

# CHAPTER 5 TRIBES, NOMADS AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES



TOPICS:



**INTRODUCTION**



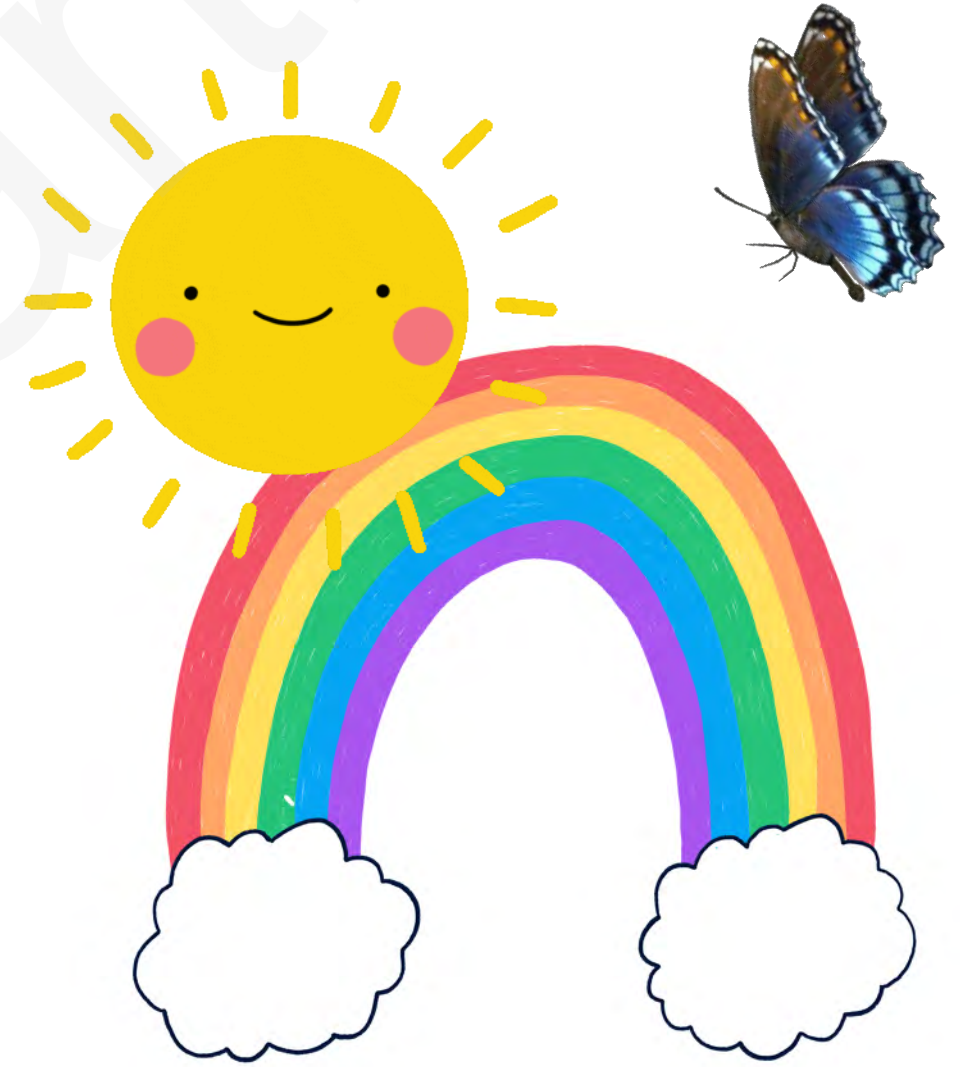
**BEYOND BIG CITIES:  
TRIBAL SOCIETIES**



