

# Theme 9 Colonialism and Countryside

## Fastrack Revision

### ► Colonialism and the Countryside

In the regions of Bengal, Rajmahal hills and Deccan some laws were enacted by the British Raj. These laws had great concern for the masses. They were related with the rich and the poor and also were concerned with the acquisition of land.

But the enforcement of these laws were opposed by the common people.

### ► Zamindars and Revenue System in Bengal

The colonial rule was established for the first time in India and it was the regions of Bengal.

- In 1797 there was an auction in Zamindari of Burdwan. The Permanent Settlement had come into operation in 1793. The payable revenue of the Zamindars was fixed by the British East India Company.
- In Bengal there was continuous famines and the advent of colonial rule in Bengal since 1770s caused the agricultural output.
- British officials made a settlement with the **Rajas** and **Taluqdars** of Bengal. All such landlords were classified as Zamindars.
- The Zamindars usually failed to pay the revenue. The Company officials had kept the rate of revenue high.
- In the period of 1790s the prices of agricultural produce were depressed, and this made peasants and tenant farmers difficult to pay their dues to the Zamindar.
- The power of the Zamindar was initially limited to collect rent.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

**Raja:** A term often used to designate powerful Zamindars.



**Taluqdar:** It means a person who holds a taluq. Taluq came to refer to a territorial unit.

### ► Rise of Jotedars

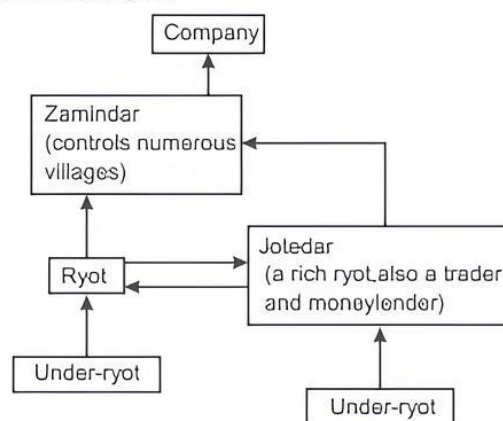
The jotedars were rich peasants who consolidated their power at village level, and at the end of eighteenth century this process declined the position of Zamindars.

- Francis Buchanan has given a vivid description of jotedars in his survey of the Dinajpur district in North Bengal.
- Jotedars were more powerful than Zamindars in villages.
- Jotedars used to live in villages while Zamindars were located in urban areas.
- Poor cultivators were in the grip of jotedars.
- Even local trade and moneylending was controlled by these jotedars.

- In some places, jotedars were known as haoladars, elsewhere they are known as gantidars or mandals.

### ► Power of Zamindars, Jotedars and Ryots

This was the responsibility of Zamindars to collect revenue from villagers and pay it to the Company. Each village ryot big or small paid rent to the Zamindar. Ryot got the loan from jotedars. Ryot cultivated some land and gave out the rest to under-ryots.



Permanent Settlement

### ► Submission of the Fifth Report

Many changes were held in the East India Company. These changes were documented in a report which was prepared to be submitted to British Parliament in 1813. This report was popularly called as Fifth Report.

- The report contained 1002 pages.
- These pages included 800 pages as appendices.
- It contained revenue and judicial administration of Bengal and Madras written by British officials.
- Many people in Britain opposed the monopoly of the Company in India.
- They wanted a revocation of the Royal Charter giving company this monopoly.
- The British political groups thought that the conquest of Bengal did not benefit the British as a nation but only the company.

### ► Hilly, Rural Areas and British Policies to Control the Paharias

Francis Buchanan travelled in the areas of Rajmahal hills. It was the period of early nineteenth century. According to Buchanan these hills were impenetrable region where few travellers ventured.

- People who were inhabited in and around the Rajmahal hills were known as Paharias. These people depended on shifting cultivation and usually lived on forest produce.

