

Jainism

Origin of Jainism (1/2)

- The doctrine of Jaina is older than the Buddhist doctrine and as old as Vedic religion.
- Rig Veda mentions names of Rishabha and Arishtanemi Jain Tirthankara.
- Vishnu Purana and Bhagavat Purana describe Rishabha as an incarnation of Narayana.
- Jainism does not have a single founder. It is commonly mistaken that Mahavir was the founder of Jainism. However, he was the last Tirthankara.
- **Jainism believes-** "Non-violence is the essence of all virtues."



Origin of Jainism (2/2)

01

- The word **Jain** is derived from Jina or Jaina – means the Conqueror. A Jina is said to possess Avadhi Jnana, (Superhuman cognition or psychic power).

02

- All the Tirthankara were Kshatriyas by birth.

03

- Jainism came into **prominence in the 6th century B.C.** when Lord Mahavira propagated the religion.

04

- The symbol hand with a wheel on the palm symbolizes Ahimsa in Jainism. There is a word ahimsa written in the middle of it.

Teachings of Mahavira

- 
- Rejected authority of the Vedas & Vedic rituals.
 - **Emphasized the equality** but did not condemn the Varna system.
 - **Did not believe** in the **existence of God.**
 - **Believed in Karma & transmission of Soul.**
 - **Liberation is achieved** by shedding karma through self-discipline & penance.
 - **Live a Self-disciplined life** focused on ethics, meditation, & spiritual practices.
 - Advocated a **life of austerity and non-violence.**
 - **Women had an equal role** to play and were not looked down upon.
 - Man may be **'good'** or **'bad'** as per his actions and not birth.

Vardhaman Mahavira (1/3)

- **Kaivalya (highest spiritual knowledge):** attained at the age of 42 under Sal tree at Jrimbhikagrama, on the bank of River Rijupalika. Henceforth, they are called Mahavir (brave), Jina or Jitendriya (one who conquered his senses), Nigrantha (free from all bonds), Arhat (blessed one), Kevalin (perfect learned).
- **First sermon:** on the Vipula Peak at Rajgir to his 11 disciples – known as Gandharas or Gandharvas.
- **For 12 years, he wandered continuously,** during which he met Gosala and spent six years



Vardhaman Mahavira (2/3)

- **Wife & daughter:** married to Yashoda and had a daughter Anojja or Priyadarshana.

- **Mahavira's symbol** was a lion.

- **Rishabhjnatha's symbol** was a bull.

- **Parsvanatha's symbol** was a hooded serpent.

- **Death:** at the age of 72 years in c. 527 BCE at Pavapuri near Patna.

