

1. What is Land grants ?

Answer :

- The transfer of some of the land in the king's possession to the Brahmins along with special rights. This is known as '**Land Grants**'
- The Satavahanas who ruled the Deccan region, started the practice of giving land grants to please the Brahmins who were dominant in the society.
- This system became wide-spread under the Guptas who came to power in pataliputra by the beginning of the 4 th century CE.

2. What are the different between Satavahanas and Guptas Land grants ?

Answer :

- In Satavahanas - Right to the resources of the land only was given
- In Guptas - Along with the resources of the land, rights over the people living there also were transferred

3. What were the changes brought about by the land grants during the Gupta period.

Answer:

- The king's authority over the donated land gradually declined.
- The right to collect taxes and administer justice over the donated land was transferred along with the ownership of land.
- Those who received the land grants also got the right to grant the land to someone else.
- In course of time, the kings and nobles began to give land grants instead of cash as remuneration for the services they received.

4. What is Indian feudalism?

Answer :

- People who worked on the land became rightless dependents of the landlords.
- The farmers, the agricultural labourers and the slaves were bound to the land.
- They lived and died in the same soil where they were born.
- In addition to taxes, these people from the lower stratum of the society had to provide free services to the upper stratum.
- This system has been called '**Indian Feudalism**'

5. What were the factors that helped the spread of agriculture ?

Answer :

- Even the uncultivated areas were made suitable for agriculture.
- The new social system provided sufficient labour force for agriculture
- The knowledge of Brahmins about agricultural technology and climate
- Different irrigation facilities

6. Write any four Irrigation facilities during the Gupta period.

Answer:

- Canals - Water raised from wells reached farmland through channels
- Dams - Skandagupta rebuilt the Sudarsana Lake in Gujarat
- Rainwater - The most important source of water
- Ghatyantra - Pots are attached to a wheel. When the wheel is rotated the pots are filled from the source and emptied into the field.

7. What are the main non-agricultural activities done on the 4 th century ?

Answer :

- People took to different crafts in order to make a living.
- Earthen pots , Jewellery made of gold, silver, Glassware , Silk, cotton textiles ,Sculptures in ivory are the main crafts works.
- People engaged in the same craft gradually formed associations called Guilds or Srenis.

8. Explain the two types of trades in the Guptas period.

Answer :

- Internal trade flourished during the initial years of the gupta rule.
- Textiles was one of the most traded products.
- Different types of textiles (muslin, calico, linen) were manufactured on a large scale.
- The Guptas had external trade links with West Asia, Central Asia, South East Asia, and Rome.
- Gold, silver and copper coins of high quality were minted
- Prominent traders known as 'Nagarasreshtin' and 'Sarthvaha'
- Vaishali , pataliputra , Kanauj, Shravasti, Kausambi, Ujjayini and Mathura were important centres of trade

9. What were the reasons of the decline of Indian trades in gupta period.

Answer :

- India's foreign trade declined following the collapse of the Roman Empire by the 6th century CE.
- Another reason for this was that the westerners had learned the technique of silk-making from the Chinese.
- Decline of foreign trade adversely affected the internal trade also.
- There was a dip in the movement of the craftsmen and artisans to different parts of the country for trade purposes.
- The slump in trade, the general decline in crafts and ruralisation led to the decay of many major towns.
- Cities like Kausambi, Hastinapura, Ahicchatra, Takshasila, Ayodhya, ujjayini and mathura lost their glory.

10. Write a note about the social life of gupta period.

Answer :

- The entry of new occupational groups and the coming of new peoples led to the formation of a number of sub-divisions in the society.
- Each occupational group became a new 'jati' or 'upajati'. Besides the occupational groups, people who came from outside the subcontinent, the forest dwellers ('Nishadas') and children born of inter-caste marriages also formed new 'jatis'.
- This made the caste system more complex.
- There was no change in the position and privileges of the Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaisyas in the new complex system that evolved.
- The Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang who visited India in the seventh century described Sudras as peasants.
- The 'Antyajas' who were outside the Chaturvarnya system were considered 'untouchables'.
- Accordingly, the lowest among the 'Antyajas' were the graveyard keepers called 'Chandalas' and the animal skin tanners called 'Charmakarar'.

11. "Women had a low status in Guptas society" Analysis the statement.

Answer :

- Generally, women had a low status in society,
- even though a few queens like Prabhavati Gupta of the Vakataka dynasty were held in high esteem.
- All women, from queens to the women of the lowest section in the society, were expected to be submissive to men.
- Even the upper-class women did not enjoy a high position or consideration in the society.

