**BUDDHISM**

🡪Buddhist literature in divided into

1. Canonical (Deals with Buddha teachings)

Divisions (Tripitaka meaning “The three baskets”)

* + - Vimaya (Rules and guidelines of monastic life)
    - Sutras (Records of Buddha teachings)
    - Abhidarma (Poetries, songs or stories around life of buddha

1. Non canonical (Observation and commentary on canonical or buddha teaching)

🡪Pali is Indo-Aryan ‘language’ of north Indian origin. Classical language of Thervada (Buddhist Monk)

🡪Buddhism is divided into 2 branches

* + Theravada
  + Mahayana

🡪Dhammapada written in Pali, Contains 26 chapters and 423 verses

**CHRISTIANITY**

🡪 Jesus

* Galilean Jew who was baptized by John the Baptist
* Referred to as ‘Rabbi’
* Crucified on the order of Pontius Pilates
* Born of a virgin named ‘Mary’

🡪Christmas (25th December) – Birth of Jesus

🡪Good Friday- His crucifixion

🡪Easter- Resurrection of Jesus

🡪The 3 greatest monotheist (belief that there is only one God)

* + - Islam
    - Judaism
    - Christianity

🡪Goats were sacrificed for human wrong doings. Jesus was the first human sacrifice.

🡪3 important ‘G’ in Christian life –

* + Guilt
  + Grace
  + Gratitude

🡪Book of Christians- Bible (Divided into 2)

* + - Old Testament (39 books) (Hebrew bible)
    - New Testament (27 books) (Written by Christians)

**JAINISM**

🡪 Mahavir was a wealthy prince named ‘Vardhamana’ (599 BC) in Bihar. He was the 24th and last ‘Tirthankara’.

🡪Tirthankara were born as normal human beings but through meditation and self-actualization, they became gods.

🡪Mahavir left home at the age of 30 in search for meaning of life and spent 12 years in deep silence and meditation. He is named Mahavir which is ‘Brave’ or ‘Courageous’**. Founder of Jainism.**

🡪 Disciples- Gandharas and Srut-kevalis

🡪Practice- Nonviolence, Vegetarianism, meditation, yoga and environmentalism.

🡪Two major sects- Digambar and shwetambar

🡪 Jain literature is of two categories

1. Agam Literature
   * + Ang agams
     + Angbahya Agams

These are considered as sacred books of Jain literature. Written in Prakrit.

1. Non Agam literature- Explanation of Agam literature

🡪5 principles-

* Belief in soul and karma
* Nirvana (Non-violence, truth, non-stealing, non-adultery, non possession)
* Non belief in god
* Ahimsa
* Freedom to woman

🡪 India’s 3 largest religions- Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism.

**ISLAM**

🡪Islam means ‘Surrender’ or ‘Submission’

🡪Creator- Allah

🡪5 pillars

* + Shahada
  + Salah (prayer 5 times a day)
  + Zakat (Tax to poor)
  + Sawm- Fasting for a month
  + Hajj

🡪Second largest religion in India with 14.2% population

🡪Holy book is Quran

🡪Last prophet- Prophet Muhammed who was born in 570 CE in Mecca. Married to Khadija who was 15 years old. Mohammed and his team fled to ‘Yathrib or Medina’ where they ruled. Prophet died in Medina.

🡪 His successor

1. Abu bakar
2. Umar
3. Uthman
4. Ali (married to Fatima, prophet Muhammed’s daughter)

🡪Two major Muslims- Shia (Followers of Ali) and Sunni (Followers of Muhammed)

🡪All Muslims are not Arabs. Arabs are 20% of Muslim community.

**SIKKHISM**

🡪 Guru Nanak Dev ji died in 1539 AD. He was succeeded by Guru Angad. His words are registered in 974 poetic hymns (Guru Granth Sahib)

🡪Sikh means ‘Disciple’

🡪Pillars of Sikh- Seva (selfless service) and Simran (Meditation)

🡪5 evils

* Kam (Lust)
* Krodh (Rage)
* Lobh (Greed)
* Moh (attachment)
* Ahankar (Ego)

🡪5 virtues-

* Sat (truth)
* Daya (Compassion)
* Santokh (Contentment)
* Nimrata (Humility)
* Pyare (Love)

Following these brings soul closer to God.

🡪Gurumukhi (Punjabi language)

🡪Pilgrimage for Sikhs- Amritsar

**TAOISM**

🡪 Lao Tzu (Means old man or old teacher) (Founder of Taoism). Chinese philosopher. Best Known as the author of ‘Tao Te Ching’

🡪 Tao means ‘The way’. Te means ‘Virtue’. Ching means ‘Laws’. Tao Te Ching means ‘The law of virtue and its way.’

**Sanatana Dharma**

🡪 Sanatana dharma is ‘eternal law or truth’, Neither beginning or end.

🡪4 purusharth (Objectives)

* + Dharma (Righteous conduct)
  + Artha (Enjoyment of material wealth)
  + Kama (Satisfaction of desire)
  + Moksha

🡪4 Ashrama strategy-

* + - Brahmacharya
    - Grahastha
    - Vanaprastha
    - Sannyasa

🡪Classified into 4 groups-

Brahmins- Smallest but most important. Acquire knowledge and impart it.

Kshatriya- Protecting citizens. Kings and noble/senior officers were called kshatriyas.

Vaishya- Production of wealth

Shudras- On par with Vaishya

🡪Vedas- Pious words of brahma.

🡪Aspects of vedas- Gyana (knowledge), Upasana (Worship), Karma (Action)

🡪Vedic literature- Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, Upanishad