

Textbook in History  
for Class XII

THEMES IN  
INDIAN HISTORY  
PART I

# THINKERS, BELIEFS AND BUILDINGS

This chapter is divided  
into two parts.

The chapter is based on  
the new/ latest syllabus.



# A GLIMPSE OF SANCHI

- In 19th century Europeans were very interested in the stupa at Sanchi
- French and Englishmen were provided prepared plaster-case copies and original remained in Bhopal State
- Shahjehan Begum and her Successor Sultan Jehan Begum provided money for the preservation of the ancient site
- Stupa Complex has survived then due to Wise decisions of the rulers of Bhopal





# THE BACKGROUND: SACRIFICES AND DEBATES

- The first millennium BCE regarded as a turning point.
- (i) Emergence of thinkers such as Zarathustra in Iran, Kong zi in China, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in Greece and Mahavira and Gautam Buddha from India
- (ii) This was the time when Kingdoms and new cities were developing social and economic life.



# THE SACRIFICIAL TRADITION

- Early Vedic traditions known from the Rigveda compiled between c1500 and 1000 BCE. Rigveda consists of hymns in praise of variety of deities especially Agni, Indra and Soma.
- Sacrifices such as the Ashvamedha and rajasuya were performed by the chief who depended on Brahman priests to conduct the ritual.



# NEW QUESTIONS

- About the meaning of life
- Possibility of life after death and rebirth. Was rebirth due to past actions ?
- People also began speculating on significance of the sacrificial tradition.



# DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS

- Debates took place in the kutagarashala (a hut with a pointed roof or in groves where travelling mendicants halted)
- Teachers, including Mahavira emphasised individual agency suggesting that men and women could strive to attain liberation from the trials and tribulations of worldly existence
- This was in marked contrast to the Brahmanical position.
- How Buddhist texts were prepared
- The Buddha taught Orally None of the speeches were written down during his lifetime After his death (5-4th century BCE) his teachings were compiled by his disciples at a council at Vesali known as Tipitaka

•Dipavamsa, the chronicle of Sri Lanka. and Mahavamsa,the great chronicle Were written containing regional histories of Buddhism.







# FATALISTS AND MATERIALISTS

- Those who believe that everything is predetermined described as fatalists and persons who consider material and personal possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values

# BEYOND WORDLY PLEASURES



- The message of Mahavira
- Vardhman, who came to be known as Mahavira in the 6th century BCE.
- Mahavira was preceded by 23 other Tirthankara. (those who guide across the river of existence)





# IDEA IN JAINISM:

- i) Entire world is animated: even Stones, rocks and water have life
- ii) Non- injury to living being is central to Jain philosophy
- ii) Principle of ahimsa, emphasised within Jainism
- iv) Cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through karma

Jaina Monks and Nuns took five vows

- 1.To abstain from killing
- 2.To abstain from Stealing
- 3.To abstain from lying
- 4.To observe Celibracy
- 5.To abstain from possessing property



