

LET'S RECALL

1. Match the following

Muvendar	Mahayana Buddhism
Lords of the dakshinapatha	Buddhacharita
Ashvagosha	Satavahana rulers
Bodhisattvas	Chinese pilgrim
Xuan Zhang	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas

Solution 1:

Muvendar	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas
Lords of the dakshinapatha	Satavahana rulers
Ashvagosha	Buddhacharita
Bodhisattvas	Mahayana Buddhism
Xuan Zhang	Chinese pilgrim

2. Why did kings want to control the Silk Route?

Solution 2:

Kings wanted to control the Silk Route due to the following reasons:

1. They could collect taxes, an additional source of revenue for them
2. Gifts and tributes were given by traders to the kings

3. What kinds of evidence do historians use to find out about trade and trade routes?

Solution 3:

Historians find evidence through multiple sources.

1. Through the literature of the concerned period
2. Ancient coins
3. Pottery, bowls and plates

4. What were the main features of bhakti?

Solution 4:

The main features of Bhakti were as follows:

1. Bhakti became a central feature of Hinduism.
2. Deities were worshipped through bhakti
3. Bhakti is generally understood as a person's devotion to their chosen deity
4. Anybody, whether rich or poor, belonging to the so-called 'high' or 'low' castes, man or woman, could follow the path of bhakti.
5. This path emphasised devotion and individual worship of a god or goddess rather than the performance of elaborate sacrifices.
6. As per this system, if a devotee worships the chosen deity with a pure heart, the deity will appear in the form in which they may desire. So, the deity could be thought of as a human being, lion, tree or any other form. Once this idea gained acceptance, artists made beautiful images of these deities.

LET'S DISCUSS

5. Discuss the reasons why the Chinese pilgrims came to India.

Solution 5:

The Chinese pilgrims came to India to visit places associated with the life of Buddha as well as famous monasteries. They spent time studying in Nalanda.

6. Why do you think ordinary people were attracted to bhakti?

Solution 6:

Anyone, irrespective of gender, economic status and caste status, could follow this path. Hence, it attracted ordinary people.

LET'S DO

7. List five things that you buy from the market. Which of these are made in the city/village in which you live and which are brought by traders from other areas?

Solution 7:

This is an activity that needs to be carried out by students.

8. There are several major pilgrimages performed by people in India today. Find out about any one of them, and write a short description. (Hint: who can go on the pilgrimage — men, women or children? How long does it take? How do people travel? What do they take with them? What do they do when they reach the holy place? Do they bring anything back with them?)

Solution 8:

This activity needs to be carried out by students. There are plenty of pilgrimage centres. Students can choose one from their own experience.

