

HISTORY

Chapter 7: Tribes, Nomads and Settled Communities



Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions :

Question 1. Mir Jumla attacked the Ahom in:

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

Question 2. Specialized artisans were:

- (a) Smiths, carpenters and peasants were specialized artisans.
- (b) Smiths, carpenters and masons were specialized artisans.
- (c) King, soldiers, carpenters and masons were specialized artisans.
- (d) None.

Question 3. Varna was prescribed by:

- (a) Brahmanas
- (b) King
- (c) Poets
- (d) Artisans

Question 4. Many societies in the subcontinent did not follow the social rules and rituals prescribed by the Brahmanas; they are called:

- (a) Poets
- (b) Peasants
- (c) King and its family
- (d) Tribes

Question 5. Khokhar tribes lived in:

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Assam
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Question 6. Kamal Khan Gakkhar was mansabdar in region of:

- (a) Babin
- (b) Akbar
- (c) ShahJahan

(d) None

Question 7. Langahs and Arghuns tribal dominated extensive regions which are:

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

Question 8. Kolis lived particularly in many areas of:

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Question 9. Those who specifically made and sold ropes, reeds, straw matting and coarse sacks are called:

- (a) Banjaras
- (b) Gonds
- (c) Petty Pedlars
- (d) Bhils

Question 10. Mangols were hunter-gatherer tribes inhabited in:

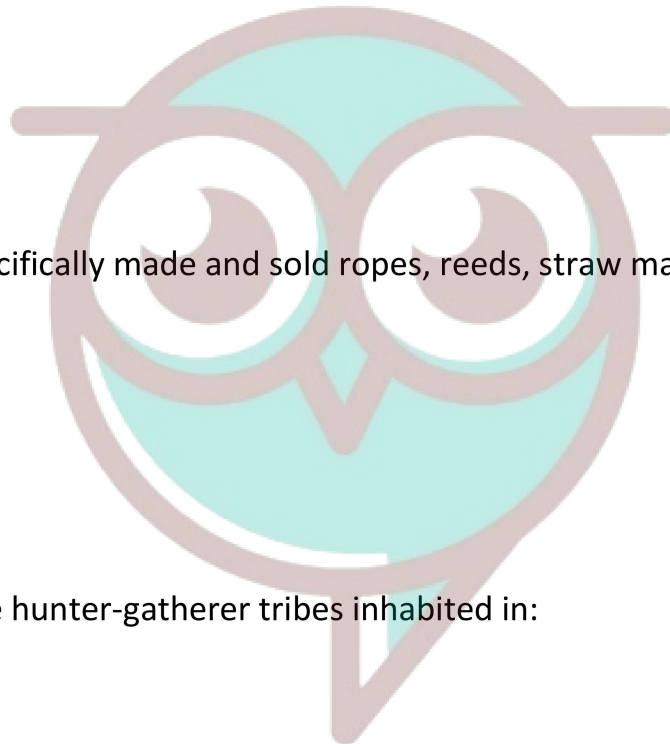
- (a) Eastern Asia
- (b) South Asia
- (c) Western Asia
- (d) Central Asia

Question 11. Which tribes were influential in Punjab in 13th and 14th centuries?

- (a) Khokhar
- (b) Ahoms
- (c) Banjaras
- (d) Gonds

Question 12. Who assumed the title of Sangram Shah?

- (a) Bir Narain
- (b) Chaman Das
- (c) Dalpat
- (d) Aman Das



Swotters

Question 13. Rani Durgawati ruled in which region?