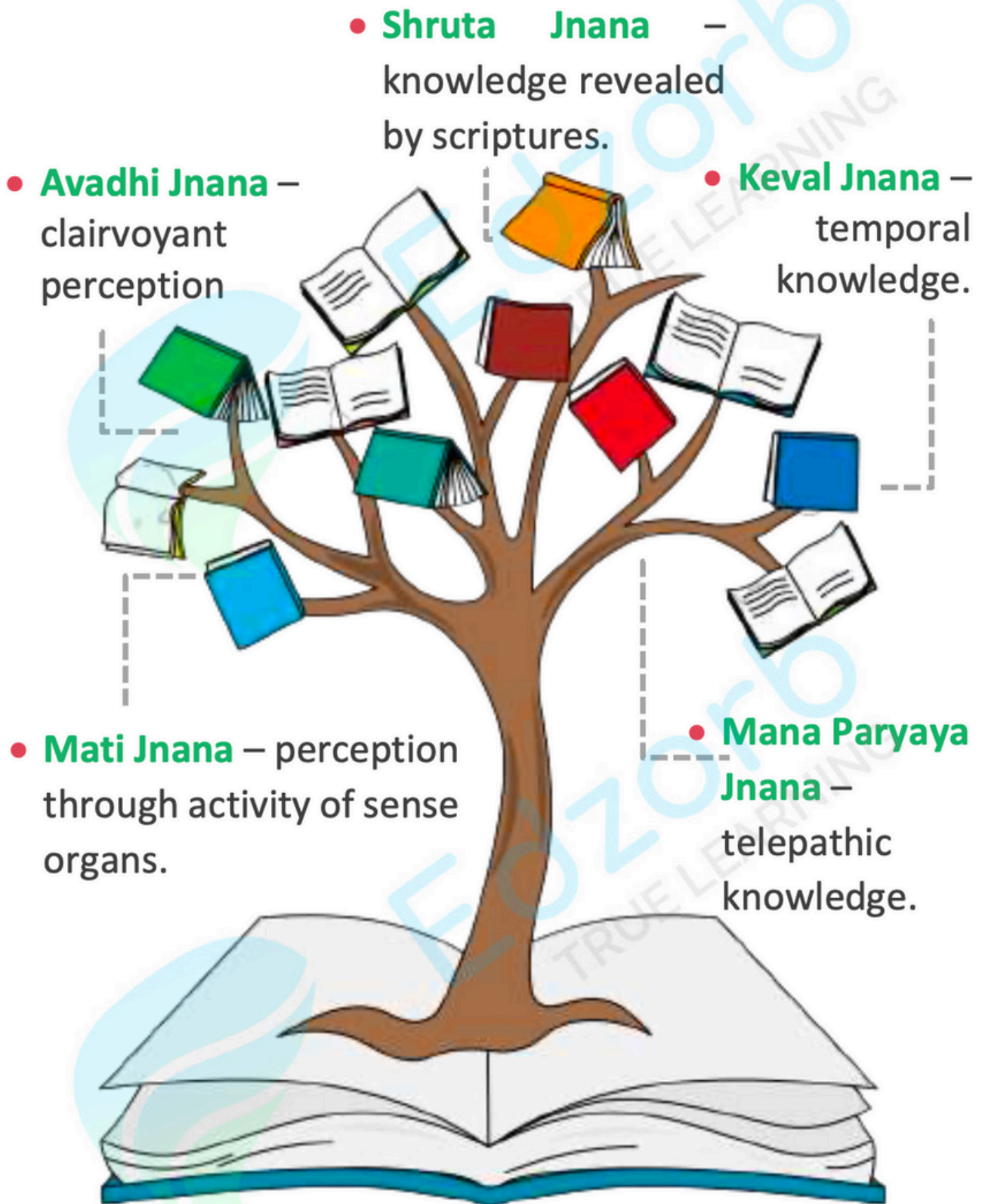
Vardhaman Mahavira (3/3)

- Mahavira belonged to the **Ikshvaku dynasty**.

