



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034**  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE: CLASS VI**

**WEEK: 18<sup>th</sup> – 22th JAN. 2021**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE (HISTORY)**

**CLASS: VI**

**NUMBER OF BLOCKS: 3**

**TOPIC: CHAPTER 9: TRADERS, KINGS AND PILGRIMS**

**SUB TOPICS:**

- Traders in India
- New kingdoms along the coasts
- Silk Route
- Spread of Buddhism
- The quest of the pilgrims
- The beginning of Bhakti

**INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS:**

**VIDEOS:**

[https://youtu.be/cfi6DV\\_SCmw](https://youtu.be/cfi6DV_SCmw)

[https://youtu.be/tHKbFR\\_2iFk](https://youtu.be/tHKbFR_2iFk)

**NCERT BOOK:**

<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php>

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Each student will be able to:

- Highlight the importance of India for the traders.
- List the powerful rulers of Pre-Historic India.
- Significance of Silk Route.
- Examine the spread of Buddhism.

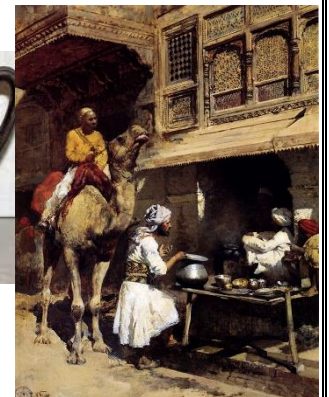
**Traders —They are people who buy things from where they were made, and sell them elsewhere.**

**Indian subcontinent was an important destination for traders.**

- **South India was famous for gold, spices, especially pepper, and precious stones.**
- Pepper was particularly valued in the Roman Empire; it was known as black gold.
- Traders carried many of these goods to Rome in ships and by land in caravans.
- There must have been quite a lot of trade as many Roman gold coins have been found in south India.



- **Northern Black Polished Ware:**
- This fine pottery, especially bowls and plates, were found from several archaeological sites throughout the subcontinent.
- It is possible traders may have carried them from the places where they were made, to sell them at other places.



**Traders explored several sea routes. Sturdy ships had to be built for these long journeys.**

- Some of them followed the coasts.
- There were others across the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, where sailors took advantage of the monsoon winds to cross the seas more quickly. Example: if they wanted to reach the western coast of the subcontinent from East Africa or Arabia, they chose to sail with the south-west monsoon.



## NEW KINGDOMS ALONG THE COASTS

- The southern half of the Indian subcontinent is marked by a long coastline, hills, plateaus, and river valleys.
- Chiefs and kings who controlled the river valleys and the coasts became rich and powerful.

### MUVENDAR

Sangam poems mention the muwendar. This is a Tamil word meaning three chiefs, used for the heads of three ruling families:

- ❖ Cholas
- ❖ Cheras
- ❖ Pandyas

who became powerful in south India around 2300 years ago.

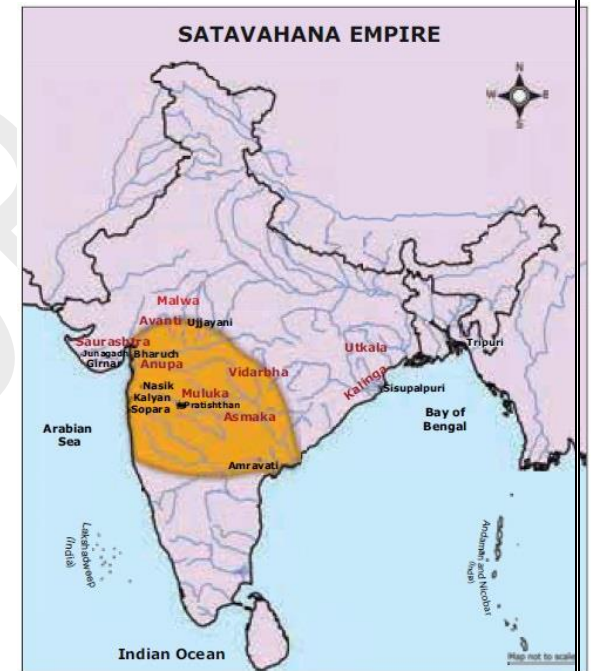
Each of the three chiefs had two centres of power: one inland, and one on the coast. Of these six cities, two were very important:

