Introduction

Indian Constitution (Article 25) divides different religions into two groups:
- Hindus: Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs
- Others: Christians, Muslims, Zoroastrians

Tentative numbers
- Zoroastrians: 200,000: India (Mumbai and Gujarat), Iran, Australia, England, North America
- Jains: 5 million: India (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka), and other parts of the world
- Sikhs: 25 million: India (Punjab), and the remaining are scattered globally from Australia to the U.S.

I. The Zoroastrians

A. Historical landmarks
   - Zoroaster, the founder (mid-second millennium BCE-)
   - Cyrus and his empire (549 BCE)
   - Response to Islam
   - Parsis (From Persia) arrive in India (1000CE)
   - Association with the British (1700-)
   - In post-1947 India

B. Beliefs
   - Sources: Avesta, Gathas, Zands (Pahlavi)
   - Theology (Ahura Mazda and Ahriman)
   - Inherent human goodness
   - Purity based religion
   - Who is a Zoroastrian?

C. Religious life
   - Worshiping fire, water, winds
   - Wearing sudreh and kusati
   - Other rituals
   - Fire temples

D. Looking ahead

II. The Jains

A. Historical landmarks
   - Twenty-four teachers (tirthankara [bridgemaker])
   - Mahavira brings their work to completion (mid-first millennium BCE-)
   - Building the community
   - Response to Islam (1000CE)
   - In post-1947 India
B. Beliefs
   Sources: Agamas (Purva, Anga, Angabahya)
   Tirthankars and goddesses (No Creator)
   World (samsara)
   Goal of human life (moksha)
   Renunciation

C. Religious life
   Monks and laity
   Svetambrs (500 CE), Sthankvasis (1400 CE), Terapanthis (1700 CE)
   Digambrs (500 CE), Terapanthis (1500 CE)
   Non-violence is the supreme path, charity

D. Artistic heritage
   Sculpture
   Cave paintings
   Temple architecture

III. The Sikhs

A. Historical landmarks
   Guru Nanak, the founder (1469-1539)
   Guru Gobind Singh (1661-1708) and the Khalsa
   Ranjit Singh (1780-1839) and the Khalsa Raj
   Responding to the British and modernity
   In post-1947 India

B. Beliefs
   Sources: Guru Granth, historical literature
   Monotheism (Nam, belief in one God)
   World (duniya)
   Humans (lok)

C. Religious life
   Congregational worship
   Sharing (langar)
   dan [social commitment], ishnan [personal purity])
   Welfare and justice for all (degh, tegg, fateh)

D. Artistic heritage
   Manuscripts
   Portraits
   Gurdwara architecture

Bibliography:

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Paul Dandas, The Jains (New York: Routledge, 1992)
G.S. Mann, Sikhism (Prentice Hall, 2004)