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ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY

ANCIENT INDIA: TERMINOLOGIES

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Vedic Period

Bali	Bali (tribute) claimed by Raja in Rig Veda Period. This later on became a tax.
Dharma*	Dharma signifies behaviours that are considered to be in accord with Rita, the order that makes life and universe possible, and includes duties, rights, laws, conduct, virtues and "right way of living".
Kulapa	Head of a family
Rajsuya, Vajpeya	Sacrifices performed by the King
Rita*	In the Vedic religion, Rita is the law of natural order which regulates operation of the universe and everything within it.
Sabha	An assembly of a few select ones/elders first found in the RigVeda.
Samiti	Samiti was a folk assembly in which people of the tribe gathered for discussing philosophical issues and may also have played a role in electing the king/ Rajan .
Sangrihitri	officer responsible for collecting and levying taxes
Vidhata	Vidatha was also a tribal assembly. Women actively participated in the deliberations with men in Vidatha.
Vrajapati, Gramini	Head of a grama (community) during Vedic Period. He is also mentioned as in charge of pastoral Lands.

Buddhism and Jainism

Anekantavada	Anekāntavāda refers to the Jain doctrine that the ultimate truth and reality is complex and has multiple aspects. It is closely related to Syadavada.
Arhat	Theravada Buddhism defines arhat (Sanskrit) or arahant (Pali) as "one who is worthy" or as a "perfected person having attained nirvana. Most Texts describe them as having attained nirvana and disappeared from cycle of rebirths.
Boddhisatva	A buddhist concept. He/She is a supremely wise compassionate being who refrains from nirvana to help other buddists attain nirvana.
Kaivalya	Kaivalya, also known as Kevala Jnana, means omniscience in Jainism and is roughly translated as complete understanding or supreme wisdom Every soul has the potential to obtain omniscience by shedding off karmic particles attached to soul. A soul who has attained kevala jnana is called a kevalin
Parigraha	Parimita Parigraha / Aparigraha in Jainism is a vow to limit attachment to worldly possessions.
Sramana*	A term generally used to indicate heterodox movements like Buddhism, Jainism etc
Syadvada	Syādvāda is a Jain doctrine that all judgments are conditional, holding good only in certain conditions, circumstances, or senses, expressed by the word syāt (Sanskrit: "may be"). The ways of looking at a thing (called naya) are infinite in number.
Theravada	Theravada is the dominant form of Buddhism in most of southeast Asia.
Therigatha	Meaning Verses of the Elder Nuns is a Buddhist text, a collection of short poems of early women nuns (Bhikkunis) and is part of suttapitaka
Tripatika	Tripiṭaka, is the traditional term for the Buddhist scriptures. The three pitakas are Vinaya, Sutta and Abhidhamma.
Upasika	Followers of Buddhism who are not monks or nuns.

Terms related to Buddhas life:

- Avakranti (the descent, i.e., conception)
- Jati (birth)
- Mahabhinishkramana (the great departure from Palace to monkhood),
- Sambodhi (enlightenment)
- Dharmachakrapravartana (the first sermon)
- Mahaparinibbana (death).

Mauryan Period

Rajukas, Yukthas, Pradeshika	Officials at district / Provincial level
Amatyas, Mahamatas	A high official.
Samharta	Collector general of Revenue
Sannidhata	Head of royal treasury
Atithya	Land given to the officials for the public charities and pious acts.
Dharmathikarin	Chief Justice
Pativedaka, Pulisani	Spies

Other Bureaucratic terms:

- Nagaraka: incharge of city administration
- **Sita Adhyaksha: Supervisor of agriculture**
- Navadhyaksha: Superintendent of ships
- Sulkaadhyaksha: Collector of tolls,
- Akaradhyaksha: Superintendent of mines
- Pauthavadhyaksha: Superintendent of weight and measures etc.
- The four divisions of the army—infantry, cavalry, chariots, and elephant were placed under officers known as the patyadhyaksha, ashvadhyaksha, rathadhyaksha, and hastyadhyaksha respectively.

