

# HISTORY

## Chapter 6: New Questions and Ideas



## New Questions and Ideas

### Lord Gautama Buddha

Siddhartha, who later came to be known as Gautama was the founder of Buddhism. He was born in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. in a small gana of a Sakya clan. He was a Kshatriya by birth. At a young age, he left his home in the search of knowledge and visited various places. He gained enlightenment under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar and thereafter came to be known as the Buddha or the Wise One. He delivered his teachings for the first time at Sarnath, near Varanasi and spent the rest of his life travelling and teaching the people. He passed away at Kushinara.



### Teachings of Lord Buddha

Following are the teachings of Lord Buddha:

- Life is full of sufferings and unhappiness. These are caused due to human desires and cravings.
- Sometimes, even after getting what we want, we are not satisfied because we want other things. Buddha describes this as thirst or *tanha*.
- According to him, cravings and desires can be controlled by following the path of moderation.
- People should be kind and should not harm anyone, not even animals.
- Our actions (known as *karma*), good or bad, affect us in the next birth also.

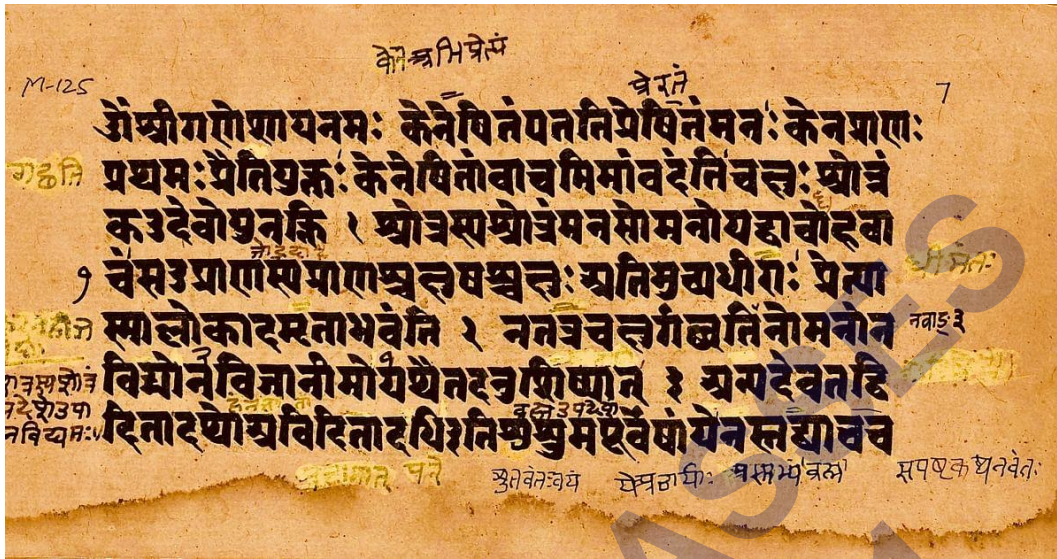
The teachings of Lord Buddha spread far and wide. He spread his teachings in the *Prakrit* language so that common people could understand them.



## Upanishads

Around the time that the Buddha was preaching and perhaps a little earlier, other thinkers also tried to find answers to difficult questions. Some of them wanted to know about life after death, others wanted to know why sacrifices should be performed. Many of these thinkers felt that there was something permanent in the universe that would last even after death. They described this as the atman or the individual soul and the brahman or the universal soul. They believed that ultimately, both the atman and the brahman were one. Many of their ideas were recorded in the Upanishads. These were part of the later Vedic texts. Upanishad literally means 'approaching and sitting near' and the texts contain conversations between teachers and students. Often, ideas were presented through simple dialogues. Most Upanishadic thinkers were men, especially brahmins and rajas. Occasionally, there is mention of women thinkers, such as Gargi, who was famous for her learning, and participated in debates held in royal courts. Poor people rarely took part in these discussions. One famous exception was Satyakama Jabala, who was named after his mother, the slave woman Jabali. He had a deep desire to learn about reality, was accepted

as a student by a brahmin teacher named Gautama, and became one of the best-known thinkers of the time. Many of the ideas of the Upanishads were later developed by the famous thinker Shankaracharya.



