

HISTORY

Chapter 5: Pastoralists in the Modern World



Important Questions

Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. In Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh the dry plateau was covered with stone and grass inhabited by:

- (a) Cattle herders
- (b) Goat herders
- (c) Sheep herders
- (d) Camel herders

Question 2. Who were Gollas?

- (a) Cattle herded tribe of dry central plateau region.
- (b) Sheep herded tribe of dry central plateau region.
- (c) Camel herded tribe of dry central plateau region.
- (d) Goat herded tribe of dry central plateau region.

Question 3. Banjaras are well-known groups of graziers and found in the villages of:

- (i) Madhya Pradesh (ii) Punjab (iii) Rajasthan (iv) Uttar Pradesh (v) Maharashtra (vi) Haryana
- (a) (i), (v), (vi)
- (b) (ii), (v), (vi)
- (c) (i), (ii), (iii), (v)
- (d) (iv), (v), (vi)

Question 4. Which of the following is the immediate impact of the colonial rule on the life of the pastoralists?

- (a) Their grazing ground increased
- (b) They were paid rent free land
- (c) Their agriculture stock increased
- (d) Their grazing ground shrunked and their agricultural stock, trade and crafts were adversely affected.

Question 5. The colonial Government in India in 1871 enacted an Act. Name it.

- (a) Forest Conservation Act
- (b) The Criminal Tribal Act
- (c) The Scientific Forestry
- (d) The Tribal Act

Question 6. Nomads are the people:

- (a) who do not live at one place but move from one to another to earn their living.
- (b) who temporary shift from one place to another.
- (c) who live at one place and move from place to place to earn their living.
- (d) who are very brave.

Question 7. Which tribe did not evolve pastoral activity in South Africa?

- (a) Massai
- (b) Gonds
- (c) Boran
- (d) Turkene

Question 8. Which tribe combined cultivators with pastoralism in India?

- (a) Raikas
- (b) Maru
- (c) Gujjars
- (d) Gaddi

Question 9. What is referred as Bhabar?

- (a) A wet forest area below the foothills of Garhwal and Kumaun.
- (b) A moderate area having plenty of vegetation.
- (c) A dry area which is sparsely populated.
- (d) A dry forest area below the foothills of Garhwal and Kumaun.

Question 10. Gaddi Shepherds came down from the high meadow in:

- (a) September
- (b) February
- (c) October
- (d) Mid of October.

Question 11. For what Maru tribe is well known?

- (a) For plantation agriculture
- (b) For sheep rearing
- (c) For camel herding
- (d) For cyclic seasonal movement

Question 12. The population of Dhangars pastoral community in Maharashtra is about:

- (a) 467500
- (b) 476500
- (c) 476500
- (d) 467000

Question 13. The Maru Raikas herded.....?

- (a) Camels
- (b) Sheep
- (c) Goats
- (d) All

Question 14. The Banjaras were not found in?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Delhi
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Maharashtra

Question 15. The warriors consisted of ____?

- (a) Elder people
- (b) Younger people
- (c) Children
- (d) Healthy people

Very Short:

1. Name the regions of the cyclic movement of Kurumas and Kurubas.
2. Which Pastoralist nomads live in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?
3. Why were the British officials suspicious of the nomadic people? Give one reason..
4. How did the Gaddis earn their livelihood?
5. What are bugyals?
6. Who are Gujjar Bakarwals?
7. What is Bhabhar?
8. Who were Bhotiyas, Sherpas and Kinnauris?
9. Name the most important pastoral community of Maharashtra
10. Why were the Dhangars welcomed by the Konkani peasants?

Short Questions:

1. Explain any three factors that the pastoral groups have to consider to sustain their life.?
2. Explain any three different livelihood practices adopted by the pastoralists in the 20th century, as they left their traditional occupations.
3. Give one example to explain why the pastoralists have been compelled to change their movement in modern times.
4. Who are Gujjar Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir? Name their winter and summer grounds. Why did they go to these places?
5. Write about the life style of the Gujjars of Kangra.
6. Who were Dhangars? What were their occupations? Why were they continuously on the move?
7. Discuss the various restrictions imposed on pastoral groups in Africa.

