

Buddhism

1. Introduction:

end of Vedic age → birth of various non-vedic religious cults → most prominent were Buddhism and Jainism.

2. Reasons for their emergence: dominance of Brahmins + Vaishyas subjugation despite wealth + social inequality due to discovery of Iron + war and conflict as virtue as per Hinduism + Non-Violence preached by Buddhism and Jainism + Use of vernacular language + equality of women and Shudras + Patronage of Kings.

3. Shraman Tradition: Seeker + cult of **wandering Monks + Mendicancy + asceticism + anti-Vedic cult +**

Reasons for its emergence: Vedic religion became very **centralized and ritualistic + to find true meaning of life and search of God +** gave rise to Jainism, Buddhism, Yoga, Ajivikas, Ajnanas, and Carvakas + birth of concepts such as nirvāṇa, samsara, and mokṣha + development of **yogic** practices.

Shraman Belief: Affirmation of Karma and rebirth, Samsara and transmigration of Soul + **extreme asceticism + Rejection of the caste system + attainment of moksa through Ahimsa, renunciation and austerities + Denial of the efficacy of sacrifices and rituals.**

4. Buddhism: Gautam Buddha founded Buddhism and is known as Supreme Buddha+ He was born in Lumbini, a little principality of Kapilvastu in modern day Nepal + belonged to Sakya Clan + Also called Sakyamuni.

5. Life History: left home at age of 29 + adopted extreme penance initially + later adopted middle path + attained enlightenment under peepal tree in Bodhgaya + first sermon in the village of Sarnath (Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana (turning of the wheel of law) + died at the age of 80 in 483 BCE at a place called Kushinagara (Mahaparinibban)

Symbols of 5 great events of Buddha's Life:

1. Buddha's Birth: Lotus & Bull.
2. The Great Departure (Mahabhinishkramana): Horse.

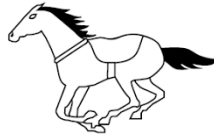


3. Enlightenment (Nirvana): Bodhi Tree.

4. First Sermon (Dhammachakraparivartan): Wheel.



5. Death (Parinirvana): Stupa.



#7. Teachings of Buddha: According to Buddhism – existence of a being is like a wheel of causes and effects + Ignorance gives rise to desire; desire to karma; and karma leads to the impulse to be born again and again to satisfy desire which is the source of suffering + If suffering is to be destroyed : Primary cause – ignorance must be destroyed + Can be achieved by the realization that the world is impermanent + Buddha discarded Vedic Religions an Vedas + Soul does not exist + Believed in concept of Karma + Believed in Rebirth + Propagated Ahimsa + Chief objective of Buddhism is attainment of **Nirvana** + According to Buddha, **God is not creator of Universe** + Did not believe in transmigration of soul + According to Buddha **soul dies with death of person**+ world is **transient** (anicca) and **soulless** (anatta) + **sorrow (dukkha) is intrinsic to human existence** + **Agnostic religion** + **path of moderation to achieve Nirvana.**

#8. Buddhist Literature:

None of the Buddha’s speeches were written down during his lifetime.

Tripitaka: Tripitaka or Three Baskets is a traditional term used for various Buddhist scriptures.

It is known as Pali Canon in English.

The three Pitakas are:

1. **Vinaya Pitaka** included **rules and regulations** for those who joined the sangha or monastic order.
2. the Buddha’s **teachings** were included in the **Sutta Pitaka.**
3. **Abhidhamma Pitaka** dealt with philosophical matters.
 - As Buddhism travelled to new regions such as **Sri Lanka**, other texts such as the **Dipavamsa** (literally, the chronicle of the island) and **Mahavamsa** (the great chronicle) were written, containing regional histories of Buddhism.
 - Jatakas → folklore literature comprising of short stories about life of Buddha.
 - Buddha charita written by Ashwaghosa (Court of Kanishka)
 - Some of the oldest texts are in **Pali**, while **later compositions are in Sanskrit.**

- When Buddhism spread to East Asia, pilgrims such as **Fa Xian** and **Xuan Zang** travelled all the way from China to India in search of texts.