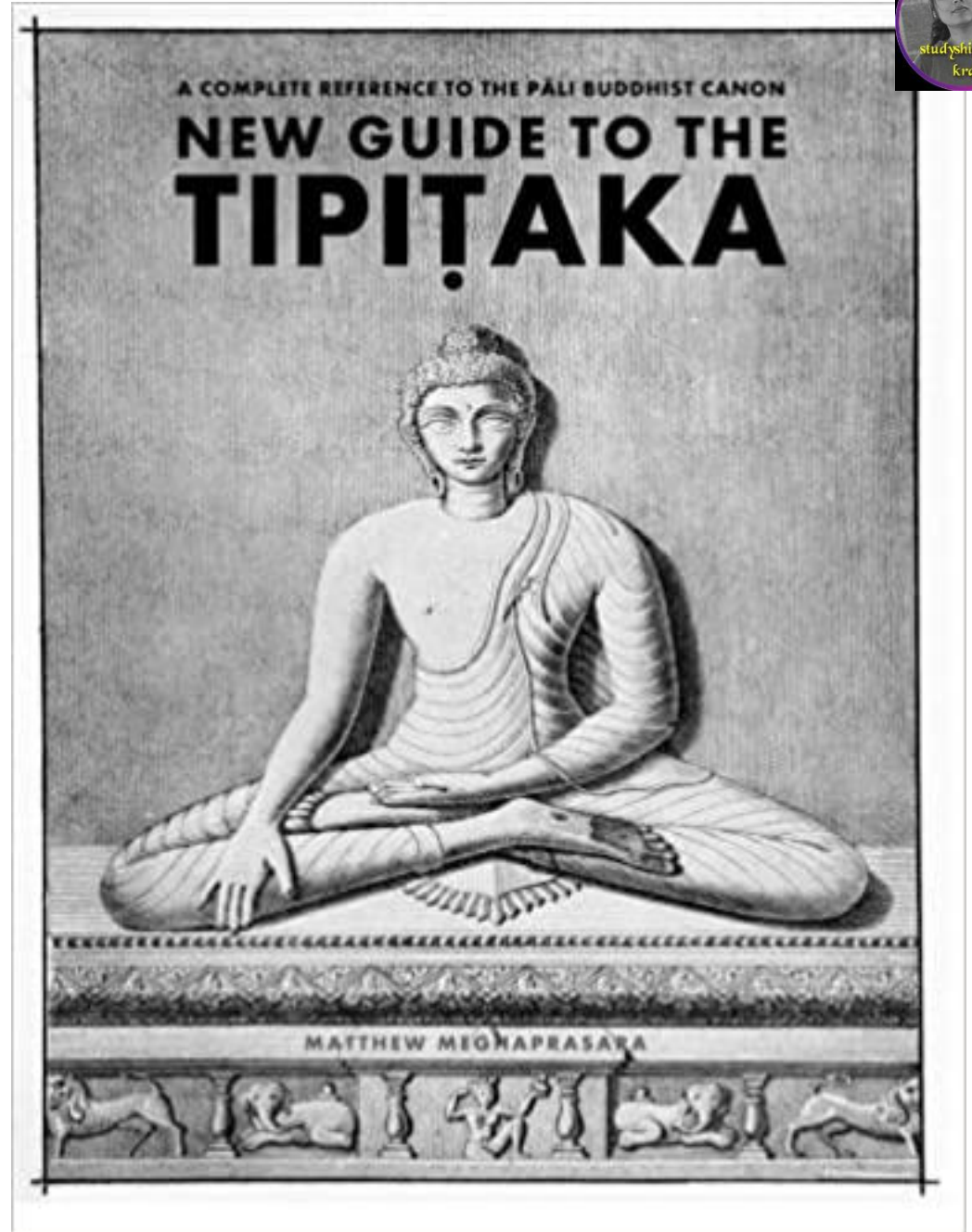
# THE SPREAD OF JAINISM

- Jaina scholars produced a wealth of literature in a variety of languages  
Prakrit, Sanskrit and Tamil

# THE BUDDHA AND THE QUEST FOR ENLIGHTENMENT



- Message spread and beyond across the Subcontinent China to Central Asia, Korea and Japan and through Sri Lanka, across the seas to Myanmar Thailand and Indonesia
- Siddhartha as the Buddha were named at birth was the son of the chief of the Sakya clan
- His first journey into the world outside was traumatic
- soon, he left out the palace and let out in search of his own truth
- Siddhartha meditated for Several days and finally attained enlightenment, and he Came to be known as Buddha or the Enlightened.
- For the rest of his life, he taught dhamma Or the path of righteous living



# THE TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA



- Buddha tried to convince people through reason and persuasion rather than through displays of Supernatural power.
- According to Buddhist philosophy, the world is transient (anicca) constantly changing, also soulless (anatta) as there is nothing permanent or eternal in it. Within this transient world (dukkha) Sorrow is intrinsic to human existence
- The path of moderation between severe penance and self-indulgence that humans can rise above the worldly troubles
- Buddha's last words to his followers were "Be lamps unto yourselves as you must work out your own liberation"

# FOLLOWERS OF THE BUDDHA.



- Body of disciples of the Buddha and he founded Sangha, an organisation of monks who too became teachers of dhamma
- Monks lived simply possessing only the essential requisites for survival Such a bowl to receive food once a day from the laity. As lived on alms known as bhikkhus.
- Initially, only men were allowed into the but later Women also came to be admitted.
- The Buddha's foster mother, **Mahapajapati Grotami** was the **first women** to be Ordained as **bhikkhuni**
- many women who entered the sangha went on to became teachers of dhamma and went on to become theirs
- The Buddha's followers came from many social groups.
- within the Sangha, all were regarded as equal
- Buddhism importance attached to conduct and values rather than claims of Superiority based on birth



# "STUPAS"



- From earliest time, people tended to regard Certain places as sacred
- These included sites with special trees or unique rocks or sites of awe inspiring natural beauty
- These Sites with were small Shrines attached to them were Sometimes described as chaitya



