

Chapter 5

Pastoralists in the Modern World

- Pastoral societies subsist mainly on herding of animals. This involves a nomadic way of life in which the groups keep on moving continuously from one ecological zone to another in search of best possible conditions to their livestock. Different types of animals were domesticated depending on how best they could adapt to the environment.
- Pastoralism was seriously affected as colonial masters started setting up commercial activities like plantations. The availability of land was severely reduced and traditional herders switched over to alternate occupations.
- Nomadic herding is being gradually replaced by commercial grazing.
- The Nama group of pastoralists in Africa have been the subject of detailed ethnographic study. This group had to migrate extensively with their herds according to seasonal availability of vegetable foods in their territories. Namas pitched their tents at place covered with drought resistant perennial shrubs. Thorn trees provided sticks for their huts. Wild animal were hunted to supplement meat from domestic stock.
- The kinship structure of the Namas was patrilineal in character. Their houses were made of mats and frame-work could be easily dismantled and reassembled at the next encampment. Huts had doors facing the sun. The floor was plastered with a layer of hardened dung mixed with blood. Personal possessions were kept in skin bags suspended from the frames.
- Men wore small piece of jackal or cat skin. Women wore a large triangular apron. Both sexes wore sheep skin cloaks when necessary. Both sexes wore ornaments made from ostrich eggshell, teeth, roots berries and small thorns.
- Namas settled down to villages and reserves during the 19th century consequent to their being in demand as labourers by the European settlers. Only traces of Nama settlement pattern can be seen in remote parts of the reserves.
- The Gujjars are the Gypsies of the Himalays. They hail from Middle Asia. There are both Hindu and Muslims among the Gujjars. The nomadic clans of the Gujjars are known as Bakarwals.
- Their domain is spread from the base of Shivaliks to the highlands of Ladakh. Ferocious dogs keep a tab on their cattle comprising sheep, goats, cows and buffaloes. Ponies carry their mobile homes and personal belongings as they move from one camp site to other in search of food for their herd.
- Males and females wear almost similar dresses. They are fond of maize bread and mutton. Ghee and shakkar are lavishly distributed on social functions. Marriages among the Muslim Gujjars are conducted as Nikah. Many of the Gujjars have thousands of animals in their herds and even bank accounts. They now have mobile schools with teachers who move along with the caravan. Their headman - the Muqaddam is elected and settles all disputes among the various clans.

Important Terms

- **Barter** : Exchange of goods with goods without the use of money.
- **Forebearers** : Ancestors.
- **Rudimentary** : In an undeveloped state.
- **Sedentary** : Requiring much sitting.
- **Spatially** : Existing in space.

Exercise

1

DIRECTIONS : This section contains multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 choices (1), (2), (3) and (4) out of which only one is correct.

1. Who were Nomadic Pastoralists ?
 - (1) Who live in single place.
 - (2) Who move from one area to another.
 - (3) Who move from one place to another with their herds to earn a living.
 - (4) Gonds, Dhurwas and Bhatros.
2. Who were Bugyals ?
 - (1) Dry forested area below the foothills of Garhwal and Kumaun.
 - (2) Vast meadows in high mountains.
 - (3) Low hilly areas.
 - (4) Dry and less rainfall regions of equatorial areas.
3. Who are called Genealogists ?
 - (1) Who recount history of a family.
 - (2) Who are nomadic.
 - (3) Who predict the failure.
 - (4) Who recount history of a community.