**WHO WERE TRIBAL PEOPLE?**



**HOW NOMADS AND  
MOBILE PEOPLE LIVED**



 **CHANGING SOCIETY: NEW CASTES AND HIERARCHIES**

 **A CLOSER LOOK; THE GONDS**

 **A CLOSER LOOK; THE AHOMS**

 **CONCLUSION**



## INTRODUCTION

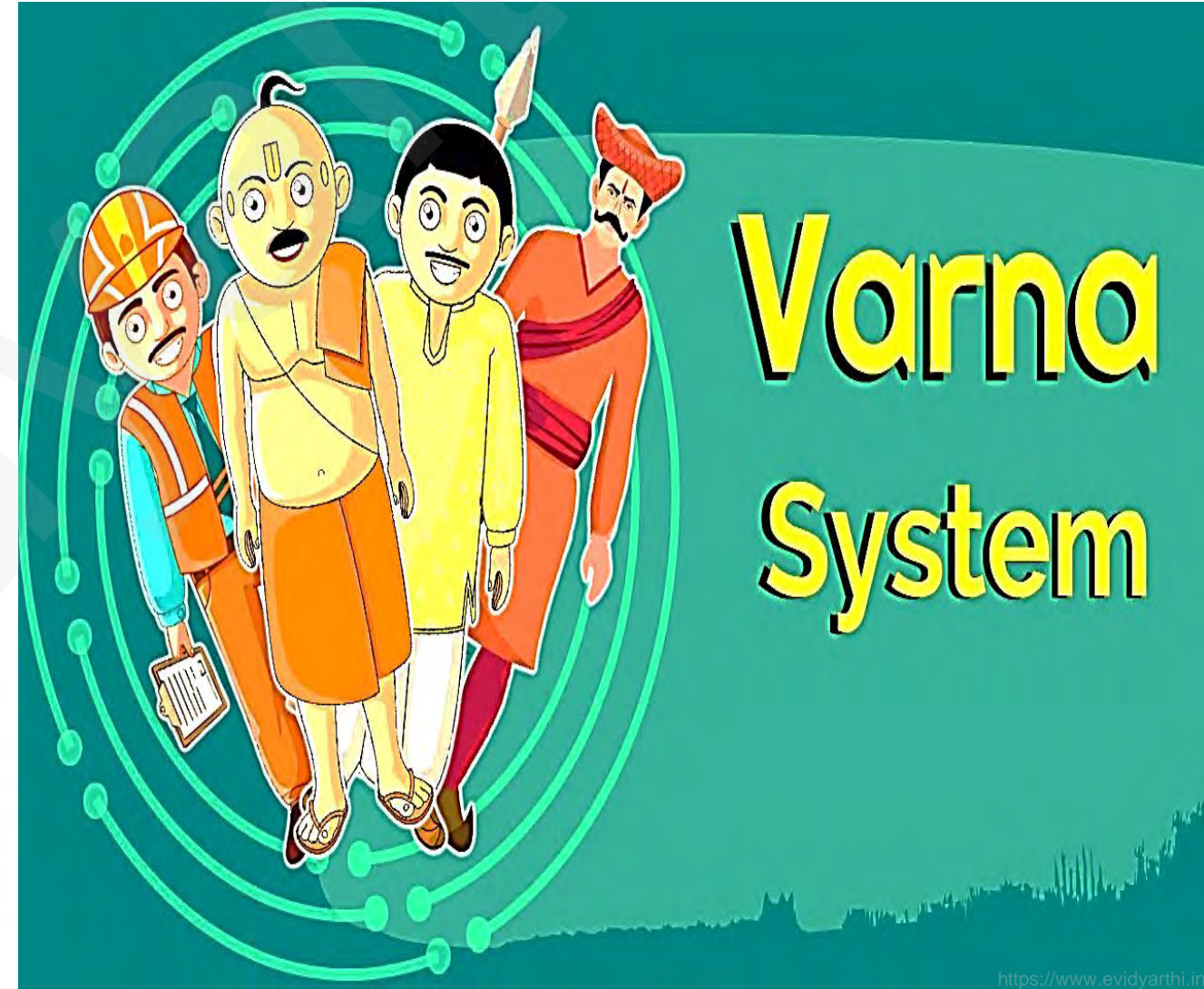
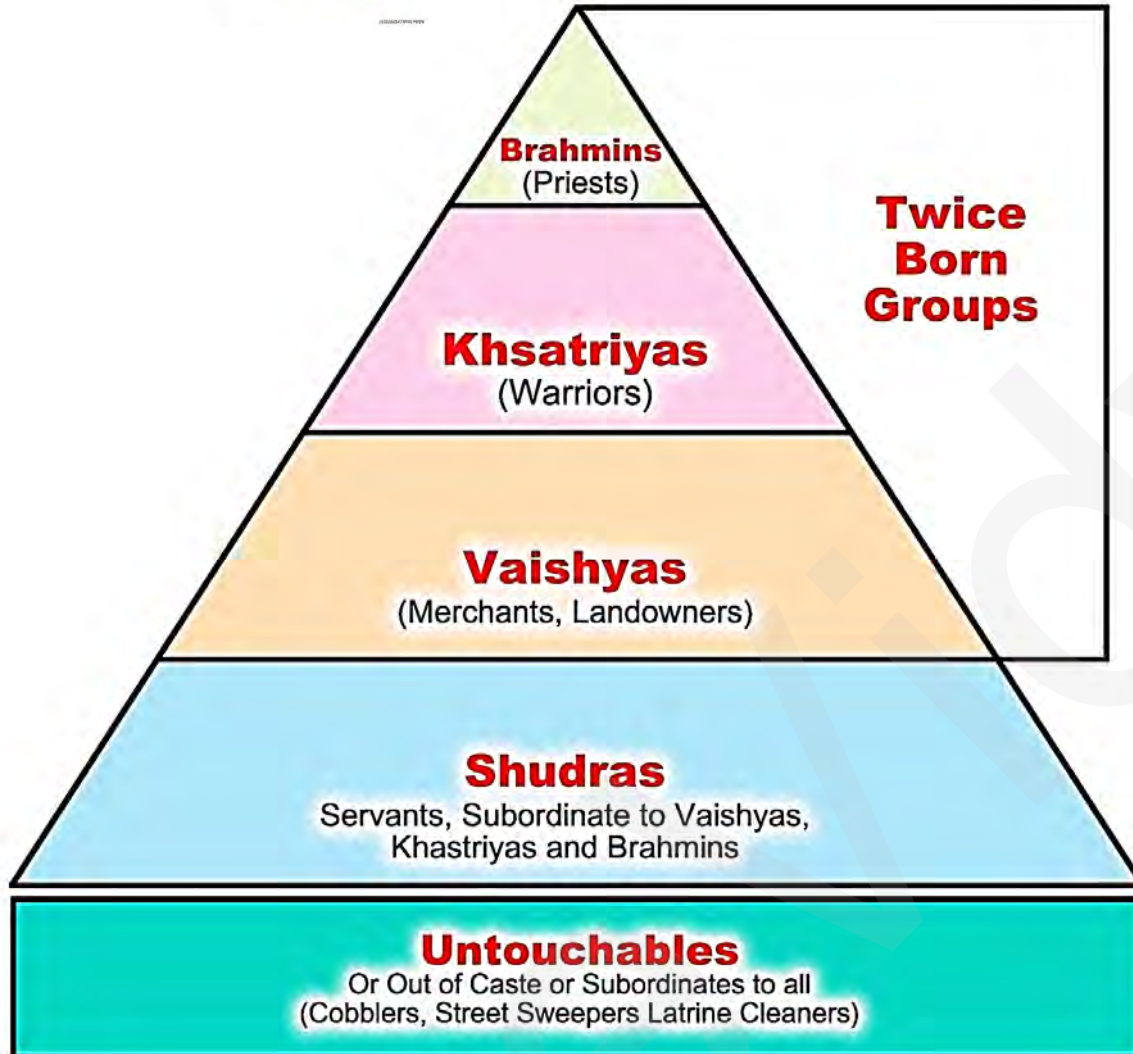
- In many chapters like 2,3,4 kingdoms rose and fell but still **ART ,CRAFT AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES** flourished in towns and villages.
- Many new societies emerge and **SOCIAL CHANGE** was different everywhere.

