

## Art & Culture Class 09

20th March, 2024 at 9:00 AM

### **BUDDHISM (CONTINUATION FROM THE PREVIOUS CLASS) (09:13 AM):**

- **Metaphysical Thoughts of Buddhism:**
- **View on Origin of Universe:**
- Buddhists did not give any divine theory to explain the origin of Earth.
- Instead, they maintained origin of the universe and earth happened on the principles of nature.
- **View of Veda:**
- Buddhists refuted the theory of the divine origin of Veda.
- They also rejected the divine authority of Veda.
- **Views on God:**
- Buddha never gave the answer to any question related to god.
- He was also agnostic on the question of god.
- **Views on Rebirth:**
- Buddhists believe on the concept of rebirth and they maintained rebirth can be ended by the attainment of Nirvana.
- **Views on Soul:**
- Buddhists rejected the concept of a permanent soul.
- In fact, they said that the body is **Anatta** (without self).
- A question arises if they do not believe in the soul, then what takes rebirth to which Buddhists replied that it is **Pancha Skandha** or five types of karmic memories which takes the rebirth.
- **Pratitya Samut Pada (Theory of Dependant Origination) (09:29 am):**
- It says all the Dharmas (causes) of any present phenomenon are always pre-existing.
- In other words, nothing happens without a reason.
- It further says " **If this exists, then that exists, if this ceases to exist that will also cease to exist** ".

- **Kshanikavada (09:33 am):**
- According to this philosophy, nothing is permanent and everything is momentary.
- **Some earliest sects of Buddhism (09:34 am):**
- Sammittiya.
- Sautantrika.
- Shravastivada.
- Madhyamika.
- Vaibhashika.
- Chaityaka's.
- Sailas.
- **Popular sects of Buddhism in contemporary times (09:37 am):**
- Mahayana.
- Theravada.
- Vajrayana.
- **Vajrayana:**
- It is the third most popular sect of Buddhism.
- It is also called as **Buddhism of Thunderbolt** or **Diamond Vehicle**.
- It is mainly popular in **Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim**, and **Mongolia**.
- It is also regarded as Tantra Buddhism.
- Rituals and Practices wise it is closure to Hinduism.
- They also started the practice of worshipping female deities like **Tara, Mahamayuri, Akshobhaya**, etc.
- Vajrayana Buddhism made its traverse to Tibet from **Nalanda Mahavihara** during the tenure of the **Pala dynasty**.
- The prime figure of Vajrayana Buddhism is **Dalai Lama** but he is also regarded as the prime figure of entire Buddhism.
- His status can be compared to **Bodhisattva**.

### **JAINISM (09:48 AM):**

- Jainism is an ancient creed which became a reality due to the contribution of **24 personalities**.
- These personalities are referred as **Tirthankars**.
- It is derived from the word **Tirath** which means oar.
- Tirthankar are regarded the great personalities who help others to navigate through the miseries and challenges of life.
- **Adinath Rishabhadev** is regarded as the **1st Tirthankar**.
- The first **22 Tirthankars** are considered as mythological and the last two Tirthankars are historical.
- **23rd Tirthankar Parsvanath:**
- He was the son of the **king of Kashi Aswasena**.
- At the age of **30**, he left his home and became **Parivrajak** (homeless wanderer).
- He reached to the Parsvanth hill where he meditated for many days and finally attained **Kaivalya** (Keval Jnan) (Absolute knowledge or truth).
- He formulated four pledges of Jainism in which one more pledge was added by the last Tirthankar.
- **24th Tirthankar Vardhaman Mahavir (10:03 am):**
- **Birth - 540 BC.**
- **Place - Kundagram (Vaishali).**
- **Varna - Ksatriya.**
- **Clan - Jnatri.**
- **Kingdom - Jnantrika.**
- **Father - Siddhartha.**
- **Mother - Trishala (Sister of Licchavi King Chetak).**
- **Wife - Yashoda.**
- **Daughter - Arnojya/Priyadarshika**
- **Vardhaman Mahavir** left his home at the age of **30** and became a **Parivrajak**.
- After some time point of time, he started to follow, the **Shramana tradition**.
- He started to practice extreme austerity, and penance and many a time tormented his body.
- At the age of **40**, he reached to village **Jhimbakgram** where on the banks of **River Rhijupalika** under a **Sal tree** meditated for many days, and attained Keval Jnan.
- After attaining Kaivalya, his disciples started to call him **Jina** and the meaning of the word Jina is conqueror and his followers came to be known as **Jaina**.
- Vardhaman Mahavir added a fifth vow in the already existing four vows.
- **Pancha Anuvrata of Jainism (five pledges):**
- Ahimsa - Do not commit violence.
- Amrusha - Do not speak lie.
- Asteya - Do not steal.
- Aparigraha - Do not acquire property.
- Brahmacharya - Observe celibacy.
- **Tri Ratna of Jainism:**
- Samyag Darshana - Right Faith.
- Samyag Jnan - Right Knowledge.
- Samyag Charita - Right Conduct.