Long Questions:

1. Who are pastoral nomads? Describe any four features of them?
2. In which two social categories was the Maasai society divided in pre-colonial times? In what way
3. Which parts of the African continent are inhabited by the pastoralists? What are the different types of activities they are involved in?
4. How did the pastoralists cope with the changes in new times
5. Why were wasteland rules enacted in various parts of the country?

Answer Key:

MCQ:

1. (c) Sheep herders
2. (a) Cattle herded tribe of dry central plateau region.
3. (c) (i), (ii), (iii), (v)
4. (d) Their grazing ground shrunked and their agricultural stock, trade and crafts were adversely affected.
5. (b) The Criminal Tribal Act
6. (a) who do not live at one place but move from one to another to earn their living.
7. (b) Gonds
8. (a) Raikas
9. (d) A dry forest area below the foothills of Garhwal and Kumaun.

- 10.(a) September
- 11.(c) For camel herding
- 12.(d) 467000
- 13.(a) Camels
- 14.(b) Delhi
- 15.(b) Younger people

Very Short Answer:

1. The Kurumas and Kurubas lived in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. In the dry season they moved near the coast and left when the rains came.
2. The pastoralist nomads who lived in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were:
 - (a) The Gollas.
 - (b) Kurumas and Kurubas.
3. The British officials were suspicious of the nomadic people because they distrusted mobile craftsmen and traders who sold their goods in villages, and pastoralists who changed their places or residence every season. They were considered as criminals.
4. They sold milk, ghee and other products.
5. Bugyals are vast natural pastures on the high mountains, about 12,000 feet. After April the entire mountainside is covered with a variety of grasses, roots and herbs. By monsoon these pastures are covered with thick vegetation and wild flowers.
6. Gujjar Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir are herders of goat and sheep.
7. It is a dry forested area in the foothills of Garwhal and Kumaun.
8. They were the pastoral communities of the Himalayas.
9. Dhangars were an important pastoral community of Maharashtra.
10. After the kharif crops were harvested, the field had to be fertilised for the rabi crops. Dhangar flocks manured the fields and fed on the stubble. Dhangars were also given supplies of rice which they supplied to the plateau where grain was scarce.

Short Answer:

- Ans: 1.** The three factors which the pastoral groups have to consider to sustain their life are:
- (a) They have to judge how long the herds could stay at one place and know where they could find water and pastures.
 - (b) They had to calculate the timing of their movement and had to move through different territories.

(c) They had to set up relationship with the farmers, on the way, so that herds could graze in the harvested fields and manure the soil. They combined number of activities like cultivation, herding, and trade to sustain themselves.

Ans: 2. Three livelihood practices adopted by the pastoralists in the 20th century were as follows:

(a) Richer pastoralists started buying land and settling down, giving up their nomadic life.

(b) Some became settled peasants cultivating land.

(c) Others took to trading.

Ans: 3. The pastoralists have been compelled to change their movement in modern times.

After 1947, the camel and sheep herding Raikas could no longer move into Sindh and graze their animals on the banks of Indus. The new political boundaries between Indian & Pakistan stopped their movement. In recent years, they have been migrating to Haryana where sheep could graze on agricultural land, after harvests are cut.

Ans: 4. Gujjar Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir are herders of goat and sheep. They move between their winter and summer grounds. In winters when the ground is covered with snow, they live with their herds in the Siwalik range. The herds feed on the dry scrub forests. By April, they start moving to their summer grazing grounds. After crossing the Pir Panjal passes they reach the Kashmir valley. With the onset of summer, the snow has melted, and the valley is covered with variety of flowers and grasses. They provide nutritious forage for the animals. By the end of September they come back to their winter homes in the Siwalik.