- Puhar or Kaveripattinam: the port of the Cholas,
  - Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas
- The chiefs did not collect regular taxes. Instead, they demanded and received gifts from the people.
  - They also went on military expeditions, and collected tribute from neighbouring areas.
  - They kept some of the wealth and distributed the rest amongst their supporters, including members of their family, soldiers, and poets.
  - Many poets whose compositions are found in the Sangam collection composed poems in praise of chiefs who often rewarded them with precious stones, gold, horses, elephants, chariots, and fine cloth.



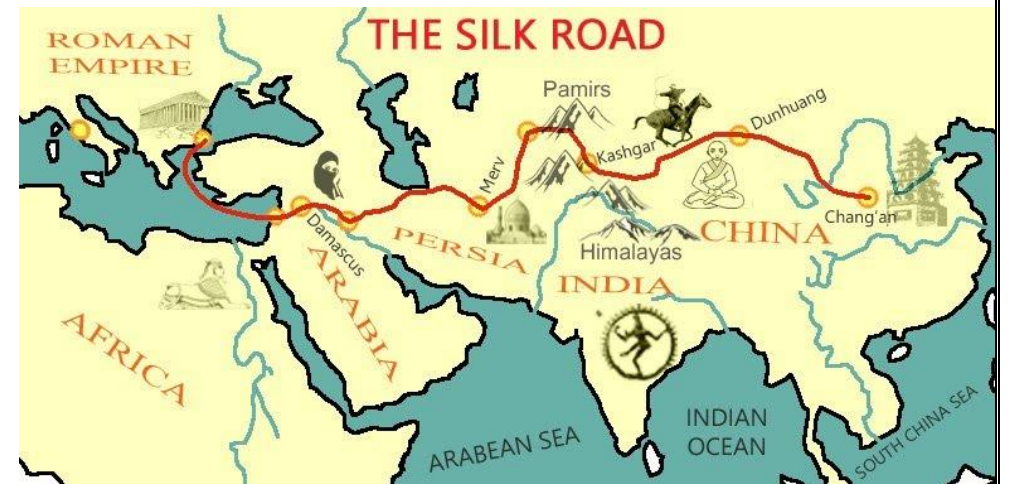
## SATAVAHANAS

- Around 200 years later a dynasty known as the Satavahanas became powerful in western India.
- The most important ruler of the Satavahanas was Gautamiputra Shri Satakarni.
- We know about him from an inscription composed on behalf of his mother, Gautami Balashri.
- He and other Satavahana rulers were known as lords of the *dakshinapatha*, literally the route leading to the south, which was also used as a name for the entire southern region.
- He sent his army to the eastern, western and southern coasts.



## THE STORY OF THE SILK ROUTE

- Silk, is considered as highly valued fabric in most societies.
- Techniques of making silk were first invented in China around 7000 years ago.
- Method of silk making remained a secret for thousands of years, however some people from China who went to distant lands carried silk with them.
- The paths they followed came to be known as the Silk Route.
- Sometimes, Chinese rulers sent gifts of silk to rulers in Iran and west Asia, and from there, the knowledge of silk spread further west.



- About 2000 years ago, wearing silk became the fashion amongst rulers and rich people in Rome.
- It was very expensive, as it had to be brought all the way from China, along dangerous roads, through mountains and deserts.
- People living along the route often demanded payments for allowing traders to pass through.
- Some kings tried to control large portions of the route. This was because they could benefit from taxes, tributes and gifts that were brought by traders travelling along the route.
- In return, they often protected the traders who passed through their kingdoms from attacks by robbers.

## KUSHANAS

The best-known of the rulers who controlled the Silk Route were the Kushanas, The Kushanas ruled over central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago.

-Their two major centres of power were Peshawar and Mathura. Taxila was also included in their kingdom.

