

1. Founder:

- Jainism was founded by Lord Mahavira, also known as Vardhamana Mahavira or simply Mahavira.
- He was born in the 6th century BCE in present-day Bihar, India.

2. Core Beliefs:

- Jainism is characterized by its core principles, often referred to as the "Three Jewels" or "Ratnatraya":
 - Right Belief (Samyak Darshana): Acceptance of the truth of Jainism's teachings.
 - Right Knowledge (Samyak Jnana): Acquiring knowledge of the self and the universe.
 - Right Conduct (Samyak Charitra): Living a morally upright and non-violent life.

3. Non-Violence (Ahimsa):

- Ahimsa, or non-violence, is the most fundamental principle of Jainism.
- Jains are committed to avoiding harm to all living beings, including animals, insects, and plants.
- Vegetarianism is a common practice among Jains.

4. Ascetic Lifestyle:

- Jain monks and nuns lead a highly ascetic life, renouncing worldly possessions and attachments.
- They wear simple white robes, pluck their hair, and practice extreme non-attachment.

5. Concept of Karma:

- Jainism teaches the concept of karma, which is the accumulation of moral and ethical consequences from one's actions.
- The goal is to reduce and ultimately eliminate karma through righteous conduct and spiritual practices.

6. Cycle of Rebirth:

- Jains believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara) until one achieves spiritual liberation (moksha).
- Moksha is attained by shedding all karma and achieving spiritual enlightenment.

7. Scriptures:

- The primary religious texts of Jainism are called the "Agamas" or "Sutras," which contain the teachings of Lord Mahavira.
- There are two major sects within Jainism, the Digambaras (sky-clad) and Svetambaras (white-clad), each with its own set of scriptures.

8. Worship and Rituals:

- Jains worship various Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers) and divine beings.
- Rituals include prayers, meditation, fasting, and visits to Jain temples and pilgrimage sites.

9. Contribution to Indian Culture:

- Jainism has made significant contributions to Indian culture, particularly in the fields of art, architecture, and literature.
- The construction of Jain temples with intricate carvings and the preservation of ancient manuscripts are notable examples.

10. Influence and Presence:

- Jainism has had a lasting influence on Indian philosophy, ethics, and religious thought.
- While it is a minority religion in India, Jain communities can be found in various parts of the country.

11. Prominent Figures: - Apart from Lord Mahavira, notable Jain figures include the first Tirthankara, Rishabhanatha, and prominent Jain scholars and monks.