#9. Buddhist Sangha: body of disciples of the Buddha + lived on alms, they were known as bhikkhus + initially only men were allowed later women were also admitted called ‘Theris’

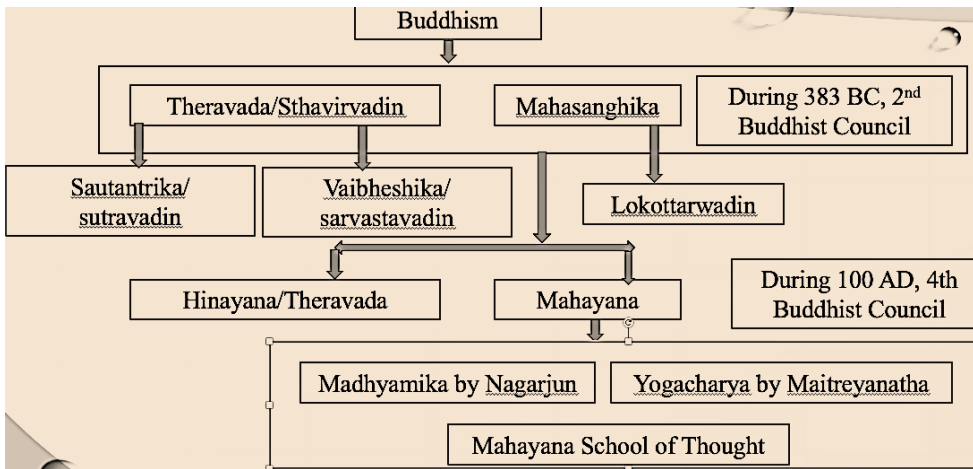
#11. Buddhist Councils:

Buddhist councils were the congregation of Buddhist scholars to discuss theological aspects of religion.

4 important Buddhist councils were held in different eras:

Buddhist Council:	Place	year	Patron	President	outcome
1 st Buddhist council	Rajgir	486 BC	Ajatshatru	Mahakassapa	The First Buddhist Council collected together and arranged the Buddhist Scriptures known as the Pali Tipitaka.
2 nd Buddhist council	Vaishali	383 BC	Kalashoka	Sabakmani	The split of the Buddhist order into Sthaviravadinis (Theravada) and Mahasanghikas. The split was over small points of monastic discipline.
3 rd Buddhist council	Patliputra	250 BC	Ashoka	Mogaliputta Tissa (Upagupta).	Codification of Abhidhamma Pitaka,
4 th Buddhist Council	Kashmir	72 AD	Kanishka	Vasumitra	division of Buddhism into Mahayana & Hinayana sects

#12. Sects of Buddhism



#13. **Hinayana:** orthodox school + individual salvation + Don't believe in Idol Worship + Asoka Patronized Hinayana + used Pali + dominant form of religion in Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Burma. + Also called Sthaviravadinis(Theravada)

#14. **Mahayana:** prominent in North Asia, including China, Mongolia, Tibet, Korea, and Japan + believes in Idol Worship + Buddha as God + universal liberation of all + Bodhisattvas + Kanishka patronised Mahayanism later Harsha supported it.

#15. **Arhat and Bodhisattvas:**

Arhat: perfect person + Hinayana Buddhism + has achieved nirvana + will not be born again.

Bodhisattvas: perfect human on the path of attaining Buddhahood + has deliberately delayed own salvation to assist others + follow meritorious acts called 'Parmitas'

#16. **Chief Philosophical Schools of Mahayana:**

Chief philosophical schools –

1. Madhyamika.
2. Yogachara.

1) **Madhyamika (Nagarjuna):**

midway between uncompromising realism of Hinayanism and idealism of Yogacharya

2) **Yogacharya – Maitreyanatha:**

Rejected the realism of Hinayanism and maintained absolute idealism

Hinayana Buddhism	Mahayana Buddhism
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considered Lesser Vehicle. (Inferior) 2. Orthodox School. 3. Did not believe in idol worship but worshipped symbols. 4. For them Buddha was Teacher. 5. Individual Liberation. 6. Used Pali as language of Communication. 7. Patronized by Ashoka. 8. Liberation through Meditation. 9. Srilanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar. 10. Did not believe in concept of Bodhisattva. 11. Salvation by deeds. 12. Sects are Vaibhashika and Sautantrika. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considered higher Vehicle. (Superior) 2. Moderate school. 3. Idol Worshipper. 4. Buddha was God. 5. Universal Liberation of all. 6. Used Sanskrit. 7. By Kanishka and Harsha. 8. Liberation through magical Mantras. 9. China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia. 10. Believed in Bodhisattva Concept. 11. Salvation by faith. 12. Madhyamika and Yogacharya.