## PRODUCTION STILL CONTINUED





## PEOPLE WERE DIVIDED INTO CLASSES



- In large parts of the subcontinent, society was already divided according to the **RULES OF VARNA**.
- They were prescribed by the brahmanas (they were accepted by large rulers of large kingdoms)
- **HIGH AND LOW, RICH AND POOR** increased and under **DELHI SULTAN AND MUGHALS** it went further.

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**BRAHMANAS WERE DOMINANT GROUP**



## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RICH AND POOR INCREASED





## LIST OF TRIBAL GROUPS

1. **GONDS** – (S.T) M.P, TELENGANA, A.P, BIHA
2. **SANTHALS** – BIHAR, WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, JHARKHAND.
3. **MUNDA'S** – JHARKHAND, ASSAM, WEST BENG.
4. **KHOKHAR** – PUNJAB, PAKISTAN
5. **GAKKHARS** – PUNJAB, PAKISTAN
6. **LANGAHS** – RAJASTHAN, GUJRAT, PAK, PUNJA
7. **AFGHANS** – IRAN AND PAKISTAN
8. **BALOCH TRIBE** – IRAN, AFGHANISTAN
9. **TRIBE OF GADDIS** – HIMACHAL, J & K





1. **AHOM'S – ASSAM**
2. **NAGAS –**  
**ASSAM, A.P, MANIPUR, NAGALAND**
3. **KOLIS – MUMBAI, GUJRAT**
4. **BERADS – KARNATAKA, MUMBAI**
5. **NARAVARS – TAMIL NADU**
6. **VETARS – FOREST, HILLS**
7. **BHILS – MP, GUJRAT, RAJASTHAN**
8. **BANJARAS –**  
**RAJASTHAN, AP, KARNATAKA**



## Beyond Big Cities: Tribal Societies

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### TRIBES

- There were different kinds of societies (many in the subcontinent did not follow rules and rituals prescribed by the **BRAHMANAS**).
- There were not even divided into **NUMEROUS CLASSES** such societies are often called **TRIBES**.



- Members of each tribes were united by **KINSHIP BONDS, OBTAINED THEIR LIVELIHOOD (RELATIONSHIP)** from **AGRICULTURES, HUNTER-GATHERERS OR HERDERS.**
- Many live in **FOREST, HILLS, DESERTS AND** places difficult to each. they even clashed with more powerful caste based societies.
- They like their freedom and culture separated and **PRESERVED.**



## FOREST



## HILLS



## DESERTS



## AMAZON RAINFOREST



➤ **BUT BOTH CASTE BASED SOCIETIES AND TRIBAL SOCIETIES DEPENDS ON EACH OTHER FOR THEIR DIVERSE NEEDS, SO THEY GRADUALLY CHANGES THEMSELVES.**



## **BARTER SYSTEM**



## Who were Tribal People?

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- Historians and travelers give very scanty information about tribes. Along with tribal people did not keep written records but they preserved **RICH CUSTOMS AND ORAL TRADITIONS.**

## ABSENT WRITTEN ACCOUNTS



- These **ORAL TRADITIONS** were passed down to a new generation and with the help of that historians started created **TRIBAL HISTORY RECORDS**. Tribal people were found in almost every region ,some are **POWERFUL TRIBE LIVE IN LARGE TERRITORIES**.

## ORAL TRADITIONS





## THE KHOKKAR

- In Punjab the **KHOKHAR** tribe was very influential during 13<sup>TH</sup> AND 14<sup>TH</sup> CENT. Later the **GAKKHARS** (their **CHIEF KAMAL KHAN GAKHAR** was made a noble by emperor Akbar)
- In **MULTAN AND SIND**, the Langahs and Afghans dominated extensive region.



## IN PUNJAB (GAKKHARS) LANGAHS AND AFGHANS IN SIND AND MULTAN



- **BALOCHIS TRIBE** (powerful) in the north west divided into smaller clans under chiefs.
- **WESTERN HIMALAYA** – lived the shepherd tribe of gaddis.
- **NORTH EASTERN PART** – the **NAGAS**, **AHOM'S** and other.
- Later **AURANGZEB** captured many chero fortresses and subjugated the tribe.
- **MUNDAS, SANTHALS AMONG OTHER TRIBES WHO LIVED IN ORISSA AND BENGAL**



## BALOCH TRIBE



## GADDIS TRIBE



## AHOM'S



## **AURANGZEB CAPTURED CHERO FORTRESSES (PALAMU FORT)**



## MUNDA'S



## SANTHALS



## KOLIS

- **MAHARASHTRA'S AND KARNATAKA, GUJRAT WERE HOMES TO KOLIS, BERADS ETC.**
- **KORAGAS, VETARS, MARAVARS** were the large population in south.
- **BHILS** in western and central India, **GONDS** in great numbers – Chhattisgarh, M.P, Maharashtra's and A.P.



## BHILS OF GUJRAT



## GONDS OF M.P





## How Nomads and Mobile People Lived

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- Nomadic pastoralist moved over long distances with their animals, lived on **MILK, EXCHANGE WOOL, GHEE ETC.** With settled **AGRICULTURIST FOR GRAIN, CLOTH, UTENSILS ETC.**
- They bought and sold those goods, moved one place to another and transport their animals also.