# BUDDHA'S LIFE

- i) Born in **Lumbini**
- ii) Attained enlightenment in **Bodh Gaya**
- iii) gave his first sermon in **Sarnath**
- iv) Attained nibbana in **Kushinagara**





# "WHY WERE STUPAS BUILT"

- Relics of the Buddha such as his bodily remains Or objects used by him buried under mounds known as stupas
- The tradition of erecting Stupas Came to be associated with buddhists
- According to a Buddhist text known the Ashokavadana, Ashoka distributed portions of buddhas relics to every important town and Ordered construction of Stupas Over"



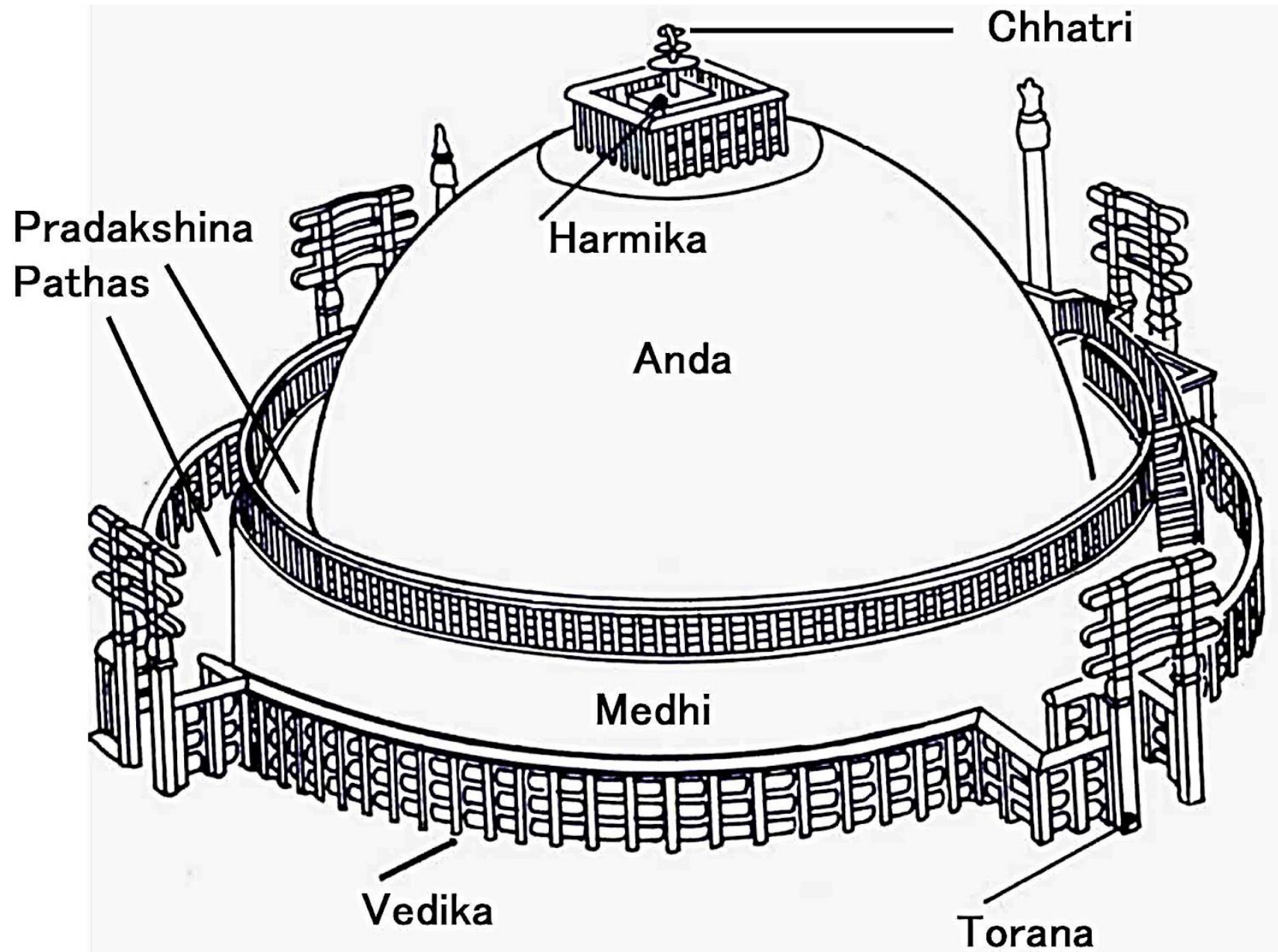
# HOW WERE STUPAS BUILT

- Donations made for building and decorating Stupas by Kings (Satavahanas) guilds(financed part of one gateways at sanchi)
- Men and Women, Bhikkhus and Bhikkhuni also contributed towards building these monument.

