



Vidya Bhawan balika Vidyapeeth. shakti utthan aashram Lakhisarai

Class-8th

(Based on N C E R T pattern)

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History

Tribal societies

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

Answer: The nomadic pastoralists exchanged wool, ghee, etc. with settled agriculturists for grain, cloth, utensils and other products.

2. How was the administration of the Ahom state organized?

Answer: The Ahom state depended upon forced labour. Those forced to work for the state were known as paiks.

A census of the population was taken. Each village had to send a number of paiks by rotation.

People of densely populated areas were shifted to thinly populated areas. Ahom clans were thus broken up. By the first half of the 17th century the administration became quite centralised.

3. What changes took place in vama-based society?

Answer: The following changes took place in vama-based society:

- Smaller castes or jatis emerged within vamas.
- 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 vama became the basis for organising society.
- Among the Kshatriyas, new Rajput clans became powerful.
- Many tribes became part of the caste system. But only the leading tribal families could join the ruling class. A large majority joined the lower jatis of caste society.
- Many dominant tribes of Punjab, Sind and the North-West Frontier had adopted Islam. They continued to reject the caste-system.

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

Answer: The emergence of large states changed the nature of tribal societies. We can understand this with the help of two examples—the Gond society and the Ahom society.

- The Gond Society. Their basically equal society gradually got divided into unequal social classes. Brahmanas received land grants from the Gond rajas and became more influential. The Gond chiefs now wished to be recognised as Rajputs. So, Aman Das, the Gond raja of Garha Katanga, assumed the title of 'Sangram Shah'.
- The Ahom Society. The Ahoms built a large state which brought many changes in the Ahom society. The influence of Brahmanas increased. Temples and Brahmanas were granted land by the king. In the reign of Sib Singh, Hinduism became the predominant religions. But the Ahom Kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs after adopting Hinduism.

5. Were the Banjaras important for the economy?

Answer: 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 cheaply available and carried it to places where it was dearer. From there, they again reloaded their oxen with anything that could be profitably sold in other places.

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Mr. Anant kumar