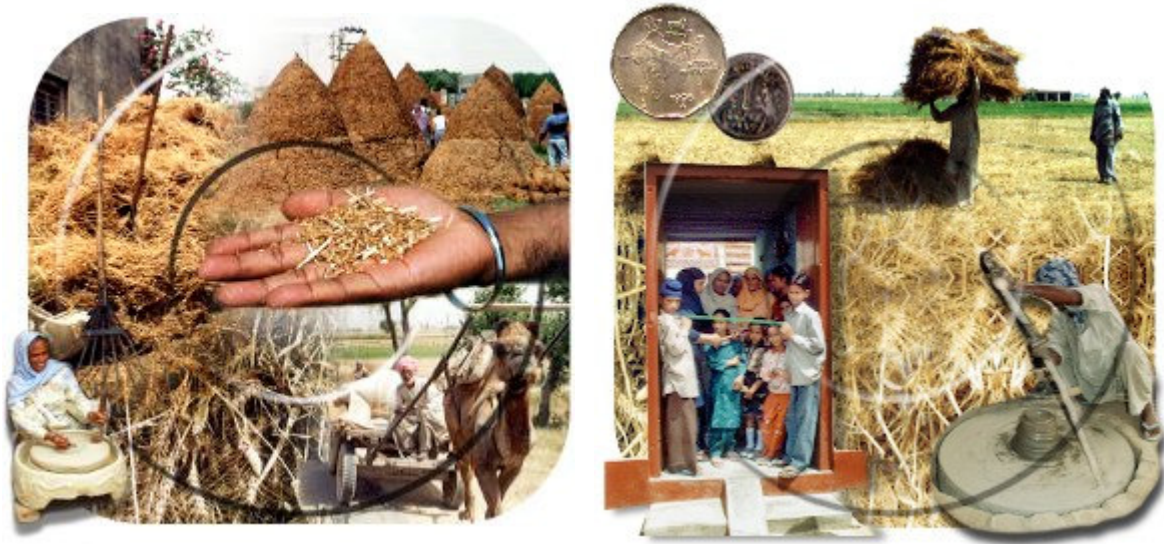


Village Life



Pañjāb (ਪੰਜਾਬ) means the land of the five rivers. It is an agricultural state; that means that a lot of people make a living through farming.

The villages are usually surrounded by farm land on all sides. Not everyone in the village makes their livelihood through farming. Most villages also have potters, carpenters and tailors.

In each village there is a sarpanch (ਸਰਪੰਚ) who is usually an 'elder statesman' who is respected by the village people. This person is responsible for listening to problems that the village might be having. The sarpanch is like a judge. He listens to both sides and passes judgment.

In the evenings, the villagers used to come out to a central gathering area where they would talk and share news. This does not happen so much now because most people have not only their own radios but TV's as well. The olden days of children playing cards, marbles and 'gullī ḍaṇḍā' (ਗੁੱਲੀ ਡੰਡਾ) have been left behind and have been forced to give way to cricket, football and TV.

Life in Pañjāb has changed a lot from 50 years ago. Many people still continue to earn a living through farming; however new methods and machinery are used to make everything more efficient. More and more young people have joined the work-force in a number of other fields and are employed in bigger cities. However some parts of village life are still the same – there are still children and adults who enjoy playing traditional games – today we will play a few of these games.

Images found with: www.google.com- search: images: "Villages in Pañjāb."