## Lord Mahavira

- Lord Vardhamana Mahavira was one of the most famous thinkers among the Jains. He lived during the same time period as Lord Buddha.
- He was a Kshatriya prince of the Lichchavis of the Vajji sangha. He left his house at the age of thirty and attained enlightenment after spending the next twelve years in a forest.
- Mahavira asked men and women to leave their houses in order to know the truth.
- He asked people to follow the principle of ahimsa and to not hurt any living being—human, plant or animal.
- He spread his teachings in the Prakrit language, so that common people could understand them.
- The followers of Lord Mahavira came to be known as Jainas. Jainas had to live a simple, honest and chaste life.
- Jainism was supported mainly by the traders. It was difficult for the farmers to support Jainism as they had to kill insects in order to protect their crops.
- Jainism spread to various parts of India, especially Gujarat, North India, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The teachings of Lord Mahavira were passed on orally from generations to generations till they were finally written down.
- His teachings are presently available at Vallabhi in Gujarat.



**Vardhaman Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism, but spread its teachings and his knowledge of Jainism far and wide**

## Jainism

Jainism The last and 24th tirthankara of the Jainas, Vardhamana Mahavira, also spread his message around this time, i.e. 2500 years ago. He was a kshatriya prince of the Lichchhavis, a group that was part of the Vajji sangha, about which you read in Chapter 5. At the age of thirty, he left home and went to live in a forest. For twelve years he led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.

He taught a simple doctrine: men and women who wished to know the truth must leave their homes. They must follow very strictly the rules of ahimsa, which means not hurting or killing living beings. "All beings," said Mahavira "long to live. To all things life is dear." Ordinary people could understand the teachings of Mahavira and his followers, because they used Prakrit. There were several forms of Prakrit, used in different parts of the country, and named after the regions in which they were used. For example, the Prakrit spoken in Magadha was known as Magadhi.

Followers of Mahavira, who were known as Jainas, had to lead very simple lives, begging for food. They had to be absolutely honest, and were especially asked not to steal. Also, they had to observe celibacy. And men had to give up everything, including their clothes.

It was very difficult for most men and women to follow these strict rules. Nevertheless, thousands left their homes to learn and teach this new way of life. Many more remained behind and supported those who became monks and nuns, providing them with food.

Jainism was supported mainly by traders. Farmers, who had to kill insects to protect their crops, found it more difficult to follow the rules. Over hundreds of years, Jainism spread to

different parts of north India, and to Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The teachings of Mahavira and his followers were transmitted orally for several centuries. They were written down in the form in which they are presently available at a place called Valabhi, in Gujarat, about 1500 years ago.

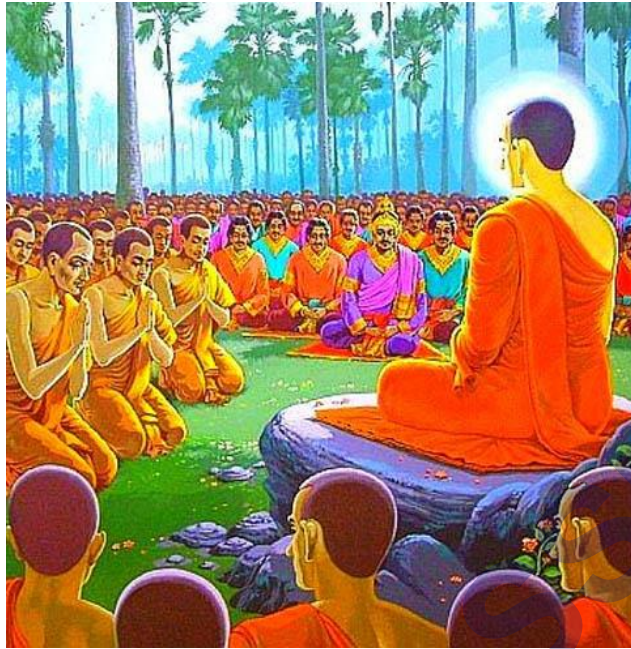


## The Sanghas and the Monasteries

### Sangha

The Sangha was an association of Buddhist and Jain monks who left their homes for gaining true knowledge. The rules made for the Buddhist sanghas were written down in a book called ***Vinaya Pitaka***. Some rules which guided the Buddhist sanghas were:

- All men could join the sanghas. Women had to take the permission of their husbands for joining the sanghas.
- Children too, had to take the permission of their parents before joining the sanghas while slaves had to take the permission of their masters.
- Those people who worked for the king had to take his permission while debtors had to take the permission of their creditors.
- Men and women in a sangha had to live simple life. They mediated for most of the time.
- They had to go the villages and cities and beg for the food for fixed hours. Therefore, they came to be known as bhikkhus and bhikkhunis meaning beggars.
- Meetings were held to settle disputes which took place in a sangha.



### Monasteries

Monasteries were shelters built for the Buddhist and the Jain monks. Generally monks travelled to different parts of the villages and cities for teaching the people. It was only during the rainy season that they stayed at one place. Many of them also stayed and meditated in caves. However, as the time passed, the supporters of Jainism and Buddhism built permanent shelters for them. These came to be known as **viharas**. Viharas of the earlier times were made up of wood and later came to be built in brick. Many a times, a vihara was built on the land which was donated by a rich person, generally a merchant or a trader. Some viharas were even built in caves mostly in Western India. Many people provided the monks and nuns with food and clothing. In return the monks taught the people.



**Ruins of a Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur in Bangladesh**

## The Ashram System

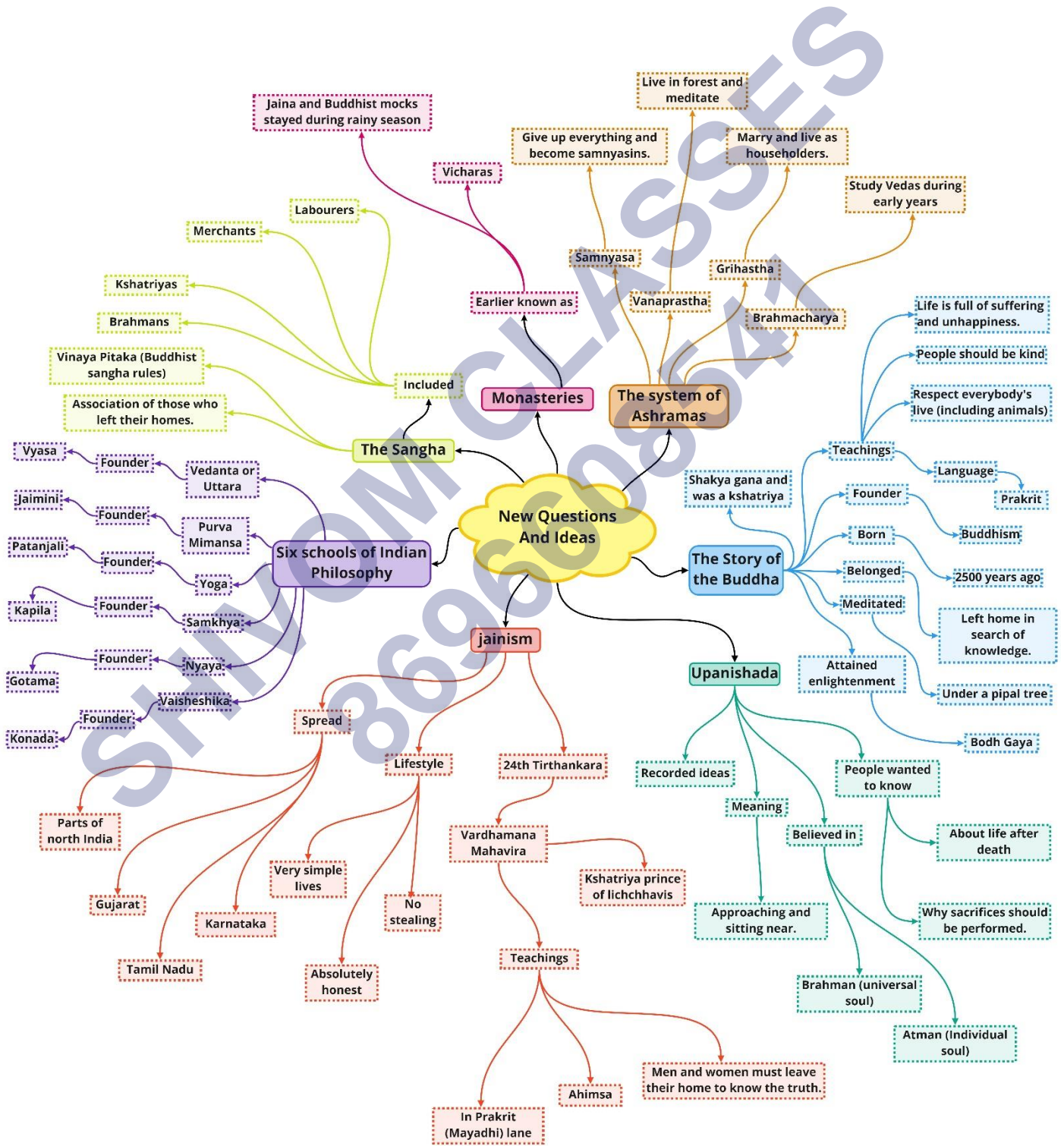
The Ashram system developed in India referred to the following stages in a man's life:

- The life of a man was divided into four stages.
- The first stage was *brahmacharya* where men belonging to the first three castes had to live a simple life and study the Vedas.
- In the second stage called as *grihastha*, they had to marry and run the household.
- In the third stage known as *vanaprastha*, they had to live in the forest and meditate.
- In the fourth stage, they had to become the *samnyasins*.
- Women were not allowed to study the Vedas and hence would follow the ashrams chosen by their husbands.





Class : 6th Social Studies  
Chapter- 6 : New Questions And Ideas



## Important Questions

### ➤ Multiple Choice Questions:

Question 1. Who went to Gautam Buddha for saving life of her son?

- (a) Ahiliya
- (b) Mahavira
- (c) Kisagotami
- (d) Sita

Question 2. Which language was used by the Buddha to communicate with people?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) English
- (c) Prakrit
- (d) Sanskrit

Question 3. Siddhartha was the original name of:

- (a) Buddha
- (b) Mahavira
- (c) Shiva
- (d) None of the above

Question 4. Mahavira was the prime of:

- (a) Magadha
- (b) Kalinga
- (c) Lichchhavi
- (d) Kusinara

Question 5. Valabhi is situated in the state:

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir

Question 6. The Prakrit spoken in Magadha was known as:

- (a) Prakriti
- (b) Magadhi
- (c) Magadh's Prakrit
- (d) None of these

Question 7. State of being unmarried is known as:

- (a) Celibacy
- (b) Calibaccy
- (c) Calligraphy
- (d) Calimobacy

Question 8. A follower of Vardhamana was known as:

- (a) Buddha
- (b) Brahman
- (c) Jaina
- (d) Kshatriya

Question 9. Who composed the grammar of Sanskrit?

- (a) Mahavira
- (b) Panini
- (c) Buddha
- (d) Anagha

Question 10. Buddha believed that the result of our action is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Karma
- (b) Happiness
- (c) Sadness
- (d) All of the above

Question 11. Where did Buddha give his first teaching?

- (a) Kurukshetra
- (b) Lumbini

- (c) Samath
- (d) Kusinara

Question 12. The language of the Avesta, and the practices described in it are very similar to those of the

- (a) Mahabharata
- (b) Quran
- (c) Bible
- (d) Vedas

Question 13. Panini, who prepared a \_\_\_\_\_ for Sanskrit.

- (a) Dialogues
- (b) Novel
- (c) Words
- (d) Grammar

Question 14. Gautam Buddha's father was the chief of \_\_\_\_\_ clan

- (a) Jnatrika
- (b) Kamboja
- (c) Lichchhavi
- (d) Shakya

Question 15. In which tree did Buddha gain enlightenment?