# "THE STRUCTURE OF THE STUPA"



- The stupa originated as a simple semi circular mound of earth, later called anda.
- Above the anda was the harmika
- Arising from the harmika was the mast the yashti often surmounted by a Chhatri or umbrella
- Around the mound was the railing ,seperating the Sacred space from the secular worlds
- the only stupas at sanchi at bharut were plain except for the stone railings
- Worshippers entered through the eastern gateway and walked around the mound in a clockwise direction keeping the mound on the right imitating the Sun's course through the sky
- The design of Stupas underwent many developments. Amaravati and Shah-ji- ki Dheri the mound Came to be elaborately carved with niches and Sculptures



# "DISCOVERING STUPAS" - THE FATE OF AMRAYATI AND SANCHI



- Raja mistook the mound of the stupa at Amravati to be a sight of buried treasure in 1796
- Walter Elliot concluded, after the discovery, the remains of the western gateways that it was the largest and important Buddhist stupa at Amravati
- New officials plundered the sculpture on the plea that other officials had done the same.
- Archaeologist H.H. Cole mentioned that it was Suicidal to allow the country to be looted of its ancient artwork but he was failed to Convince the authorities



# SCULPTURE

- Sculpture were removed from Stupas and transported all the way to Europe.

## Stories in Stone

- Historians Studied the sculpture of Sanchi Stupa and recognised the scene from Vessantara Jataka. It was a story about a kind prince Who donated everything to Brahmana and went to forest with his wife and children



# SYMBOLS OF WORSHIP



•Buddha got his enlightenment under a tree In ancient sculpture Buddha was not shown in human form they showed his presence in **Symbols**

1.Empty seal -meditation of buddha

2.Stupa-Mahapanibbana

3. Wheel-the first sermon of buddha delivered at sarnath



# " POPULAR TRADITIONS "

- Many sculptures of Sanchi were not influenced or inspired by the Buddhist text or The ideas.
- The image of beautiful women that Swinging from the edge of the gateway described as Shalabhanjika.
- There are many images which have fine depicted Work of animals-elephants horses, monkeys and Cattle
- The Jatakas contained many animal
- stories which were depicted in Sanchi Stupe seemed lively scenes.
- Elephants power and wisdom, motif of woman surrounded by lotuses or elephants abhishekha or conscration.
- James Fergusson considered Sanchi to be centre of tree and Serpent worship.
- Those who adopted these beliefs described the older tradition as Hinaya or the "lesser vehicle"



# NEW RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- The development of Mahayana Buddhism
- By the first century CE there was evidence of changes in their Buddhist ideas and uses and
  - There was great important to self efforts
  - to achieve the Nibbana
  - The worship of images of buddha and Bodhisattas became an important part of the Same tradition
  - New Style of thinking was known as Mahayana (the great vehicle)



# "THE GROWTH OF PURANIC HINDUISM"

- **Vaishavism** was developed around the different avatars or incarnations of the deity.
- Recognised each of these local deities as form of Vishnu as way of creating a more unified religious tradition.
- Shiva was symbolised by the linga. He was occasionally recognised in human form through symbols such as head dresses, ornaments, and ayudhas are depicted in the deity.



# BUILDING TEMPLES

- The early temple was a small square room known as garbhagriha 100 a very single small for way was there for the worshipper A tall Structure Came in existence gradually they were known as chikara
- They were build Over the Central Shrine walls of temple were decorated with Sculpture.
- Temples became more elaborate with assembly halls huge walls, gateways etc.



# CAN WE SEE EVERYTHING?

## GRAPPLING WITH THE UNFAMILIAR

- European Scholars noticed some Sculptures of gods and Goddesses.
- They could not understand their importance. They were under fear with the figure.
- Ancient Greek scholars were familiar with Indian Sculpture They became more excited as they found The idols of Bodhisattas and Buddha
- Taxila and Peshwar were the main cities
- Indo Greek rulers established kingdoms in the 2nd century BCE




# **“IF TEXT AND IMAGE DO NOT MATCH”**

- The use of Indian images with greek status were not easy task ever
- It Was an effective strategy than a comparison

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THANKS FOR WATCHING!