#17. Vajrayana Buddhism:

- The Vajrayana tradition of Buddhism spread to **China, Mongolia, and Tibet.**
- Tantric Buddhism that developed in India and neighbouring countries, notably Tibet.
- Use of **Sanskrit** as medium.
- Use of various **ritual, magic, Tantra, Sacrifices.**
- More influence of **Hinduism over this sect. Especially of Shakti cult.**
- Also called **Mantrayana** (“Vehicle of the Mantra”), which refers to the use of the **mantra** to prevent the mind from going astray into the world of its fictions.

Key Principles of Vajryana Buddhism:

- Vajrayāna is usually translated as **Diamond Vehicle or Thunderbolt Vehicle, referring to the Vajra**, a mythical weapon which is also used as a ritual implement.
- Vajrayana Buddhism is a form of Buddhism probably **originated from the Mahayana tradition.** It is based on a complex philosophical and ritual system meant to provide a path towards enlightenment. Vajrayana is sometimes referred to as **Tibetan Buddhism.**

Spread of Vajrayana Buddhism:

- Vajrayana Buddhism developed in **India around the 6th or 7th century CE**. **Tantric ideas** began to be incorporated into the teachings of Buddhist universities in Northern India, gradually leading to the development of a new tradition.
- It spread from India into the Himalayas, reaching Tibet in 747 CE by the hand of an **Indian monk, Padmasambhava**, (also known as **Guru Rinpoche**).
- In Tibet, this faith grew and became the dominant form of Buddhism. It **also reached other parts of China, Mongolia and Japan**.

Belief and religious practices of Vajrayana: Female Buddhas known as **Dakinis** + venerate many **Bodhisattvas** + includes **tantric practices** + **mandalas** + **mantras** + **Prayer wheels**.

Buddhism: Bodhisattvas

- Bodhisattvas are those individuals who are in **Path to Become Buddha or attain salvation**.
- They have **deliberately delayed their own salvation in order to help universal Salvation of all**.
- that anyone who made the aspiration to is therefore a bodhisattva.
- Universe is filled with a broad range of **potential Buddhas**, from those just setting out on **the path of Buddhahood**.

Different Bodhisattvas:

Important 6 Bodhisattvas are as follows.

Avlokiteshwara + Maitreya + Vajrapani + Samantabhadra + Manjusri + Ksitigarbha.

Reason for the decline of Buddhism: factionalism + Materialism and corruption in Sangha + Introduction of women in Sangha + Persecution of Buddhist monks by Pushyamitra sunga + loss of patronage during Gupta age + reform in Hinduism + Islamic invasion and destruction of Buddhist monasteries + Revival of Hinduism by Alvar and Naynaar saints in 6th century AD and efforts of Shankaracharya.

13. Impact of Buddhism on India:

- Reformation of Hinduism.
- Values of equality, non-materialism, rationalism, Ahimsa, Karma etc were imbibed in Indian psyche.
- Impetus to local languages in mode of worship.

- Educational institutions like Nalanda, Vikramashila, etc. helped in spreading education and literacy in India.
- Spread of Indian Culture in various parts of the world.
- Promotion of Art and architecture.
- Gender empowerment as Buddhism allowed Women to become Monks.

Jainism:

Jain Tirthankars: Total 24 Jaina Tirthankar + JinA/Jaina= conqueror + First was Rishabh/Adinath+ 24th was Mahavira and he is represented with a symbol of Lion + **tirthankaras** – literally, those who guide men and women across the river of existence + Jainism is a very ancient religion. As per some traditions, it is as old as the Vedic religion + The Jain tradition has a succession of great teachers or **Tirthankaras** + **Parshwanath who was 23rd tirthankar** was born in **Varanasi and his symbol is Serpant** + Bahubali also called Gomteshwara was the Son of 1st tirthankara Rishabhath.

