-bahubali" by Shalibhadra Suri
Tamil	"Silappadikaram" by Ilango Adigal and "Sivaga Sintamani" by Tirutakkatevar
Kannada	Amoghavarsha's "Kavirajamarga"
Sanskrit	Umaswati's "Tattvartha Sutra", Somadeva's "Yasastilaka",

	Hemchandra's Parishishtaparvan/ thaviravalicharitra
Prakrit	"Dhavalā" by Virasena,

Patrons of Jainism

- **North India**-Bimbisara; Ajatasatru; Chandragupta Maurya; Bindusara, Harshavardhana, Kharavela.
- **South India**-Kadamba dynasty, Ganga dynasty, Amoghavarsha, Kumarapala (Chalukya dynasty).

Decline of Jainism

- Jainism now survives chiefly in two regions viz., Gujarat and Rajasthan (Svetambara sect) and Mysore (Digambara sect). The main factors that were responsible for the decline of Jainism in India include -
 - Its emphasis on extreme asceticism
 - Loss of royal patronage at center after Mauryas.
 - No missionary effort was made to spread Jainism.

- **Manastambha:** Found in the front side of the temple, with an ornamental pillar structure carrying the image of Tirthankar on top and on all four cardinal directions.
- **Basadis:** Jain monastic establishment or temples in Karnataka.
- **Gachchas:** These are Jain orders of Mahavratas (staunch Jains) who claim descent from eminent monastic teachers.

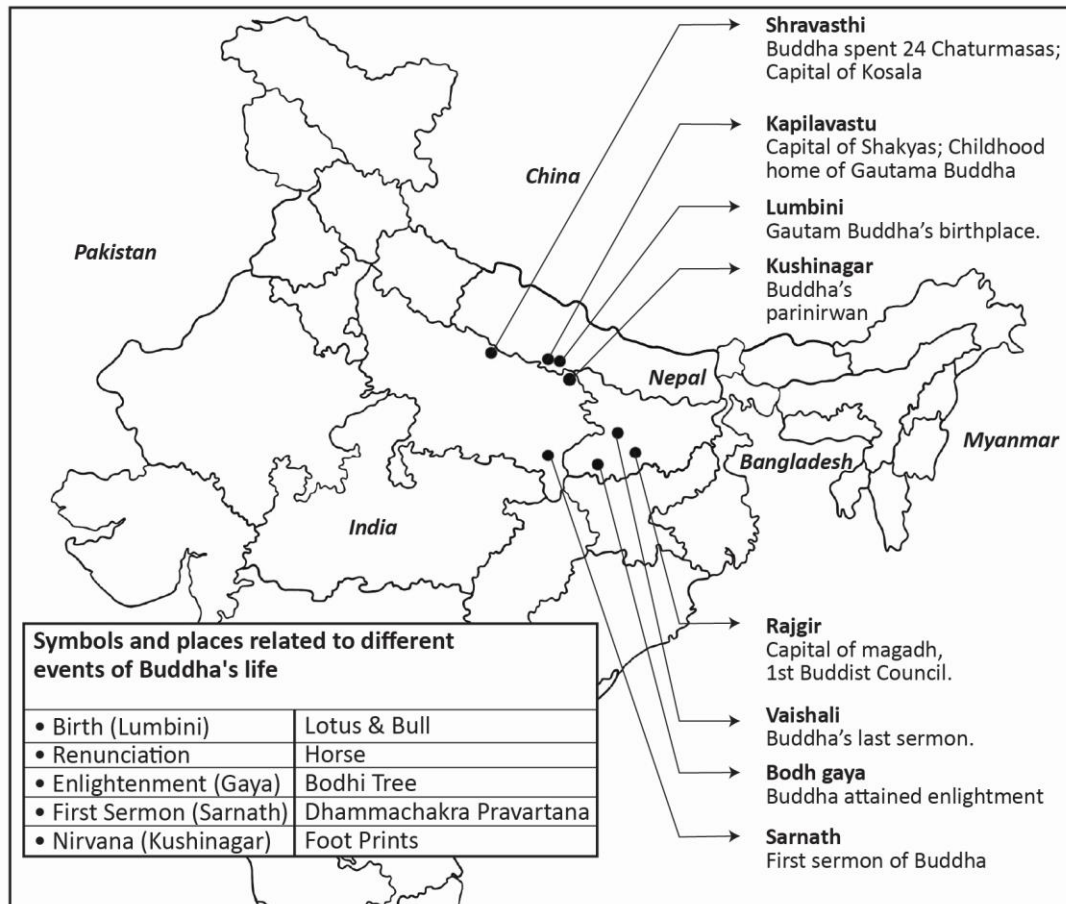
Buddhism

- Buddhism was founded by **Gautama Buddha**.
- Buddha was born as **Siddhartha** to the ruler of Sakya gana, and was a kshatriya.
- When Buddha was at the age of 29 years, he left the comforts of his home in search of knowledge.
- He attained enlightenment at the age of 35 years and since then, he was known as the **Buddha or the Enlightened One**.