- The 'Paharias' lived in the dense groves in huts and collected 'mahua' (a flower) for food, silk cocoons etc. for sale and wood to produce charcoal.
- These 'Paharias' were hunters, farmers, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearsers.
- The local Zamindars paid tributes to the hill chiefs for peace settlement. Other people gave amount to the hill folk to use the passes controlled by these 'Paharias'.
- In 1770s brutal policy was adopted by the British. But the Collector of Bhagalpur Augustus Cleveland suggested a policy of pacification. As per the policy the paharias chiefs were given annual allowance.
- ▶ **Santhals in Bengal and the Accounts of Buchanan**
  - The entry of Santhals into Bengal was done in 1780s. Such people were hired by local Zamindars to expand cultivation. The Britishers were unable to change the 'Paharias' into settled agriculturalist, so they asked Santhals to settle in Jangal Mahals of Rajmahal hills.
  - The area of Santhal settlers was known as Damin-I-Koh. They became permanent settlers there.
  - The Santhal population increased rapidly.
  - Santhals settled in the Rajmahal hills, and 'Paharias' were forced to move other places into deeper and rocky hills.
  - In the mean time heavy taxes were imposed on Santhal by the state. Moneylenders also misused their position.
  - Due to various reasons, Santhals revolted against Zamindars, moneylenders and colonial government.
  - After the Santhal revolt of 1855-56, a new region of Santhal pargana was erected from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.
  - Buchanan was an employee of the British East India Company. The Company was looking for natural resources to control and exploit. It surveyed landscapes and revenue sources, organised voyages of discovery and sent its geologists and geographers, botanists and medical men to collect information. Buchanan was one such individual sent by company for survey.
  - He observed the stones and rocks and the different strata and layers of soil. He searched for minerals and stones which were commercially valuable. All signs of iron-ore and mica, granite and saltpetre were recorded by him. He also observed local practices of salt-making and iron-ore mining.
- ▶ **Ryotwari System and Deccan Riots**
  - In the conflict in Supa, the ryots from many surrounding areas gathered and attacked the shopkeepers.
  - The ryots demanded the Bahi Khatas (account books) and debt bonds from the shopkeepers.
  - The British decided to introduce new revenue settlements because the prices of the agricultural produce rose significantly which enhanced the income of the zamindars significantly.
  - On the other hand, the revenue demand was fixed under the Permanent Settlement Act due to which the British could not increase their share of the revenue.
  - To increase their share of income the British decided to introduce a new revenue system in parts other than Bengal.
  - The new revenue system came to be known as the Ryotwari system.
  - The Ryotwari system was first introduced in Bombay. In this revenue system, the rent was directly collected from the ryots. Under this system, the government analyse the average income from different types of soils.
  - The lands were periodically resurveyed at an interval of thirty years and then the adjustments in the revenue were made.
  - Ryotwari system changed the practice of fixed revenue and make it flexible according to several distinct factors.
  - The American Civil war led to the reduction of the supplies of raw cotton for Britain significantly. Due to this reason, the cotton merchants in India encouraged the production of cotton in the countryside.
  - The export merchants gave money to the urban Sahukars as they wanted to have a continuous supply of raw cotton for exporting it to Britain. The Sahukars gave advances to the moneylenders in the cotton villages who has promised an uninterrupted supply of cotton to them.
  - The moneylenders gave loans to the ryots to increase the cultivation of cotton. This way the credit flowed from the top level to the bottom.
  - After the end of the American Civil war, the Indian exports of raw cotton to Britain started declining steadily.
  - The cotton merchants and Sahukars became reluctant in extending credit to the ryots for the production of cotton.
  - The merchants close down their operations of extending credit and demanded the repayment of the outstanding debts from the cotton peasants.
  - The ryots were unable to pay their outstanding debts as they did not have sufficient resources and even the moneylenders refused to extend credit to them.
  - The moneylenders outrightly refused to extend the loans to the ryots during the time of their crisis after the end of the Civil war in America.
  - The ryots got deeper into debt and were completely dependent on the moneylenders for their survival. However, the moneylenders showed an insensitive attitude towards their plight.
  - The ryots felt that the moneylenders were violating the customary rule of the countryside. There was a norm that the interest charged on the principal could not be more than that. However, this norm was broken down and the moneylenders charged very high rates of interest. All these reasons made the ryots angry with the moneylenders.
  - Due to these reasons, the conflict between the ryots and moneylenders took place in Bombay Deccan.
  - The Deccan Riots Commission was formed to hold an enquiry about the riots caused in Bombay by the ryots.
  - The Commission produced a report and submitted it to the British Parliament in 1878.
  - This report acted as the source of information for historians to study the causes and nature of the Deccan riots. The Commission held several enquiries in the region where the riots took place.
  - The commission also recorded the statements of a number of ryots, Sahukars and moneylenders and other eyewitnesses of the riots.





## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions ↘

- Q 1. When did permanent settlement came into operation?**  
a. 1891      b. 1793      c. 1792      d. 1893
- Q 2. What was being auctioned in Burdwan in 1797?**  
a. Estates                                      b. Jewelleries  
c. Paintings                                     d. Clothes
- Q 3. Who was Governor-General of Bengal when the permanent settlement was introduced?**  
a. Lord Irwin                                    b. Lord Buchanan  
c. Lord Cornwallis                             d. Lord William
- Q 4. Zamindars were responsible for**  
a. extraction of minerals from the hills.  
b. cotton trade with the British.  
c. maintaining bahl khatas for the British.  
d. paying revenue to the British.
- Q 5. What do you mean by Kutcheries?**  
a. Court    b. Police Station  
c. Zamindar's house                            d. Hospital
- Q 6. Why couldn't ryots pay dues to the Zamindars?**  
a. Bad harvest                                    b. Low prices  
c. Both a. and b.                                d. None of these
- Q 7. What were rich ryots called?**  
a. Mandals                                        b. Jotedars  
c. Zamindars                                      d. All of these
- Q 8. Which one of the following country was the source of cotton after the break of the American Civil war in 1861?**  
*(CBSE SQP 2023-24)*  
a. America      b. Africa      c. Indla      d. Sri Lanka
- Q 9. To save their property, whom did the zamindar transferred it to?**  
a. Children                                        b. Servants  
c. Women    d. None of these
- Q 10. When was the Fifth Report submitted?**  
a. 1810      b. 181      c. 1813      d. 1815
- Q 11. Who travelled through Rajmahal Hills in the 19th century?**  
a. Buchanan      b. Willlam      c. Cleveland      d. Ricardo
- Q 12. Who lived in Rajmahal Hills?**  
a. Bengals                                        b. Paharias  
c. Singhal                                         d. Rajputs
- Q 13. Which of the following explains Paharias?**  
a. Hunters                                        b. Shifting Cultivator  
c. Food gatherers                                d. All of these
- Q 14. Who came into Bengal in the 1780s?**  
a. Santhals                                        b. Paharias  
c. Rajputs                                         d. None of these
- Q 15. What was created after Santhals revolt?**  
a. Damin-i-koh                                    b. Santhal Pargana  
c. Dikus    d. Ryotwari
- Q 16. What did Buchanan searched for?**  
a. Mineral                                         b. Iron-ore  
c. Mica    d. All of these
- Q 17. Which of the following is true?**  
(i) Santhals were hired by zamindars.  
(ii) They settled in Burdwan.  
(iii) A large area was provided to Santhal known as Damin-i-koh.  
Codes:  
a. Only (i)                                         b. (i) and (ii)  
c. (i) and (iii)                                    d. Only (iii)
- Q 18. Which of the following is true?**  
(i) Paharias followed jhoom cultivation.  
(ii) They lived in huts within tamarind groves,  
(iii) They collected Mahua flower for food.  
Codes:  
a. Only (i)                                         b. (ii) and (iii)  
c. (i) and (ii)                                    d. (i) and (iii)
- Q 19. Which of the following is true?**  
(i) Auction of estate was held in Burdwan in 1797.  
(ii) The Raja of Burdawan failed to pay his dues.  
(iii) The Britishers purchased the estates.  
Codes:  
a. Only (iii)                                        b. (i) and (ii)  
c. (i) and (iii)                                    d. (ii) and (iii)
- Q 20. Which of the following is correct?**  
(i) The colonial rule was first established in Bengal.  
(ii) The earliest attempts were made to reorder rural society.  
(iii) The permanent settlement had come into operation in 1793.  
(iv) The East India Company had fixed revenue that each Zamindar had to pay.  
Codes:  
a. Only (i)                                         b. Only (ii)  
c. Both (i) and (ii)                                d. All of these
- Q 21. Consider the following statements regarding the establishment of British East India Company in Bengal:**  
*(NCERT 2019-2020)*  
(i) The Permanent Settlement had come into operation in 1793.  
(ii) In 1797 there was an auction in Burdwan, during which a number of mahals (estates) held by the Raja of Burdwan were being sold.  
(iii) The estates of those who failed to pay were to be auctioned to recover the revenue.  
Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?  
Codes:  
a. Only (i)                                         b. (i) and (ii)  
c. Both (i) and (iii)                                d. All of these