Ans: 5. The Gujjar cattle herders live in Garhwal and Kumaon. In the winter, they come to the dry forest of the Bhabhar and go up to the high meadows-the bugyals-in summer. Gujjars are exclusively a pastoralist tribe in the hills, where they do not cultivate anything. Buffaloes are the main wealth of the Gujjars. They live near the boundary of the forests and the mainstay of their existence is the sale of milk, ghee and other products. The men graze the cattle. The women go to the markets every morning, with little earthen pots filled with milk, butter milk and ghee. During the hot weather they move their herds to the upper ranges where the buffaloes enjoy the weather.

Ans: 6. The Dhangars were an important pastoral community of Maharashtra. Most of them were shepherds, some were blanket weavers and others were buffalo herders. They were continuously on the move in search of pasture for their cattle.

Ans: 7. (a) The various pastoral groups were forced to live in special reserves. They were not allowed to move their stock without special permits which were not easy to get. Those who defied the rules were severely punished.

(b) Pastoralists were not allowed to enter the markets area of the whites.

(c) In many regions, they were prohibited from participating in any trading activity.

Thus, the restrictions imposed on the pastoralists adversely affected their pastoral and trading activities.

Long Answer:

Ans: 1. Pastoral nomads are people who do not live at one place but move from one area to another to earn their living. They depend on livestock rearing, they move with their cattle and other animals. The four features of pastoral nomads are as follows.

- (a) Pastoral nomads had to adjust to seasonal changes and make best use of available pastures in different places. When the pastureland was exhausted they moved to a different place where pastures are available.
- (b) Cold and snow are not the only factors which defined their seasonal movement. In dry season they moved to coastal areas and left when the rain came.
- (c) They set up a relationship with farmers, so that the herds could graze in harvested fields and manure the soil.
- (d) They combine a range of different occupations – cultivation, trade and herding to earn their living. For example, the Gollas, Kurumas and Kurubas herded cattle, cultivated small patches of land and also engaged in a variety of petty trades.

Ans: 2. The Massai society was divided into two social groups in pre-colonial times – elders and warriors. The elders were the ruling group and met in periodic councils to decide on the affairs of the community and settle disputes. The warriors consisted of young people, responsible for the protection of the tribe. They defended the community and organised cattle raids. Raiding was an important activity in a society where cattle was wealth. It was the way through which different pastoral groups asserted their superiority.

The British introduced a number of measures which changed the lives of the Maasai. The chiefs of different sub-groups were appointed to look after the affairs of the tribe. Restrictions were imposed on raiding and warfare. So, the traditional authority of both the elders and warriors changed dramatically. The difference based on age, between elders and warriors broke down, and a new distinction was developed between the rich and poor pastoralists.

The chiefs appointed by the colonial government became rich overtime. They had regular income with which they purchased land, goods, animals and also get involved in trade. But the poor pastoralists worked as charcoal, burners or work in road or building construction or did odd jobs.

Ans: 3. Most of the pastoralists in Africa lived in semi-arid grasslands or arid deserts where rain-fed agriculture is difficult.

The pastoralists are involved in different type of activities like they rear cattle, camels, goats, sheep and donkeys; and sell milk, meat, animal skin and wool. Some also earn through trade and transport, others combine pastoral activity with agriculture, still others do a variety of odd jobs to supplement their meagre and uncertain earnings from pastoralism.

Ans: 4. Pastoralists managed to cope with the changes in many ways.

- (a) Some pastoralists reduced the number of cattle because there were not enough pastures to feed large numbers. When pastureland in one place was closed to them, they changed the direction of their movement and combined pastoral activity with other forms of trade.
- (b) Some pastoralists found new pastures.
- (c) They exert political pressure on the government for relief, subsidy and other forms of support and demand a right in the management of forests and water resources.
- (d) Some rich pastoralists gave up their nomadic habits, purchased land and started leading a settled life.
- (e) Some became settled peasants cultivating land. Some borrowed money from the moneylenders to survive.

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Swotters