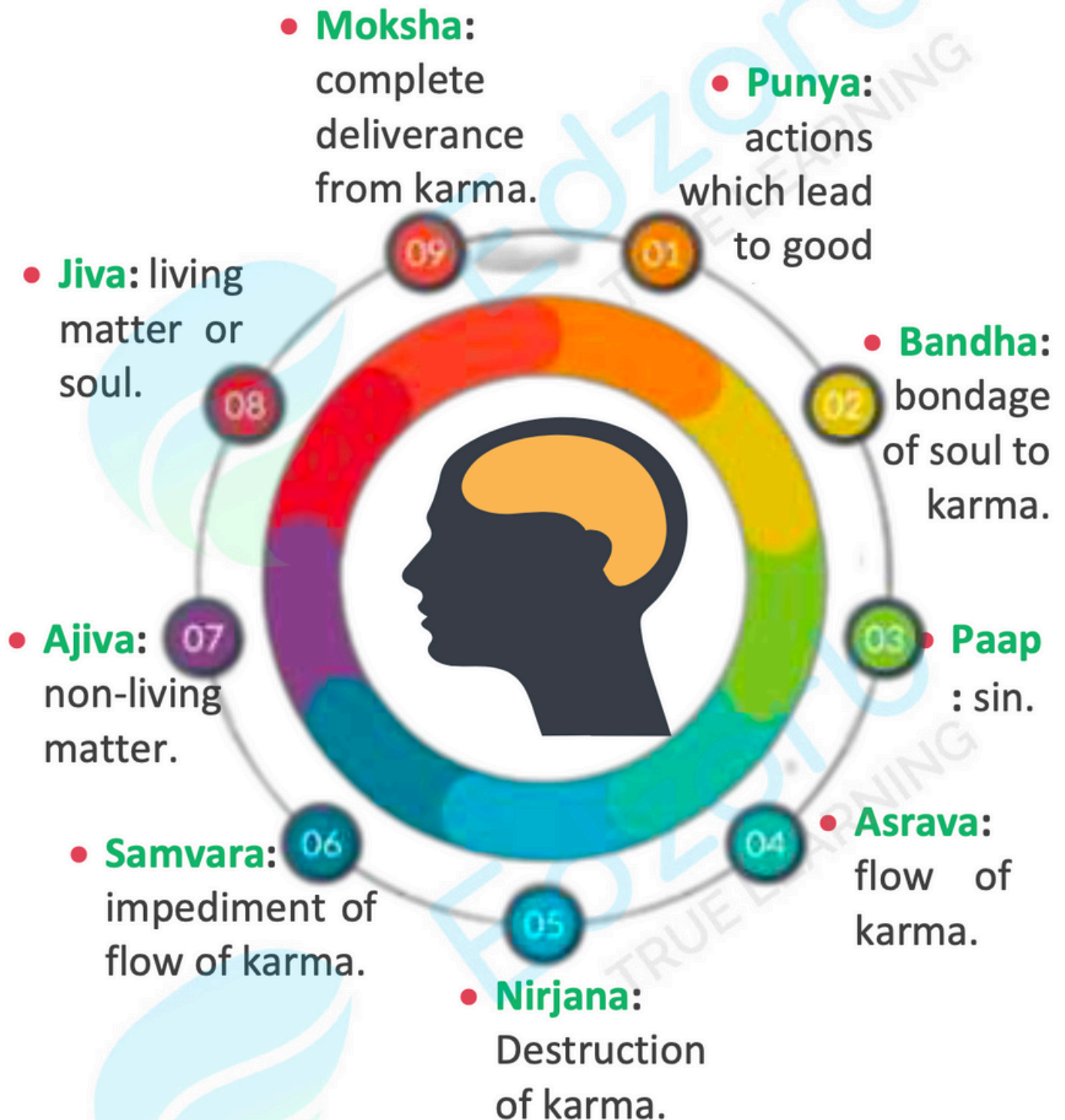


- Travelled to Kosala, Magadha, Mithila, and Champa.
- At the age of 30, Mahavira **renounced his royal life to seek spiritual truth.**

Five Types of Knowledge



Jain Metaphysics



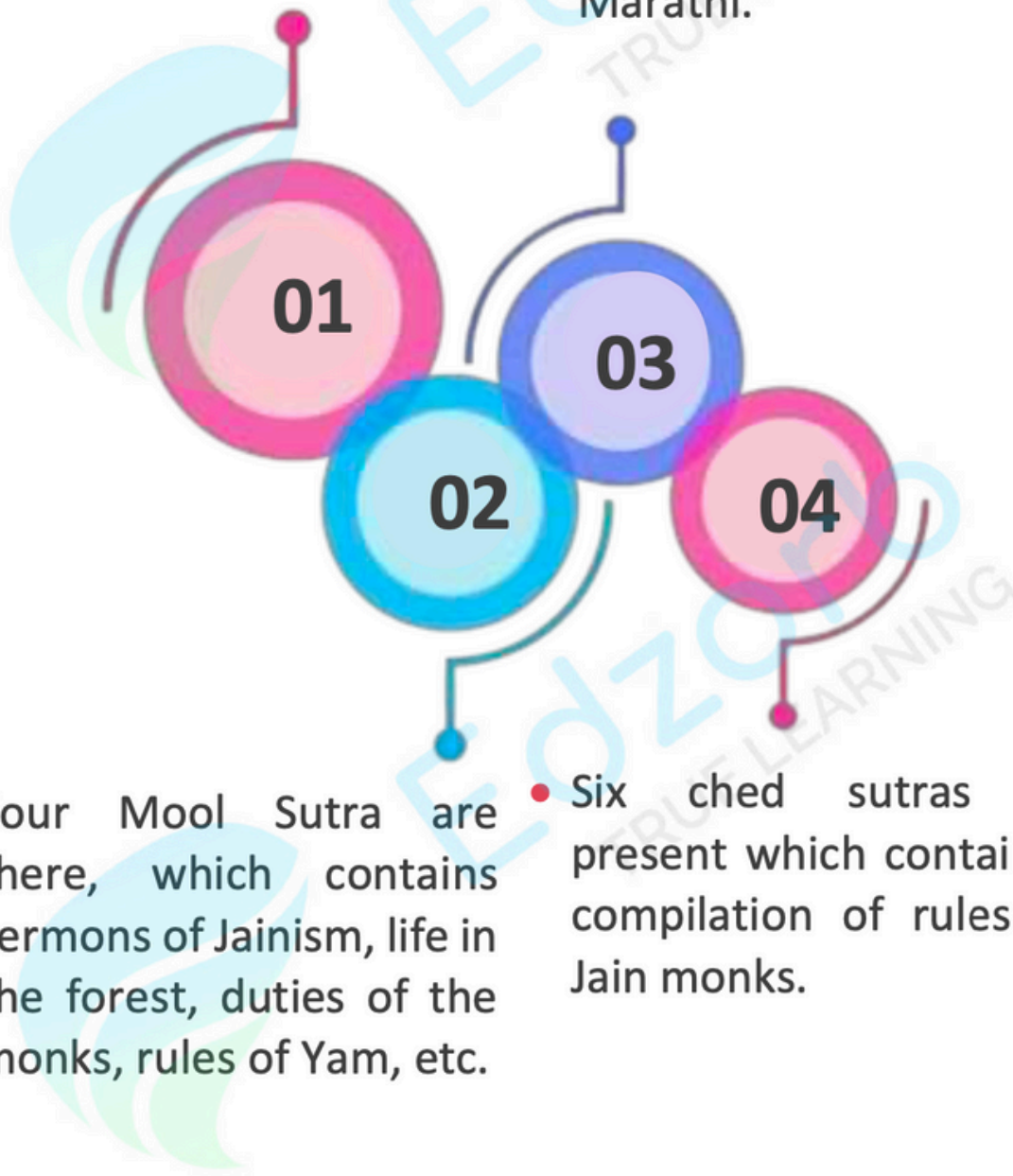
Important Jain Literature (1 of 3)