## TRAVEL FROM PLACE TO PLACE



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## EXCHANGE THING WITH SETTLED AGRICULTURIST [www.evidyarthi.in](http://www.evidyarthi.in)



- **UTENSILS**
- **GRAINS**
- **CLOTHS**



## Important box

### The Banjaras

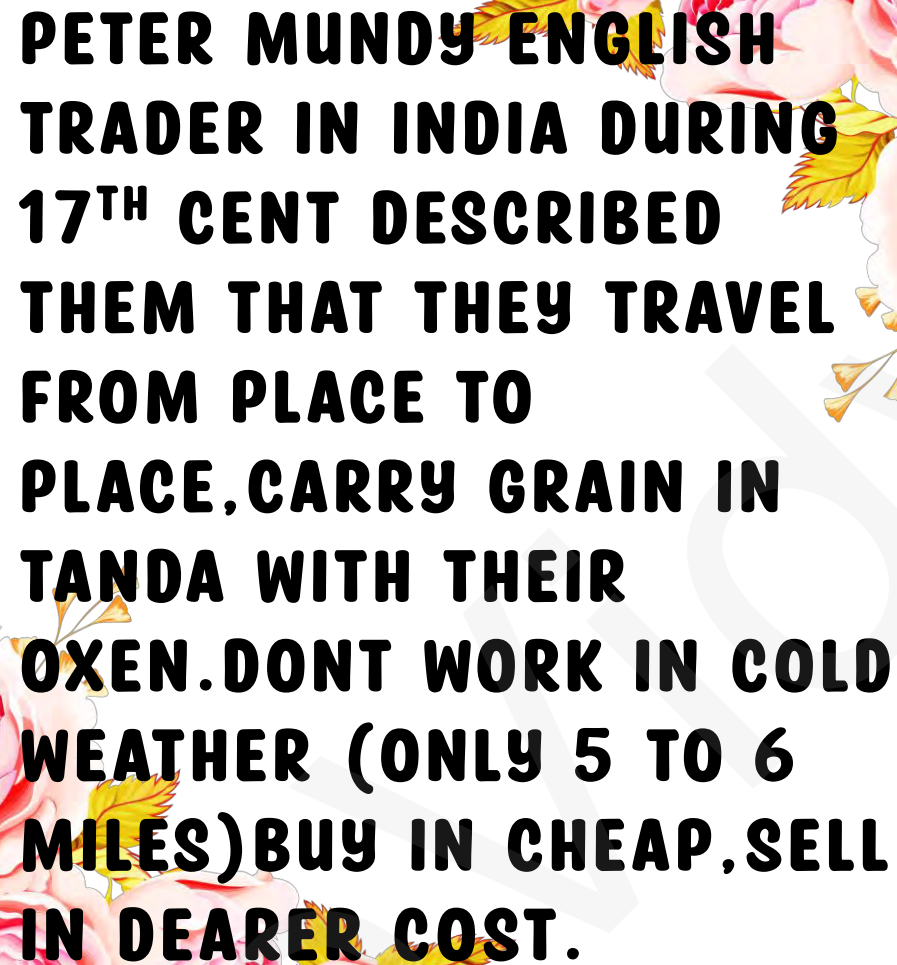

Peter Mundy, an English trader who came to India during the early seventeenth century, has described the Banjaras:

*In the morning we met a tanda of Banjaras with 14,000 oxen. They were all laden with grains such as wheat and rice ... These Banjaras carry their household – wives and children – along with them. One tanda consists of many families. Their way of life is similar to that of carriers who continuously travel from place to place. They own their oxen. They are sometimes hired by merchants, but most commonly they are themselves merchants. They buy grain where it is cheaply available and carry it to places where it is dearer. From there, they again reload their oxen with anything that can be profitably sold in other places ... In a tanda there may be as many as 6 or 7 hundred persons ... They do not travel more than 6 or 7 miles a day – that, too, in the cool weather. After unloading their oxen, they turn them free to graze as there is enough land here, and no one there to forbid them.*



## Meaning of the box

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**PETER MUNDY ENGLISH TRADER IN INDIA DURING 17<sup>TH</sup> CENT DESCRIBED THEM THAT THEY TRAVEL FROM PLACE TO PLACE, CARRY GRAIN IN TANDA WITH THEIR OXEN. DONT WORK IN COLD WEATHER (ONLY 5 TO 6 MILES) BUY IN CHEAP, SELL IN DEARER COST.**



- **BANJARAS** were most important **TRADERS NOMADS, THEIR CARAVANS** was called **TANDA**.
- **ALLAUDDIN KHALJI** used the banjaras to transport grain to the city markets.
- **JAHANGIR** wrote in his memoirs (historical account) of them carrying **GRAIN IN BULLOCKS** to sold in towns.
- They transport food grain for Mughal army during military operation (**1 LAKH BULLOCKS CARRYING GRAINS**)

**THEIR CARAVANS WAS CALLED TANDA**

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**BANJARAS**



## TRANSPORT FOOD GRAIN FOR MUGHAL ARMY





❖ Many tribes reared and sold animals i.e. **CATTLE, HORSES**



- (PETTY PEDDLERS road village to village to sell **COARSE SACKS, STRAW MATTLING, ROPES** etc.) also performs in different towns.



