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CH- TRIBES, & NOMADS AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES

* NOTES

- In large parts of the subcontinent, society was already divided according to the rules of varna.
- These rules, as prescribed by the only Brahmanas, were accepted by the rulers of large kingdoms.

Tribes who lived beyond the cities did not follow the social rules and rituals prescribed by the Brahmanas.

Many large tribes thrived in different parts of the subcontinent.

→ They usually lived in forests, hills, deserts, and places difficult to reach.

- The caste-based and tribal societies also depended on each other for their diverse needs.

- Tribal people were found in almost every region of ~~the~~ the subcontinent.

- In Punjab:

→ The ~~the~~ Khokhar tribe was very influential during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

→ Later, the Gakkhars became more important.

- In Multan and Sind:

→ The Langahs and Arghuns dominated extensive regions.

- In the north-west

→ The Balochs.

- In the western Himalaya &

→ The Gaddis.

- In the north-eastern parts of the subcontinent the Nagas, Ahoms and many more.

- In many areas of present-day Bihar and Jharkhand the Chero chiefdoms had emerged by the twelfth century.

- The Mundas and Santals were other important tribes that lived in this region and also in Orissa and Bengal.

In Maharashtra highlands, Karnataka and southern regions:
Kolis, Berads, Korogars, Vettars, Maravars and others.

- In present-day States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Gonds
- Nomadic pastoralists moved over long distances with their animals.
- They lived on milk and other pastoral products.
- They also exchanged wool, ghee, etc., with settled agriculturists for grain, cloth, utensils and other products.
- The Banjaras were the most important trader-nomads.
- Many tribes and social groups were taken into caste-based society and given the status of Jatis.
- Specialised artisans smiths, carpenters and masons were also recognised as separate Jatis by the Brahmanas.

Q/ANSWERS

Q1. Match the following:

garh	→	Kheir
tauda	→	Chaurasi
labourer	→	Caravan
claw	→	Garha Katanga
Sib Singh	→	Anom State
Dungawati	→	paik

Q2 Fill in the blanks:

- The new castes emerging within varnas were called jatts.
- Burajis were historical works written by the Anoms.

c) The Akbari nama mentions that Garha Katanga had 70,000 villages.

d) As tribal states became bigger and stronger, they gave land grants to poets and scholars.

Q3 State true or false

a) Tribal societies had traditional traditions. True.

b) There were no tribal communities in the north-western part of the subcontinent. False.

c) The Chaurasi in Gond states contained several cities. False.

d) The Bhils lived in the north-eastern part of the subcontinent. False.

Q4 What kinds of exchanges took place between nomadic pastoralists and settled agriculturists?

Ans Nomadic pastoralists moved over long distances with their animals. They lived on milk and other pastoral products. They also exchanged wool, ghee, etc. with settled agriculturists for grain, cloth, utensils and other products.

Q5 How was the administration of the Anom State organised?

Ans Administration of Anom :-

1. The Anom State depended upon forced labour.
2. Each village had to send a number of pairs by rotation.
3. By the first half of the seventeenth century the administration became quite centralised.

Q6 What changes took place in varna-based society?

Ans The following changes took place in varna-based society are :-

- Smaller castes or jatis emerged within varnas.

- 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 varna became the basis for organisation of society.
- Among the Kshatriyas, new Rajput clans became powerful.

Q1 How did tribal societies change after being organised into a state?

Ans: i) The emergence of large states changed the nature of tribal societies.

ii) Equal society gradually got divided into unequal social classes.

iii) The Gond chiefs now wished to be recognised as Rajputs.

iv) She was the daughter of Salbahan the Chandel Rajput Raja of Mahoba.

Q8 Were the Banjaras important for the economy?

Ans The Banjaras were very important for the economy. They were trader-nomads and controlled trade and commerce. They played an important role in transporting grain to the city markets. They usually bought grain where it was dearer from there, they again reloaded their oxen with anything that could be profitably sold in other places.

Q9 In what ways was the history of the Gonds different from that of the Anome? Were there any similarities?

different -

Gonds

Anome

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Gonds lived in Gondwana | 1) Anome lived in Brahmaputra valley. |
| 2) Gonds practiced shifting cultivation. | 2) Anome did not practice shifting cultivation. |

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 3) Gond's kingdom were large | 3) Ahome kingdom were small |
| 4) Gond's kingdom were divided into garhs | 4) Ahome built a large state. |
| 5) Gond did not used fire-arms | 5) Ahome used fire-arms. |

Similarity -

- 1) The mughals tried to control the lands of both at different point of time.
- 2) There were changes in society of both due to the diversification of occupations.

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