- Traditionally, the original doctrine of Jainism was contained in scriptures called Purva. There were fourteen Purva. Jain literature is mainly written in Prakrit language.
- These Agamas are further divided into: Angas, Mulasutra, Upangas, Prakirnaka Sutra, Chedasutra & Ulikasutras.
- **Kalpasutra**: written by Bhadrabahu. It contains biographies of Jain Tirthankaras.



Important Jain Literature (2 of 3)

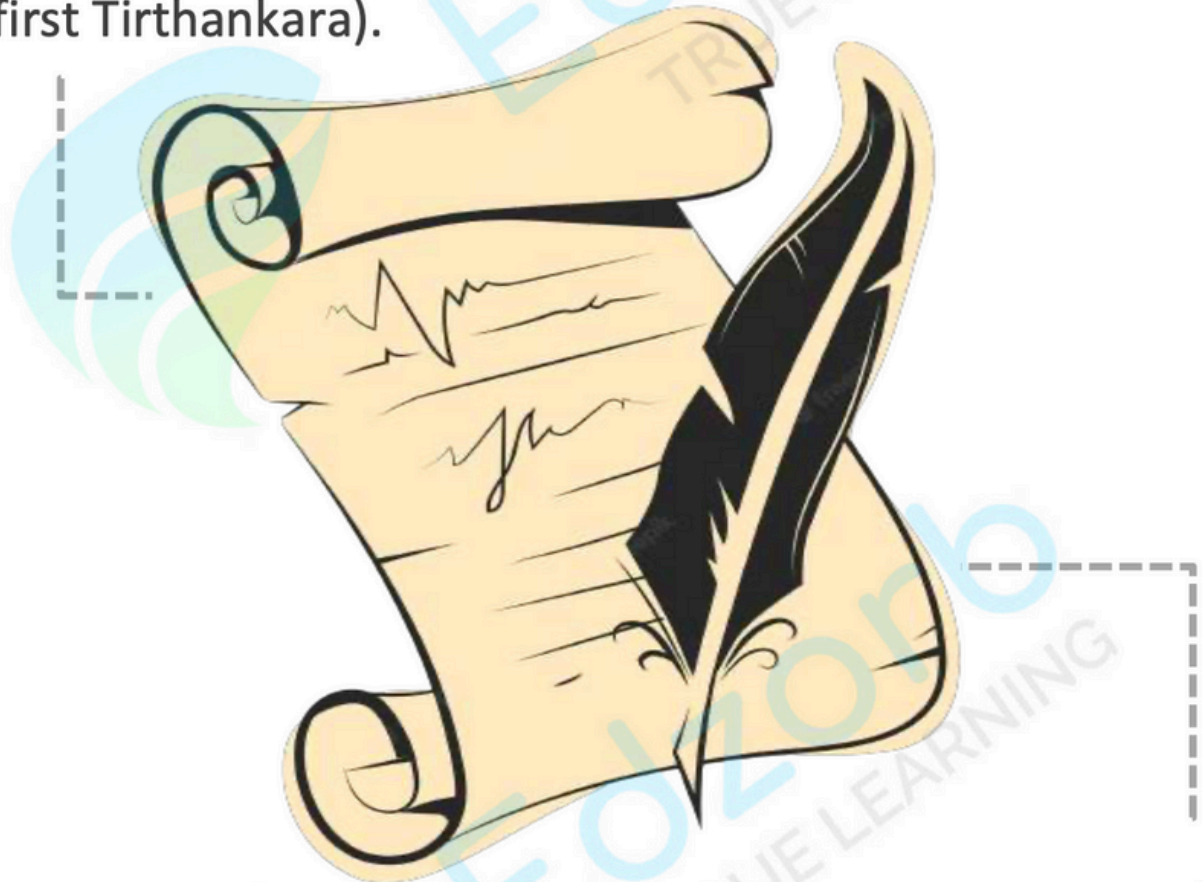
- The earliest important works of Jainas were composed in Apabhramsa
- The adoption of Prakrit influenced regional languages like Sauraseni, which gave rise to Marathi.