14. About Mahavira: Considered the **last Tirthankara** + He was born at **Kundagrama near Vaisali** + At the age of 30, Vardhaman renounced his home and became a wandering ascetic + He also observed **self-mortification using extreme penance** + After 13 years of penance, he attained the highest spiritual knowledge called **Kevala Jnan** + He was also called **Kevlin**: the one who have attained **absolute knowledge**.

15. Basic Philosophy of Jainism:

- The most important idea in Jainism is that the entire world is animated: **even stones, rocks and water have life**.
- **Non-injury** to living beings, especially to humans, animals, plants and insects, is central to Jaina philosophy.
- In fact the principle of **ahimsa**, emphasised within Jainism, has left its mark on Indian thinking as a whole.
- **Gandhiji** concept of Ahimsa is derived from Jaina Philosophy.
- According to Jaina teachings, the **cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through karma**.
- **Asceticism** and **penance** are required to free oneself from the cycle of karma.
- This can be achieved only by **renouncing** the world; therefore, **monastic** existence is a **necessary condition of salvation**.
- **Jains do not believe in a God** or gods in the way that many other religions do, but they do believe in divine (or at least perfect) beings who are worthy of devotion.

- Mahavira **rejected Vedic principles**.
- He believed in **Karma and transmigration of the soul**. The body dies but soul does not.
- One will be punished or rewarded as per one's karma.
- Advocated a life of **austerity and non-violence**.
- Stressed on **equality** but **did not reject the caste system** unlike Buddhism. Mahavir said birth of a person in a particular Varna is shaped by his Karma in previous life. Good Karma= higher Varna and bad Karma= lower Varna
- Asceticism was taken to a great length. **Starvation, nudity and self-mortification** were expounded.
- Salvation through **extreme Penance**.
- Anektawad and Syatwad.
- Believed in law of Karma.

Concept of Moksha in Jainism:

- When individual attain supreme knowledge.
- Freed from all karma.
- When a soul is freed from karmas, it becomes free and attains divine consciousness, experiencing infinite knowledge, perception, power, and bliss.
- Moksha is attained through right faith, right knowledge and right conduct (Tri-ratna).

5 sacred Vows of Jainism:

The five basic principles or vows (vrats) of Jainism are:

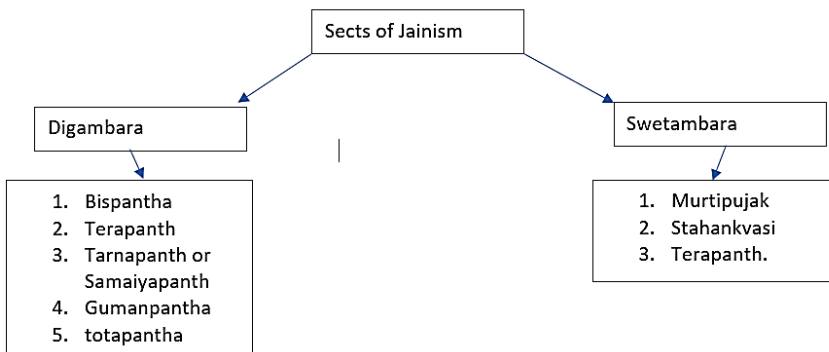
1. **Non-violence (Ahimsa):** Ahimsa is the cardinal principle of Jainism. This principle stands for universal love and compassion for all living-beings. This vow, therefore, requires one not to injure, oppress, enslave, insult, torture or kill any living-being.
2. **Truth (Satya):** This vow requires that one should not only refrain from falsehood, but speak the truth which is pleasant and not harmful to others. It is better to remain silent if the truth is likely to cause pain
3. **Non-stealing (Achaurya or Asteya):** This vow basically requires that one should be honest in all dealings, not cheat or employ immoral methods to grab/acquire the property/wealth of others.
4. **Celibacy/Chastity (Brahmacharya):** This vow requires that one should not have physical relationship with anyone other than one's spouse.
5. **Non-attachment/Non-possession (Aparigrah):** This vow requires a person to set limit to the worldly wealth that he or she reasonably

needs. Any excess over this limit should be 'given back' to the society.

