



Mahavir Jayanti 2025

Why in News?

On 10th April 2025, the **2625th birth anniversary** of **Jainism's Tirthankara Lord Mahavir Swami Ji** was celebrated in Bihar.

Key Points

▪ About Mahavir Jayanti:

- **Mahavir Jayanti** is one of the most sacred festivals in the **Jain community**.
- This day **marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira**, the 24th or last **Tirthankara** and successor of **Parshvanatha**, the 23rd Tirthankara .
- According to Jain texts, He was born **on the 13th day of the Shukla Paksha of the Chaitra month** .
 - According to the Gregorian calendar, Mahavir Jayanti is usually celebrated in the month of March or April.
- A procession is taken out with the idol of Lord Mahavira which is called **Rath Yatra** .
- While reciting sthavanas or Jain prayers, the idols of the deities are given a ceremonial bath called **abhishekam** .

▪ About Lord Mahavira:

- Lord Mahavir Swami left an indelible mark on humanity through his profound **spiritual practices and teachings** .
- Lord Mahavira's name in his childhood was **Vardhamana** which means 'the one who grows'.
- During his **twelve years of spiritual practice**, **Lord Mahavira demonstrated four extraordinary qualities** :
 - **Intense and uninterrupted meditation:** His unbroken meditation helped him achieve profound insights.
 - **Severe penance:** He endured extreme physical suffering to purify his soul.
 - **Tolerance of pain:** Mahavira Swami demonstrated amazing tolerance.
 - **Best Balance:** His inner balance remained stable.
- **On the tenth day of Vaisakha** , Mahavira's journey reached a decisive moment.
- **To these 5 teachings, Brahmacharya (celibacy/chastity) was added by Mahavira.**

VARDHAMAN MAHAVIRA

The 24th and last Tirthankara; succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha
(Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism)

BIRTH

- To King Siddhartha of Kundalgram and Queen Trishala, a Lichchhavi princess
- In 6th century BC, Vajji kingdom (modern day Vaishali, Bihar)
- Belonged to Ikshvaku dynasty

Mahavir Jayanti, one of the most auspicious festivals for Jains, marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira

SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Abandoned worldly life at age 30
- Attained '*kaivalya*' (omniscience) at age 42
- Delivered his first sermon at Pava (near Patna)

A symbol is associated with every Tirthankara, Mahavira's symbol was a lion

DEATH

- Believed to be passed away and attained Moksha at age 72 (5th century BC)
- Died at Pavapuri (near modern-day Rajgir, Bihar)

Moksha - liberation from the cycle of birth and death

TITLES

- Mahavira (great hero)
- Jaina/Jitendriya (who conquered all his senses)
- Nirgrantha (who is free from all bonds)

TEACHINGS (JAIN AGAMAS)

- Ahimsa (non-violence)
- Satya (truth)
- Asteya (non-stealing)
- Aparigraha (non-attachment)
- Brahmacharya (chastity) (propounded by Mahavira)

Mahavira and his disciples taught in Prakrit to teach ordinary people