4. Who are Maasai ?
 - (1) Cattle herders of India.
 - (2) Cattle herders of East Africa.
 - (3) Cattle herders of South Africa.
 - (4) Cattle herders of Indonesia.
5. Nomadic tribes need to move from one place to another because of
 - (1) seasonal changes
 - (2) their mobile nature
 - (3) their poor background
 - (4) all of the above
6. Dhangars are an important pastoral community of which state?
 - (1) Himachal Pradesh
 - (2) Maharashtra
 - (3) Jammu and Kashmir
 - (4) Rajasthan
7. The life of pastoralists greatly changed under colonial rule. What is/are this/ these change / changes?
 - (1) Their grazing grounds shrank
 - (2) Their movements were regulated
 - (3) They had to pay increased revenue
 - (4) All the above
8. When was the Criminal Tribes Act passed?
 - (1) In 1889
 - (2) In 1871
 - (3) In 1878
 - (4) In 1870
9. Why did the colonial government introduce the Grazing Tax in the mid 19th century?
 - (1) To expand its revenue.
 - (2) To ban cattle herder from entering grazing tracts.
 - (3) Both (a) and (b)
 - (4) None of the above.
10. How many people in Africa are dependent on some form of pastoral activity for their livelihood?
 - (1) Less than 22 million
 - (2) Over 22 million
 - (3) Over 12 million
 - (4) Less than 12 million
11. What percentage of the grazing lands did Maasai lose when European imperial powers divided Africa into different colonies?
 - (1) 50%
 - (2) 49%
 - (3) 80%
 - (4) 60%
12. When did European imperial powers divide Africa into different colonies?
 - (1) In 1805
 - (2) In 1882
 - (3) In 1885
 - (4) In 1815
13. Where is the Serengeti National Park located?
 - (1) Kenya
 - (2) Tanzania
 - (3) Sudan
 - (4) Zimbabwe
14. The word 'Maasai' is derived from the word Maa. Maa-sai which means
 - (1) My People
 - (2) Mother and People
 - (3) Their People
 - (4) Tribal People
15. Which one of the following pastoral nomads is not found in the mountains?
 - (1) Gaddi shepherds
 - (2) Raikas
 - (3) Gujjar Bakarwals
 - (4) Bhotiyas
16. The settlement of Maru Raikas is known as
 - (1) Dhandi
 - (2) Mandi
 - (3) Mandap
 - (4) Bugyal
17. Pushkar is a famous place in Rajasthan where is held every year.
 - (1) elephant fair
 - (2) cattle fair
 - (3) buffalo fair
 - (4) camel fair
18. The Maasai cattle herders live primarily in
 - (1) East Africa
 - (2) West Africa
 - (3) South Africa
 - (4) North Africa
19. The Maasai Mara is a National Park in
 - (1) Tanzania
 - (2) Kenya
 - (3) Sudan
 - (4) South Africa
20. Waste Land Rules were enacted by the colonial officials in order to
 - (1) harass the pastoralists of India
 - (2) uplift the condition of the Indian pastoralists
 - (3) turn the uncultivated lands into cultivable lands
 - (4) turn cultivable lands into forests.
21. Which one of the following is not associated with movement of Gujjar-Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir ?
 - (1) They annually move between summer and winter grazing grounds
 - (2) They move in form of 'kafila'
 - (3) They migrated to Kashmir during 16th century
 - (4) They always remain on move
22. F. H. Buchanan, a traveller describe about life of pastoral group, 'Gollas of Mysore', he made following observations which one of the following is not appropriate explanation ?
 - (1) The families of Gollas lived in small villages near the jungles
 - (2) Men in family tend the cattle in jungles
 - (3) Women sell products in the nearby cities
 - (4) There are seven to eighth members in a family
23. Which one of the following is most important function of Banjara community ?
 - (1) Movement in search of Pastures
 - (2) Movement over long distance
 - (3) Exchange of goods or barter trade
 - (4) They act as messenger between the people
24. How did colonial rule changed the life of pastoralists dramatically ?
 - (1) The grazing ground expand in numbers
 - (2) Their movement increased constantly
 - (3) They were prevented from using Pasture, Forest and Agriculture land by colonial rule
 - (4) They enjoyed state security
25. How did 'Waste Land Rules' affected the pastoralists - Choose the most appropriate choice from the following :
 - (1) Uncultivated lands given to certain individuals
 - (2) The settled land and settle population was encouraged by colonial authority
 - (3) In these settlements grazing grounds of pastoralists were taken away and entry restricted
 - (4) It did not affect the pastoralists.
26. Which one of the following had the most serious effect over the pastoralists due to forest act in India ?
 - (1) Reserved forests barred entry of pastoralists
 - (2) Colonial official did not permit them to enter into forests
 - (3) The customary grazing right finally taken away by these acts excluding in protected forests
 - (4) Pass were issued to them
27. Which one of the following tax in colonial India had the most severe effect on the pastoralists ?
 - (1) Grazing tax
 - (2) Pass or permit tax
 - (3) Tax on per cattle head
 - (4) Land revenue

