

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How did tribes survive? Why did they enter into conflicts?

Ans. (i) The tribes normally used full natural resources of the area where they lived.

(ii) Tribes were even nomadic and moved from one place to another.

(iii) Tribes usually thrived in the forests, hills and desert areas of the subcontinents.

(iv) There were even clashes between tribes and powerful caste-based societies.

(v) However, at times, these caste-based and tribal societies depended on each other for their diverse needs.

Q.2. Mention the various tribes found in different parts of India.

Ans. The various tribes in India are:

- The Khokhar tribe, which was influential in Punjab in the 13th and 14th century.
- The Balochis were powerful in the north-western part of India and were divided into small clans.
- The Gaddis, the shepherd tribe, was important in the Himalayas.
- The Nagas, Ahoms, etc. were dominant in the most north-eastern parts of the sub-continent.
- The Mundas and Santhals were among the important tribes in Bihar, Orissa and Bengal.
- In South India, there was a large tribal population of Koragas, Vetars and Marawars.
- The Bhil tribe was found in western and central parts of India. While few Bhil clans were hunter gatherers; many of them became agriculturists and zamindars.

Q.3. Examine the changes which occurred in caste structure in India.

Ans. There occurred changes in caste structure on account of the following factors:

- In the fields of trade and agriculture, there emerged multi-caste population in many villages on account of spread of Islam. Some of the powerful non-Brahmin families had also emerged as land owners.
- Emergence of Sufi and Bhakti movement also affected caste system. Both the groups of saints preached equality among different religious and caste groups.
- Intercaste marriages started among Hindus particularly Rajput and Muslim nobles and rulers.
- Specialised artisans—smiths, carpenters and masons were recognised as separate jatis by the Brahmins. Jati system replaced the varna system.
- New Rajput clans emerged among Kshatriyas. These included Chandelas, Chalukyas, Huna, etc.

Q.4. How did Gonds administer their big kingdom?

Ans. (i) The Gonds rose when Delhi sultanate declined.

(ii) There were several clans each having its own ruler.

(iii) The administration of Gonds was centralised.

(iv) Each kingdom was divided into garhs.

(v) Each Garh was controlled by a particular Gond clan.

(vi) It was further divided into 84 villages called Chaurasi.

(vii) The Chaurasi was subdivided into barhots of 12 villages each.