

CHAPTER-V

TRIBES, NOMADS AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES

2MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: What kinds of exchanges took place between nomadic pastoralists and settled agriculturists?

Answer:

1. Nomadic pastoralists gave wool, ghee etc.
2. Settled agriculturalists gave the nomadic pastoralists grains, cloth, utensils and other products.

2: How was the administration of the Ahom state-organized?

Answer:

Administration of Ahoms

1. The Ahom state depended upon forced labour.
 - The forced workers were called paiks.A census of the population was taken.
 - Each village had to send a number of paiks by rotation.
 - People from heavily populated areas were shifted to less populated places. — Ahom clans were thus broken up.

By the first half of the seventeenth century, the administration became quite centralised.

3: Who was Durgavaii?

Answer: She was the daughter of Salbahan, the Chandel Rajput raja of Mahoba. She got married to Dalpat, the son of the Gond raja Aman Das.

4: What made Garha Katanga a rich state?

Answer: Garha Katanga earned huge wealth by trapping and exporting wild elephants to other kingdoms. This made it a rich state.

5: What do present-day historians use to write tribal histories?

Answer: They use oral traditions and rich customs of the tribal people to write their (tribals') histories.

6: Mention some special features of tribal societies.

Answer: Some special features of tribal societies are :

- They did not follow the social rules and rituals which the Brahmanas prescribed.
- They were not divided into many unequal classes.

- Members of the society were united by kinship bonds.

7: What made the Brahmanas more influential in the Gond Society?

Answer: The Gond raja began to grant land to the Brahmanas. This made them influential.

8: Which tribe was very influential in Punjab during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries?

Answer: The Khokhar tribe was very influential in Punjab during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries

4MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: What changes took place in vama-based society?

Answer: The following changes took place in uama-based society:

- Smaller castes or jatis emerged within vamas.
- On the other hand, many tribes and social groups were taken into caste-based society and given the status of jatis.
- Specialised artisans such as smiths, carpenters and masons were also recognised as separate jatis by the Brahmanas.
- Jatis rather than vama became the basis for organising society.
- Among the Kshatriyas, new Rajput clans became powerful.
- Many tribes became part of the caste system. But only the leading tribal families could join the ruling class. A large majority joined the lower jatis of caste society.
- Many dominant tribes of Punjab, Sind and the North-West Frontier had adopted Islam. They continued to reject the caste-system.

2: How did tribal societies change after being organised into a state?

Answer:

Changes in the Society

1. The emergence of large states changed the nature of tribal society.
2. Equal society gradually got divided into unequal social classes.
 - Brahmanas received land grants from the Gond rajas.
 - They became more influential.

The Gond chiefs now wished to be recognised as Rajputs.

- Aman Das, the Gond raja of Garha Katanga, assumed the title of Sangram Shah.
- His son, Dalpat, married princess Durgawati.

She was the daughter of Salbahan, the Chandel Rajput raja of Mahoba.

3: Plot the location of the tribes mentioned in this chapter on a map. For any two, discuss whether their mode of livelihood was suited to the geography and the environment of the area where they lived.

Answer: Several tribes live in different parts of India. See the map given below



These tribes settled temporarily at the places which suited them as per their need and livelihood. Whenever they found the environment or their mode of living unfavourable, they migrated to other suitable places.

4: Find out about present-day government policies towards tribal populations and organise a discussion about these.

Answer:

Policies about Tribal population

- Overall upliftment.
- Land rights.
- Education.
- Cultural and social upliftment.
- Roads, water, industries.
- Mainstreaming.
- Enforcement of reservation in government jobs.

5: Find out more about present-day nomadic pastoral groups in the sub-continent.

Answer: What animals do they keep? Which are the areas frequented by these groups? Ans. Present-day nomadic pastoral groups in the sub-continent are – Gaddi shepherds living in the western Himalayas, Gujjar Bakarwals, living in Jammu & Kashmir, Banjaras living in Rajasthan. These nomadic people keep sheep, goats, and camels. They frequently visit the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Rajasthan.

6: How did the tribal people earn their livelihood?

Answer: The main occupation of the tribal people was agriculture. But there were also hunter-gatherers or herders. Most often they combined these activities to make full use of the natural resources of the area in which they lived. Some tribes were nomadic moving from one place to another. A tribal group controlled land and pastures jointly and divided these amongst household as per its own rules

7: Write a brief note on the administrative system of the Gond kingdom.

Answer: The Gond Kingdom was divided into garhs. Each garh was controlled by a particular Gond clan. This was further divided into units of 84 villages called chaurasi. The chaurasi was subdivided into barhots which were made up of 12 villages each.

8: Who were the Ahoms? How did they build a large state?

Answer: The Ahoms were the tribal people who migrated to the Brahmaputra valley from present-day Myanmar in the 13th century. They created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the bhuiyans i.e. landlords. During the 16th century, they annexed the kingdoms of the Chhutiyas in 1523 and of Koch- Hajo in 1581. They also subjugated many other tribes. In this way, the Ahoms built a large state and for this they used firearms as early as 1530s.

7MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: Give a brief account of the tribal people found in different parts of the subcontinent

Answer: Tribal people were found in almost every region of the sub-continent. In Punjab, the Khokhar tribe was influential during the 13th and 14th centuries. Later, the Gakkhars became more important. In Multan and Sind, the Langahs and Arghuns dominated extensive regions. The Balochis were another large and powerful tribe in the north-west. In the western Himalayas, the Gaddi Shepherds lived. The Nagas, Ahoms and many others lived in the distant north-eastern part of the subcontinent. In many areas of present-day Bihar and Jharkhand, Chero Chiefdoms had emerged by the 12th century.

