# 6th Social Science Lesson 10 Notes in English

# 10] Great Thinkers And New Faiths

### **Intellectual Awakening**

- The Sixth Century BC (BCE) is regarded as an important period in the history of ancient India.
- As a land mark period in the intellectual and spiritual development in India, historian Will Durant has rightly called it the "shower of stars".

#### Sources

#### **Literary sources**

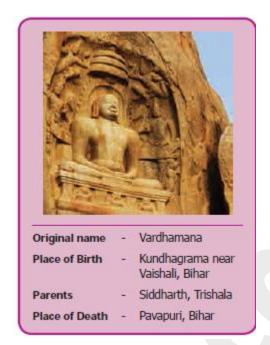
- Angas Jain texts
- Tripitakas and Jatakas Buddhist texts

### Causes for the Rise of Intellectual Awakening and the Birth of Buddhism and Jainism

- There were several reasons for the rise of new intellectual awakening. Some of the exploitative practices that paved way for new faiths include:
- The complex rituals and sacrifices advocated in the later Vedic period
- Expensive sacrificial ceremonies
- Superstitious beliefs and practices that confused the common man.
- Upanishads taught as alternative to sacrificial rites were too philosophical, which a layperson could not understand.
- Slavery, caste system, gender discrimination also contributed to the new awakening.

#### **Origin of Jainism**

- Jainism is one of the world's oldest living religions.
- Jainism grounds itself in 24 Tirthankaras.
- A 'Tirthankara', is the one who revealed religious truth at different times.
- The first Tirthankara was Rishabha and the last one was Mahavira.
- Jainism gained prominence under the aegis of Mahavira, during the sixth century BC (BCE).



## Mahavira (The Great Hero)

- Vardhamana, meaning 'prosperous', was a kshatriya prince.
- However, at the age of 30, he renounced his princely status to adopt an ascetic life.
- He undertook intense meditation.
- After twelve and a half years of rigorous penance, Vardhamana attained omniscience or supreme knowledge, known as Kevala.
- Thereafter, he became Jina meaning 'one who conquered worldly pleasure and attachment'. His followers are called Jains.
- Mahavira reviewed the ancient Sramanic traditions and came up with new doctrines.
- Therefore he is believed to be the real founder of Jainism.

# **Unique Teachings of Jainism**

- Jainism denies God as the creator of Universe.
- Basic philosophy of Jainism is Ahimsa or 'non -Violence'.
- Ultimate aim of Jainism is attaining moksha or ending the cycle of birth death rebirth.
- Jains reject the belief in Last judgement, where God, a supreme being, decides who goes to heaven or hell.
- Jainism advocates that the goodness or quality of one's life is determined by one's karma.

#### Tri - rathnas or Three Jewels

- Mahavira exhorted the three fold path for the attainment of moksha and for the liberation from Karma.
- They are:
  - Right Faith
  - Right Knowledge
  - Right Action

# Jain code of Conduct

- Mahavira asked his followers to live a virtuous life. In order to live a life filled with sound morals, he preached five major principles to follow.
- They are:
  - Ahimsa not to injure any living beings
  - Satya to speak truth
  - Asteya not to steal
  - Aparigraha not to own property
  - Brahmacharya Celibacy

### **Digambaras and Svetambaras**

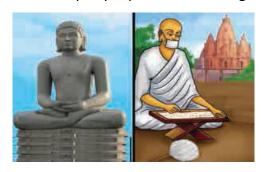
Jainism split into two sects.

# **Digambaras**

- Digambaras are orthodox and conservative followers.
- Monks of the digambara sect, do not wear any clothing and live naked. They are forbidden to have any kind of possessions.
- Digambaras believe that women cannot achieve nirvana or liberation directly.

#### **Svetambaras**

- The Svetambaras are considered progressive.
- Monks of Svetambaras sect, wear white robes. They are permitted to have Rajoharana (broom with wollen threads), begging bowl and book.
- Svetambaras believe that women are equally capable of achieving liberation as men.