## Changing Society: New Castes and Hierarchies

- As needs of society grew, people with new skills were required smaller caste or jatis emerges in varna (NEW CASTE APPEARED AMONGST BRAHMANAS)
- Status of separated jatis were given to – **CARPENTERS, ARTISANS, SMITHS, MASONS.**
- New kshatriyas and rajputs clans became powerful in **11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> CENT**

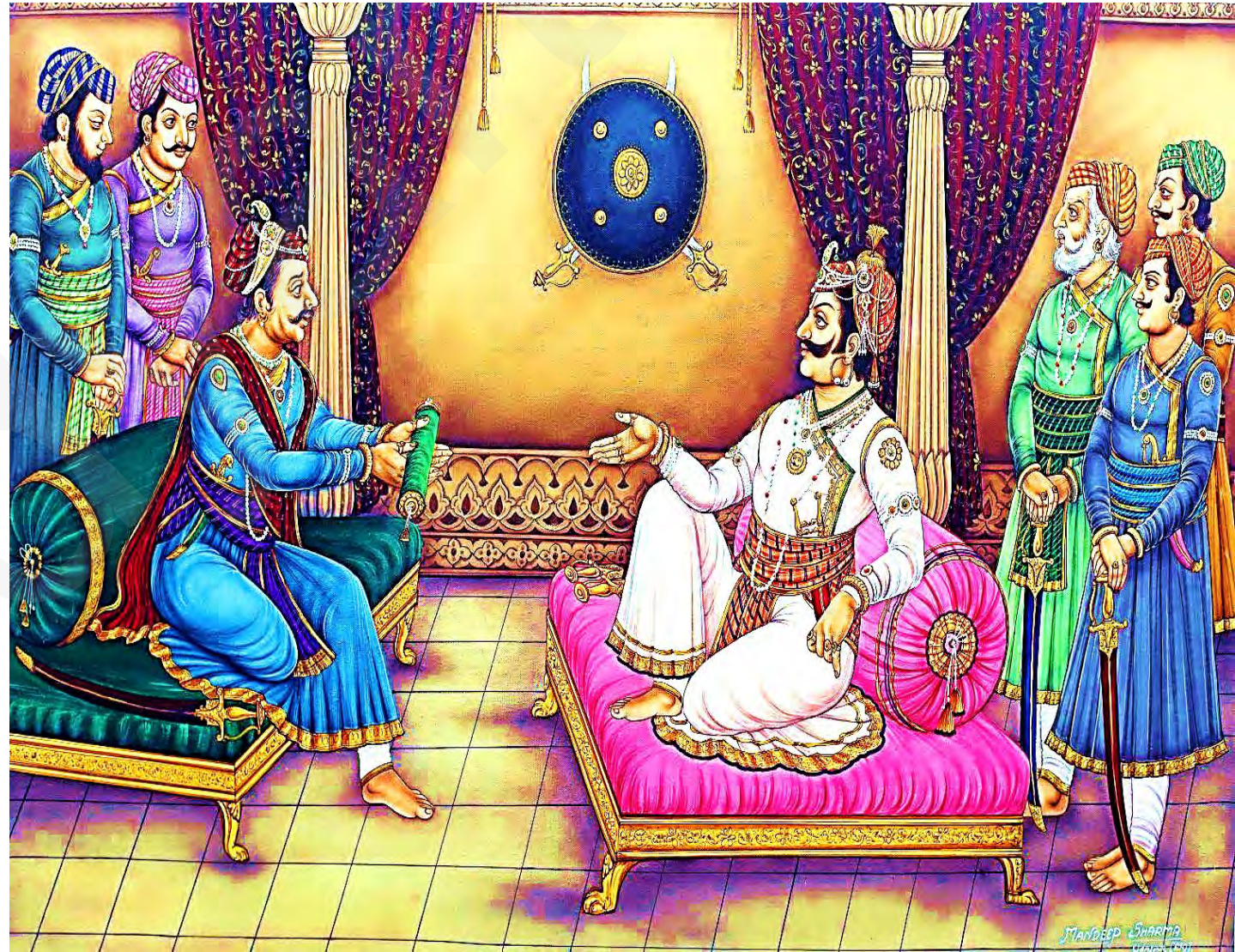
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## POWERFUL IN 11 AND 12<sup>TH</sup> CENT.

- They Belonged to different lineage – **HUNAS, CHANDELAS, CHALUKYAS** etc.
- Many clans came to be regarded as **RAJPUT** used their wealth to create powerful states, replaced other rulers(ESP. **AGRICULTURAL AREAS**)



## BELONGED TO DIFFERENT LINEAGE (CHALUKYAS, HUNAS, CHANDALAS)



- Many tribes became part of caste system with support of brahmins (only leading tribe could join the ruling class)
- A large majority joined lower jatis of caste societies, many tribes i.e. **PUNJAB AND NORTH WEST ADOPTED ISLAM QUITE EARLY.**
- They didn't accept the order prescribed by the **HINDU ORTHODOX** (in these areas it was not acceptable)



## PUNJAB AND NORTH WEST ADOPTED ISLAM





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## NORTH WEST

## HINDU ORTHODOX



## A Closer Look; The Gonds

- Live in vast forest Gondwana **“COUNTRY INHABITED BY GONDS”**.
- They practice shifting cultivation divided into many smaller clans. Each clan had its own **RAJA OR RAI**.
- After Delhi sultans declined many gond kingdoms were dominating many villages



- **EX - Akbar Nama mentioned gond kingdom of GRAHA KATANGA acquire 70,0000 VILLAGES.**