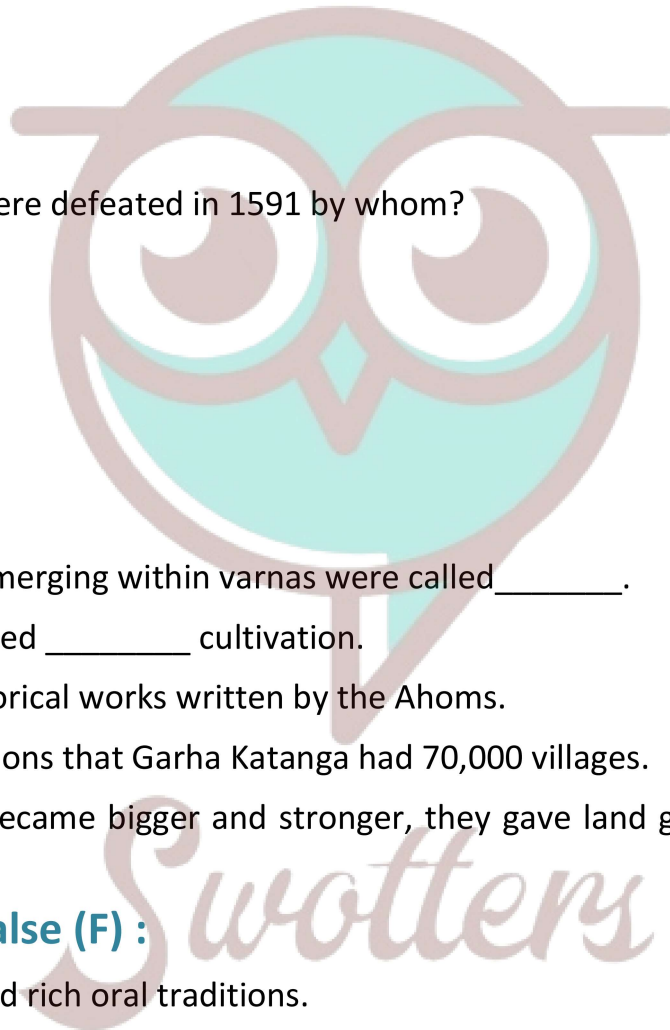
- (a) Punjab
- (b) Ambar
- (c) Bikaner
- (d) Garha Katanga

Question 14. The 84 villages or Chaurasi was further subdivided into what?

- (a) Tanda
- (b) Barhots
- (c) Khel
- (d) Clan

Question 15. The Cheros were defeated in 1591 by whom?

- (a) Maharana Pratap
- (b) Raja Man Singh
- (c) Amax Singh
- (d) Prithviraj Chauhan



➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. The new castes emerging within varnas were called _____.
2. The Gonds practised _____ cultivation.
3. _____ were historical works written by the Ahoms.
4. The _____ mentions that Garha Katanga had 70,000 villages.
5. As tribal states became bigger and stronger, they gave land grants to _____ and _____.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. Tribal societies had rich oral traditions.
2. There were no tribal communities in the northwestern part of the subcontinent.
3. Barhots were made up of 12 villages each.
4. The chaurasi in Gond states contained several cities.
5. In the western Himalaya lived the shepherd tribe of Gaddis.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. Who controlled garh?
2. Who were specialised artisans?

3. Who was Chandra Shah?
4. What is the meaning of 'bhuiyans'?
5. Where does the Kutiya Kond tribe live?
6. What do you understand by tanda?
7. Name the shepherd tribe of the Western Himalayas.
8. What was buranjis?
9. Who was the chief of Gakkhar tribe?
10. Which tribe was powerful in north-west?

➤ **Short Questions :**

1. How do the present day historians use to write tribal histories?
2. Who were Ahoms? How did they build a large state?
3. What changes took place in varna-based society?
4. What do you know about religion practised by Ahom society?
5. How did the tribes earn their livelihood?

➤ **Long Questions :**

1. Mention some special features of tribal societies.
2. Write about the Rani Durgawati.
3. Write about Ahom society.
4. How did tribal societies change after being organized into a state?
5. What do you know about Mongols?

ANSWER KEY –

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer :**

1. (a) 1662
2. (b) Smiths, carpenters and masons were specialized artisans.
3. (a) Brahmanas
4. (d) Tribes
5. (c) Punjab
6. (b) Akbar
7. (a) Multan and Sind
8. (a) Gujarat
9. (c) Petty Pedlars

10. (d) Central Asia
11. (a) Khokhar
12. (d) Aman Das
13. (d) Garha Katanga
14. (b) Barhots
15. (b) Raja Man Singh

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. Jatis
2. shifting
3. Buranjis
4. Akbar Nama
5. Poets, scholars

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. Each garh was controlled by a particular Gond clan.
2. Specialised artisans include smiths, carpenters and masons.
3. Chandra Shah was uncle of Bir Narain.
4. Landlords
5. Kutiya Kond tribe lives in Orissa.
6. Caravan of banjaras was called tanda.
7. Gaddis
8. Historical works was known as buranjis.
9. Kamal Khan Gakkhar was the chief of Gakkhar tribe.
10. The Balochis tribe was powerful in the north-west.