-During their rule, a branch of the Silk Route extended from Central Asia to the seaports at the mouth of the river Indus, from where silk was shipped westwards to the Roman Empire.

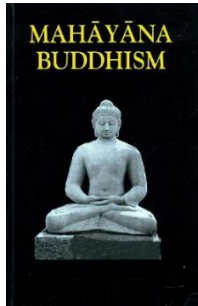


Gold dinar of Kushan king Kanishka II (200-220)

-They were amongst the earliest rulers of the subcontinent to issue gold coins.

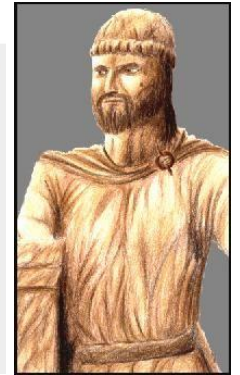
-These coins were used by traders along the Silk Route.





## THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM

- The most famous Kushana ruler was Kanishka, who ruled around 1900 years ago.
- He organised a Buddhist council, where scholars met and discussed important matters.
- Ashvaghosha, a poet who composed a biography of the Buddha, lived in his court.
- Ashvaghosha and other Buddhist scholars began writing in Sanskrit.



**A new form of Buddhism, known as Mahayana Buddhism, developed. This had two distinct features.**

1) Earlier, the Buddha's presence was shown in sculpture by using certain signs example: His attainment of enlightenment was shown by sculptures of the peepal tree.



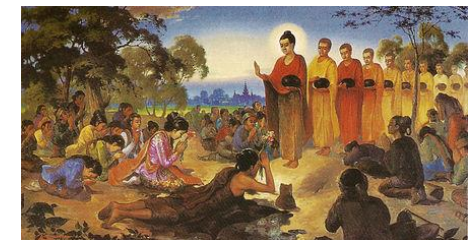
Now, statues of the Buddha were made. Many of these were made in Mathura, while others were made in Taxila.



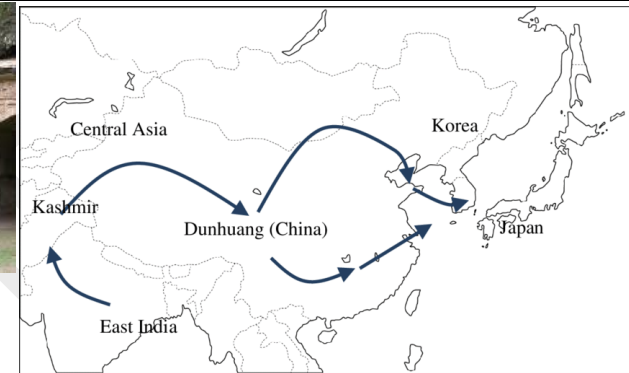
2) Bodhisattvas

These were supposed to be persons who had attained enlightenment. Once they attained enlightenment, they could live in complete isolation and meditate in peace.

However, instead of doing that, they remained in the world to teach and help other people.



- The worship of Bodhisattvas became very popular, and spread throughout Central Asia, China, and later to Korea and Japan.
- Buddhism also spread to western and southern India, where dozens of caves were hollowed out of hills for monks to live in.
- Some of these caves were made on the orders of kings and queens, others by merchants and farmers.
- Buddhism also spread south eastwards, to Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and other parts of Southeast Asia including Indonesia.
- The older form of Buddhism, known as Theravada Buddhism was more popular in these areas.



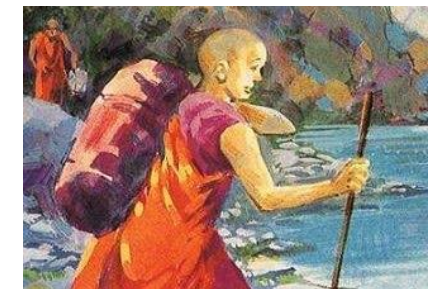
## **THE QUEST OF THE PILGRIMS**

As traders journeyed to distant lands in caravans and ships, *pilgrims* often travelled with them.