About Gautam Buddha(566-486 BCE)

Birth	In 566 B.C, on Vaishakha Poornima day, in Lumbini near Kapilavastu in Nepal. Note -From the Mauryan emperor Ashoka's Rummindei Pillar inscription , it is known that Lumbini is the birthplace of Buddha.
Father	Suddodhana , the ruler of Sakhya tribe/gana of Kapilavastu.
Mother	Mahamaya . However, Buddha was brought up by his aunt Prajapati Gautami (First Buddhist nun), as Mahamaya died 7 days after his birth.
Spouse	Buddha was married to Yasodhara (Princess of Shakya Dynasty) at 16 years of age and had a son Rahula .
Teachers	Alara Kalama and Uddaka Ramaputta

Panchamahakalyan (Five important events in Buddha's Life)



Buddha Path(Asta Mahasthanas)

This refers to Eight Great Places of Buddhist Heritage which are connected with the important events of the life of the Buddha. These include-

1. **Lumbini (Nepal):** Buddha was born.
2. **Bodh Gaya (Bihar):** Attained enlightenment.
3. **Sarnath (Varanasi, U.P.):** First sermon.
4. **Kushinagar (Gorakhpur, U.P.):** Buddha died.
5. **Rajgir (Bihar):** Where the Lord tamed a mad elephant.
6. **Vaishali (Bihar):** Where a monkey offered honey to him.
7. **Sravasti (U.P):** Seat on a 1000 petaled lotus and created multiple representations of himself.
8. **Sankasya (Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh):** He descended from heaven.

Reasons for the rise of Buddhism

- **Liberal & democratic-** Unlike Brahmanism, it was far more liberal & democratic.
- **The simple language-** Pali language used by Buddha was the language of the masses.
- **Equality-** People were admitted into the Sangha irrespective of caste distinctions.
- **Simple & Inexpensive-** Advocated a spiritual path without any material obligation of satisfying gods through sacrifices.
- **Royal Patronage-** from Bimbisara, Ajatasatru, Ashoka, Kanishka and Harshavardhana.

Buddhist Doctrines/Teachings of Buddhism

Four noble Truths(Ariya-Sachchani)

1. **Dukha (Truth of suffering):** Everything is suffering (Sabbam Dukham).
2. **Samudaya (Truth of the cause of suffering):** Trishna (desire) is the main cause.
3. **Nirodha (Truth of the end of suffering):** End by the attainment of Nibbana/Nirvana.

4. **Ashtangika-Marga (Path to the end of suffering):** Contained in the eightfold path.

Eightfold Path(Astangika Marg)

1. **Right Vision** (Samma-Ditthi): Understanding nature of reality.
2. **Right Thought or Attitude** (Samma-Sankappa): Emotional intelligence and acting from love and compassion.
3. **Right or Whole Speech** (Samma-Vacca): Truthful, clear, uplifting and unharmed communications.
4. **Right or Integral Action** (Samma-Kammanta): Ethical code of conduct for the members of the monastic order.
5. **Right or Proper Livelihood** (Samma-Ajiva): Livelihood action on ethical principles of non-exploitation.
6. **Right Effort or Energy** (Samma-Vayama): Directing energy to creative and healing action towards conscious evolution.
7. **Right Mindfulness or Thorough Awareness** (Samma-Sati): Knowing one's own self and watching self behaviour.
8. **Right Concentration or Meditation** (Samma-Samadhi): Absorbed in modes of consciousness and awareness.

Middle Path

Buddha asked 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.

