

## **For CMAT Exam**

### **BUDDHISM & JAINISM**

#### **Buddhism**

- Originated in the Indian subcontinent and spread to large parts of South-east Asia
- World's fourth largest religion after Christianity, Islam and Hinduism
- In India, Buddhists make up 0.7% of India's population, majority being in Maharashtra
- Early life of Buddha:
  - Born at Lumbini in 563 BC as Siddharta Gautam, to Queen Maya & King Suddhodana of Sakyan kingdom, under Kshatriya clan
  - Born on Baisakhi Purnima
  - Married Princess Yashodhara and had a son named Rahul
  - Age 29, he renounced the worldly life on his horse Kanthaka along with charioteer Channa, to find the truth of life
  - Age 35, he attained enlightenment (Nirvana) under a pipal tree, in Gaya
  - First sermon- Deer Park in Sarnath near Varanasi. This event was called Dharma-chakra-pravartana (Turning the Wheel of Law)
- Three jewels (triratna) embraced under Buddhism are:
  - Buddha- The Enlightened One
  - Dhamma- Teachings of Buddha (doctrine)
  - Sangha- The Monastic Order
- Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at Kusinagar in UP, at the age of 80
- Contemporaries- King Bimbisara, and Ajatasatru of Haryanka dynasty
- Texts- Tathagata and Sakyamuni
- After passing of Buddha, the original Sangha split into two early schools:
  - Sthavira Nikaya
  - Mahasamghika
  - Later schools- Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana

## Concepts & Philosophy under Buddhism

- Four noble truths:
  - The truth of suffering (dukkha)
  - The truth of the origin of the suffering (samudaya)
  - The truth of the cessation of suffering (nirodha)
  - The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering (marga)
- Peace and freedom from the cycle of birth and rebirth can be attained by following the eightfold path:
  - Right speech
  - Right action
  - Right livelihood
  - Right effort
  - Right mindfulness
  - Right meditation
  - Right thoughts
  - Right understanding
- According to Buddha, the middle path or Madhyam marg describes the character of this eightfold path that leads to the path of liberation
- Buddhism rejects the authenticity of the Vedas
- Four Buddhist Councils

Buddhist Council	Place and Year	Patronage by, and Chairman of the Council	Details
First Buddhist Council	Rajgir, 483 BC	King Ajatasatru Mahakasyapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vinay Pitaka- rules of Buddhist order</li><li>• Sutta Pitaka- collection of Buddha's sermons</li></ul>
Second Buddhist Council	Vaishali, 383 BC	King Kalasoka Sabakami	Mainly due to 10 disputed points under Vinay Pitaka
Third Buddhist Council	Pataliputra, 250 BC	King Ashoka Mogaliputta-Tissa	Compilation of Abhidhamma Pitaka
Fourth Buddhist Council	Kashmir, 72 AD	King Kanishka Vasumitra	Division of Buddhism into- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hinayana</li><li>• Mahayana</li></ul>

- Four major schools developed so far under Buddhism:
  - Hinayana Buddhism (declined in the later periods)

- Mahayana Buddhism- practice of Bodhicitta, aspires for Buddhahood rather than nirvana
- Thervada Buddhism- ultimate goal is cessation of the kleshas
- Vajrayana Buddhism

<b>Hinayana Buddhism</b>	<b>Mahayana Buddhism</b>
Means the lesser vehicle, more orthodox	Means the greater vehicle, more liberal and believes in the heavenliness of Buddha and Bodhisattvas (spiritual upliftment)
Did not believe in idol or image worship	Believe in idol or image worship
Try to attain individual salvation through self discipline & meditation	Believe in the Bodhisattva concept of salvation of all conscious individual. They believe in universal liberation from suffering of all beings. A Bodhisattva who has accomplished the goal is called a Samyaksambuddha
Language used was Pali. Sub-sects: Sthavirvada or Thervada	Predominantly used Sanskrit. Sub-sects: Vajrayana
Patronized by Emperor Ashoka	Came into being during the reign of Emperor Kanishka of Kushana dynasty
In its original form is almost non-existent	As per 2010 report, 53.2% of the Buddhist are followers of this sect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prominent texts- Lotus Sutra, Mahavamsa etc.</li> <li>● Another prominent school under Mahayana sect is Madhyamaka School- based on Sunyata doctrine.</li> <li>● Founder- Nagarjuna in the 2nd-3rd century AD</li> <li>● All things/ phenomena are empty of nature, substance or the essence</li> </ul>

## **Bodhisattva in Buddhism**

- One who has generated a spontaneous wish and a compassionate mind to attain Buddhahood for the benefit of all sentient beings
- Buddha, in his previous births, was thought to be a Bodhisattva as contemplated in the Jataka tales

- On the grounds to become a Buddha, a Bodhisattva proceeds through 10 grounds/ bhumis
- Prominent Bodhisattvas include:
  - Avalokitesvara/ Padmapani- described as holding lotus flower
  - Vajrapani- one of the three protective deities around Buddha (contemplated to manifest all powers)
  - Manjusri- one of the three protective deities around Buddha (associated with the wisdom of Buddha)
  - Samantabhadra- practice & meditation. Together with Buddha & Manjusri, they form the Shakyamuni treaty
  - Ksitigarbha- vowed to achieve Buddhahood only when hell is completely empty
  - Maitreya- future Buddha. The Laughing Buddha is said to be an incarnation
  - Akasagarbha- element of space
  - Tara- associated with Vajrayana Buddhism
  - Vasudhara- associated with wealth, property; popular in Nepal
  - Skanda- guardian of viharas
  - Sitatapatra- She is contemplated as the protector against supernatural dangers