- **Jain Councils (10:24 am):**
- After the death of Mahavir, Jainism became popular in many of the Mahajanapadas.
- Chandragupta Maurya accepted Jainism under the influence of the Jain Monk **Bhadrabahu**.
- In **299 BC**, there was a severe famine in Magadha.
- To perform extreme penance, **Chandragupta Maurya** shifted to **Shravana Belagola** in Karnataka under the guidance of Bhadrabahu.
- He performed the extreme Jain practice **Sallekhana** (fasting till death) whereby, he ended his life in typical Jain fashion.
- **1st Jain Council:**
- It was convened at Patliputra, patronized by **Bindusara**, and presided by Jain monk **Sthulbhadra**.
- The initial development of the council was a compilation of the teachings of all the Tirthankars in **14 books** known as **Purvas**.
- After some point of time, **Bhadrabahu** returned from Karnataka which led to an ideological fight with **Sthulbhadra**.
- It further led to the division of Jainism in two formal sects:

### **Shwetamber (White clads)**

Liberal sect

Used to wear white clothes.

According to Shwetamber tradition, Tirthankar 19 Mallinath was a woman.

They consider if all the doctrines of Jainism is practiced, then both men and women can attain Kaivalya in this birth.

### **Digamber (Sky clads)**

Orthodox sect

They discarded all the clothes and maintained nudity to remain as closure to nature.

They consider the Mallinath as man.

According to them, women can not attain Kaivalya in this birth as they are not advised to maintain nudity as such they can strive for the next birth as man, then only they can attain Kaivalya.

- **Some of the extreme practices of Jainism (10:41 am):**
- **Non-violence:**
- Followers of Jainism are forbidden to kill animals, plants, insects, and even germs.
- **Discarding the clothes by Digambars.**
- **Practice of Sallekhana.**
- **Metaphysical Thoughts of Jainism (11:07 am):**
- **Views on Origin of Universe:**
- According to Jainas, the universe was created on the principles of nature and they do not provide any divine theory related to the origin of the universe.
- **Views on Vedas:**
- They refuted the divine authority of the Vedas.
- **Views on God:**
- They do not reject the existence of god but they maintained if there is any god-like entity then he must be below Tirthankars.
- **Views on Rebirth:**
- Jainas believed in rebirth and maintained the attainment of Kaivalya ends the cycle of rebirth.
- **Views on Soul:**
- Jainism believes in the concept of the soul.
- According to them, there are two types of soul ie **Jivatma** and **Ajivatma**.
- As per them, not only living beings have souls but also non-living beings.
- **Anekantavada:**
- Truth is complex and multifaceted.
- In other words, there are many ways of defining the truth, and many facets combined lead to the configuration of the truth.
- **Popular of subjects of Jainism (11:19 am):**
- Mula Panthi.
- Bis Panthi.
- Thair Panthi.
- Tara Panthi.
- Gumana Panthi.
- Sthanakvasi.

**Q.**Buddhism which emerged in the Indian subcontinent started to decline from its own place of birth in early medieval centuries and almost wiped out from India by the establishment of Islamic rule. Discuss the factors responsible for its decline. (11:22 am).

- **Approach:**
- **The following points can be added to the answer:**
- Once Buddha said to his brother **Anand** that if women are allowed into **Sangha** then Buddhism which is going to survive for more than **1000** years will vanish within **1000** years from its own place of birth.
- On the insistence of Anand, Buddha allowed entry of women into the Sangha but later his words proved to be true.

- **Reasons:**
- Monks became corrupt.
- Many of them left the life of optimum and started to live a luxurious life.
- Monks started to practice sophisticated language like Sanskrit which was not easily understood by the common public.
- It diluted the reach of Buddhism to the masses.
- Monks were often interfering in the political affairs of the kingdom which was not liked by the kings who patronage to Buddhism.
- Many of the kings stopped patronizing Buddhism.
- Since its inception, there was constant branching in Buddhism which also diluted the original doctrines.
- Reforms were introduced in Hinduism during the Gupta period.
- Now concept of Bhakti became much more important than animal sacrifice.
- There was further consolidation of Hinduism through the compilation of Hindu religious literature and the construction of temples.
- People were re-attracted towards Hinduism.
- It was also popularized that Buddha was that the **9th reincarnation of Lord Vishnu** which led to the assimilation of Buddhism into Hinduism.
- Buddhists displayed a very high missionary zeal which started to work against them.
- With the onset of medieval rule, persecution of Buddhists started and many of their important monuments like Nalanda Mahavihara and its library was destroyed.
- It led to the migration of Buddhists from India to the neighboring countries where it survived.

**TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS:**Philosophy.