- Four Mool Sutra are there, which contains sermons of Jainism, life in the forest, duties of the monks, rules of Yam, etc.
- Six ched sutras are present which contains a compilation of rules for Jain monks.

Important Jain Literature (3 of 3)

- **Agam or Canonical Literature (Agam Sutras):** Consists of many texts, which are the sacred books of the Jain religion. They are written in the **Ardha-magadhi**, a form of Prakrit language. The canonical Jain literature is claimed to have started from **Adinatha (Rishabhnaath)** (first Tirthankara).



- **Non Agam Literature:** Consists of commentary and explanation of Agam literature, and independent works, compiled by ascetics and scholars. They are written partly in Prakrit dialects (such as Maharashtri) and partly in Sanskrit.

Layana/Gumphas (Caves)

- **Udayagiri-Khandagiri Caves-** Odisha.
 - **Ellora Caves** (Cave No. 30-35)-Maharashtra.
 - **Gajpantha Cave-** Maharashtra.
 - **Mangi Tungi Cave-** Maharashtra
 - **Hathi-gumpha Cave-** Odisha.
 - **Sittanavasal Cave-** Tamil Nadu.
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Jainalaya (Temple)

- 01 • **Dilwara Temple-** Mount Abu, Rajasthan.
- 02 • **Girnar and Palitana Temple-** Gujarat.
- 03 • **MKatagiri Temple-** Maharashtra.

Mahavira's Disciples

- Moriyaputra Chetak

- Mandit Vyakta,
Malliray Sastipal

- Sudharman, Aleampit,
Dadhivahan



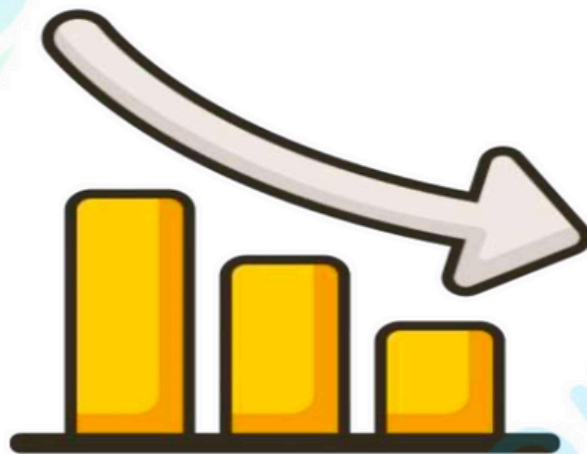
- Indrabhuti, Prabhas,
Bimbisara

- Agnipath Achala Putra
Pradyot

- Vayu Bhuti, Metarya,
Ajatshatru

Decline of Jainism in India

- **Rise of Hinduism:** Revival of Hinduism, with the support of Gupta rulers, overshadowed Jainism
- **Lack of Royal Patronage:** Unlike Buddhism, Jainism received limited state support after the fall of rulers like Chandragupta Maurya and the Karnataka dynasties.
- **Strict Practices:** Jainism's rigid principles, such as absolute non-violence and strict vegetarianism, were challenging for the masses to follow.



- **Sectarian Divisions:** Internal divisions between Digamb-aras & Svetambaras weakened Jainism's unity & influence.
- **Geographic Confines:** Jainism remained confined to certain regions of India, limiting its spread and reach.
- **Opposition from Other Religions:** Hindu reformers like Shankaracharya criticized Jain doctrines, leading to its decline in prominence.
- Limited missionary efforts.
- Factionalism within the Jain community