

Short Q&A

1. Write in short about Gupta Empire.

Answer: The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian dynasty that existed from around 320 to 550 AD. The Gupta Empire was founded by Chandragupta I. Some sections of the North Bengal came under the possession of Gupta Empire during the reign of Chandragupta. Whole Bengal was conquered during the reign of Samudragupta. From the era of Samudragupta to the midpoint of the sixth century, North Bengal was used to be considered as a 'Province' or 'Bhukti' of Gupta Empire. There was a golden age under Kumaragupta I because he patronized art, literature, and education. Like the Mauryas, Pundranga was the capital of the Gupta kings of the province.

2. Write in short about Pala Empire.

Answer: 'Pala' means protector. Pala empire ruled for 400 years (Mid 8th-late 11th Century). They were followers of Buddhism. The Pala Empire was founded by Gopala. There were eighteen generations of kings on Pala empire. They improved upon the administrative structure developed by Gupta Empire. This region became the hub of Buddhist teaching. Buddhism spread to areas like Myanmar, Indonesia, etc. Nalanda university was revived. In this empire, Most natives were Hindus. For that reason, lands were granted for temples. Brahmins were posted in important position.

3. Write in short about Sena Empire.

Answer: The Sena Empire was a Hindu dynasty that ruled in Bengal from 11th and early 13th centuries. The Sena Dynasty was founded by Hemanta Sena. His successor Vijay Sena helped laid the foundations of the dynasty. He brought East and South Bengal under his reign, defeating the Varma king. Then he conquered North-West Bengal, Kamrupa, Kalinga and Mithila. His first capital was Vijayapura. The second capital was established in Vikrampur. Later, the capital was shifted to Nadia. The Muslim commander Ikhtiar uddin Muhammad Bin Bakhtiyar Khilji attacked Nadia and defeated Lakshmana Sena (the last king of Sena empire). With the defeat of Lakshmana Sena the Sena rule in Bengal came to an end.

4. Write in short about Baro Bhuiyans.

Answer: During the reign of Emperor Akbar, the Mughals faced resistance from powerful Zamindars in Bengal known as Baro Bhuiyans. 'Bara' does not mean the

number of twelve, rather defines the indefinite number of Zamindars. Led by Issa Khan, they fought against Mughal commanders to protect their land. Despite several attempts by the Mughals, including sending Subadars like Shahbaz Khan and Raja Mansingh, they could not defeat the Bara Bhuiyans. After Issa Khan's death, his son Musa Khan took over as the leader. However, during the reign of Emperor Jahangir, Subadar Islam Khan successfully defeated the Baro Bhuiyans. He shifted the capital from Rajmahal to Dhaka and defeated Musa Khan in battle. The Baro Bhuiyans were forced to surrender. Islam Khan treated Musa Khan with respect and appointed him as a representative of the Mughals. This marked the end of the Baro Bhuiyan rule.

5. What do you know about the Battle of Palassey? Write in Short.

Answer: The Battle of Plassey, also known as the Battle of Palashi, took place on June 23, 1757, began in the region of Plassey (Palashi) on the bank of Bhagirothi river in present-day West Bengal, India. Basically, the British came in power in Bengal after the battle of Plassey because our last independent nawab Siraj ud-Daulah was defeated. There were so many reasons for this battle. Some of them were: not sending the gift to king, the English abused the trade conditions, confidential agreement between Mir zafor and Clive, conspiracy against Nawab etc. An interesting fact is Nawab had 50,000 soldiers and British had only 3,000 soldiers, but Nawab defeated battle of plassey because of conspirator Mir Zafor. Mir Zafar, the Commander-in-Chief of the Nawab, absented himself from taking part in the battle.

6. What do you know about the Battle of Buxar? Write in Short.

Answer: The Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764) took place between the forces of the British East India Company and the combined army of Nawab Mir Qasim, Oudh Nawab Shuja-ud-Doulah, and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II. This battle resulted in the Treaty of Allahabad (1765). Under the Treaty of Allahabad, the Mughal Emperor surrendered the sovereignty of Bengal and Bihar to the company. Thus, Robert Clive became the first Governor of Bengal. Over the next hundred years, they seized the entire Indian subcontinent, Myanmar, and parts of Afghanistan.