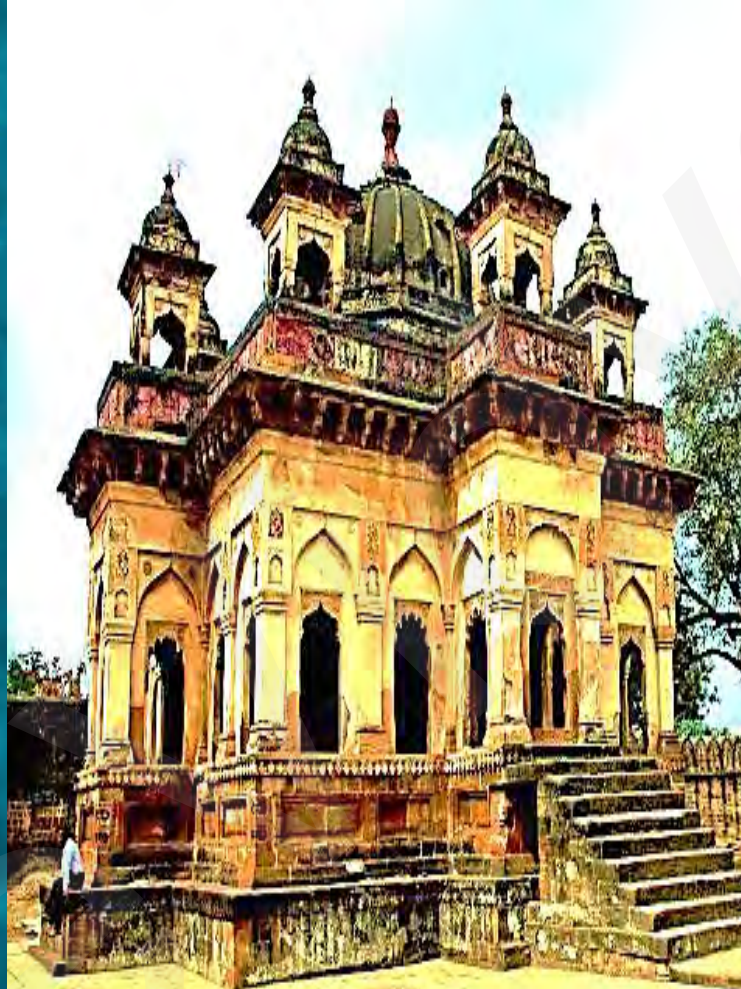
## The Akbar Nama

Abul Fazl



Translated by  
H. Beveridge (I.C.S.)

