

NCERT - CLASS 6 - CHAPTER 9: TRADERS, KINGS AND PILGRIMS

FINDING TRADE & TRADERS

- Northern Black Polished Ware:
 - Fine pottery - Bowls, plates
 - Found throughout the subcontinent from archaeological sites
 - Traders may have carried to different places to sell
- South India was famous for → Gold, spices, precious stones
- South Indian Pepper:
 - Valued in Roman Empire → known as black gold
 - Trade → ships (sea), caravan (land)
 - Roman gold found in South India → huge trade
- Traders explored sea routes:
 - Followed coasts
 - Across Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal → used monsoon winds
 - From East Africa, Arabia to western India → sailed with the south-west monsoon

SANGAM POEM ON TRADE

- Puhar → Poompuhar → Kaveripattinam
- Mentioned in Pattinapalai

NEW KINGDOMS ALONG THE COASTS

- Among southern river valleys → Kaveri, the most fertile
- Chiefs, kings who controlled river valleys and coasts → rich, powerful
- Sangam poems mention **muvendar** → three chiefs (Tamil) → **Chola, Chera, Pandya** → powerful around 2300 years ago
- Each chief had two power centres → 1 inland, and 1 coast (A total of six centres)
- Puhar/**Kaveripattinam** important port of Cholas
- **Madurai** capital of Pandyas

TAMIL MUVENDAR CHIEFS

- Did not collect regular tax
- Received gifts from people
- Went on military expedition → collected tribute there
- Kept some tributes with them - distributed the rest to supporters (family, soldiers, poets)
- Poets (Sangam literature) → poems praising chiefs → reward - precious stones, gold, horses, elephants, chariots, fine cloth

SATAVAHANA DYNASTY

- 2100 years ago → became powerful in western India
- Most important ruler → **Gautamaputra Satakarni**
- Source → from an inscription on his mother Gautama Balashri
- He and other kings were called lords of dakshinapatha (route to South/entire south India)

STORY OF SILK ROUTE

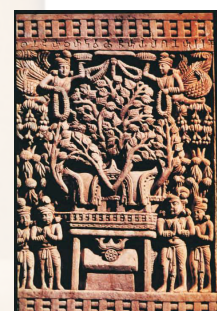
- Making silk:
 - Raw silk from cocoons of silkworms
 - Spun into thread
 - Woven into cloth
- Invention → Chinese - around 7000 years ago
- Chinese took silk to distant lands → the path taken by them → **Silk Route**
- Chinese rulers gift to rulers (Iran, West Asia) → from there it spread to the West
- 2000 years ago → wearing silk → fashion among rulers, rich people in Rome
- Expensive → difficult to bring from long distance → dangerous roads, mountains, deserts → local people along routes demanded money
- Kings tried to control the silk route → benefit from taxes, tributes, gifts from traders → in return for protection from kings against robbers

Kushanas:

- Best known to control Silk Route
- Ruled over Central Asia, North-west India (2000 years ago)
- Major power centres - Peshawar, Mathura → later Taxila included
- Extended silk route → from Central Asia down to seaports at the mouth of river Indus → from here westwards to Roman Empire
- Earliest to issue gold coins - used by traders along the silk route

SPREAD OF BUDDHISM

- Famous Kushana ruler → Kanishka (ruled 1900 years ago) → organised Buddhist Council in which scholars met to discuss important issues
- Ashvaghosha, poet in the court of Kanishka - composed Buddhacharita → biography of Buddha
- Ashvaghosha and other Buddhist scholars later wrote in Sanskrit
- **Mahayana Buddhism** → new form of Buddhism → two distinct features (Table below)



| | | Earlier | Present |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Buddha's presence | In sculptures using signs. Ex: Enlightenment → peepal tree | Statues made → Mathura, Taxila |
| 2 | Belief in Bodhisattvas (people who attained enlightenment) | Lived in isolation - meditate | Lived among people - teach, help |



- Worship of Bodhisattvas → spread to Central Asia, China, Korea, Japan
- Buddhism → spread to the west and south of India → caves out of hills made
- Traders halted during travel
- Some caves made on orders of kings and queens, also by merchants and farmers → located near the Western Ghats passes
- These passes contained roads connecting ports and Deccan cities
- Buddhism → also spread to Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and parts of Southeast Asia
- Theravada Buddhism → the older form of Buddhism popular in these areas



QUEST OF PILGRIMS

- Pilgrims → men & women who undertake journeys to holy places in order to offer worship
- Pilgrims travelled with traders to distant lands
- Best known → Chinese Buddhist pilgrims
 - Fa Xian (1600 years ago)
 - Xuan Zang (1400 years ago)
 - I-Qing (1350 years ago)
- All came to visit Buddhist places
- Wrote about
 - Account of dangers of their travels
 - countries, monasteries visited
 - books they carried back

FA XIAN RETURN BACK TO CHINA

- Bengal → merchant ship → sea travel - 90 days → Java - 5 months → merchant ship → China
- Caught in a storm on the way → saved his books, statues of Buddha

XUAN ZANG RETURN BACK TO CHINA

- Land route → Through N-W, Central Asia
- Statues of buddha (gold, silver, sandalwood)
- 600 manuscripts, 20 horses
- 50 manuscripts lost in Indus
- Translated manuscripts from Sanskrit to Chinese

NALANDA UNIVERSITY

- Xuan Zang account of Nalanda
- Centre of Buddhist learning

- Teachers - men of high talent → follow buddha's teachings
- Monastery
 - strict rules
 - discussion all-day
 - old/young help each other
- Men from different cities → came to settle doubts
- Gatekeeper gave admission → after asking difficult questions → allowed only after answering → 7-8 out of 10 do not answer

BEGINNING OF BHAKTI

- Development of Hindu Gods → Shiva, Vishnu, Durga
- Bhakti - devotion to god - irrespective of wealth, caste and caste
- The idea of Bhakti → present in Bhagavad Gita → sacred book of Hindus
- Mahabharata → Krishna - Arjuna → abandon dharma → refuge in God
- According to Bhakti → If worshipped god with a pure heart → deity appears in the desired form
- Artists made beautiful images of Gods
- Gods → placed within special homes
- Bhakti inspired.
 - temples
 - sculptures
 - poetry
 - architecture
- Bhakti → Sanskrit 'bhaj' - meaning divide/share → 2-way relationship with god
- Bhagavat - God → one who shares bhaga - good fortune
- Bhakta/bhagavata → shares deity's bhaga
- Appar - Vellalar— devotee of Shiva (1400 years ago)

HINDU

- derived from River Indus
- Arabs/Iranians → use this word to call people east of the river
 - cultural practice
 - religious belief

ELSEWHERE

- Christianity → 2000 years ago, West Asia
- Jesus Christ → Bethlehem, the Roman empire
- Teachings - saviour of the world
 - treat others with love and trust, just as they want to be treated themselves
- Spread to ordinary people → West Asia, Africa, Europe
- First Christian preachers → west India - within 100 years of Christ's death
- Kerala Christian - Syrian Christians → oldest