

KEY ELEMENTS OF TRADERS, KINGS AND PILGRIMS

Class: VI

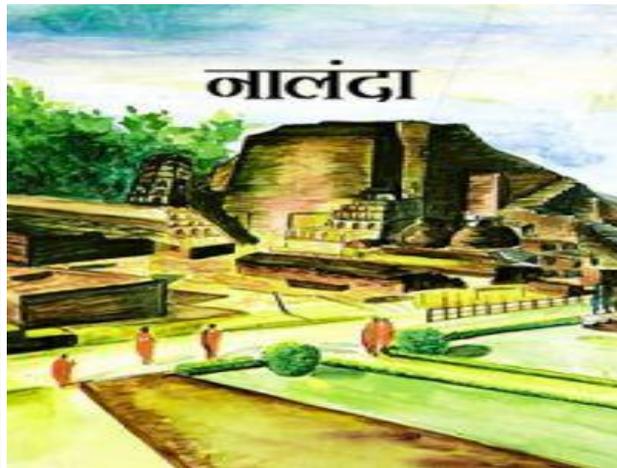
Handout 3

Subject: SST

Objective:

Students will learn;

- About pilgrims (definition)
- How people travelled in those days (ancient period)
- About famous Chinese scholars (their contribution)
- Important centre Nalanda



Content:

- The Quest of the Pilgrim (meaning and importance)
- Fa Xian and his visit (purpose)
- The Nalanda (most important education centre)

1. The Quest of the Pilgrims

- ✚ Pilgrims are men and women who undertake journeys to holy places in order to offer worship.
- ✚ To worship is to surrender to God and pray and preach in peace.
- ✚ Pilgrims often travelled with traders to distant land in Caravans and ships



2. Famous Chinese Buddhist Pilgrims

- ✚ Fa Xian who came to the sub-continent about 1600 years ago
- ✚ Xuan Zang came around 1400 years ago
- ✚ I Qing came about 50 years after Xuan Zang

Purpose of their visit:

To see the places associated with the life of Buddha

To see the famous monasteries

Each of them left an account of their journey

- ✚ Fa Xian returned to china through sea route
- ✚ Xuan Zang took land route
- ✚ He carried back with him statues of Buddha made of gold and silver
- ✚ He carried 600 manuscripts loaded on the back of 20 horses
- ✚ He spent the rest of his life translating the manuscripts from Sanskrit to Chinese



3. The Nalanda

- ✚ A unique centre of Buddhist learning
- ✚ Xuan Zang and other pilgrims spent time studying in Nalanda, the most famous Buddhist monastery of the period.
- ✚ Xuan Zang, and other pilgrims spent time studying in Nalanda, (Bihar) the most famous Buddhist monastery of the period. This is how he describes it:
- ✚ “The teachers are men of the highest ability and talent. They follow the teachings of the Buddha in all sincerity. The rules of the monastery are strict, and everyone has to follow them. Discussions are held throughout the day, and the old and the young mutually help one another. Learned men from different cities come here to settle their doubts.