Codes:

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| A B C D    | A B C D    |
| a. 2 3 1 4 | b. 1 2 3 4 |
| c. 2 1 3 4 | d. 4 2 1 3 |

Q 39. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Aquatint	1. Territorial unit.
B. The hoe and the plough	2. One who wields the lathi or stick, functioned as a strongman of the zamindar.
C. Taluq	3. The Paharias and the Santhals.
D. Lathyal	4. Picture produced by cutting into a copper sheet with acid and then printing it.

Codes:

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| A B C D    | A B C D    |
| a. 4 3 1 2 | b. 2 1 3 4 |
| c. 1 2 3 4 | d. 1 3 2 4 |

Q 40. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A. Lord Cornwallis	1. Observer
B. Augustus Cleveland	2. Economist
C. Francis Buchanan	3. Governor General
D. David Ricardo	4. Policy of Pacification

Codes:

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| A B C D    | A B C D    |
| a. 2 2 4 3 | b. 3 1 2 4 |
| c. 3 4 1 2 | d. 2 4 4 1 |

### Answers

1. (b)    2. (a)    3. (c)    4. (d)    5. (a)  
 6. (c)    7. (b)    8. (c)    9. (c)    10. (c)  
 11. (a)    12. (b)    13. (d)    14. (a)    15. (b)  
 16. (d)    17. (c)    18. (b)    19. (b)    20. (d)  
 21. (d)    22. (b)    23. (a)    24. (b)    25. (c)  
 26. (a)    27. (b)    28. (c)    29. (a)    30. (b)  
 31. (c)  
 32. In Francis Buchanan's survey of the Dinajpur district of North Bengal have a vivid description of the class of rich peasants known as Jotedars.  
 33. Zamindars often lived in rural areas and were able to exercise direct control over a considerable section of poor villagers.

34. Charles Cornwallis was the commander of the British forces during the American War of Independence and the Governor General of Bengal when the Permanent Settlement was implemented in 1793.  
 35. The Paharia tribe live in the Rajmahal hills, subsisting on forest produce and practising shifting cultivation.  
 36. The life of Paharias as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers, silkworm rearers was intimately connected to the forest.  
 37. (a)    38. (a)    39. (a)    40. (c)



### Source Based Type Questions

#### Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In the 1770s the British embarked on a brutal policy of extermination, hunting the Paharias down and killing them. Then, by the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the Collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. They were expected to maintain order in their localities and discipline their own people. Many Paharia chiefs refused the allowances. Those who accepted, most often lost authority within the community. Being in the pay of the colonial government, they came to be perceived as subordinate employees or stipendiary chiefs.

Q 1. Why did British colonial authorities were against the Paharias?

- Paharias frequent raid of plain areas inhabited by the settled agriculturists.
- They associated forests with wildness and saw forest people as savage, unruly, primitive and difficult to govern.
- They wanted to ensure the safety of traders, middleman and zamindars.
- All of the above

Q 2. Why did Augustus Cleveland proposed a policy of pacification?

- To stop the raids of Paharias.
- It was difficult to contain Paharias through traditional police machinery as they lived inside the forest.
- Both a. and b.
- British forces were less in number and strength.

Q 3. Choose the correct option:

**Assertion (A):** According to the policy of pacification proposed by the Augustus Cleveland, Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for proper conduct of their men.

**Reason (R):** It was refused by many Paharia chiefs as they don't want to be perceived as subordinate employees of East India Company.