➤ **Short Answer :**

1. Contemporary historians and travellers give very scanty information about tribes. A



few exceptions apart, tribal people did not keep written records. But they preserved rich customs and oral traditions. These were passed down to each new generation. Present day historians have started using such oral traditions to write tribal histories.

2. The Ahoms migrated to the Brahmaputra valley from present-day Myanmar in the thirteenth century. They created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the bhuiyans (landlords). During the sixteenth century, they annexed the kingdoms of the Chhutiyas (1523) and of Koch-Hajo (1581) and subjugated many other tribes.
3. Smaller castes, or jatis, emerged within varnas. For example, new castes appeared amongst the Brahmanas. On the other hand, 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. Jatis, rather than varna, became the basis for organising society.
4. Originally, the Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods. During the first half of the seventeenth century, however, the influence of Brahmanas increased. Temples and Brahmanas were granted land by the king. In the reign of Sib Singh (1714-1744), Hinduism became the predominant religion. But the Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs after adopting Hinduism.
5. Many tribes obtained their livelihood from agriculture. Others were 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 and moved from one place to another. A tribal group controlled land and pastures jointly, and divided these amongst households according to its own rules.

➤ Long Answer :

1. **Special features of tribal societies were:**
 - i. They did not follow the social rules and rituals prescribed by the Brahmanas. Nor were they divided into numerous unequal classes.
 - ii. Members of each tribe were united by kinship bonds.
 - iii. Many tribes obtained their livelihood from agriculture. Others were hunter-gatherers or herders.
 - iv. Some tribes were nomadic and moved from one place to another. A tribal group controlled land and pastures jointly, and divided these amongst households according to its own rules.
2. **Rani Durgawati:**
 - i. Durgawati was the daughter of Salbahan, the Chandel Rajput raja of Mahoba. She got married to Dalpat, the son of Gond raja Aman Das.
 - ii. Dalpat, however, died early. Rani Durgawati was very capable, and started ruling on behalf of her five-year-old son, Bir Narain.

- iii. Under her, the kingdom became even more extensive. In 1565, the Mughal forces under Asaf Khan attacked Garha Katanga.
- iv. A strong resistance was put up by Rani Durgawati. She was defeated and preferred to die rather than surrender. Her son, too, died fighting soon after.

3. Ahom society:

Ahom society was divided into clans or khels. There were very few castes of artisans, so artisans in the Ahom areas came from the adjoining kingdoms. A 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. Originally, the Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods. During the first half of the seventeenth century, however, the influence of Brahmanas increased. Temples and Brahmanas were granted land by the king. In the reign of Sib Singh (1714-1744), Hinduism became the predominant religion. But the Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs after adopting Hinduism. Ahom society was very sophisticated. Poets and scholars were given land grants. Theatre was encouraged.

4. Changes in tribal societies:

- i. Considerable social change took place in the subcontinent. Varna-based society and tribal people constantly interacted with each other. This interaction caused both kinds of societies to adapt and change.
- ii. There were many different tribes and they took up diverse livelihoods.
- iii. Over a period of time, many of them merged with caste based society Others, however, rejected both the caste system and orthodox Hinduism.
- iv. Some tribes established extensive states with well-organised systems of administration. They thus became politically powerful. This brought them into conflict with larger and more complex kingdoms and empires.

5. Mongols:

- i. The best-known pastoral and hunter gatherer tribe in history were the Mongols. They inhabited the grasslands (steppes) of Central Asia and the forested areas further north.
- ii. By 1206 Genghis Khan had united the Mongol and Turkish tribes into a powerful military force. At the time of his death (1227) he was the ruler of extensive territories.
- iii. His successors created a vast empire. At different points of time, it included parts of Russia, Eastern Europe and also China and much of West Asia.
- iv. The Mongols had well-organised military and administrative systems. These were based on the support of different ethnic and religious groups.