

Unit -3- Jainism, Buddhism and Ajivika Philosophy in Tamil Nadu

Class: VII

Subject: Social- His

I. Choose the correct answer:

1. Where was the first Jain Council held to codify the Jaina canon?
a) Pataliputra b) Vallabhi c) Mathura d) Kanchipuram
- 2) In which language was Agama sutras written?
a) Ardha-Magadhi Prakrit b) Hindi c) Sanskrit d) Pali
- 3) Which of the following was patronised by the Kalabhras?
a) Buddhism b) Jainism c) Ajivikas d) Hinduism
- 4) Where are the Rock beds found with no head-rests?
a) Vellore b) Kanchipuram c) Sittanavasal d) Madurai
- 5) Who is believed to have built the Kazhugumalai Rock-Cut Temple?
a) Mahendra Varman b) Parantaka Nedunchadayan
c) Parantaka Veera Narayana Pandyan d) Harihara II

II. Fill in the blanks:

- 1) The image of Neminatha is considered to be the tallest Jain image in Tamil Nadu.
- 2) Buddhacharita was written by Asvaghosa
- 3) Chinese traveller Huein Tsang visited Pallava country in 7th century.
- 4) Mahendravarman's Mattavilasa Prahasana describes Buddhism as a religion in decay.
- 5) The Mauryan emperor Asoka and his grandson Dasarata patronised Ajivikas

III. Match the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Kalpa sutra | - | Bhadrabahu |
| 2. Jivaka Chintamani | - | Tiruthakkathevar |
| 3. Neminatha | - | 22nd Tirthankara |
| 4. Milinda Panha | - | Nagasena |
| 5. Kizha Kuyil Kudi | - | Madurai |

IV. Answer the following:

- 1) Find out the odd one
Tiruparuttikunram, Kizha Kuyil Kudi, Kazhugumalai, **Nagapattinam**, Sittanavasal.

2) Assertion (A): Gautama found that he had nothing to learn from the teachers of the old religions.

Reason (R): The religions proclaimed that the only way to salvation was through living the life of an ascetic.

- a) A is correct. R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) A is correct. R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) Both A and R are wrong.
- d) A is wrong. But R is correct.

3) Find out the correct statement/s

i) During the 6th century B.C. as many as 62 religious schools flourished in India.

ii) 'Palli' is an educational centre of Buddhists.

iii) Royal patronage allowed pre-Muslim India to become a land of viharas.

iv) The Ajivikas continued to exist till 15th century.

- a) i) and iii) are correct.
- b) i), ii) and iv) are correct.
- c) i) and ii) are correct.
- d) ii), iii) and iv) are correct.

4) Find out the wrong pair/s

- 1. Parshvanatha - 22nd Tirthankara
- 2. Mahabashya - the Ceylonese Chroniclei
- 3. Visuddhimagga - Buddhagosha
- 4. Buddha - Eight-fold Path

V. True or False:

- 1. The 12th Agama Sutra is said to have been lost. **True**
- 2. Throughout history, Ajivikas had to face persecution everywhere. **True**
- 3. Education was imparted in institutions of Jains irrespective of caste and creed. **True**
- 4. Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramashila gained reputation as pilgrim centres. **False**
- 5. Buddhism faced challenges from Saiva and Vaishnava sects from the Chola period onwards. **False**

VI. Answer the following:

1. Make a list of the Five Great Vows of Jainism.

Five Great Vows of Jainism:

- Non-violence - Ahimsa
- Truth - Satya

- Non-stealing - Achaurya
- Celibacy/Chastity - Brahmacharya
- Non-possession - Aparigraha.

2. What are the four noble truths of Buddha?

- Life includes pain, getting old, disease, and ultimately death.
- Suffering is caused by craving and aversion.
- Suffering can be overcome and happiness attained.
- True happiness and contentment are possible, if one pursues the eight-fold path

3. Explain the three divisions of Tripitaka.

- The Pali canon Tripitaka has three divisions, also known as the Threefold Basket. They include Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka.
- Vinaya Pitaka contains the rules of the order of Buddhist monks, which must be observed for achieving purity of conduct.
- Sutta Pitaka lays down the principles of religion by citing discourses as evidence.
- Abhidhamma Pitaka is the latest of the Tripitaka. It deals with ethics, philosophy and meta-physics.