**Codes:**

- Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (A) is true, but R is false.
- (A) is false, but R is true.

Q 4. Consider the following statements:

I. Britishers wanted to subdue Paharias, as for them extension of settled agriculture was necessary to enlarge the sources of land revenue.

II. Paharias lived in the forested areas of Rajmahal hills.

**Choose the correct options:**

- Both I. and II. are correct
- Only I. is correct
- Only II. is correct
- None of the above

### Answers

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (a)

### Source 2

Study the following picture carefully and answer the questions that follows:



Q 1. Identify the British official shown in the picture:

Ans. Lord Charles Cornwallis

Q 2. Which revenue system was introduced during his authority?

Ans. The Zamindari system was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793 through Permanent Settlement that fixed the land rights of the members in perpetuity without any provision for fixed rent or occupancy right for actual cultivators.

Q 3. What was his designation during his stay in India?

Ans. Governor General of Bengal



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Define the term 'Raja'.

Ans. Raja (literally King) was a term that was often used to designate powerful Zamindars.

Q 2. How much percentage of sale at the auction of 1797 in Burdwan was found to be fictitious?

Ans. 95 per cent.

Q 3. Define the term 'Taluq'.

Ans. Taluq means a territorial unit.

Q 4. In which area were the Jotedars most powerful?

Ans. North Bengal

Q 5. Who was the Raja of Burdwan when the permanent settlement was introduced?

Ans. Maharaja Mehtab Chand.

Q 6. Define the term 'Benami'.

Ans. Benami, literally anonymous, is a term used in Hindi and several other Indian languages for transactions made in the name of a fictitious or relatively insignificant person, whereas the real beneficiary remains unnamed.

Q 7. How many pages were there in the fifth report and how many out of them were appendices?

Ans. There were 1002 pages in the fifth report out of which 800 pages were appendices.

Q 8. Which committee produced the Fifth Report?

Ans. The select committee produced the Fifth Report.

Q 9. Why is Buchanan often called Buchanan-Hamilton?

Ans. Upon his mother's death, he inherited her property and assumed her family name Hamilton. So, he is often called Buchanan Hamilton.

Q 10. Who symbolised 'the hoe' and 'the plough'?

Ans. The Paharias represented 'the hoe' and the Santhals represented the 'plough'.

Q 11. Who proposed the policy of pacification and in which year?

Ans. Augustus Cleveland introduced it and it was proposed by the 1780s.

Q 12. Out of which districts was 'Santhal Pargana' created?

Ans. Santhal Pargana was created out of districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.

Q 13. What was the idea behind the introduction of new Permanent Settlement?

Ans. The idea behind was to create a class of yeomen farmers and rich landowners who would have the capital and enterprise to improve agriculture. They would also be loyal to the Company.



**Q 14. What was the Sunset Law?**

**Ans.** The Sunset Law was introduced by the Britishers. According to the law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.

**Q 15. Who made benami purchases during 1793-1801?**

**Ans.** Four big zamindaris of Bengal including Burdwan made benami purchases of about 30 lakh rupees during 1793-1801.

**Q 16. Why the report was referred to as the Fifth Report?**

**Ans.** The report was the fifth of a series of reports on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India. Hence, it was referred to as the Fifth Report.

**Q 17. Mention one strategy adopted by the zamindars to save their zamindari.**

**Ans.** Fictitious sale was one strategy wherein a series of manoeuvres were involved. Some part of the zamindari was transferred to female member due to the rule that property of women would not be taken over.

**Q 18. Who was amlah?**

**Ans.** Amlah was an officer of the zamindar who came to the village at the time of rent collection to keep an eye on the process.

**Q 19. What were Buchanan's views about Rajmahal Hills?**

**Ans.** According to Buchanan, the hills appeared dense and a zone where few travellers ventured. It was an area that signified danger.

**Q 20. Who were the Paharias? How did the Paharias live?**

**Ans.** The people living around the hills were known as Paharias. They lived on forest produce and practised shifting cultivation.

**Q 21. What were the occupation of the Paharias?**

**Ans.** The Paharias were hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearers.

**Q 22. What was the duty of the chief of Paharias?**

**Ans.** The duty of the chief of Paharias were to maintain the unity of the groups, settle disputes and lead the tribe in battles with other tribes and people of plains.

**Q 23. Why did the Company survey landscapes?**

**Ans.** The Company surveyed landscapes as it was looking for natural resources to control and exploit.

**Q 24. What were the reasons for conflict among hill folk and settled cultivators?**

**Ans.** With the expansion of agriculture, there was a contraction between the area under forests and pastures. This led to conflict among hill folk and settled cultivators.

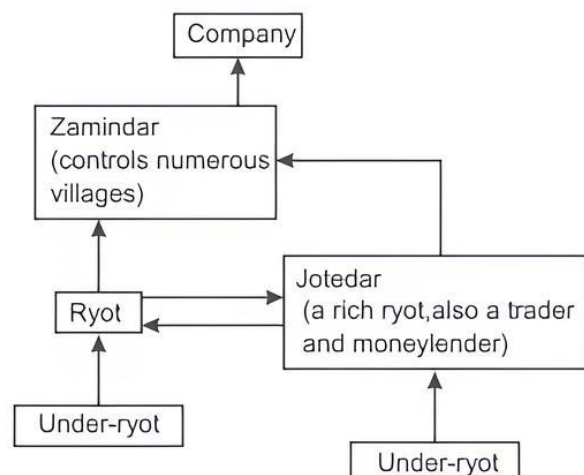
**Q 25. What was the significance of the Fifth Report?**

**Ans.** The significance of the Fifth Report was that it shaped the conception of the events that took place in rural Bengal in the late 18th century.