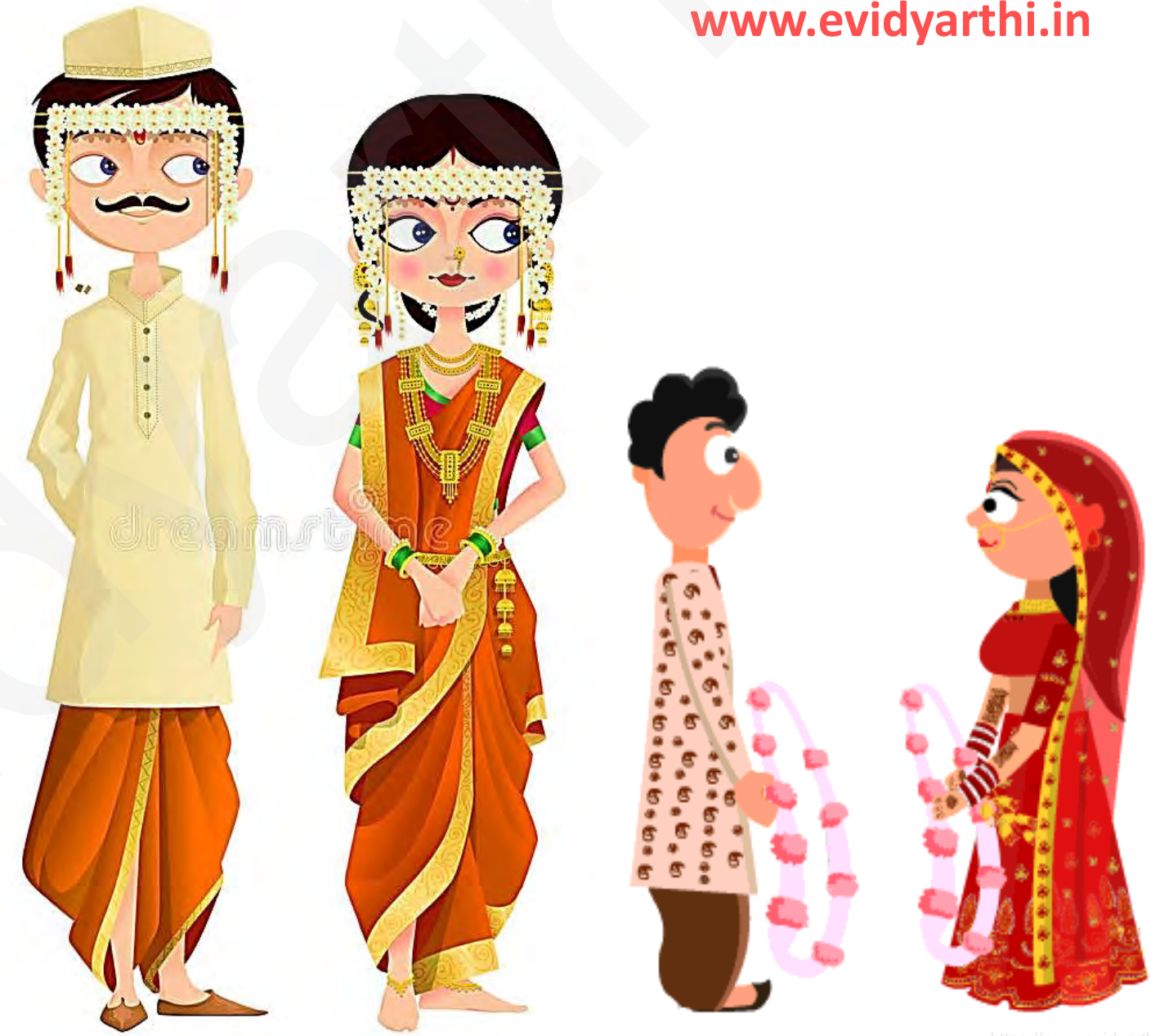
ATLANTIC



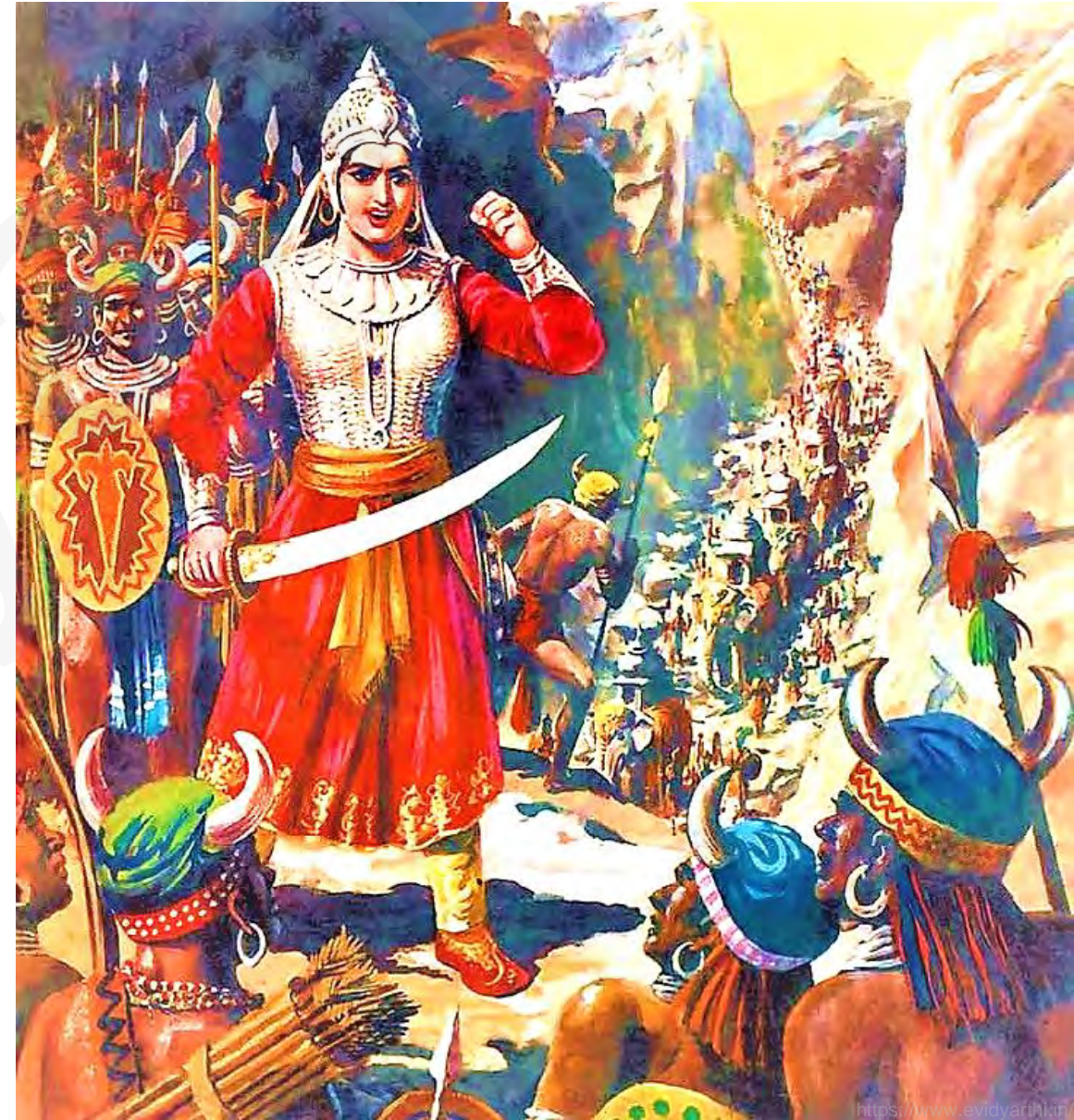
- The kingdom was divided into garh controlled by gond clan, further divided into villages called **CHAURASI**, again subdivided into **BARHOTS (12 VILLAGES EACH)**
- Brahmanas started receiving land grant and became influential, the gond chiefs now want to address as raj puts.



➤ **FOR EX** – Aman das the gond raja of garha Katanga got title of **SANGRAM SHAH**, his son dalpat married durgawati(**DAUGHTER OF SALBAWAN – CHANDEL RAJPUT RAJA OF MAHOBA**)



- Dalpat died early, rani durgawati started ruling in behalf of his 5yrs old son **BIR NARAIN** ( kingdom became extensive)
- In 1565 Mughal forces of **ASAL KHAN** attacked **GARHA KATANGA**, she was defeated and died with her son soon after didn't surrender)



- **GARHA KATANGA** was rich with wealth by exporting elephants, Mughals captured **PRECIOUS COINS AND ELEPHANTS** from there.
- After annexing the kingdom Mughals Granted the rest to **CHANDRA SHAH BIR** narain uncle, they became weaker and later fall after coming stronger forces like **MARATHAS AND BUNDELAS.**

## EXPORTER OF ELEPHANTS



## A Closer Look; The Ahoms

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- Ahom's migrated to **BRAHMAPUTRA** valley (**PRESENT DAY MYANMAR**) in 13<sup>TH</sup> CENT. They created a new state by suppressing the older political system of **BHUIYAN'S** (landlords) during the 16<sup>TH</sup> CENT. They annexed kingdoms of **CHHUTIYAS** (1523) and **KOCH HOJA** (1582) and many other tribes.





- It also faced many invasions from the south west. in 1662 Mughals under mir jumla attacked **AHOM'S KINGDOMS**, Ahom's were defeated but Mughal control over the region couldn't last long.
- Ahom's state depended upon forced labour, those who are forced to work for state were called **PAIKS**.

