

CLASS NOTES

Class: 6th

Topic: CHAPTER 6 HISTORY
NEW QUESTIONS AND IDEAS.

Subject: SOCIAL SCIENCE

IMPORTANT NOTES

NOTE:

- ✓ These important notes are only for reading and understanding.
- ✓ Draw the flow chart of four Ashrams.

Jainism

- * The most famous of the Jaina thinkers was Vardhaman Mahavira, the 24th tirthankaras of the Jains.
- * He was a Lichchhavis prince born in Vaishali in the Vajji Sangha, and at the age of thirty he left his home in search of enlightenment
- * He followed a basic rule that men and women who want true knowledge should leave their homes and society.
- * He practiced very strict rules of ahimsa, and said that all beings - plants and animals - have the right to live.
- * Ordinary people could understand his teachings easily because he preached in Prakrit.
- * Followers of Mahavira came to be known as Jains and lead very simple lives, begging for food.
- * They had to be honest, observe celibacy, were not allowed to steal, and men had to give up their clothes too.
- * Following these rules was very difficult. But many people left their homes to follow this new religion, while many others supported the Jain monks and nuns by giving them food and clothes.
- * Jainism slowly spread throughout the country. At first, the teachings of Mahavira were transmitted orally, and written down much later in Valabhi, Gujarat in 500 AD.

The Sangha

- * Both Mahavira and Buddha believed that only those who left their homes could attain true knowledge. And they formed Sangha or groups of those who left their homes.
- * The rules for Buddhist Sangha were written down in the *Vinaya Pitaka*. All men could join the Sangha, but children had to take permission from their parents. Also, slaves had to be permitted by their owners and women by their husbands. Even debtors had to take permissions from their creditors, and the royal workers from the king.
- * Men and women in the Sangha led simple lives, meditated, and begged for food. So they were also called *bhikkus* (beggars) and *bhikkhunis*.
- * They taught others, helped one another, and had meetings to settle quarrels within the Sangha.
- * People from all parts of society, including Brahmins, Kshatriya, vaishyas, and shudras joined those Sangha. Many also wrote down the teachings of the Buddha, while others composed beautiful poems.

Monasteries

- * All Buddhist and Jain monks went from place to place spreading their religion, but during the rainy season they stayed in one place for a few months.
- * Their supporters built shelters for them in gardens, and many monks lived in natural caves.
- * Later, many monks and nuns realized that they needed permanent shelters and so monasteries known as *Viharas* were built out of either rock or wood.
- * The land on which a vihara was built was usually donated by a rich landlord or a king.
- * The local people came with clothes, food, and other gifts to learn from the monks.

Four Ashrams (Phases of life)

Were recognized for everyone to
lead a meaningful life

Brahmacharya (till
25 years of age)
To lead a simple life
and study during
the early years of
life.

Grihastha
(25 to 50 years of
age)
To marry and live
as householders.

Vanprastha
(50 to 75 years of
age)
To live in forest
and meditate.

Sanyas
(From 75 till
death)
Give up
everything and
become a
sanyasi