**Q 26. Show how the powers of Jotedars were more effective than that of zamindars?**

**Ans.** The power of jotedars was more effective than that of zamindars. Unlike zamindars who often lived in urban areas, Jotedars were located in the villages and exercised direct control over a considerable section of poor villagers.

**Q 27. Study the following flow chart and find out the name of the land revenue system introduced by the British in India:**



**Ans.** Permanent settlement.

**Q 28. What does Taluqdar mean?**

**Ans.** Taluqdar means a person who holds a taluq.

**Q 29. What was the name given to the strongman of Zamindar and the person who wields the stick?**

**Ans.** Lathyal.

**Q 30. Who was Francis Buchanan?**

**Ans.** He was a physician who came to India and served in the Bengal Medical Service.

**Q 31. What were the people living around the Rajmahal Hills known as?**

**Ans.** Paharias.

**Q 32. Why were the Santhals hired by the zamindars?**

**Ans.** Zamindars hired Santhals to reclaim land and expand cultivation and British officials invited them to settle in the Jangal Mahals.

 **Identify the Image** Type Questions ↘

Q 1. Identify the building shown in the below picture:



Ans. Burdwan Raja's City Palace on Diamond Harbour Road, Calcutta.

Q 2. What is depicted in the given painting?



Ans. Bengal village scene, painted by George Chinnery, 1820.

Q 3. Name this Indian leader of a famous rebellion.



Ans. Sidhu Manjhi, the leader of the Santhal rebellion.

Q 4. What has been depicted in this painting?



Ans. Santhals fight the sepoys of the British Raj.

Q 5. What is shown in the given painting?



Ans. A view of a hill village in Rajmahal, painted by William Hodges, 1782.

Q 6. Name the painter of this forest scene.



Ans. A view of jungle territory, painted by William Hodges.

Q 7. Which historical event has been depicted in this picture?



Ans. Burning of Santhal villages, illustrated in The London News, 23 February, 1856.

Q 8. Which historical event has been depicted in this picture?



Ans. Santhal prisoners being taken away, Illustrated London News, 1856.





## Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. "The East India Company had recognised the zamindar's importance but wanted to control and regulate them". Explain the steps taken by them to subdue their authority in the 18th century. (CBSE 2016)**

**Ans.** The East India Company subdued the authority of the zamindars in Bengal to a large extent during the 18th century. This can be made clear by the following points:

- (i) The zamindar's troops were disbanded.
- (ii) The custom duties abolished and their "Cutcheries" (Court) brought under the supervision of a Collector appointed by the company. The collectorate emerged as an alternative centre of authority severely restricting what the zamindar could do.
- (iii) Zamindars lost their power to organise local justice and the local police.
- (iv) The Permanent settlement limited power of the zamindars to collect rent from the ryot and manage his zamindari.
- (v) Cumbersome and long drawn judicial processes for prosecution of the defaulters by zamindars also limited their power.

### COMMON ERROR

Many students write in general about subduing of Zamindars across India without specific reference to Bengal.



### TIP

Students should write proper answer related to special changes introduced in Bengal to subdue the zamindars.

**Q 2. "By the 1850s, the Santhals felt that the time had come to rebel against zamindars, moneylenders and the colonial state". Identify aspects related to the statement. (CBSE 2018)**

OR

**Why did the Santhals rebel against the British rule?**

**Ans.** By 1832, large area of land was demarcated as 'Damin-i-Koh', in the foothills of Rajmahal and it was declared as the land of the Santhals. They were to practise plough agriculture and become settled peasants. However, problems began to crop up between Santhals and the British which led to the Santhal Revolt in 1855-56. The causes of this revolt are given as under:

- (i) The Santhals realised that the land they had brought under cultivation was slipping away from their hands.

- (ii) The state was levying heavy taxes on the land that the Santhals had cleared.
- (iii) The moneylenders (Dikus) were charging them high rates of interest and taking over the land when debts remained unpaid.
- (iv) The zamindars were asserting control over the Damin area.
- (v) The British created the Santhal Pargana from the districts of Bhagalpur and Birbhum.  
**Reason:** It was believed that the creation of a new state and passing of special laws for their protection would conciliate the Santhals.

**Q 3. Which policy was adopted by British officials towards Paharias in the decade of 1770? What was its result?**

**Ans.** The British in the 1770s followed a brutal policy of extermination, hunting and killing the Paharias. By the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. As per the policy, the Paharia chiefs were given annual allowance and were made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. They were expected to maintain order in their localities and discipline their own people. The result of the policies was that many chiefs refused the allowance, while those who accepted, lost their authority within the community. They came to be perceived as subordinate employees or stipendiary chiefs.

**Q 4. What were the accounts of Buchanan?**

**Ans.** Buchanan was an employee of the British East India Company. The Company was looking for natural resources to control and exploit. It surveyed landscapes and revenue sources, organised voyages of discovery and sent its geologists and geographers, botanists and medical men to collect information. Buchanan was one such individual sent by company for survey.

He observed the stones and rocks and the different strata and layers of soil. He searched for minerals and stones which were commercially valuable. All signs of Iron-ore and mica, granite and saltpetre were recorded by him. He also observed local practices of salt-making and iron-ore mining.