### Reasons for the Spread of Jainism

• The following are the main reasons for the wide acceptance of Jainism in India Learning Leads To Ruling

- Use of people's language.
- Intelligible teachings.
- Support from rulers and traders.
- Perseverance of Jain monks.

## Influence of Jainism (Samanam) in Tamil Nadu

- In ancient Tamil literature, Jainism is referred to as Samanam.
- There is a Samanar Hill or Samanar Malai in Keelakuyilkudi village, 15 km away from Madurai. The
  images of Tirthankaras created by Jain monks are found in the hill. It is a protected monument of
  Archaeological Survey of India.
- In Arittapatti, a small village 25 km from Madurai, on one side of Kalinjamalai hill there are Jain caves called Pandavar Padukkai. Pandavar Padukkai is the bed of Jain saints.
- There is a reference to Aravor Palli, place of living for Jain monks, in Manimegalai.
- According to Silapathikaram, when Kovalan and Kannagi were on their way to Madurai,
   Gownthiyadigal a female jain monk blessed the couple and accompanied them.
- Puhar, Uraiyur, Madurai, Vanchi (Karuvur), Kanchi all had Jain monasteries.
- **Jina Kanchi** Thiruparthikundram, a village in Kanchipuram, has two ancient Jain temples. This village was once called Jina Kanchi.



Thiruparthikundram

Sittannavasal

Chitharalmalai temple

#### Buddhism

#### Gautama Buddha

- Gautama Buddha was the founder of Buddhism.
- His real name was Siddhartha.
- Like Mahavira, he was also a Kshatriya prince belonging to the ruling Sakya clan.
- When Siddhartha was only seven days old his mother died.
- So he was raised by his step mother Gautami.

#### **Four Great Sights**

• At the age of 29, Siddhartha saw four sorrowful sights. They were:

- An uncared old man in rags with his bent back.
- An sick man suffering from an incurable disease.
- A man's corpse being carried to the burial ground by weeping relatives.
- An ascetic



# **Enlightenment**

- Buddha, the Awakened or Enlightened One, realised that the human life was full of misery and unhappiness.
- So at the age of 29 he left his palace and became a hermit. He sacrificed six years of his life towards penance.
- Nonetheless deciding that self-mortification was not a path to salvation, Buddha sat under a Pipal tree and undertook a deep meditation near Gaya.
- On the 49th day he finally attained enlightenment. From that moment onwards, he was called Buddha or the Enlightened One.
- He was also known as Sakya Muni or Sage of Sakya clan.
- Buddha delivered his first sermon at Deer Park in Sarnath, near Benaras.
- This was called "Dharma Chakra Pravartana" or the Turning of the Wheel of Law.

#### **Buddha's Four Noble Truths**

- Life is full of sorrow and misery.
- Desire is the cause of misery.
- Sorrows and sufferings can be removed by giving up one's desire.
- The desire can be overcome by following the right path (Noble eight-fold path)

# **Eight Fold Path**

- Right view
- Right Thought
- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Knowledge
- Right Meditation
- The teachings of Lord Buddha were simple and taught in a language which people used for communication.
- Since the teachings addressed the everyday concern of the people, they could relate to them. He was opposed to rituals and sacrifices.

# **Teachings of Buddha**

- Buddha's teachings are referred to as dhamma.
- Buddhism accepted the Theory of Karma meaning that the quality of man's life depends on his deed.
- Buddha neither accepted nor denied the existence of God, but believed in the laws of universe.
- Buddha asserted that attaining nirvana is the ultimate aim of life.
- Buddha advocated ahimsa or non-violence.
- Buddha had rejected the caste system.
- The Wheel of life represents the Buddhist view of the world.

### **Buddhist Sangha**

- Buddha laid foundation for a missionary organization called Sangha, meaning 'association' for the propagation of his faith.
- The members were called bhikshus (monks). They led a life of austerity.