28. Which one of the following is not associated with change in life of pastoralists in India ?
- Richer nomads give up nomadic life
 - Some poorer become labourers
 - All pastoralists changed their professions
 - Some adopted seasonal pastoralism
29. Which one of the following was the main problem faced by Maasais during imperialism ?
- Maasais lost grazing area due to imperial rule in area
 - Maasais were ill treated by imperialist powers
 - Their grazing lands were cut half due to imperial possession and they were pushed to smaller area
 - They were dispossessed of their entire grazing land
30. Why the pastoral groups in Africa were not allowed to enter the market in white area ?
- These groups needed permits to enter into markets
 - They were considered dangerous by white colonists
 - They were experts in the trade
 - They were disliked by all people

Exercise

2

Matching Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 to 6) : Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

1. **Column I** **Column II**
- | | |
|------------|---|
| (A) Bugyal | (p) People who wonder from one place to another |
| (B) Bhabar | (q) Vast meadows |
| (C) Nomad | (r) The autumn crop |
| (D) Kharif | (s) A dry forested area |
- A → (q); B → (s); C → (p); D → (r)
 - A → (s); B → (p); C → (q); D → (r)
 - A → (r); B → (p); C → (s); D → (q)
 - A → (q); B → (p); C → (r); D → (s)
2. **Column I** **Column II**
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (A) Dhangars | (p) Jammu & Kashmir |
| (B) Gujjar Bakarwals | (q) Rajasthan |
| (C) Gaddi | (r) Maharashtra |
| (D) Raikas | (s) Himachal Pradesh |
- A → (q); B → (p); C → (r); D → (s)
 - A → (r); B → (s); C → (p); D → (q)
 - A → (s); B → (r); C → (q); D → (p)
 - A → (r); B → (p); C → (s); D → (q)
3. **Column I** **Column II**
- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| (A) Rabi | (p) Lower ends of grain stalks |
| (B) Maru | (q) Desert |
| (C) Balotra | (r) The spring crop |
| (D) Stubble | (s) Camel fair |
- A → (s); B → (r); C → (p); D → (q)
 - A → (r); B → (q); C → (s); D → (p)
 - A → (q); B → (p); C → (r); D → (s)
 - A → (r); B → (s); C → (p); D → (q)
4. **Column I** **Column II**
- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| (A) Buchanan | (p) Himalayan pastoral community |
| (B) Bhotiyas | (q) Valley near palampur |
| (C) Kafila | (r) Traveller |
| (D) Uhl | (s) Journey |

- A → (s), B → (r), C → (p), D → (q)
 - A → (p), B → (s), C → (r), D → (q)
 - A → (r), B → (p), C → (s), D → (q)
 - A → (q), B → (r), C → (p), D → (s)
5. **Column-I** **Column-II**
- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| (A) Waste land | (p) Valuable timber |
| (B) Sal | (q) Uncultivated land |
| (C) Maasi | (r) Commercially rich forests |
| (D) Reserved | (s) Nomadic people of Kenya |
- A → (q), B → (p), C → (s), D → (r)
 - A → (s), B → (r), C → (p), D → (q)
 - A → (r), B → (q), C → (s), D → (p)
 - A → (q), B → (s), C → (r), D → (p)
6. **Column I** **Column II**
- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| (A) 1871 | (p) Royal commission |
| (B) 1920 | (q) Independence of Tanganyika |
| (C) 1961 | (r) Zanzibar and Tanzebar united |
| (D) 1964 | (s) Criminal Tribes Act |
- A → (q); B → (s); C → (r); D → (p)
 - A → (r); B → (s); C → (p); D → (q)
 - A → (s); B → (p); C → (q); D → (r)
 - A → (p); B → (r); C → (q); D → (s)

Statement Based MCQ

7. Consider the following statements :
- The Gaddi shepherds of Himachal Pradesh had seasonal movement.
 - They spent their winter in the high peak of shivalik range.
 - They spent their summer in Lahul and spiti.
 - They began their return movement in March.
- Which of these statement(s) is / are correct ?
- (a), (b) and (c)
 - (a), (c) and (d)
 - (a) and (c)
 - (b) and (d)
8. With reference to the forest Act consider the following statements :
- Nomadic people were prevented from entering many forests and they needed a permit for entry.
 - British officials were trusted nomadic people. They trusted mobile craftsman and traders who hawked their goods in villages.