Pancasila (Five Refrains)

1. No killing
2. No stealing
3. No lying
4. No sexual misconduct
5. No intoxicants.

Three Jewels(Trisaranya)

1. Buddha (the enlightened)
2. Dharma (doctrine)
3. Sangha (commune)

The Five Aggregates (Panch Skanda/Pancha~Khanda)

1. **Rupa** (includes five physical sense organs and the corresponding physical objects).
 - Eye- Visible form
 - Nose- Odour
 - Ear-Sound
 - Tongue- Taste
 - Body- Tangible things that we can feel
2. **Vedana** (Aggregate of feelings, arising out of contact with the object of the senses).
3. **Sanna** (Aggregate of perception turns an indefinite experience into an identified and recognised experience).
4. **Sankharas** (Conditioned response to the object of experience).
5. **Vinnana/Vijnana** (Co-presence of sense organs with consciousness and the objects of sense organs can produce experience).

The Law of Dependent Organisation (Patichcha-Samuppada)

This law explains the reason for Dukkha and the key to its liberation. Five causes of rebirth and suffering :

1. Ignorance (avijja)
2. Craving (tanha)
3. Clinging (upadana)

4. Mental formation (sankhara)

5. Becoming (bhava)

By removing the above factors, one can break the vicious cycle of rebirth and suffering.

- Originally, Buddhism did not recognise the existence of **God and soul (atman)**.
- Buddhism never supported the Varna system.

Buddhist Councils

Buddhist Council	Place and Year	Patronage	Presided by	Details
First	At Sattapani cave, Rajgir (483 BC)	King Ajatshatru (Haryanka Dynasty)	Mahakasyapa	• Held immediately after the death of the Buddha. • Compilation of Vinay Pitaka (under leadership of Upali) and Sutta Pitaka (under leadership of Ananda).
Second	At Vaishali (383 BC)	King Kalasoka (Shishunaga Dynasty)	Sabakami	• Held due to 10 disputed points under Vinay Pitaka. • Resulted in a permanent split of the Buddhist order into Sthaviravadhis and Mahasanghikas.
Third	At Pataliputra (246 BC)	King Ashoka (Maurya Dynasty)	Moggaliputta Tissa	• Compilation of Abhidhamma Pitaka. • Expulsion of 60,000 heretical monks from the order. • Ashoka thought of spreading Buddhism to other parts. He sent his son and daughter to Sri Lanka (Theravada Buddhism)
Fourth	At Kundalvana (Kashmir) (72AD)	King Kanishka (Kushana Dynasty)	Vasumitra and his deputy Ashvaghosa	• Division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana. • All the contemplations were made in Sanskrit. • Compilation of commentaries, viz. Upadesha Sashtas and Vibhanga Shastras of the three pitakas
Fifth council	Mandalay, Burma (1871)	King Mindon	Jagarabhivamsa, Narindhabhidhaja and Sumangalasami.	• Theravada Buddhist Council. • 729 stone slabs were engraved with Buddhist teachings. • These Slabs are miniature pitaka pagodas.

Sixth Council	Yangoon, Burma. (1954)	Burmese government	Prime Minister U Nu	- Aimed to affirm and preserve Dhamma and Vinaya - Special Maha Passana Guha(cave) was built.

Schools of Buddhism

Basis	Hinayana Buddhism	Mahayana Buddhism
Literal Meaning	Lesser Vehicle	Greater Vehicle
Ultimate Aim	Nirvana	Spiritual Upliftment
Belief	- Hinayana adhered to the letter of Buddha's teachings. - Believe in Symbol form instead of Human (Image/Idol) form - Hinayana upholds the ideas of Arhat.	- Mahayana adhered to the Essence of Buddha's teachings - Believe in idol or image worship of Buddha - Mahayana upholds the idea of Bodhisattva.
The language used	Pali	Sanskrit
Literature	- Pali canonical texts- Pitakas (Pali language) - Semi-canonical works- Milind Panho - Ceylonese chronicles- Dipavamsa	- Pitakas (own version in Sanskrit) - Vaipulya Sutras - Lotus Sutras - Lalitavistara

Major philosophical schools of Mahayanism include -

- Yogakara / Vignanavadins:** It is the idealistic school of Buddhism which is against the complete realism of Hinayanism.
- Madhyamika / Sunyavadins:** It is a mid-way between idealism of Yogakara and realism of Hinayana Sunyavadins holds that whatever we perceive is illusion.
 - Acharya Nagarjuna** was associated with this school.
 - Āryadeva** (3rd century)- a disciple of Nāgārjuna

Vajrayana

- It is called Tantric Buddhism.
- Developed around 900CE in India.
- Major patrons were Palas of Bihar and Bengal in the Medieval period. .
- Now Vajrayanisms is found majorly in Tibet.
- It believes in salvation through tantric cults (vajra).
- Worship of Taras (wives of Bodhisattvas) and other female deities like Chakreswari is practiced.