**Q 5. How did the auction in Burdwan take place?**

**Ans.** The auction in Burdwan can be described below:

- (i) It took place in 1797 in Burdwan (present day Bardhaman).
- (ii) It was a big public event.
- (iii) A number of mahals (estates) held by the Raja of Burdwan were being sold.

**Reason:** The Raja had accumulated huge arrears under the system of permanent settlement introduced in 1793.

- (iv) Numerous purchasers came to the auction and the estates were sold to the highest bidder.
- (v) But, over 95 per cent of the sale at the auction was fictitious.
- (vi) Many purchasers turned out to be servants and agents of Raja in the auction.  
So, the Raja's estates had been publicly sold, but he remained in control of his zamindari.

**Q 6. How did zamindars manage to retain control of their zamindaris?**

**Ans.** The zamindars managed to retain control of their zamindaris through the following ways:

**(i) Strategy of Fictitious Sale:**

- (a) Fictitious sale was one strategy adopted by them.
- (b) In this strategy, their own men would make the highest bid and later refused to pay up.
- (c) After repeating this method, the government would be tired and sell it back to the zamindar at a lesser rate.

**(ii) Transfer of Zamindari to Female Members:**

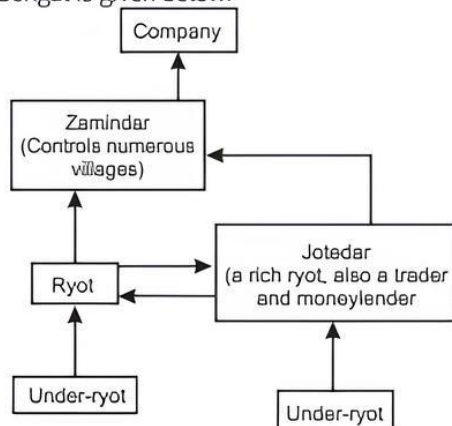
Zamindari was transferred to the female members due to the rule that property of women would not be taken over by the government.

**(iii) Attack by Lathiyals of Former Zamindar:** It was difficult for an outsider to take into possession of the zamindari bought in the auction as they were attacked by the lathiyals of the former zamindar.

**(iv) Loyalty of Ryots:** Sometimes, even ryots who considered themselves as the subjects of the zamindars opposed such auction.

**Q 7. Draw a diagram depicting the power structure in rural Bengal. Also explain it.**

**Ans.** The diagram depicting the power structure in rural Bengal is given below:



Its explanation is given as under:

This was the responsibility of Zamindars to collect revenue from villagers and pay it to the company. Each village ryot big or small paid rent to the Zamindar. Ryot get the loan from jotedars. Ryot cultivated some land and gave out the rest to under-ryots.

**Q 8. How did the Paharias respond to the coming of outsiders?**

**Ans.** When the Santhals settled on the peripheries of the Rajmahal, the Paharias responded in the following ways:

- (i) They withdrew deeper into the hills.
- (ii) They were confined to the dry interior and to the more barren and rocky upper hills.

**Result:** This severely affected their lives, impoverishing them in the long run.

- (iii) They could not effectively sustain 'Shifting cultivation' as their mode of cultivation.

**Reason:** The most fertile soils, being a part of the Damin, were inaccessible to them.

- (iv) The hunters amongst them faced problems due to clearance of forests for cultivation.

Thus, their lifestyle underwent significant changes that affected them adversely.

**Q 9. Evaluate the main aspects of the Fifth Report on the administration and activities of East India Company, submitted to the British Parliament.**

(CBSE 2020)

OR

"The argument and evidence offered by the Fifth Report cannot be accepted uncritically". Give arguments.

(CBSE 2015)

OR

Critically analyse the Fifth Report which was submitted to the British Parliament in 1813.

(CBSE SQP 2022, Term-2)

**Ans.** The Fifth Report of late 18th century is examined as under:

- (i) **The Meaning of Fifth Report:** It was the fifth of a series of reports on the administration and activities of the East India Company in India.

- (ii) **Submitted to:** British Parliament.

- (iii) **Submitted In:** Year 1813.

- (iv) **Structure of the Report:** It ran into 1002 pages, of which over 800 pages were appendices that reproduced petitions of Zamindars and ryots, reports of collection from different districts, statistical tables on revenue returns and notes on the revenue and judicial administration of Bengal and Madras written by officials.

- (v) **Reason for Drafting of the Fifth Report:** The British Parliament passed a series of Acts in the late 18th century to regulate and control company rule in India. It forced the company to produce regular reports on the administration of India and appointed committees to enquire into affairs of the company.

- (vi) **Produced By:** Select Committee.

- (vii) **Importance:** The evidence contained in the Fifth Report is invaluable.

For over a century and a half, the Fifth Report has shaped our conception of what happened in rural Bengal in the late 18th century.

It became the basis of intense parliamentary debates on the nature of the East India Company's rule in India.

(viii) **Limitations/Shortcomings:** The Fifth Report exaggerated the collapse of traditional zamindari power and the rate at which zamindars were losing their lands. Zamindars were not always displaced given the indigenous methods they used to retain their lands.

The Report was biased because it wanted to highlight the maladministration of the East India Company in India.

Q 10. The power of the jotedars was more effective than that of the zamindars. Justify the statement with suitable arguments. (CBSE SQP 2022-2023)

OR

Show how the power of the jotedars within a village was more effective than that of the zamindars.

(CBSE 2020)

OR

'Jotedars inevitably weakened zamindars in Bengal by the end of the 18th century.' Give arguments to support the statement. (CBSE 2015)

OR

Describe the position of the jotedars at the end of the 18th century.