<b>Thervada Buddhism</b>	<b>Vajrayana Buddhism (Tantric Buddhism)</b>
School of elder monks- uses Buddha's teachings in the Pali canon as its doctrinal one	Believed to be influenced by Hinduism- involved Brahmanical rituals with Buddhist philosophy
Ultimate goal is cessation of kleshas (anxiety, fear, anger, jealousy, desire etc.), and attainment of Nirvana	Main deity- Tara (a lady)
Samatha & Vipassana form integral parts of the eightfold path	Believes in tantras, mantras & yantras
Believes in the concept of vibhajjavada- teaching of analysis	Liberation to be attained by skilful methods of tantric ritual
They discuss seven stages of purification (satta-visuddhi) to attain salvation	Mantra is an easy path to achieve Buddhahood
Language- Pali	-
Successor of Hinayana School	Based on Mahayana philosophy
Constitutes 35.8% Buddhists in the world	Constitute 5.7% of Buddhists worldwide
	Prominent disciples- Sariputta, Mahamoggallana, Ananda, Mahakasyapa, Raul, Upali, Jivaka etc.

### Other prominent personalities associated with Buddha:

- Nagasena: answered questions about Buddhism posed by Menander I (Milinda), the conversation is recorded in Milinda-panho
- Nagarjuna: founder of Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism
- Vasubandhu: proponent of Mahayana school from Gandhara, and wrote from perspectives of the Sarvastivada & Sautantrika schools
- Bodhidharma: transmitted Buddhism to China
- Buddhaghosa: Theravada Buddhist commentator, famous work- Visuddhimagga
- Padamasambhava: contemplated as Second Buddha across Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan & Indian Himalayan States
- Atisa: Buddhist Bengali religious leader
- Dalai Lama: modern spiritual leaders of Yellow Hat School of Tibetan Buddhism
- **NOTE:** Navayana Buddhism is considered to be a new branch of Buddhism propounded by Dr B R Ambedkar. It radically reinterprets Buddhism by revising the original teachings of Buddha to be about class struggle & social equality

### Jainism

- The word is derived from jina or jaina, which means the 'Conqueror'
- They believe that their religion is comprised of people who have managed to control & conquer their desires
- They believe that truth comes to the world in difficult & different times by a Tirthankara who shows the way
- Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara
- Jainism, like Buddhism, rejects the authority of the vedas
- However, it believes in the existence of soul/ atman
- Major jain pilgrimages in India:
  - Dilwara temple, Mt Abu, Rajasthan
  - Palitana temples, Gujarat
  - Girnar, Gujarat
  - Shikharji, Jharkhand
  - Shravanbelagola, KNT
- Vardhamana Mahavira:
  - King Vardhamana was born at Kundalgram in Vaishali, to King Siddharta & Queen Trishala, who ruled over the Jnatrika clan
  - Age 30- he adopted the life of an ascetic
  - On the 10th day of Vaishakha, he reached the town of Pava near Patna where he found the truth of life- Kaivalya
  - Other titles- Mahavira, Jitendriya, Nirgrantha

### Jain teachings & philosophy

- Mahavira has taught strict asceticism & moral cultivation
- The jains are morally bound by their religion to live in such a way that no being is harmed
- Anekantavada: ultimate truth & reality is complex and has multiple-aspects. There is no single, specific statement that can describe the absolute truth
- They believe that through Three Jewels/ Triratna- right belief, knowledge & conduct, one can get rid of bad karma
- They follow 5 constraints:
  - Ahimsa/ non-violence
  - Satya/ truth
  - Asteya/ non-stealing
  - Aparigraha/ non-acquisition
  - Brahmacharya/ chaste living
- Sectarian lists the following 8 auspicious symbols (ashtamangala) under the Svetambara tradition of Jainism

Symbol	Meaning/ Significance
Swastika	Peace & well being of all humans
Nandavarta	Large swastika with 9 end points
Bhadrasana	Throne said to be sanctified by Jaina's feet
Shrivatsa	Signifies the pure soul of Tirthankara
Darpana	Mirror reflecting inner self
Minayugala	Couple of fish signifying conquest over sexual desires
Vardhamanaka	Increase in wealth, due & merit
Kalasha	Pot filled with pure water signifying water

## Two major schools under Jainism

Digambara school	Svetambara school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original community- Mula Sangh</li> <li>• Modern communities-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Terapanthi- worship idols, flowers replaced by dry substitutes</li> <li>◦ Taranpanthi</li> <li>◦ Bispanthi- worship tirthankaras, as well as</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sthanakavasi- believe in praying to saints rather than to idols; saints wear muhapatti</li> <li>• Murtipujaka- keep idols of tirthankaras at their temples; saints do not wear muhapatti</li> <li>• Terapanthi- worship saints rather than idols; saints wear a muhapatti</li> </ul>

Yakshas and Yakshinis, by offering flowers	
Do not wear clothes	Can have simple white clothing, a begging bowl, a brush to remove insects
Female monks wear unstitched plain white sarees, and are called Aryikas	-
Follow all 5 constraints	Follow 4 constraints (excluding Brahmacharya)
Earliest record- Prakrit Suttapahuda of Kundakunda	Indicated 5 eternal substances in existence- soul, matter, space, motion, and rest; unlike digambaras, who added 6th- time
Believe that women cannot be tirthankaras	Tirthankaras can be men/ women
Monasticism rules are very rigid	
Bhadrabahu was a great exponent	Sthulabhadra was a great exponent

### Popular Practices Under Jainism

- Sallekhana- voluntary fasting unto death, and it is not considered as suicide. In 2015, Rajasthan HC banned the practice, and the decision was stayed by the Supreme Court
- Pratikraman- Jains repent for their sins during their daily life, and remind themselves not to repeat them. Five types- Devasi, Rai, Pakhi, Chaumasi, Samvatsari