

# Tribes, Nomads and Settled Communities

## Q1. Match the following:

Garh	khel
Tanda	chaurasi
Labourer	caravan
Clan	Garha Katanga
Sib Singh	Ahom state
Durgawati	paik

### Answer:

Garh	chaurasi
Tanda	caravani
Labourer	paik
Clan	khel
Sib Singh	Ahom state
Durgawati	Garha Katanga

## Q2. Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The new castes emerging within varnas were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ were historical works written by the Ahoms.
- (c) The \_\_\_\_\_ mentions that Garha Katanga had 70,000 villages.
- (d) As tribal states became bigger and stronger, they gave land grants to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer:

- (a) The new castes emerging within varnas were called **jatis**.
- (b) **Buranjis** were historical works written by the Ahoms.
- (c) The **Akbar 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 whether true or false:

- (a) Tribal societies had rich oral traditions.
- (b) There were no tribal communities in the northwestern part of the subcontinent.
- (c) The chaurasi in Gond states contained several cities.
- (d) The Bhils lived in the north-eastern part of the subcontinent.

### Answer:

- (a) True
- (b) False
- (c) False
- (d) False

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

**Answer:** The nomadic pastors traveled long distances with their animals and lived on milk and other rustic products. They exchanged wool, ghee, etc. with farmers settled for grain, clothes, etc. Utensils and other products.

### **Q5. How was the administration of the Ahom state organised?**

**Answer:**

- The Ahom state depended upon forced labour. Those forced to work for the state 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 areas. Ahom clans broke up and the administration became more centralized.
- Ahom society was divided into clans or khels. A khel often controlled several villages.
- The peasant was given land by his village community and even the king could not take it away without the community's consent.

### **Q6. What changes took place in varna-based society?**

**Answer:**

- Within the varna-based society, smaller castes called jatis emerged. Jatis, rather than varna became the basis for organizing society.
- Many tribes and social groups were taken into caste-based society and given the status of jatis. Specialized artisans – smiths, carpenters and masons – were also recognized as separate jatis by the Brahmanas.
- The rise of jatis led to unequal social order and a greater divide between castes.
- Varnas helped identify people with specialized skills and formalized labor.

### **Q7. How did tribal societies change after being organised into a state?**

**Answer:**

- After being organized in a state, the following changes occurred for tribal societies:
- They became part of the caste system with the help of Brahmins.
- Major tribal families became part of the ruling classes and most of them the caste system merged into the lower parts.
- Many major tribes of Punjab, Sindh and North-West border adopted Islam quite early. They continued to reject the caste system.
- The unequal social order set by orthodox Hinduism, was not widely accepted these areas.
- Some tribes like the Ahoms struggled with very powerful and big people the states

### **Q8. Were the Banjaras important for the economy?**

**Answer:** The Banjaras were very important for the economy.

- They were the most important trader-nomads.
- They helped traders by working as carriers. For example, Sultan Alauddin Khalji used the Banjaras to transport grain to the city markets. Emperor Jahangir wrote in his memoirs that the Banjaras carried grain on their bullocks from different areas and sold it in towns. They transported food grain for the Mughal army during military campaigns.

### **Q9. In what ways was the history of the Gonds different from that of the Ahoms? Were there any similarities?**

**Answer:** The similarities between the history of the Gonds and the Ahoms were:

- Both were tribes that grew in power.
- Both tribes had centralized administration. Both tribes were divided into clans or jatis.

The differences between the history of the Gonds and the Ahoms were:

- The histories of Gonds and Ahoms were different in that while the Gonds were completely annexed by

the Mughals, the Ahoms managed to reclaim their independence soon after their annexation.

- Gonds practiced “shifting cultivation” while the Ahoms did not.
- The Gonds lived in a vast forest area called Gondwana; the Ahoms migrated to the brahmaputra valley from present-day Myanmar.

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