Two Sub-Sects of Vajrayanisms

Kalachakrayana	It gives much importance to tantric cults.
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	• Lamas belong to this tradition. • “Guhyasutras” and “Manjushri Mulakalpa” are associated with it.
Sahajayana	• It believed in salvation through sexual intercourse.

Other Schools of Buddhism

- **Zen**
 - It originated in China.
 - It belongs to Mahayana Buddhism.
 - Meditation is the key of this school.
- **Theravada**
 - Originated in Sri Lanka and later spread to Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand.
 - Oldest branch.
 - Believed in original thoughts of Buddha.
 - **Sthaviravadins** belong to this sect.
- **Mahasanghika**
 - The name comes from the Sanskrit word mahāsaṅgha, which means "great order of monks"
 - They fostered worshipping Buddha like a deity, resulting later in birth of Mahayana Buddhism.
 - The Mahasanghika spread throughout ancient India and is associated with the caves of Ellora, Ajanta, and Karla
 - The Mahasanghika was known for its doctrine of "transcendentalism" (lokottaravada)
 - The Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of the Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
- **Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the the sects of Buddhism**
- **Sarvastivadins**
 - The Sarvastivadins were a Buddhist school of thought that believed in the existence of dharmas at all times, in the past, present, and future

Bodhisattvas

- Bodhisattvas are individuals on the path to becoming Buddha or attaining salvation.
 - In other words, Bodhisattvas are the previous births of Lord Buddha, and those who had not achieved full Buddha-hood. They featured in Jataka tales.

Important Bodhisattvas:

Name	Characteristics
Avalokiteshvara (Perceiver of all sounds)	• Bodhisattva of compassion, depicted as a female, holding a lotus in the hand. • Described in the Lotus Sutra (texts of the Mahayana school). • Padmapani Lokeshvara: Most popular.
Maitreya (Bodhisattva of the Future)	• It's still not Buddha and resides in the Tusita Heaven (Buddhist cosmology). • Laughing Buddha: Incarnation of Maitreya • It will appear on Earth in the future as the successor of Gautam Buddha, the present Buddha.
Manjushri	• Iconic figures in Mahayana Buddhism • In Sanskrit, it means "Gentle Glory". • It cuts through ignorance and personifies correct knowledge.
Bodhisattva	• Represented as a male Bodhisattva, wielding a flaming

(Bodhisattva of Wisdom)	sword "Vajra Sword of Discriminating Light" in the right hand, and a Blue Lotus flower in the left hand.
Samantabhadra	- Bodhisattva of Practice and Meditation Samantabhadra, Manjushri and Buddha, together form the Shakyamuni trinity in Buddhism. (Important)
Ksitigarbha (Womb of the Earth)	- Saviour of the oppressed, the dying, and the dreamer of evil dreams - The Bodhisattva of Mortals. - Akasagarbha (boundless space treasury): Twin both of Ksitigarbha.
Vajrapani(Thunderbolt-bearing Bodhisattva)	- One of the three protective deities around Buddha. - He is sometimes referred to as a Dhyani-Bodhisattva, equivalent to Akshobhya, the second Dhyani Buddha. - In human form, it holds the vajra in his right hand. - It helps to remove the feelings of worthlessness and low self-esteem in people.

Buddhist Missionaries

Missionaries were sent to distant places right from 3rd C BC as per the resolution passed in Pataliputra Buddhist Council.

China	Kashyapa Matanga	Propagated Mahayanism
	Kumarajiva	Madhyamika of Mahayanism
	Acharya Nagarjuna	Madhyamika; translated Buddhist texts into Chinese
Tibet	Padmasambhava Athista Dipankara, Santharakshita	Propagated Vajrayanism
Nepal	Vasubandhu	Propagated Yogakara of Mahayanism
S E Asia	Srignana	Propagated Hinayanism

Buddhist Literature

Hinayana literature is in **Pali** whereas Mahayana literary works are in **Sanskrit**.

Pali Literature

Pali Literature can be divided into-

- Canonical literature(Sacred Literature)**-Tripitakas ; Commentaries on Nigayas; Jatakas; Suttanipata; Theragadha; Therigadha; Buddhavamsa etc.
 - The **Nettipakarana** is a Buddhist scripture contains methods were taught by the Buddha's disciple Kaccana as approved by the Buddha and that it was recited at the First Buddhist Council.
- Non-Canonical literature-** Milindapanho; Divyavadana; Mahavastu; Dipavamsa; Mahavamsa; Kulavamsa; Vamsada Pakasini etc.