- (a) Burgad tree
- (b) Tulsi tree
- (c) Peepal tree
- (d) Neem tree

### ➤ Match The Following:

	Column-I		Column-II
1.	Zoroaster	A.	thirst
2.	Jina	B.	Iranian prophet
3.	Siddhartha	C.	stage of life

4.	Tanha	D.	Jaina
5.	Ashrama	E.	Gautam Buddha
6.	Atman	F.	universal soul
7.	Brahman	G.	individual soul

### ➤ Fill in the blanks:

- \_\_\_\_\_, near Varanasi, where Buddha taught for the first time.
- The Buddha attained enlightenment at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Upanishadic thinkers believed that the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were ultimately one.
- The Vinaya Pitaka is a \_\_\_\_\_ scripture.
- Vardhamana Mahavira was a kshatriya prince of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Buddha belonged to a small gana known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Prakrit spoken in Magadha was known as \_\_\_\_\_.

### ➤ Write true (T) or false (F):

- Gargi was the woman Upanishadic thinker who was famous for her learning.
- Buddha taught people to be kind, and to respect the lives of others, including animals.
- Buddha believed that karma do not affect our life.
- The individual soul is referred to as brahman.
- The Buddha described cravings and desires as thirst or tanha.
- Satyakama Jabala, who was named after his mother, the Brahmin woman Jabali.

### ➤ Very Short Questions:

- Who was Zoroaster?
- What is Avesta?
- What was Lord Buddha's birth name?
- Who were Jainas?
- Who prepared grammar for Sanskrit?
- Where is Karle cave?

7. Where does the word Jaina come from?
8. Who was the founder of Buddhism?
9. Why Buddha left the comforts of his home?
10. Who accepted Satyakama as a student?
11. Where Buddha died?
12. Where did Siddhartha attain enlightenment?
13. How did Mahavira attain enlightenment?
14. Name the famous thinker who developed the ideas of the Upanishads.
15. Who could join the Sangha?

### ➤ Short Questions:

1. What does tanha mean?
2. Who are the ancestors of the present Parsis?
3. What does vihara mean?
4. What is atman?
5. Why do you think Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of the Buddha?
6. What did Buddha do after he attained enlightenment?

### ➤ Long Questions:

1. What type of people became Upanishadic thinkers?
2. Write about Sangha as described in Vinaya Pitaka.
3. Write in brief about the life of Vardhamana Mahavira.
4. Write a short note on Gautama Buddha.
5. Write about the monasteries of Jainas and Buddhists.
6. Write a short note on the 'System of Ashramas'.

### ANSWER KEY –

### ➤ Multiple Choice Answer:

1. (c) Kisagotami
2. (c) Prakrit

3. (a) Buddha
4. (c) Lichchhavi
5. (a) Gujarat
6. (b) Magadhi
7. (a) Celibacy
8. (c) Jaina
9. (b) Panini
10. (a) Karma
11. (c) Samath
12. (d) Vedas
13. (d) Grammar
14. (d) Shakya
15. (c) Peepal tree

➤ **Match The Following:**

	Column-I		Column-II
1.	Zoroaster	B.	Iranian prophet
2.	Jina	D.	Jaina
3.	Siddhartha	E.	Gautam Buddha
4.	Tanha	A.	thirst
5.	Ashrama	C.	stage of life
6.	Atman	G.	individual soul
7.	Brahman	F.	universal soul