OR

"The jotedars were more effective than that of zamindars in the villages." Examine the statement in the context of Permanent settlement.

(CBSE 2022, Term-2)

Ans. The Jotedars inevitably weakened the zamindars in Bengal by the end of the 18th century because:

(i) **Control Over Land, Local Trade and Other Activities:**

- They had acquired large areas of land.
- They controlled local trade.
- They were involved in activities like moneylending and exercising immense power over the poorer cultivators of the region.
- Their land was cultivated through sharecroppers (adhlyars or bargadars) who brought their own ploughs, laboured in the field and handed over half the produce to the Jotedars after the harvest.

(ii) **Posed Restrictions/Obstacles for Zamindars in Various Forms:**

- The Jotedars:** Fiercely resisted efforts by zamindars to increase the jama of the village prevented zamindari officials from executing their duties. Mobilised ryots who were dependent on them. Deliberately delayed payments of revenue to the zamindar.

(iii) **Purchase of Zamindar's Lands Held for Auction:**

When the estates of the zamindars were auctioned for failure to make revenue payment, jotedars were often amongst the purchasers.

(iv) **Maintained Good Control Over Village Population:**

The power of the jotedars was more effective than that of zamindars within the villages.

**Reason:** Unlike zamindars who often lived in urban areas, jotedars were located in the villages and exercised direct control over a considerable section of poor villagers.

Q 11. The battle between the hoe and the plough was a long one. Substantiate the statement with reference to the Santhals and Paharias of Rajmahal hills during 18th century. (CBSE 2016)

Ans. The Paharias represented the hoe whereas the plough was represented by Santhals. The battle between these was a long one. The British wanted to bring more land under cultivation for increasing agricultural produce and revenue. They failed to convince the Paharias to practice settled agriculture. The Paharias were dependent on forest produce and shifting cultivation for their living and grew a variety of pulses for consumption. The British gave land to Santhals (Damin-i-Koh) to settle and cultivate. The Santhals cleared land and converted it into cultivable land. Santhals displaced the Paharias. They practiced plough agriculture and ploughed land to grow rice and cotton.

Q 12. Examine the policies adopted by the British towards Paharias during 18th century.

(CBSE SQP 2022, Term-2)

OR

Analyse the impact of the 'policy of pacification' on the Paharias, proposed by Augustus Cleveland in 1780.

Ans. The policies adopted by the British towards the Paharias:

- In the 1770s the British embarked on the brutal policy of extermination, hunting the Paharias down and killing them.
- By the 1780s Augustus Cleveland, the collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification.
- Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. Many Paharia chiefs refused the allowances, those who accepted lost authority within the community.

Q 13. Analyse the economic and social conditions of the Paharias (hill folk) of Rajmahal hills during the late eighteenth century. (CBSE 2020)

OR

Examine the economic conditions of the Paharias after the settlement of Santhals in the periphery of Rajmahal hills.

Ans. The economic and social conditions of the Paharias (hill folk) of Rajmahal hills during the late 18th century can be understood by examining the points below:

- (i) They subsisted on forest produce and practised shifting cultivation.
- (ii) They cleared patches of forest land and grew a variety of pulses and millets for their consumption on them.
- (iii) They scratched the ground lightly with hoes, cultivated the cleared land for a few years, then left it fallow so that it could recover its fertility and moved to a new area.
- (iv) They collected mahua (a flower) for food, silk cocoons and resin for sale and wood for charcoal production.
- (v) They lived in hutments within tamarind groves and rested in the shade of mango trees.
- (vi) They lived as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearers. They consider the entire region as their land and resisted the intrusion of outsiders.
- (vii) Their chiefs maintained the unity of the group, settled disputes and led the tribe in battles with other tribes and plains people.
- (viii) They regularly raided the plains where settled agriculturists lived.

Reasons:

- (i) These raids were necessary for survival particularly in years of scarcity.
- (ii) They were a way of asserting power over settled communities.
- (iii) They were a means of negotiating political relations with outsiders.

Q 14. Analyse the circumstances under which the British officials invited Santhals to settle in the peripheries of Rajmahal hills during the 19th century.

(CBSE 2020)

Ans. In the last decades of the eighteenth century, the frontiers of settled agriculture were being aggressively extended in eastern India. The British encouraged forest clearance and Zamindars and Jotedars turned uncultivated lands into rice fields.

Reason for this extension:

- (i) To the British, extension of settled agriculture was necessary to:
  - (a) Enlarge the sources of land revenue.
  - (b) Produce crops for export and
  - (c) Establish the basis of a settled, ordered society.

(ii) The Britishers associated forests with wildness and saw forest people as savage, unruly, primitive and difficult to govern. They felt forests had to be cleared, settled agriculture established, forest people (The Paharias) tamed, civilized and persuaded to give up hunting and take to plough agriculture.

- (a) The Paharias refused to cut forests, resisted touching the plough and continued to be turbulent.
- (b) The Santhals, by contrast, appeared to be ideal settlers, clearing forests and ploughing the land with vigour. So, the British officials decided to invite Santhals to settle in the peripheries of Rajmahal hills during the 19th century.

Q 15. Explain two reasons for the failure of the Permanent Settlement of the land revenue introduced by the British in Bengal.

