

CHAPTER – 10
TRADERS, KINGS AND PILGRIMS
❖ LET'S RECALL

Q. 1

Match the following:

Muvendar	Mahayana Buddhism
Lords of the Dakshinapatha	Buddhacharita
Ashvaghosha	Satavahana rulers
Bodhisattvas	Chinese pilgrim
Xuan Zang	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas

Answer:

Column I	Column II	Explanation
Muvendar	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas were called Muvendar. It is a tamil word which means the Three chiefs.
Lords of the Dakshinapatha	Satavahana rulers	Satavahana rulers were powerful rulers of the western India. They were also called lord of Dakshinapatha.
Ashvaghosha	Buddhacharita	Ashvaghosha a famous poet of the court of Kanishka wrote the biography of Lord Buddha.
Bodhisattvas	Mahayana Buddhism	Bodhisattavas were the monks who claimed to have attained enlightenment. They went to other places to help people and spread the message of Buddha.
Xuan Zang	Chinese pilgrim	Since India was the birth place of Buddhism, many Pilgrims visited India. They also wrote their account of travel.

Q. 2 Why did the kings want to control the silk route?

Answer:

Silk routes were the paths which were used by silk traders. The silk was expensive and a symbol of wealth. Kings wanted to control the silk routes so that they can get taxes and silk as a tribute from silk traders. In return Kings protected the traders from robbers along the route.

Q. 3 What kind of evidence do historians use to find out about trade and trade routes?

Answer:

Following evidences are analyzed by archaeologists to find out about trade and trader routes:

1. The potteries found at archaeological sites.
2. The notebooks and books of the travelers.
3. The distribution of foreign items for instance presence of Roman gold coin in south India indicates trade between south India and Rome.
4. Poems composed by Sangam poets.

Q. 4 What are the main features of Bhakti?

Answer:

The main features of Bhakti are:

1. A person is devoted to a particular deity.
2. There were no restrictions on choosing a deity.
3. No classes of people were barred from practicing Bhakti.
4. A bhakt could lead a comfortable life as compared to Buddhist or Jains.

❖ LET'S DISCUSS

Q. 5 Discuss the reasons why the Chinese pilgrims came to India.

Answer:

Chinese pilgrims came to India for the following reasons:

1. To visit places associated with Buddha.
2. To visit famous Monasteries.
3. To study at Nalanda, which was famous centre for Buddhist learnings.

Q. 6 Why do you think ordinary people were attracted to Bhakti?

Answer:

Ordinary people were attracted towards Bhakti due to following reasons:

1. Bhakti could be practiced by people from any class of society.
2. Bhakti was not a strict practice but a very flexible one.
3. People had freedom to choose deity of their choice.
4. One could lead a very comfortable life while practicing Bhakti.

❖ LET'S DO

Q. 7 List five things that you buy from the market. Which of these are made in the city/village in which you live and which are brought by traders from other areas.

Answer:

ITEM	SOURCE
Vegetables	Grown in villages
Medicines	Brought from cities
Food grains	Grown in villages
Pen and Paper	Brought from cities
Cold drinks	Brought from cities

Q. 8 There are several major pilgrimages performed by people in India today. Find out about anyone of them, and write short description. (Hint: P Who can go on the pilgrimage men and women or children? How long does it take? How do people travel? What do they take with them? What do they do when they reach the holy place? Do they bring anything back with them?)

Answer:

One of the major pilgrimage destinations is Jagannath temple, Puri. It is located in the state of Odisha.

Men, women and children of Hindu families are allowed to enter the main temple. Starting from New Delhi, one can reach Puri in thirty hours by train. The people generally take with them offerings for Lord jagannath. People perform few rituals and accept Mahaprashad which holds supreme importance. The pilgrims take with them prashad which they distribute among their loved ones after returning home.