➤ **Fill in the blanks:**

1. Sarnath
2. Bodh Gaya
3. Atman and brahman
4. Buddhist

5. Lichchhavis.
6. Sakya gana
7. Magadhi

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F):**

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False

➤ **Very Short Answer:**

1. Zoroaster was an Iranian prophet.
2. Teachings of Zoroaster are contained in a book called the Avesta.
3. His birth name was Siddhartha Gautama.
4. Followers of Mahavira were known as Jainas.
5. Panini prepared grammar for Sanskrit.
6. This is a cave in Karle, present-day Maharashtra.
7. The word Jaina comes from the term Jina, Meaning conqueror.
8. Gautama Buddha was the founder of Buddhism.
9. He left the comforts of his home in search of knowledge.
10. He was accepted as a student by a brahmin teacher named Gautama.
11. Gautama Buddha died in the city of Kusinara (present day Kushinagar).
12. Siddhartha attained enlightenment under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
13. For twelve years Mahavira led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.
14. Many of the ideas of the Upanishads were later developed by the famous thinker Shankaracharya.
15. Brahmins, kshatriyas, merchants, labourers, barbers, courtesans and slaves could join the sangha.



### ➤ Short Answer:

1. Sometimes, even if we get what we want, we are not satisfied, and want even more (or want other things). The Buddha described this as thirst or tanha.
2. Some Zoroastrians migrated from Iran and settled down in the coastal towns of Gujarat and Maharashtra. They were the ancestors of today's Parsis.
3. Many supporters of the monks and nuns, and they themselves, felt the need for more permanent shelters and so monasteries were built. These were known as viharas.
4. Many thinkers felt that there was something permanent in the universe that would last even after death. They described this as the atman or the individual soul and the brahman or the universal soul.
5. Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of the Buddha because she was going on a school trip to Varanasi (in Uttar Pradesh) and Sarnath near Varanasi is the place where Buddha taught for the first time.
6. After enlightenment, he was known as the Buddha or the Wise One. He then went to Sarnath, near Varanasi, where he taught for the first time. He spent the rest of his life travelling on foot, going from place to place, teaching people, till he passed away at Kusinara.

### ➤ Long Answer:

1. Most Upanishadic thinkers were men, especially brahmins and rajas. There were some exceptions, such as Gargi, who was famous for her learning, and participated in debates held in royal courts. One famous exception was Satyakama Jabala, who was named after his mother, the slave woman Jabali. He was accepted as a student by a brahmin teacher named Gautama.
2. The rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the Vinaya Pitaka. All men could join the sangha. However, children had to take the permission of their parents and slaves that of their masters. Those who worked for the king had to take his permission and debtors that of creditors. Women had to take their husbands' permission. Men and women who joined the sangha led simple lives.
3. **About Vardhamana Mahavira:**
  - The most famous thinker of the Jainas was the Vardhamana Mahavira.
  - He was a kshatriya prince of the Lichchhavis, a group that was part of the Vajji sangha.
  - At the age of thirty, he left home and went to live in a forest.

- For twelve years he led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.

#### 4. **Gautama Buddha:**

- Siddhartha, also known as Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was born about 2500 years ago.
- The Buddha belonged to a small gana known as the Sakya gana, and was a kshatriya.
- When he was a young man, he left the comforts of his home in search of knowledge.
- He meditated for days on end under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar, where he attained enlightenment.

#### 5. **Monasteries of Jainas and Buddhists:**

- Supporters of the monks and nuns built temporary shelters for them in gardens, or they lived in natural caves in hilly areas.
- As time went on, many supporters of the monks and nuns, and they themselves, felt the need for more permanent shelters and so monasteries were built. These were known as viharas.
- Very often, the land on which the vihara was built was donated by a rich merchant or a landowner, or the king.

#### 6. Around the time when Jainism and Buddhism were becoming popular, brahmins developed the system of ashramas. Here, the word ashrama does not mean a place where people live and meditate. It is used instead for a stage of life. Four ashramas were recognised: brahmacharya, grihastha, vanaprastha and samnyasa.

- **Brahmacharya:** During this stage of life, Brahmin, kshatriya and vaishya men were expected to lead simple lives and study the Vedas during the early years of their life.
- **Grihastha:** During this stage, they had to marry and live as householders.
- **Vanaprastha:** During this stage, they had to live in the forest and meditate.
- **Samnyasa:** Finally, they had to give up everything and become samnyasins.

The system of ashramas allowed men to spend some part of their lives in meditation. Generally, women were not allowed to study the Vedas, and they had to follow the ashramas chosen by their husbands.