16. Three Jewels or Triratna i.e.

1. Right Faith (Samyaktarshana)
2. Right Knowledge (Samyaktjnana)
3. Right Action (Samyakcharita)

17. Sects of Jainism



18. Difference between Svetambara and Digambara:

1) Liberation of Woman:

This is one of the main differences between Svetambara and Digambara. Digambara believes that women cannot achieve nirvana or liberation directly. They first have to reborn as a man for this. They give two reasons for this:

Digambara monks are completely naked. This is not possible for women as they have to possess clothes. It is impractical for women in this society to live naked. Due to this they cannot lead the life of a true monk and hence cannot achieve liberation.

2) Dress:

Digambara believes that in order to achieve *nirvana* or liberation, one must renounce everything including clothes. Therefore, Digambara monks are completely naked.

Svetambara, on the contrary, believes that practice of nudity is not essential to attain liberation. Therefore, they wear white clothes.

However, nuns in both the sects wear white clothes.

1. Svetambara idols of Tirthankars are decorated with jewels, wearing loincloth with prominent staring eyes. However, Digambara idols are naked, undecorated with downcast eyes.

2. Svetambara allow possession of Material property, however Digambara sect is completely against it.

3) With respect to Kevlaya Gyan: Kevalya Gyaan:

- Jain doctrine is established upon undying, universal truths.
- Kevalya Gyana is absolute knowledge and is the highest form of knowledge that a soul can attain.
- A person who has attained Kevala Gyana is called a Kevalin.
- To get a status of a Jina, attaining Kevalagyana is required first. **Digambara** believes that once a monk attains omniscience (*Kevala Jnana*), then he does not need to food to survive. **Svetambara** Jains have a different opinion on this. They consider that until *Kevali* (or omniscient), male or female has not abandoned the body, they need food for the nourishment of the body.

19. Jaina Literature:

- Jain Literature is called Jain Agamas.
- They are canonical texts of Jainism based on Mahavira's teachings.
- There are in all 45 texts.

20.

Patrons of Jainism:

- Asoka's Grandson Samprati.
- King Kharvela of Orissa: set up jain rock cut cave.
- Gangs, Kadambas, Chalukyas, Rastrakutas had patronized Jainism.
- King Amoghavarsha of Rastrakuta dynasty became a Jain Monk.
- The Chalukyan period rock cut caves at badami and aihole have the figures of Jain Tirthankaras.
- The Dilwara Jain temples at Mount Abu were built by Chalukya Dynasty kings between 11 to 13th.

21. Point to note:

- **Chandragupta Maurya** had abdicated his throne towards the end of his life and became an **ascetic under the Jain saint Bhadrabahu**.
- He **migrated to Karnataka** and spent his ending days at sallekhana at Shravanabelagola. **Bhadrabahu Cave is the place where he is said to have died by fasting**.
- There are five **Jain caves at Ellora**, which belong to the ninth and tenth centuries and they all belong to the **Digambara** sect.
- **Tiger cave at Udayagiri, and Sittannavasala Cave at Padukottai are Jain caves only**.

Propagation of Jain religion:

The major event in Jainism was the gradual extension of Jainism from its homelands in eastern India into the south, and then into western India, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Pataliputra was the seat during Mauryan age but shifted to Gujarat in Gupta period. In the Gupta period Gujarat seems to have become the most important center of Jainism in India. The present Angas are said to re-compiled in a council of monks of Svetambaras sect held in Vallabhi (Gujarat) during mid- 5th century AD.

Why Buddhism became more popular than Jainism?

[1] role of Ashoka and Kanishka [2] kings adopting Jainism became ascetic not rulers [3] role of Buddhist sangha and missionary zeal [4] orthodoxy+ inflexibility of Jainism → impractical [5] Jain monks more focus towards individual liberation [6] Jainism more inward in approach [7] taboo of travel on water in Jainism [8] Buddhism tolerant attitude towards food habits [9] Jainism only focus on Moksha while Buddhism focus was end of Dukkha [10] role of foreign travellers in spreading Buddhism [11] role of centres of learning [12] Art and Architecture of Buddhism.