4. Highlight the importance of Sittanavasal.

- Sittanavasal cave in Pudukkottai district is located on a prominent rock that stands 70 m above the ground.
- It has a natural cavern, known as Eladipattam, at one end, and a rock-cut cave temple at the other.
- The largest of these ascetic beds contains a Tamil-Brahmi inscription that dates to the 2nd century B.C.
- The Sittanavasal cave temple, named Arivar Koil, lies on the west off the hillock. The facade of the temple is simple, with four rock-cut columns.
- Constructed in the early Pandya period, in the 7th century A.D. , it has a hall in the front called the Ardha-mandapam

VII. Answer in detail:

1. Enumerate the sources of study for Jainism and Buddhism.

Sources of Jainism:

- Mahaviras preaching was orally transmitted by his disciples over the course of about one thousand years.

- In the early period of Jainism, monks strictly followed the five great vows of Jainism. Even religious scriptures were considered possessions and therefore knowledge of the religion was never documented.
- Two hundred years after the death of Mahavira, Jain scholars attempted to codify the canon by convening an assembly at Pataliputra, but it ended as a failure.
- A second council held at Vallabhi, in the 5th century A.D., was, however, successful in
- Over time, many learned monks, older in age and rich in wisdom, had compiled commentaries on various topics.

Sources of Buddhism:

- Buddhas teachings for a long time were transmitted through the memory of teachers and disciples.
- They were reduced to writing by 80 B.C. and were written in the Pali language.
- The Pali canon Tripitaka has three divisions, also known as the Threefold Basket. They include Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka

2. Give an account of relics of Jainism and Buddhism that have come to light in Tamil Nadu.

Jains in Kanchipuram:

- Jainism flourished during the Pallava reign.
- The two Jain temples in Kanchipuram are Trilokyanatha Jinaswamy Temple at Tiruparuttikunram and the Chandra Prabha temple dedicated to the Tirtankara named Chandra Prabha.
- Mural paintings in the temples show scenes from the lives of Tirtankaras.
- In the Kanchipuram district, Jain vestiges have been found over the years in many villages across the state

Kazhugumalai Jain Rock-cut Temple:

- The Kazhugumalai temple in Thoothukudi district marks the revival of Jainism in Tamil Nadu.
- Polished rock-cut cave beds, popularly known as Panchavar Padukkai at Kazhugumalai cavern host the figures of Tirtankaras and also the figures of yakshas and yakshis. Jain temples have also been excavated in the districts of Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and Madurai

Buddhism in Tamilzhakam:

- Buddhism is believed to have spread to the Tamil country by the Ceylonese missionaries.
- The monuments are in caverns known as Pancha Pandava Malai.
- Chudamani Vihara of Nagapattinam was constructed by the Srivijaya king with the patronage of Rajaraja Chola.
- In the field of education, Buddhist Sanghas and Viharas served as centers of education.
- Nalanda, Taxila and Vikramshila gained reputation as great educational centres. They were originally Buddhist Viharas.
- Excavations of Buddhist Vihara and a temple at Kaveripoompattinam and hundreds of stone and bronze sculptures by ASI from over 125 sites have proved the spread of the religion in the state

3. Discuss the essence of Ajivika philosophy and its presence in Tamil Nadu.

Ajivika Philosophy:

- The Ajivikas believed in the doctrine of karma, transmigration of the soul and determinism.
- The Ajivikas practiced asceticism of a severe type.
- The Ajivika religious order and school of philosophy is known from the vedic hymns, the Brahmanas, the Aryankas and other ancient Sanskrit compilations.
- Throughout history, Ajivikas had to face persecution everywhere.
- Village communities under Pallavas, Cholas and Hoysalas imposed special taxes on them.
- Despite such obstacles, Ajivikas continued to have influence along the Palar river in the modern states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (Vellore, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur districts) till about the 14th century. In the end, they seemed to have been absorbed into Vaishnavism