## FORCED LABOUR CALLED PAIKS



- Each villages had to send a number of paiks by rotation. **PEOPLE FROM HEAVILY POPULATED WERE SHIFTED TO LESS POPULATED PLACES.**



- Almost all males served in the army during **WARS, BUILDING DAMS, IRRIGATION SYSTEM, PUBLIC WORKS.**(also introduced new method of **RICE CULTIVATION**)
- Ahom society was divided into **CLANS OR KHEL**s with very few caste of artisans (came from other kingdoms) king cannot take land of villagers without community consent.

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## RICE CULTIVATION



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- They worship their own tribal gods but in the **17<sup>TH</sup> CENT.** Influence of brahmins increased. In reign of **SIB SINGH (1714-1744)** Hinduism became prominent religion. But **AHOM'S** didn't give up their traditions.
- ❑ Their society was very sophisticated.
- **SCHOLARS WERE GIVEN LAND GRANTS.**



- **THEATRES WAS ENCOURAGED.**
- **SANSKRIT (IMPORTANT WORK) WAS TRANSLATED INTO MANY LANGUAGES**
- **HISTORICAL WORK KNOWN AS BURANJIS FIRST WRITTEN IN AHOM OTHER IN ASSAMESE.**

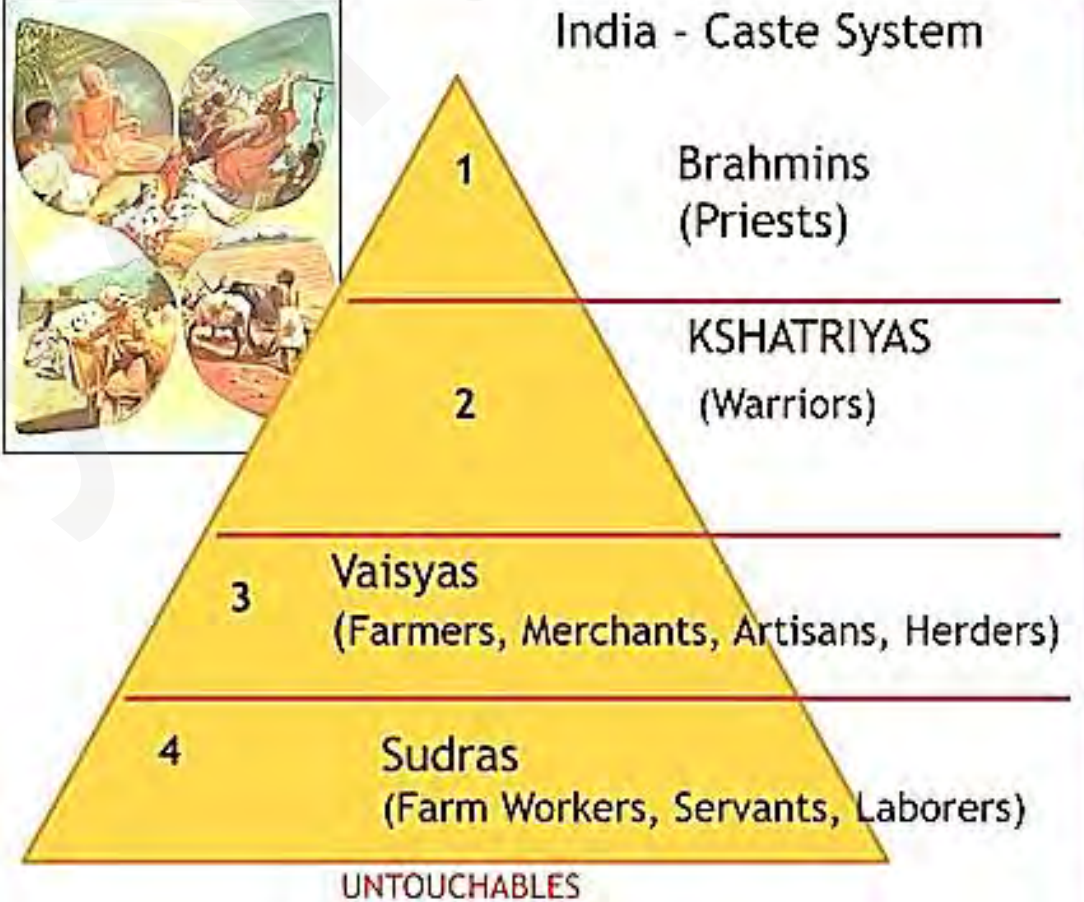
**SANSKRIT TRANSLATION IN DIFFERENT LANG.**



## Conclusion

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- Social changes took place in the subcontinent gradually.
- **BOTH TRIBAL AND VARNA BASED SOCIETIES INTERACTED TO EACH OTHER.**
- Some merged with caste based society and some rejected the **HINDUISM ORTHODOX.**



- Some tribes established **WELL ORGANIZED ADMINISTRATION, BECAME POLITICALLY POWERFUL** that brought them into conflict with **LARGE KINGDOMS AND EMPIRES.**







Important box

## The Mongols

Find Mongolia in your atlas. The best-known pastoral and hunter-gatherer tribe in history were the Mongols. They inhabited the grasslands (steppes) of Central Asia and the forested areas further north. By 1206 Genghis Khan had united the Mongol and Turkish tribes into a powerful military force. At the time of his death (1227) he was the ruler of extensive territories. His successors created a vast empire. At different points of time, it included parts of Russia, Eastern Europe and also China and much of West Asia. The Mongols had well-organised military and administrative systems. These were based on the support of different ethnic and religious groups.



## Meaning of the box

➤ **BEST KNOWN PASTORAL TRIBE WERE MONGOLS. INHABITED GRASSLANDS IN CENTRAL ASIA AND FORESTED AREA IN NORTH, RUSSIA, EASTERN EUROPE, CHINA, UNITED TURKISH AND MONGOL TOGETHER, HAVE WELL ORGANIZED MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM WITH DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS.**