Post Mauryan Period till Medieval Period

Aharas, Bhuktis, Vishayas	Terms used for Provinces / Districts
Amatyas, Rajanyaka, Renaka, Rashtramahattarra/mahattara	Terms used for officials .
Arjunayanas, Yaudheyas	Oligarchies that existed in the Post Mauryan period.
Damaras	Land Lord Class in ancient Kashmir
Deshya, Gramaja, Karaja	Terms used for Land Grants
Dhivada/Dhimada,Vapi	Wells. Vapi was a Step well.
Dinara and Purana	Coins. Dinara was gold coin and Purana was silver coins
Ghatika*	An educational institution usually attached to temples, especially during Pallava reign. Kanchi had a famous Ghatika.
Gramikas, Gramadyaksha, Gramakuta, Grama bhojak	Terms used for Village Headmen.
kahapana/karshapana/pana	Coin series, often silver or copper
Kara,Bhali, Bhaga, Bali, Udranga, klipta, upaklipta etc	Tax Terms (Exact nature varied)
Karkota, Utpala,Lohara, Shah mir	Dynasties of Kashmir in Ancient and early medieval period.
Kshatrapa/Mahakshatrapas/maharati/mahabhojaka	A regional governor / Vassal. A term that became prominent from Post Mauryan Period.
Nigama /Panchanekame / Negama coins	A term used for Trade guilds as also their coins
Noria, Araghatta*	Persian wheel or irrigation device used to fetch water
Parivraajaka*	A wandering monk
Skandhavera	Military camps in early medieval period
Tadaga, Pushkarini, Eri	Tanks/ Reservoirs
Viragals	Memorial stones / slabs of stone decorated with bands of sculpture with inscribed bands between paying tribute to a fallen soldier.
Vithi, Patta, Bhumi, Petta, Pataka etc	Terms used for settlements, lands

*Indicates Previous year question

Guptan administrative terms

- Central administration: (Terms used for important officers)
 - Kumaramatya, sandhivigrahika, mahabaladhikrita. Mahadandanayaka, Ayuktakas
- Provincial administration: (Term for provinces: Bhuktis, Bhoga, Pradesha)
 - Administrative officers : Uparikas/Goptri/ Bhattarakas (Governors)
- Vishayas (Districts)
 - Officers:
 - Uparika or vishayapati (who was the head)
 - the nagara-sreshthin (chief merchant/banker)
 - sarthavaha (chief caravan trader)
 - prathama-kulika (chief artisan or merchant)
 - prathama-kayastha (chief scribe or an officer in charge of revenue collection).
- Tax Terms:
 - Bhaga was a term used for the king's share of grains produced.
 - Bhoga may have referred to the periodical supplies of firewood etc to the king.
 - Shulka: Term used for Urban tolls. Shaulkika was collector of shulka.
 - Hiranya : king's share of the agricultural produce paid in cash.
 - Vishti : Forced Labour.

Cholan administrative terms: Types of land

Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land:

- **Vellanvagai** : land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors
- **Brahmadeya**: land gifted to Brahmanas.
- **Taniyurs**: Brahmadeyas which were independent status from the nadu administration.
- **Shalabhoga**: land for the maintenance of a school
- **Devadana, tirunamattukkani** : land gifted to temples
- **Pallichchhandam** : land donated to Jaina institutions

Cholan taxes and economic terms:

- **Valanadu** : Group of Nadus created for revenue collection.
- **Puravu vari thinaikkalam / Shri Karanam** : Department that looked after Taxes.
- **Perundaram, Sirutaram** : Royal Officials.
- **Kadamai**: The Main Land tax
- **Vetti/ Muttaiyal** : Forced Labour
- **Kaniudaiyar**: Land owning Farmers
- **Ulukudi**: Tenant Farmers
- **Eripatta*** : Tax for maintenance of Eri/Tank

South Indian assemblies

- **Sabha**: an assembly of brahmin land owners. This assembly functioned through subcommittees, which looked after irrigation, agricultural operations, making roads, local temples, etc. **Variyams were committees** under Sabhas which monitored various functions.
- **Ur was a village assembly** found in areas where the land owners were not brahmins,
- **Nagaram was an organisation of merchants** whose members/head was known as **nagarattar**.
- **Nadu/Kurram/Kottam** : a district or a subdivision; also used in the sense of the local assembly to administer the area.
- **Erivariyam** : Tank maintenance committee.

Other terms from NCERT

- **Gahapati** - A gahapati was the owner, master or head of a household, who exercised control over the women, children, slaves and workers who shared a common residence.
- **An agrahara** - was land granted to a Brahmana, who was usually exempted from paying land revenue and other dues to the king, and was often given the right to collect these dues from the local people.
- **Devanampiya and Piyadassi** - often translated as “beloved of the gods” and “pleasant to behold. The name by which Asoka is mentioned in some inscriptions.
- **Kutagarashala** – literally, a hut with a pointed roof, in Buddhism a place where travelling mendicants halted and debates took place in them. If a philosopher succeeded in convincing one of his rivals, the followers of the latter also became his disciples.
- **Vanik:** A term used in Sanskrit texts for Traders
- **Charanachitras** - Story telling scroll paintings.
- **Shalabanjika** - sculptures of beautiful women swinging from the edge of the gateway, holding onto a tree often seen in buddhist reliefs.
- **Muvendar:** This is a Tamil word meaning three chiefs, used for the heads of three ruling families of sangam period, the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas
- **Manigramam, Ayyavole, Anchuvannam and Nanadesi:** South Indian trade guilds that traded extensively both within the peninsula and with Southeast Asia and China.

*Indicates Previous year question