Pilgrims are men and women who undertake journeys to holy places in order to offer worship.

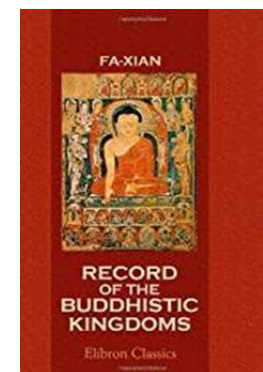
The best-known of these are the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims were:

- Fa Xian, came to the subcontinent about 1600 years ago,
- Xuan Zang, came around 1400 years ago
- I-Qing, came about 50 years after Xuan Zang.



They came to visit places associated with the life of the Buddha, as well as famous monasteries.

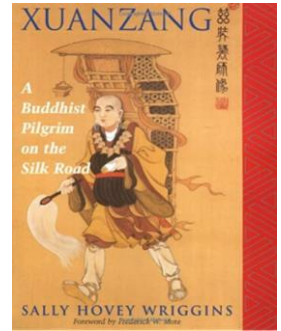
- Each of these pilgrims left an account of his journey.
- They wrote of the dangers they encountered on their travels.
- Countries and the monasteries that they visited.
- Books they carried back with them.



Xuan Zang, who took the land route back to China carried back with him:

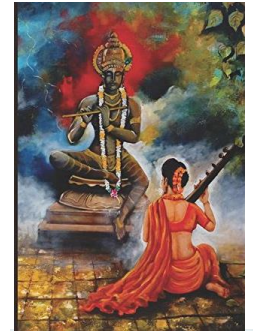
- Statues of the Buddha made of gold, silver and sandalwood,
- Over 600 manuscripts loaded on the backs of 20 horses.
- Over 50 manuscripts were lost when the boat on which he was crossing the Indus capsized.

He spent the rest of his life translating the remaining manuscripts from Sanskrit into Chinese.



## **THE BEGINNING OF BHAKTI**

- This was also the time when the worship of certain deities, which became a central feature of later Hinduism, gained importance.
- These deities included Shiva, Vishnu, and goddesses such as Durga.
- These deities were worshipped through Bhakti. Bhakti is generally understood as a person's devotion to his or her chosen deity.
- It emphasised devotion and individual worship of a god or goddess, rather than the performance of elaborate sacrifices.
- Anybody, whether rich or poor, belonging to the so-called 'high' or 'low' castes, man or woman, could follow the path of Bhakti.
- This form of worship gradually spread to different parts of the country.
- Bhakti inspired some of the best expressions in art — sculpture, poetry and architecture.
- These deities could be thought of as a human being, lion, tree or any other form. Once this idea gained acceptance, artists made beautiful images of these deities.
- Images of the deity were often placed within special homes, places that we describe as temples.





## SUMMARY

Indian subcontinent was an important destination for traders.

While the methods remained a secret for thousands of years, some people from China who went to distant lands carried silk with them. The paths they followed came to be known as the Silk Route.

**IMPORTANT DYNASTIES** :Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas, Satavahanas and Kushanas .

**PILGRIMS** :As traders journeyed to distant lands in caravans and ships, *pilgrims* often travelled with them. Pilgrims are men and women who undertake journeys to holy places in order to offer worship.

**BHAKTI** : Those who followed the system of Bhakti emphasised devotion and individual worship of a God or Goddess, rather than the performance of elaborate sacrifices.

## HISTORY: CHAPTER 9: TRADERS, KINGS AND PILGRIMS ASSIGNMENT

- Q1) Name the three Muvendar kingdoms. Highlight any three administrative features of Muvendar kingdoms.
- Q2) Examine any two distinct features of Mahayana Buddhism.
- Q3) What was Silk Route? Why did silk become popular in Roman empire.
- Q4) List any three Chinese pilgrims who visited India. Identify the topics they discussed while elaborating their journey to India.
- Q5) Examine the features of Bhakti system that became popular in Indian sub-continent.
- Q6) Write a short note on the following kingdoms:
- Kushanas
  - Satavahanas