

KEY ELEMENTS OF TRADERS, KINGS AND PILGRIMS

Class: VI

Handout 2

Subject: SST

Objective:

- To understand the ideals Buddhism.
- How it spread from North to Central Asia?
- Different eminent personalities and their work
- Importance of Monasteries



Content:

- The spread of Buddhism (how it spread? From where to where?) and important personalities.
- Features of Mahayana (earlier and later how was it practiced)
- Belief in Bodhisattvas (meaning of enlightenment)
- Cave Monasteries (the idea behind building it)

1. The Spread of Buddhism

- ✚ Its extent was from North India to Central Asia
- ✚ South east wards-----Sri lanka-----Myanmar-----Thailand-----parts of South Asia----- Indonesia.
- ✚ It develops a sense of appreciation of textual and visual traditions of the period.
- ✚ The need for conserving the past

Important names and words to remember;

Kanishka	Ashvaghosha	Mahayana
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ The most famous Kushana ruler✚ Ruled around 1900 years ago✚ He organised a Buddhist Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ He was a court poet✚ He composed a biography of the Buddha✚ Named it – The Buddha Charita✚ Ashvagosha and other Buddhist scholars now began writing in Sanskrit	<p>A new form of Buddhism</p> <p>Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Earlier buddhas presence was shown in sculpture by certain signs✚ Eg: Peepal Tree✚ Later statues were shown✚ Eg: pic (pg no 103 text book)

2. Belief in Bodhisattvas

- ❖ Person who attains enlightenment
- ❖ Could live in complete isolation and meditate in peace
- ❖ Worship of Bodhisattvas became very popular and spread through out Central Asia and later to Korea and Japan.
- ❖ Buddhism spread to western and Southern India as well.



3. Cave Monasteries:

- Located near the western ghats
- Traders probably halted in cave monasteries
- Caves were hollowed out of hills for monks to live in
- Some caves were made on orders of Kings and Queens

