Nara Desert, Pakistan

Part II: Human Life

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Introduction
The livelihood of the people of the Nara Desert is largely dependent on their livestock, that is, sheep, goats, and camels. Shepherds with their herds migrate from their Goth (villages) toward the grazing grounds, establishing Wandh (huts constructed to settle down temporarily), living a nomadic life. There are Tars (where wells are situated) with permanent settlement. There are Wandhs near the Tarais (low-lying areas where water can stay or be stored for some time after rainfall). In addition, there are Tobhs/Tankas (rain-water stored in manmade tanks) in Taries.

Agriculture
Agriculture is practiced on both the left and the right flank of the Nara Canal of this desert. It lies in the same topographical region, but the land under cultivation has been physically modified to receive water for irrigation purposes from the Nara Canal. The outermost boundaries are intermingled with desert habitat. Cotton and Gwár are the major crops of Rabi seasons, whereas wheat, Brassica, and Alfalfa are cultivated in the Kharif season.

Cultural Heritage
Joint family systems prevail in the Nara as in other parts of rural Sindh. All 3 generations—grandparents, parents, and children—live under 1 roof. The main duties of the men in the family are plowing, animal grazing, mat weaving, and house construction or other cash-earning activities, whereas