Canonical Literature

Tripitakas

Sutta Pitaka (Basket of Discourse)	Vinaya Pitaka (Basket of Discipline)	Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of
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		Analysis)
• Digha-Nikaya: Collection of Long Discourse • Majjhima-Nikaya: Middle length Discourse • Samyutta-Nikaya: Kindred Discourse • Anguttara-Nikaya: Gradual Discourse • Khuddaka-Nikaya: Miscellaneous Discourse	• Suttavibhaṅga: Pāṭimokkha and commentary ◦ Mahāvibhaṅga: rules for monks ◦ Bhikkhunīvibhaṅga: rules for nuns • Khandhaka: 22 chapters on various topics • Parivāra: analyses of rules from various points of view	• Dhamma-sangani: Classification of Phenomenon • Vibhanga: Division • Dhatu-katha: Discourse of elements • Puggala-pannatti: Human types • Katha-vatthu: Points of Controversy • Yamaka: The Book of Pairs • Patthana: Casual Relations

Jatakas

They contain the stories of the previous birth of the Buddha. It was believed that before he was actually born as Gautama, the Buddha passed through over 550 births. **Each birth story is called a Jataka.** These stories throw invaluable light on the social and economic conditions of the period between the fifth and second centuries BC.

- Jataka stories that are frequently depicted on Buddhist stupas and monuments are **Chhadanta Jataka, Vidurpundita Jataka, Ruru Jataka, Sibi Jataka, Vessantara Jataka, Shama Jataka, and Avadānaśataka.**

Some Important Non-Canonical Pali Literature

- **Milinda Panho:** Dialogue between Indo-Greek king Milinda/Menandet and Buddhist monk Nagasena.
- **Dipavamsa** -Deals with Sri Lankan history from earliest times to 362 CE corresponding to the death of Sri Lankan king Mahasena.
- **Mahavamsa**-It is the enlarged version of Dipavamsa. Buddhism was introduced in Sri Lanka by Mahendra and Sanghamitra.
- **Vamsadapakasini**-It is a commentary on Mahavamsa and an important source to know Buddhism.

Sanskrit Literature

- **Vaipulya Sutras** which includes “**Lalithavistara**”, a biography of Buddha.
- **Karandavyuha** is on Avalokitesvara’s glorification.
- **Sukhavativyuha** is on Amitabha
- **Sadharma Kunderika;Madhyamika-karika; Pragna Paramita** etc.
- **Dignāga** was a Buddhist logician and **author of the Pramāṇasamuccaya.** He laid the foundations of Buddhist logic.

- Buddhist Sangha is a religious congregation of Bikshus and Bikshunis which have an elected head. They are open to all irrespective of caste, creed and sex. But **minors, slaves, debtors, soldiers and people with contagious diseases were restricted to join Sangha.**
- There are two kinds of followers of Buddhism - **Bikshus and Upasakas.**
 - **Bikshus** are, known as **Shramanas**, staunch Buddhists who renounced

worldly desires.

- **Upasakas** are lay-worshippers who have family life but faith in Buddhism.
- **Upavasatha / Pavarama** - During three or four months of the rainy season Buddhist monks are required to take up a fixed abode and depend for their subsistence on the neighboring households. During this Upavasatha period, they used to preach Buddhist principles to people in the evenings. They used to **meet every fortnight to make general confessions of any breach of Sangha.**
- **Viharas or Aramas** are dwellings as well as educational centres / monasteries of Buddhist monks.
- **Chaityas** are halls of Buddhist worship that house a stupa.

Decline of Buddhism

There had been a gradual decline of Buddhism in India after the 4th C AD. . It was confined to eastern India (Bengal, Bihar regions) in an altered form i.e., Vajrayana by 8th C AD.

Reasons for Decline of Buddhism

- Corruption in Buddhist Sangha-Latter monks gave up austerity and indulged in luxuries. Moral standards deteriorated.
- The split into Mahayana and Hinayana weakened the religion.
- Use of Sanskrit language at Fourth Buddhist Council replacing Pali.
- Buddha Image worship started by Mahayana Buddhists, was a violation of Buddhist principles.
- Royal patronage declined after the end of the Gupta dynasty around 650 AD.
- Popularity of Orthodox Hinduism: Due to the works of Kumarila Bhatt and Adi Shankara.
- Invasions by the Huns and later by the Islamic armies.

India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya. Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fiber glass and built by sculptors from Kolkata.