However, they were subdued by the Mughals. The Mundas and Santals were other important tribes that lived in these states and also in Orissa and Bengal. The Kolis, Berads and numerous others lived in the Maharashtra highlands, Karnataka and Gujarat. Further there were large tribal populations of Koragas, Vetars, Maravars and many others in South. The Bhils were spread across western and central India. By the late 16th century many of them had become settled agriculturists and some even zamindars. Many Bhil clans, nevertheless, remained hunter-gatherers. The Gonds were found in large numbers across the present-day states

of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

2: What do you know about the Ahom Society?

Answer: Ahom society was divided into clans or Khels. There were very few castes of artisans, so artisans in the Ahom areas came from the nearby kingdoms. Khel often controlled several villages. The peasant was given land by his village community. Even the king could not take it away without the community's consent. The Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods. But during the first half of the 17 century Brahmanas achieved great influence which gave rise to Hinduism.

In the reign of Sib Singh Hinduism became a predominant religion. However, the Ahom kings remained stick to their traditional beliefs to some extent even after adopting Hinduism. Ahom society was very sophisticated. Poets and scholars were given land grants. Theatre was encouraged.

3: How did the nomadic pastoralists earn their living?

Answer: Nomadic pastoralists kept on moving from place to place with their animals. They lived on milk and other pastoral products. They also exchanged items like wool,

ghee, etc. with settled agriculturists for grain, cloth, utensils and other products. They bought and sold these goods as they moved from one place to another, transporting them on their animals. The Banjaras were trader-nomads who bought grain where it was cheaply available and carried it to places where it was dearer.

From there, they again reloaded their oxen with anything that could be profitably sold in other places. Thus, they played an important role in connecting India to the outside world. Many pastoral tribes reared and sold animals, such as cattle and horses, to the wealthy people. Different castes of petty pedlars travelled from village to village. They made and sold wares like ropes, reeds, etc. Sometimes mendicants acted as wandering merchants. There were also castes of entertainers who earned their living by performing in different towns and villages.

**MULTIPLE CHOICES ON TRIBES,
NOMADS AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES**

1: Mir Jumla attacked the Ahom in ?

- a) 1662
- b) 1665
- c) 1670
- d) 1672

2: The specialized artisans were ?

- a) smiths , carpenters, peasants
- b) Smiths carpenters, masons
- c) Soldiers, carpenters, masons
- d) None

3: Varna was prescribed by...?

- a) Brahmans
- b) Kings
- c) Poets
- d) Artisans

4: Many societies did not follow the social rules prescribed by the Brahmans, who were they?

- a) Poets
- b) Peasants
- c) Artisans
- d) Tribes

5: Khokhar tribes lived in?

- a) Kashmir
- b) Punjab
- c) Assam
- d) Gujrat

6: Kamal Khan Gakkhar was the mansabdar in the reign of ?

- a) Babur
- b) Akbar
- c) Jahangir
- d) Shah jahan

7: Langhas and Arghuns tribes dominated extensive regions which are ?

- a) Multan and Sindh
- b) North East
- c) Central India
- d) Southern India

8: Kolis lived particularly in many areas of?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Nagaland
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Andhra Pradesh

9: Those who specifically made and sold ropes, reeds, straw matting, and course sack are called ?

- a) Banjaras
- b) Gonds
- c) Petty pedlars
- d) Bhils

10: Mongols were hunter-gatherer tribes inhabited in ?

- a) Esatern Asia
- b) South Asia
- c) West asia
- d) Central Asia

MCQ'S Answers:

<u>Q. No's</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Q1	A
Q2	B
Q3	A
Q4	D
Q5	B
Q6	B
Q7	A
Q8	A
Q9	C
Q10	D

**FILL IN THE BLANKS ON TRIBES , NOMADS
AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES**

1: The new castes emerging within varnas were called _____.

Answer: Jatis

2: The Gonds practised _____ cultivation.

Answer: Shifting

3: _____ were historical works written by the Ahoms.

Answer: Buranjis

4: The _____ mentions that Garha Katanga had 70,000 villages.

Answer: Akbar Nama

5: As tribal states became bigger and stronger, they gave land grants to _____ and _____.

Answer: Poets and Scholars

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6: _____, the Gond raja of Garha Katanga, assumed the title of Sangram Shah.

Answer: Aman Das

7: The Gonds lived in a vast forested region called _____.

Answer: Gondwana

8: The Gonds kingdom was divided into _____.

Answer: garhs

9: Ahom society was divided into _____ or _____.

Answer: clans or khels

SUMMARY ON TRIBES , NOMADS AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES

During the Medieval Age, several social, economic and political development took place.

The Indian society was divided on the basis varnas. During the medieval period, gap between the rich and poor increased.

There were, however, several communities which did not follow rules laid down by the Brahmins. These included the tribes, nomads and settled communities.

Economic, political, and social changes have occurred in various communities. In many areas of the Indian subcontinent, the laws of Varna were used to divide society. The Brahmanas imposed the Varna system. The rich-poor divide has grown wider. However, during the Delhi Sultans and the Mughals, the social class system became even more hierarchical.