Which of these statement(s) is / are correct ?

- (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
(3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

9. Consider the following Statements:

- (a) Africa had the world's half pastoral population.
(b) Over 22 million Africans depend on pastoral activity for their livelihood.
(c) Bedouins, Berbers, Maasai, Somali are pastoral communities.
(d) They live in highly fertile plains.

Which of these statement(s) is / are correct ?

- (1) (a), (b) and (c) (2) (b), (c) and (d)
(3) (a) and (d) (4) (b) and (c)

10. Consider the following Statements:

- (a) Pastoralists were not allowed to enter the reserves and they could neither hunt animals nor graze their herds in these areas.
(b) Large areas which were earlier used grazing lands turned into game reserves like the Massai Mara and Samburu National Park in Kenya and Serengeti Park in Tanzania where pastoralists were prohibited the entry.

Which of these statement(s) is / are correct ?

- (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
(3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

11. Consider the following Statements:

- (a) Different types of trees are cut down in scientific forestry system.
(b) Only one type of plantation are done in scientific forestry method.
(c) The areas which were cut down earlier are not replanted again.
(d) According to the Act of 1878, forests were divided into two parts. Reserved forests and Protected forests.

Which of these statement(s) is / are correct ?

- (1) (a), (b) and (d) (2) (b), (c) and (d)
(3) (a) and (b) (4) (c) and (d)

Passage Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 12 to 21) : Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE - 1

The title Maasai derives from the word Maa. Maa-Sai means 'My people'. The Maasai are traditionally nomadic and pastoral people who depend on milk and meat for their survival. High temperature combine with low rainfall to create conditions which are dry, dusty and extremely hot. Drought conditions are common in this semi-arid land of equatorial heat. During such times pastoral animals die in large numbers. Large areas of grazing land were turned in game reserves like the Maasai Mara and Samburu National Park in Kenya and Serengeti Park in Tanzania. The Serengeti National Park was created over 14, 760 km. of Maasai grazing land. It is famous for its exceptional population of Big cats, game and the annual immense migration of zebra and wild beast. It was originally established in 1948 as wildlife sanctuary.

12. What is the meaning of massai ?

- (1) My nation (2) My tribes
(3) My land (4) My people

13. Who are Maasai ?

- (1) Nomadic people (2) Forest officers
(3) Rich people (4) Poor people

14. Where did Samburu National Park and Massai Mara locate?

- (1) Kenya (2) Tanzania
(3) Cuba (4) Columbia

15. What is the area of The Serengeti National Park ?

- (1) 15000 km (2) 14,760 km
(3) 13,700 km (4) 12,230 km

16. Pastoralists sustain by

- (1) herding (2) cultivation
(3) trade (4) All of these

PASSAGE - 2

The Gujjar Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir are great herders of goat and sheep. Many of them migrated to this region in the 19th century in search of pastures. Writing in the 1850s G.C. Barnes gave the description about Gujjars that in the hills the Gujjars are exclusively a pastoral tribe. The Gaddis keep flocks of sheep and goats and the Gujjar wealth consists of buffaloes. These people live in the skirts of the forests and maintain their existence exclusively by the sale of milk, ghee and other produce of their herds. In Garhwal and Kumaon the Gujjar cattle herders came down to the dry forests of the bhabar in the winter and went up to the high meadows the bugyals in summer.

17. What are the name of pastoral Nomads of Jammu and Kashmir ?

- (1) Gujjar Bakarwal (2) Gaddi
(3) Bhotiyas (4) Raikas

18. When did G.C. Barnes give his description about the pastoralists?

- (1) 1700 (2) 1810
(3) 1850 (4) 1890

19. Gaddi shepherds belong to -

- (1) Rajasthan (2) Jammu and Kashmir
(3) Maharashtra (4) Himachal Pradesh

20. Which animal did Gujjar community depend on ?

- (1) Sheeps (2) Goats
(3) Camels (4) Buffaloes

21. Where did Gujjars live in winter

- (1) Bhabar (2) Bugyal
(3) Maasai Mara (4) Gollas

Assertion Reason Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 22 to 26) : Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the 'Assertion' and the other as 'Reason'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

Code :

- (1) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(2) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(3) A is true but R is false
(4) A is false but R is true.