UNESCO Heritage Sites related to Buddhism:

- Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar
- Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, MP
- Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, Bihar
- Ajanta Caves Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Some Important Facts

- Buddha's Horse: **Kanthaka** & Buddha's Charioteer: **Channa**
- 5 wandering ascetics: **Assaji, Mahanama, Vappa, Bhaddiya and Kondanna.**
- **Mara** (Lord of illusions): Tried to distract Buddha during enlightenment.
- Niranjana river (Falgu): Buddha attained Nirvana after **49 Days of Meditation** on this river bank.
- **Buddha's Disciples:** Kaundinya, Upali, Rahula, Punna, Mahakaccana, Subhoti, Mahamoggallana, Mahakasyapa, Ananda, Sariputta and Anuruddha.
- Royal Patrons of Buddhism: **Ajatsatru, Asoka, Milinda, Kaniska, Harsha.**
- Buddha visited **Sravasti, Varanasi, Rajgir, Vaishali and Kausambi**; but never been to Avanti or Taxila.
- Important contemporary rulers of Buddha were - **Bimbisara (Magadha), Prasenajita (Kosala), Pradyota (Avanti), and Pukkusati (Gandhara).**

Similarities between Buddhism and Jainism

- Both represent the **Shramana tradition** that rose against vedic religions.
- Both the religions admitted disciples from all castes and genders.
- Both had major adherents from the merchant class.
- Ahimsa is the prominent principle of both the religions
- Both taught in the language of the common people i.e. Prakrit
- Both the religions were opposed to animal sacrifices .
- Both the religions stressed on right conduct and right knowledge .
- Both Gautama Buddha and Mahavira belonged to Kshatriya families and not to priestly class.

Differences in the philosophy of Buddhism and Jainism

Aspects	Jainism	Buddhism
Founder	Founded by Lord Mahavira (Vardhamana)	Founded by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)
Ultimate Goal	Liberation from samsara (moksha)	Nirvana (cessation of suffering)
Path to Liberation	Pursuit of right faith, knowledge, and conduct (triratna)	Noble Eightfold Path (ethical and mental development)
Asceticism	High degree of asceticism; monks and nuns observe strict vows	Asceticism is practiced, but less rigorously; monks and nuns follow precepts
Cosmic Principles	Belief in Jiva (soul) and Ajiva (non-soul)	No concept of a permanent soul; Anatta (anatman) doctrine
Worship	Worship of Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers) and idols	Primarily focused on the Buddha and occasionally Bodhisattvas
Scriptures	Agamas and Siddhantas	Tripitaka (Pali Canon) and Mahayana Sutras
Religious Symbols	Swastika, Om, Jain flag	Dharma wheel, Bodhi tree, Buddha images
Major Sects	Divided into Digambara and Shvetambara sects	Various schools, including Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana
Spread	Concentrated in India, with smaller communities in other countries	Spread to various parts of Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia

Other Heterodox Sects

Sect	Founder	Belief
Ajivikas	Gosala maskariputra	Niyati is the centre concept in Ajivika philosophy
Lokayata	Brihaspati or Charvaka	Materialistic (Loka-Physical world/Materialistic world) view to achieve Moksha (Salvation). Propounded theory of 'eat, drink and make merry.'
Uchchedevada	Ajta Kesakambalin	Associated with a materialistic; rejected the idea of rebirth
Niyativada	Nanda Vaachcha	The central concept is niyati, which refers to the cosmic order or fate that governs all existence
Akriyavada	Prakudha Kasyapa	Rejects the significance of rituals, ceremonies, and religious practices, as well as the concept of karma.

Q.) With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts:

1. Nettipakarana
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Avadanashataka
4. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana

Which of the above are Jaina texts?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (B)

Q.) With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. The Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of the Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: (B)

Q.) Consider the following:

1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Treading the path of Bodhisattvas
3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the features/ features of Mahayana Buddhism?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (D)

Q.) 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

Answer: (B)

Q.) Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of Buddha?

1. Avanti
2. Gandhara
3. Kosala
4. Magadha

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1,3 and 4
- (d) 3 and 4 only

Answer: (D)

Q.) Who among the following was **not** a contemporary of the other three?

- (a) Bimbisara
- (b) Gautama Buddha
- (c) Milinda
- (d) Prasenjit

Answer: (C)

Q. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs:

Historical person Known as

1. Aryadeva Jaina scholar
2. Dignaga Buddhist scholar
3. Nathamuni Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched ?

- (a) None of the pairs
- (b) Only one pair
- (c) Only two pairs
- (d) All three pairs

Answer: (c)

