

Difference between Hinduism and Jainism is explained here in detail. Most important aspect of Jainism are Ahimsa (non-violence), Anekantavada (many-sidedness), Aparigraha (non-attachment) and Asceticism. Hinduism has been called the oldest religion in the world, many practitioners refer to it as "the eternal way". The differences between Hinduism vs Jainism given here can help in understanding the basics better, and know their comparisons and similarities thoroughly.



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The major differences between Hinduism and Jainism are:

Hinduism	Jainism
Hinduism believes the Universe was created by Brahma, the creator.	Jainism does not believe that the universe was created by one God Brahma, rather Jainism believes the Universe itself is eternal and powerful. Jainism believes it was never created as it is eternal.

As per Hinduism, Soul was separated from Supreme Soul (Parmatma) and the main purpose of life is to attain moksha i.e. merger of Soul back into supreme soul.	As per Jainism, every soul itself is supreme Soul, hence the objective of life is to separate soul from bad karma (sinful actions) and attain moksha.
Hinduism also believes in non-violence, however if violence is absolutely necessary to achieve victory over evil, then it is permitted, Mahbharat or Ramayan are good examples.	Jainism does not believe in violence, it strongly believes only in non-violence.
The 4 largest denominations of Hinduism are Shaktism, Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Smartism.	The 2 important sects of Jainism are Svetambara and Digambara.
Holy Days in Hinduism are plenty. There are many important days for worshipping different Gods, some of the most important holy days are Ganesh Chaturthi, Mahashivaratri, Ram Navami, Krishna Janmashtami, Navaratri, Durga Puja etc.	Some of the most important Jain festivals are Paryushana, Mahavira Janma Kalayanak, Ashtanhika Parv, Nandishwar Ashtanika, Maun agiyaras, Mahamastabhisheka etc
In Hinduism many Gods are worshipped, most Prominent are Ganapathi, Shiva, Vishnu, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Parvati, Hanuman, Kartikeya etc.	In Jainism, 24 Tirthankars, besides some celestial beings are worshipped as DemiGods. Mahavira was the 24th Thirthankara of Jainism.
Hinduism has different castes and classes	In Jainism there is no division of followers on the basis of castes and class.
In Hinduism one can find people strictly following vegetarian diets as well people who consume non vegetarian diets.	In Jainism it is strictly forbidden from having non vegetarian diets including eggs.
In Hinduism Vedas, Upanishads, Smritis etc are considered sacred	In Jainism, Vedas and other religious books of Hinduism are not accepted. Jainism has their own sacred scriptures like Agamas and Sutras.
In Hinduism, animal sacrifices were mostly associated with Shaktism, animal sacrifices were done in ancient times, however Puranas and Gita forbid animal sacrifice.	Animal Sacrifices are strictly not allowed in Jainism
Hinduism has 4 stages of life: Brahmacharya (student life), Grihastha Ashram (householders life), Vanaprastha Ashram (searching for truth), and the final stage Sanyasa Ashram. As per Hinduism	Jainism does not have different stages of human life, the main focus of entire life is to attain liberation and must be strictly spiritual.

Spirituality must be pursued in the last 2 stages of Human life. One has to follow Dharma at all stages, but focus on salvation is at the last 2 stages.	
People following Hinduism are spread across India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Bali in Indonesia, North America, Carribean etc.	People following Jainism are sort of confined in India, they are predominantly found in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh. Small groups exist in many countries.

Some of the **Similarities** between **Hinduism and Jainism** are given below

1. Both Hinduism and Jainism believe in reincarnation, i.e. cycle of birth and death.
2. Both Hinduism and Jainism believe in non violence,
3. Both Hinduism and Jainism emphasise on consuming vegetarian diet.
4. Both religions give importance to meditation.
5. Followers of both the religions celebrate festivals like Diwali.
6. Both religions have the same concepts like Moksha, Samsara, Karma; although the precise meaning may be different.
7. Both the religions believe that violence for self defence is permitted.

These are the main similarities and differences between Hinduism and Jainism. The differences given in the above table can help the UPSC Civil Service Exam aspirants to answer any related questions easily in the exams.

After learning about Differences between Hinduism and Jainism, visit the below given links to refer to the NCERT Notes on Jainism in India, Jain & Buddhist Architecture in India. Also visit the below given links to refer to NCERT Notes on Ancient Indian History, Medieval Indian History, Modern Indian History; Art, Culture, Literature and Architecture NCERT Notes. Further strengthen your understanding on the History of Buddha, Buddhism, Teachings of Buddha: Noble 8 fold paths, 3 Jewels, 4 Noble Truths. Apart from the above mentioned topics, the below given links also covers topics on Difference between Buddhism and Hinduism, Difference between Art and Culture, Difference between History and Prehistory and finally Difference between History and Mythology.

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- [Difference between Buddhism and Hinduism](#)
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- [NCERT Ancient Indian History Notes: Teachings of Buddha - Noble 8 fold Paths, 3 Jewels, 4 Noble Truths of Buddhism](#)
- [List of Buddhist Councils and Buddhist Texts \(Pitakas\)](#)
- [History about Buddha and Buddhism](#)

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