22. **Assertion :** In pre-colonial period, the massai pastoralists were rich economically and politically.
Reason : The British colonial government encouraged cultivation and pasture lands were converted into cultivated fields.
23. **Assertion :** The title Maasai is derived from the word maa which means My country.
Reason : Drought conditions are common in equators.
24. **Assertion :** Due to high temperature and no rainfall cattle dies in equatorial areas.
Reason : Pastoralists are nomadic by nature because they move from place to place to get forage.
25. **Assertion :** In 1933-34 due to drought half of the cattle in Maasai Reserve died.
Reason : Warriors wear traditional deep red shukas, brightly beaded Maasai jewellery and carry steel tipped spears.
26. **Assertion :** Pastoralists were viewed by Europeans as savage and dangerous.
Reason : According to criminal Tribes Act of 1871 pastoralists were classified as criminal tribes.

Hints & SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. (3)
2. (2) Bugyal is a high altitude meadow in Uttarakhand. They are referred as Nature's own gardens.
3. (4) Genealogists are experts who study the descent of persons or families.
4. (2) 5. (1) 6. (2)
7. (4) 8. (2) 9. (3)
10. (2) 11. (4) 12. (3)
13. (2) 14. (1) 15. (2)
16. (1) 17. (4) 18. (1)
19. (2) 20. (3)
21. (3) Gujjar-Bakrwals migrated from the region of upper Himalayas with their cattle in Kashmir during nineteenth century, not in sixteenth century. However, they come from different section of Himalayas such as Pir Panjal range, Karakoram Area and Shivalik Hills of Himalayas.
22. (3) The observations about women role in society is not described by Buchanan
23. (3) Banjaras are exclusive nomadic community which roams in regions of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. During medieval period, they were important link between various trading centers by their constant movements, they become good informer of Mughal state.
24. (3) As colonial Acts regarding forest, pasture severely restricted the movements of pastoralists, it means curtailment of certain rights which were earlier exclusively enjoyed by them.
25. (3) These waste land rules throughout Asia and Africa made worse condition for the pastoralist and peasants communities in these regions.
26. (3) The introduction of pass-system restricted the movement of pastoralists, now they could not move freely with their cattle, which means health of cattle suffered due to non-availability of sufficient fodder.
27. (3) Tax on per cattle-head make life of pastoralists miserable or difficult. Many poorer pastoralists sell their cattle and shifted to other professions.

28. (3) The pastoralists in India still exists, it is not possible for all of them to left the profession because in mountains, the pastoralist life is still a viable option of sustainable life.
29. (3) Maasais major problem was the reduction of grazing area. The British and German fought over large possession in Eastern Africa which redraw the international boundaries, it means restriction on Maasais cattle herder, as a result Maasais were confined to rainless and poor pasture area of Eastern Africa and their animals died in large numbers which resulted in serious economic crisis for the Maasais and their families.
30. (2) However colonist used black people for mines, building, roads etc., but they were not allowed to settle or build houses near vicinity of their colonies.

Exercise 2

1. (1) 2. (4) 3. (2)
4. (3) 5. (1) 6. (4)
7. (3) Gaddis are a tribe living mainly in Himachal Pradesh. They belong to several castes including Ahir, Brahmin, Dhagar, Khatri, Rana etc.
8. (1) The Indian forest Act defines the procedure to be followed for declaring an area to be a Reserved, Protected and village forest. It defines what is forest offence, what are the acts prohibited inside a reserved forest and penalties liable on violation of the provisions of the Act.
9. (1) Nomadic pastoralism is a form of pastoralism where livestock are herded in order to find fresh pastures on which to graze following an irregular pattern of movement.
10. (3) Massai Mara is a large game reserve in South western Kenya which is a continuation of the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.
11. (3) 12. (4) 13. (1)
14. (1) 15. (2) 16. (4)
17. (1) 18. (3) 19. (4)
20. (4) 21. (1) 22. (1)
23. (4) 24. (1) 25. (2)
26. (1) The Criminal Tribes Act was passed in 1871 in which all communities of traders, craftsmans, etc. gathered and listed as criminal. They need special permit to enter the forest.