Important Facts about Buddhism & Jainism Pdf Download

Buddhism and Jainism are two branches of the Samana tradition that still exist today. Buddhism and Jainism originated from the prevailing pessimism of the time and both the creeds had some common points. Jainism and Buddhism had largest number of followers among the mercantile class. Both Mahavira and Buddha preached their doctrines in the language of the people.

Some points in detail about Buddhism

• The Buddha also known as Sakyamuni or Tathagata.
• Born in 563 BC on the Vaishakha Poornima Day at Lumbini (near Kapilavastu) in Nepal.
• His father Suddhodana was the Saka ruler.
• His mother (Mahamaya, of Kosala dynasty) died after 7 days of his birth. Brought up by stepmother Gautami.
• Married at 16 to Yoshodhara. Enjoyed the married life for 13 years and had a son named Rahula.
• After seeing an old man, a sick man, a corpse and an ascetic, he decided to become a wanderer.
• Left his palace at 29 in search of truth (also called ‘Mahabhinishkramana’ or The Great Renunciation) and wandered for 6 years.
• Attained ‘Enlightenment’ at 35 at Gaya in Magadha (Bihar) under the Pipal tree.
• Delivered the first sermon at Sarnath where his five disciples had settled. His first sermon is called ‘Dharmachakra-pracartan’ or ‘Turning of the Wheel of Law’
• Attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar (identical with village Kasia in Deoria district of UP) in 483 BC at the age of 80 in the Malla republic.
Buddhist Councils

• First Council: At Rajgriha, in 483 BC under the Chairmanship of Meakassapa (king was Ajatshatru). Divided the teachings of Buddha into two Pitakas—Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka.
• Second Council: At Vaishali, in 383 BC under Sabakami (King was Kalasoka). Followers divided into Sthaviramadins and Mahasanghikas.
• Third Council: At Pataliputra, in 250 BC under Mogaliputta Tissa (King was Ashoka). In this, the third part of the Tripitaka was coded in the Pali language.
• Fourth Council: At Kashmir (Kundalvan), in 72 AD under Vasumitra (King was Kanishka, Vice-Chairman was Ashwaghotha). Divided Buddhism into Mahayana and Hinayana sects.

Buddhist Literature

• Buddhist Literature: In Pali language.
• Vinaya Pitaka: Rules of discipline in the Buddhist monasteries.
• Sutta Pitaka: Largest, contains collection of Buddha’s sermons.
• Abhidhamma Pitaka: Explanation of the philosophical principles of the Buddhist religion

Jainism – Important facts About Jainism

• Jainism founded by Rishabh.
• There were 24 Tirthankaras (Prophets or Gurus), all Kshatriyas. First was Rishabh Nath (Emblem: Bull).
• The 23rd Tirthankar Parshwanath (Emblem: Snake) was the son of King Ashvasena of Banaras.
• The 24th and the last Tirthankar was Vardhman Mahavira (Emblem: Lion). He was born in Kundagram (Distt Muzaffarpur, Bihar) in 599 BC.
• His father Siddhartha was the head of Jnatrika clan.
• His mother was Trishla, sister of Lichchavi Prince Chetak of Vaishali.
Mahavira was related to Bimbisara. Married to Yashoda, had a daughter named Priyadarsena, whose husband Jamali became his first disciple. 

At 30, after the death of his parents, he became an ascetic.

In the 13th year of his asceticism (on the 10th of Vaishakha), outside the town of Jrimbhikgrama, he attained supreme knowledge (kaivalya).

From now on he was called Jaina or Jitendriya and Mahavira, and his followers were named Jains. He also got the title of Arihant, i.e., worthy.

At the age of 72, he attained death at Pava, near Patna, in 527 BC.

Mahavira preached almost the same message as Parshvanath and added one more, Brahmacarya (celibacy) to it.