

# Jainism | Important PYQ Topics

Team Shashank Sajwan

## INTRODUCTION

- Derived from **jina or jaina** which means the 'Conqueror'.
- Based on the teachings of the **24 Tirthankaras** (first Tirthankara was **Rishabhanath or Rishabhadev**), the last of whom was **Mahavira**.
- **Five doctrines:**
  - **Ahimsa:** Non-injury to a living being
  - **Satya:** Do not speak a lie
  - **Asteya:** Do not steal
  - **Aparigraha:** Do not acquire property
  - **Brahmacharya:** Observe continence
- **Three jewels/triratna:**
  - **Right Faith:** Samyakdarshana
  - **Right Knowledge:** Samyakjnana
  - **Right Action:** Samyakcharita
- **Sects:**
  - **Swetambaras:** White-clad; Northerners
  - **Digambaras:** Sky-clad (naked); Southerners
- **Councils:**
  - **First Council:**
    - **Pataliputra** in the 3rd century BC, headed by **Sthulabahu**.
  - **Second Council:**
    - **Vallabhi in Gujarat** in 512 AD **12 Angas and Upangas** were compiled.

## VARDHAMAN MAHAVIRA

- **Birth:** Kundagrama near Vaishali; **Gnatrika Clan**. Buddha & Mahavira were contemporaries. Symbol: **lion**.
- Attained **Kaivalya**, at the age of 42 under Sal tree. **Mahavir, Jina Jitendriya** (one who conquered his senses), **Nigrantha** (free from all bonds).
- **First sermon:** Pava.
- **Died** at Pava near Rajagriha at the age of 72.
- **Teachings:**
  - Rejected authority of the Vedas & Vedic rituals.
  - Did not believe in the existence of God.
  - Believed in Karma & Transmission of Soul.
  - Emphasised the equality but did not condemn the varna system.

- Advocated a life of austerity and non-violence.

## ARCHITECTURE

- **Layana/Gumphas (Caves):**
  - Ellora Caves (Cave No. 30-35)- Maharashtra etc.
- **Statues:**
  - Gomateshwara/Bahubali Statue- Shravanabelagola, Karnataka etc.
- **Jinalaya (Temple)**
  - Dilwara Temple- Mount Abu, Rajasthan etc.

## LITERATURE

- **Agam Literature:** Lord Mahavir's preaching
  - **Ang-agama:** These texts contain the **direct preaching of Lord Mahavir** (compiled by **Ganadharas**).
  - **Ang-bahya-agams** (outside of Ang-agams): These texts are **expansions of Ang-agams** (compiled by **Shrutakevalin**).
- **Non-agam Literature:** This consists of commentary & explanation of Agam literature.

## PYQ

Q. With reference to the religious practices in India, the “Sthanakvasi” sect belongs to

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism**
- c) Vaishnavism
- d) Shaivism

Q. Discuss the reasons for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism in India and their impact. (150 words)

Q. Explain how the basic philosophy of Jainism can help to tackle various social and environmental problems. (150 words)