7. What do you know about Matsayanyam?

Answer: Matsayanyam, a Sanskrit term, refers to a situation when a big fish swallows a small fish. In the history of Bengal, the death of Shasanka and before

the rise of the Palas has been described as matsayanyam. Chaos prevailed in Bengal, as no ruler could retain power for more than a year. Matsayanyam proposes that in periods of chaos, when there is no ruler, the strong devour the weak, just as in periods of drought big fish eat little fish. Thus, the need for a ruler was viewed as absolute. Gopala was the elected king by the people in a revolution to end the Matsayanyam.

8. Write about Gangaridai in short.

Answer: The word 'Gangaridai' was come from the word Ganga, which means Ganga people. It is a terminology used by the Ancient Greco-Roman writers. It represents a people or a geographical region of the ancient Indian continent. It is located to the east of the Ganges river. Ganges was the capital of Gangaridai. At present two rivers has been observed which is related to the term Gangaridai. They are Bhagirothi and Padma. Didorus said that Gangaridai had never conquered by the foreign countries because of its strong elephant force. He also said that Alexander the Great, tried to conquer gangaridai but decided to go back when he heard that the Gangaridai had more than 700 elephants.

9. What do you know about Dual Administration? Write in Short.

Answer: In 1765, The East India Company gained control over Bengal through the Diwani certificate, which granted them immense power. This led to the establishment of a dual administration, known as the Dual or Double Government. The Nawab became a powerless ruler, dependent on the British for security. The Company directly collected revenues and controlled the police and judicial powers through the appointment of the Deputy Subedar. This arrangement favored the British, as they had power without responsibility, while the Nawab and his officials had administrative responsibilities without real power. In 1770, Bengal experienced a devastating famine, and both the Company and the Nawab neglected the welfare of the people. The dual system resulted in inefficiency. In 1772, Warren Hastings abolished the dual system, giving the Company complete control over Bengal.

10. What were the causes of the Battle of Boxer?

Answer: The causes of the battle of boxer were -

1) Mire Qasim wanted to function as an independent monarch of Bengal Subah and streamline his administration's functioning.

- 2) He opposed the misuse of Dastak and Farman instruments by the British East India company.
- 3) Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II and Awadh's Nawab Shuja-ud-Daulah were also unhappy with the British East India company's expansion in Bengal.
- 4) Nawab Mir Qasim reportedly hired experts who were actually in direct conflict with the British.

11. Describe Sasanka from Gupta Dynasty.

Answer: Sasanka was the first important king ancient Bengal, who occupied prominent place in Bengal history. It was generally believed that Sasanka ruled approximately between 600-625 A.D. King Sasanka issued gold and silver coins. Between the decline of Gupta and rise of Sasanka a few independent rulers flourished. Sasanka is described as the ruler of Gaura, which is a territory between the river Padma and Bardhaman region. He first established himself in Gaura and made Karnasubarna in Murshidabad his capital. Then extended his rule to Bihar. He defended the Gaura empire against a very powerful northern Indian politics. It was a great show of strength to have ventured into northern polities. So, he can be seen as the first important king of Bengal.

12. Describe the Bengal Famine of 1770.

Answer: Under the British rule Bengal suffered countless famines because of the ruthless economic agenda. The first of these was in 1770.

After the agreement of dual administration, the welfare of people was completely neglected by both company and the nawab. Company increased the rates of revenue and harsh measures were used to collect revenue.

The first sign indicating the start of a huge famine manifested in 1769. The rains were dismal and excessive heat, terrible drought began to appear. The famine occurred mainly in the west Bengal and Bihar but also hit Orissa, Jharkhand and Bangladesh. It killed approximately 10 million people. It wiped out one-third of the population of Bengal. It is said that the famine of 1770 in Bengal was deadlier than the black death of Europe in the 14th century. The famine itself went on till 1772.