MAJOR RELIGION IN INDIA

TYPES OF RELIGIONS IN INDIA:

- Hinduism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Sikhism
- Judaism
- Zoroastrianism
- Baha’i

HINDUISM:

Founder: -

Place of origin: Indus valley, (near modern day Pakistan)

Religious book: Bhagavad gita

Place of worship: Temple or Mandir

Important Ideas:

Prominent themes in Hindu beliefs include:

- Dharma (ethics/duties),
- Samsāra (the continuing cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth),
- Karma (action, intent, and consequences),
- Moksha (liberation from samsara or liberation in this life), and
- the various Yogas (paths or practices).
CHRISTIANITY:

Founder: Jesus Christ

Place of origin: Roman province of Judea.

Religious book: Bible

Place of worship: Church

Important Ideas:

- The central tenet of Christianity is the belief in Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah (Christ). Christians believe that Jesus, as the Messiah, was anointed by God as savior of humanity and hold that Jesus’ coming was the fulfillment of messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.

- The great biblical themes are about God, his revealed works of creation, provision, judgment, deliverance, his covenant, and his promises. The Bible sees what happens to mankind in the light of God's nature, righteousness, faithfulness, mercy, and love.

About Jesus:

- Born - 4 BC Kingdom of Judea, Roman Empire[5]
- Died - AD 30 / 33 (aged 33–36) Jerusalem, Judea, Roman Empire
- Cause of death - Crucifixion
- Parent(s) - Mary, Joseph

ISLAM:

Founder: Prophet Muhammad

Place of origin: Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Religious book: Quran

Place of worship: Mosque

Important Ideas:
• Belief in Allah as the one and only God.
• Belief in angels.
• Belief in the holy books.
• Belief in the Prophets (Messenger of God) e.g. Adam, Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Dawud (David), Isa (Jesus). ...
• Belief in the Day of Judgement.
• Belief in Predestination.

**About prophet Mohammad:**

Muhammad was an Arab religious, social, and political leader and the founder of Islam. According to Islamic doctrine, he was a prophet, sent to preach and confirm the monotheistic teachings of Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and other prophets.

**Born** - c. 570 (Mecca, Hejaz, Arabia)

**Died** - 8 June 632 (aged 61–62) Medina, Hejaz, Arabia

**Resting place** - Green Dome at al-Masjid an-Nabawi, Medina, Arabia

**Profession:**

583–609 CE as merchant

609–632 CE as religious leader

**Notable work** - Constitution of Medina

**Successor** - Succession to Muhammad

**Parent(s)**

Abdallah ibn Abd al-Muttalib (father)

Aminah bint Wahb (mother)

**BHUDDHISM:**

**Founder** : Siddhartha Gautama

**Place of origin**: India
Religious book: Tripitaka

Place of worship: Buddhist monastery

Important Ideas:

The Four Noble Truths comprise the essence of Buddha's teachings, though they leave much left unexplained. They are

- the truth of suffering,
- the truth of the cause of suffering,
- the truth of the end of suffering, and
- the truth of the path that leads to the end of suffering.

About Gaudhama Bhuddha:

- Born - c. 563 BCE or 480 BCE  Lumbini, Shakya Republic
- Died c. 483 BCE or 400 BCE (aged 80)  Kushinagar, Malla Republic
- Religion- Buddhism
- Spouse - Yasodharā
- Children - Rāhula
- Parents - Śuddhodana (father); Maya Devi (mother)
- Other names - Shakyamuni ("Sage of the Shakyas")

JAINISM:

Founder: Vardhamana Jnatiputra or Nataputta Mahavira

Place of origin: India

Religious book: Aagam

Place of worship: Derasar

Important Ideas:
The four main teachings of Jainism are

- non-attachment,
- non-violence,
- self-discipline and
- accepting that the truth has many aspects and sides.

**About Mahavera :**

- Mahavira also known as Vardhamana or Kevala was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.
- He was the spiritual successor of 23rd Tirthankara Parshvanatha.
- Mahavira was born in the early part of the 6th century BC into a royal Kshatriya family in Bihar, India.
- His mother's name was Trishala and father's name was Siddhartha.
- They were lay devotees of Parshvanatha.
- Mahavira abandoned all worldly possessions at the age of about 30 and left home in pursuit of spiritual awakening, becoming an ascetic.
- Mahavira practiced intense meditation and severe austerities for 12 and half years, after which he attained Kevala Gyan (omniscience).
- He preached for 30 years and attained Moksha (salvation) in the 6th century BC.

**SIKKISM**

**Founder :** Guru Nanak

**Place of origin:** Punjab, India

**Religious book :** Guru Granth Sahib
Place of worship:

Important Ideas:

- There is only one God.
- God is without form, or gender.
- Everyone has direct access to God.
- Everyone is equal before God.
- A good life is lived as part of a community, by living honestly and caring for others.
- Empty religious rituals and superstitions have no value.

About Guru Nanak:

- Born - 15 April 1469 Rāi Bhoi Kī Talvanaḍī, Delhi Sultanate (Present day Nankana Sahib, Punjab, Pakistan)
- Died - 22 September 1539 (aged 70) Kartarpur, Mughal Empire (Present day Pakistan)
- Resting place - Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartar Pur, Kartarpur, Pakistan
- Religion - Sikhism
- Spouse - Mata Sulakhani
- Children - Sri Chand, Lakhmi Das
- Parents - Mehta Kalu and Mata Tripta

JUDAISM:

Founder: Abraham

Place of origin: Israel

Religious book: Tanakh or the “hebrew bible.”

Place of worship: Synagogue

Important Ideas:
• The four central beliefs of Jewish religion are education, justice, obedience, and religion (or god).

About Abraham:

• Birth name - Abram
• Birthplace - Ur Kašdim, Mesopotamia
• Death place - Hebron, Canaan
• Resting place - Cave of Machpelah

Zoroastrianism:

Founder: Zoroaster
Place of origin: Persia (now Iran)
Religious book: Avesta
Place of worship: Ataskada (“house of fire”)

Important Ideas:

• Humata, Huxta, Huvarshta (Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds), the Threefold Path of Asha, is considered the core maxim of Zoroastrianism especially by modern practitioners.
• In Zoroastrianism, good transpires for those who do righteous deeds for its own sake, not for the search of reward. Those who do evil are said to be attacked and confused by the druj and are responsible for aligning themselves back to Asha by following this path.

Baha’i:

Founder: Baha'u'llah
Place of origin: Iran
Religious book: Kitáb-i-Aqdas
Place of worship: Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

Important Ideas: Some of the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith:

- The oneness of God.
- The essential unity of religion.
- The unity of mankind.
- Equality of men and women.
- Elimination of all forms of prejudice.
- World peace.
- Harmony of religion and science.
- Independent investigation of truth.

About Baha’u’llah:

- Baha’u’llah (12 November 1817 – 29 May 1892) was a Persian religious leader, and the founder of the Baha'i Faith, which advocates universal peace and unity among all races, nations, and religions.
- At the age of 27, Baha’u’llah became a follower of the Bab, a Persian merchant who began preaching that God would soon send a new prophet. The Bab and thousands of followers were executed by the Iranian authorities for their beliefs.
- Baha’u’llah faced exile from his native Iran, and in Baghdad in 1863 claimed to be the prophet the Bab foretold.
- Thus, Baha’is regard Bahá’u'lláh as a Manifestation of God. Bahá’u'lláh faced further imprisonment under Ottoman authorities, where he spent his final 24 years.