- There is no evidence of land grants received by even a Brahmin woman.

12. What are the responsibilities of the Gupta Kings?

Answer :

- Protect the people from aggressions
- Protect brahmins, Sramanas, (Buddhist/Jain monks) and the weaker sections
- Administration of justice.

13. What are the two types of Construction of Structural Temples ?

Answer :

- Construction of temples using stone and bricks
- Sculptures

14. What are the arts and literature status of Guptas period?

Answer :

- In the field of art, architecture excelled.
- Many temples were constructed during the period
- Construction of temples using stone and bricks
- Also had lots of Sculptures works
- Some of the world famous paintings of the Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra) belong to the Gupta period.
- These paintings depict royal life, royal court and celestial beings.
- Scenes from the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* also became themes of these paintings.
- Natural colours were used to paint these pictures that have survived several centuries and still remain graceful.
- Sanskrit literature received royal patronage during the Gupta period.
- Dramas, poems, Grammar, and Lexicon were composed during this period in Sanskrit.

15. What are the influence of science in Guptas period ? OR Evaluate the contribution made to the field of science during the Guptas period.

Answer :

- Books on science also were written during the Gupta period.
- Most of the works were on Astronomy, Mathematics, and Medical Science.

- Notable works of the period were *Brihatsamhita* of Varahamihira, *Aryabhataiya* of Arya Bhata and *Amarakosa* of Amarasimha.
- The iron pillar built in 4th century CE is an excellent example for the technological skills achieved in metallurgy during that period.

16. “The practice of land grants spread to South India by the 6th century CE”, Evaluate the statement.

Answer :

- The practice of land grants spread to South India by the 6th century CE due to the migration of Brahmins from north india to south india.
- The pallavas and pandyas were who granted lands to the Brahmins and temples.
- Granting of land to the Brahmins led to the development of agriculture in this area.
- Kings and local administrative bodies encouraged agriculture by building reservoirs and maintaining irrigation facilities.

17. Write a note about the trade status of pallavas in south india

Answer :

- Surplus production in agriculture led to the progress of maritime trade and internal trade.
- Mahabalipuram and nagapattanam were the busy port under the pallavas.
- The merchant guilds which were known as 'Srenis' in North India came to be called as 'Vanika' communities in South India.
- 'Nagarattars' were traders. Pepper, sandal, gold, and pearls were the chief items of export from the Pandyan Kingdom.
- The Pandyas traded with the Roman, Greek, Chinese and Arab merchants through the ports Korkai, Kayal Pattanam and Periya Pattanam.

18. What were the source of revenue of the pallavas and pandyas kingdom ?

Answer :

- Expansion of agriculture, growth of trade, and a variety of crafts became the sources of revenue to the Pallava and Pandya Kingdoms.
- Land tax was the chief source of income.
- People had to pay 1/10 to 1/6 of the produce as land tax.
- Those engaged in different crafts had to pay taxes.
- At the same time, the Brahmadeya land granted to temples and the Agraharas (Brahmin villages) were exempted from land tax.

19. What were the social and cultural life of South India in the pallavas and pandyas period?

Answer :

- The pallava pandya societies were based on the cast system.
- The Brahmins who received large extents of land as *Brahmadeya* were wealthy and they had a dominant status in society
- There was village autonomy in the Pallava and Pandya kingdoms.
- Village courts , Education, justice also existed.
- Jainism and Buddhism religions declined with the increased power of the Brahmins.
- Both Pallavas and Pandyas built Saiva- Vaishnava temples and encouraged the Bhakti movement.
- Ideas of Brahmanical religion and Bhakti were reflected well in the South Indian literary works of that period.
- Pallavas encouraged Sanskrit literature.
- The Pallava king Mahendravarman I was a Sanskrit scholar. *Matthavilasa Prahasana* was written by him.
- Temples of South India had a considerable influence on the life of the people at that time.
- Temples were the chief works of art of that period.
- Important temples of the period are situated in Kanchipuram, Mahabalipuram and Madurai.
- South Indian style of temple construction known as 'Dravidian style' evolved during the period of the Pallavas.

20. What are the three phases of the development of temple construction ?

Answer :

- Rock-cut temples
- Monolithic chariot temples
- Structural temples
- Mamandur Cave Temple (Kanchipuram) , Chariot Temple at Mahabalipuram and Madurai Meenakshi Temple are the examples of the temple development