#### **Buddhist Sects**

|   | Hinayana  |   | Mahayana   |
|---|---|---|--|
| • | Did not worship<br>idols or images of<br>Buddha.                | • | Worshiped images of Buddha.  |
| • | Practiced austerity.  | • | Observed elaborate rituals   |
| • | Believed that<br>Salvation of the<br>individual as its<br>goal. | • | Believed that<br>salvation of all<br>beings as its<br>objective  |
|   | Used Prakrit<br>language.                                       | П | Used Sanskrit<br>language  |
| • | Hinayana is<br>also known as<br>Theravada.                      | • | Spread to Central<br>Asia, Ceylon,<br>Burma, Nepal,<br>Tibet, China,<br>Japan, where<br>middle path was<br>accepted. |

# Causes for the Spread of Buddhism

- Simplicity of the teachings of Buddha in local language appealed to people.
- Buddhism rejected elaborate religious customs whereas the practice of orthodox Vedic religion insisted on expensive rituals and sacrifices.
- Buddha's emphasis was on observance of Dhamma.
- Buddhist Sanghas played an important role in spreading the messages of Buddha.
- Royal patronage under Ashoka, Kanishka and Harsha also helped the causes of Buddhism.
- Viharas or the Buddhist monasteries became great centres of education. One such centre was Nalanda, where Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, studied for many years.

### Jainism and Buddhism-Similarities and Dissimilarities

| Similarities  | Dissimilarities  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Similarities  | JAINISM  | BUDDHISM  |  |
| <ul> <li>Both Mahavira and Buddha hailed from royal families. Yet they renounced royal privileges and chose to adopt an ascetic life.</li> <li>Denied the authority of Vedas.</li> <li>Taught in the language of the common people.</li> <li>Admitted disciples from all the castes and from both the genders</li> <li>Opposed blood sacrifices.</li> <li>Believed in the doctrine of Karma.</li> <li>Emphasized on right conduct and right knowledge instead of performing religious ceremonials and rituals as the means to achieve salvation.</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>It followed extreme path.</li> <li>It remained in India only.</li> <li>It does not believe in the existence of god, but believes life in every living being.</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>It followed middle path.</li> <li>It spread across many parts of the world.</li> <li>It emphasises on ANATMA (no eternal soul) and ANITYA (impernance).</li> </ul> |  |

#### Influence of Buddhism in Tamilnadu

- Buddhism spread to Tamil Nadu much later than Jainism.
- Manimekalai, one of the epics of the post-Sangam age is a Buddhist literature.
- There is an elaborate description about Kanchipuram in classical epic Manimegalai. Kanchipuram was
  a famous Buddhist Centre, from where Dinnaga, the famous Buddhist logician, and Dharmapala, a
  great scholar of Nalanda University hailed.
- Hieun Tsang who visited Kanchipuram in the seventh century A.D(CE). noticed the presence of 100 feet stupa built by Ashoka there.



**Buddha statue at Nagapattinam** 

Buddha statue found at pallur near Kanchipuram

#### More to Know

- The word **Jain** derives from the Sanskrit word Jina, which means conquering self and the external world.
- Omniscience It is the ability to know everything or be infinitely wise.

- What is Karma? The belief that a person's actions in this life determine the quality of his or her later part of the current life and the next incarnation.
- Moksha Liberation from the cycle of birth and death
- Gautama Swami, a chief disciple of Mahavira, compiled the teachings of Mahavira, called Agama sidhantha.
- Chaitya A Buddhist shrine or a meditation hall.
- Viharas Monastries/living quarters for monks.
- Stupas Built over the remains of Buddha's body, they are monuments of great artistic value.
- Frescoes (paintings) Frescoes on the ceilings and walls of the Ajanta caves in Aurangabad, Maharashtra depict the Jataka Tales.
- **Middle path** It refers to neither indulging in extreme attachment to worldly pleasure nor committing severe penance.
- Buddhist Councils
  - First Rajagriha
  - Second Vaishali
  - Third Pataliputra
  - Fourth Kashmir