Ans. The two reasons for the failure of the Permanent Settlement of the land revenue introduced by the British in Bengal are given below:

(i) **Burden on Zamindars of High Revenue Demand:**

- (a) The initial demands of revenue by the British from the zamindars were very high.
- (b) It was felt that if the demand was fixed for all time to come, the company would never be able to claim a share of increased income from land when prices rose and cultivation expanded.
- (c) To minimise this anticipated loss, the Company pegged the revenue demand high, arguing that the burden on zamindars would gradually decline as agricultural production expanded and prices rose.

(ii) **Increased Burden on Ryots Due to Repressed Agricultural Prices:**

The high demand by the British was imposed in the 1790s, a time when the prices of agricultural produce were depressed, making it difficult for the ryots to pay their dues to the zamindar. Thus, the Zamindars could not collect the rent and were unable to pay their fixed amount to the company.

Q 16. In what way was the livelihood of the Paharias different from that of the Santhals?

OR

Examine how the lives of Paharias in the hills of Rajmahal, were intimately connected to the forests.

Ans. The people who lived around the Rajmahal hills were known as Paharias. Their lifestyle/livelihood can be understood from the following points:

- (i) They subsisted on forest produce and practised shifting cultivation.



- (ii) They cleared patches of forest land and grew a variety of pulses and millets for their consumption of them.
- (iii) They scratched the ground lightly with hoes, cultivated the cleared land for a few years, then left it fallow so that it could recover its fertility and moved to a new area.
- (iv) They collected mahua (a flower) for food, silk cocoons and resin for sale and wood for charcoal production.
- (v) They lived in huntments within tamarind groves and rested in the shade of mango trees.
- (vi) They lived as hunters, shifting cultivators, food gatherers, charcoal producers and silkworm rearers. They consider the entire region as their land and resisted the intrusion of outsiders.
- (vii) Their chiefs maintained the unity of the group, settled disputes and led the tribe in battles with other tribes and plains people.
- (viii) They regularly raided the plains where settled agriculturists lived.

**Reasons:**

- (i) These raids were necessary for survival, particularly in years of scarcity.
  - (ii) They were a way of asserting power over settled communities.
  - (iii) They were a means of negotiating political relations with outsiders.
- The Santhals came into Bengal in the 1780s. Their lifestyle and livelihood can be described as under:
- (i) They cleared forests and cut down their timber.
  - (ii) They ploughed land and grew rice and cotton.
  - (iii) They settled down cultivating a range of commercial crops for the market.
  - (iv) They also dealt with traders and moneylenders.

**Q 17. 'Burdwan auction had a strange twist and was considered a big public event in 1797'. Explain the statement. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)**

**OR**

**Why were many zamindaris auctioned after the Permanent Settlement?**

**Ans.** Burdwan auction had a strange twist and was considered a big public event because a number of Mahals (estates) held by the Raja of Burdwan were being sold. Numerous purchasers came to the auction and the estates were sold to the highest bidder. Over 95% of sale at the auction was fictitious. The reasons for auctioning of zamindari even after the Permanent Settlement were:

**(i) Burden on Zamindars of High Revenue Demand:**

- (a) The initial demands of revenue by the British from the zamindars were very high.

- (b) This was because it was felt that if the demand was fixed for all time to come, the company would never be able to claim a share of increased income from land when prices rose and cultivation expanded.

- (c) To minimise this anticipated loss, the company pegged the revenue demand high, arguing that the burden on zamindars would gradually decline as agricultural production expanded and prices rose.

**(ii) Increased Burden on Ryots Due to Repressed Agricultural Prices:**

The high demand by the British was imposed in the 1970s, a time when the prices of agricultural produce were depressed, making it difficult for the ryots to pay their dues to the zamindar. Thus, the zamindars could not collect the rent and were unable to pay their fixed amount to the company.

**(iii) Invariability of Revenue and the Sunset Law:**

- (a) The revenue was invariable, regardless of the harvest and had to be paid punctually.
- (b) According to the Sunset Law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the zamindari was liable to be auctioned.

**(iv) Limitation of the Power of Zamindar:** The Permanent Settlement initially limited the power of the zamindar to collect rent from the ryot and manage his zamindari.



**Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q 1. What was Damin-i-Koh? How it came into being?**

**Ans. Damin-i-Koh:**

A large area of land in the foothills of Rajmahal provided to the Santhals in 1832 by the Britishers after persuading them to settle in it was known as Damin-i-Koh. This was declared to be the land of the Santhals. They were to live within it, practice plough agriculture and become settled peasants. The land grant to the Santhals stipulated that at least one-tenth of the area was to be cleared and cultivated within the first ten years. The territory was surveyed and mapped. Enclosed with boundary pillars, it was separated from both the world of the settled agriculturists of the plains and the Paharias of the hills. After the demarcation of Damin-i-Koh, Santhal settlements expanded rapidly, e.g., From 40 Santhal villages in the area in 1838, as many as 1473 villages had come up by 1851.

### How it Came into Being:

- (i) The British wanted the Paharias to take to plough agriculture and practice settled agriculture.
- (ii) The Paharias refused to cut forests, resisted, touching the plough and continued to be turbulent.
- (iii) The Santhals, by contrast, appeared to be ideal settlers, clearing forests and ploughing the land with vigour. So, the British decided to provide this land to the Santhals. This is how Damin-I-koh came into existence.

**Q 2. "After introducing the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, the Zamindars regularly failed to pay the land revenue demand." Examine the causes and consequence of it. (CBSE 2017)**

**Ans.** The causes due to which the Zamindars regularly failed to pay the land revenue even after introduction of the permanent settlement are given below:

**(i) Burden on Zamindars of High Revenue Demand:**

- (a) The initial demands of revenue by the British from the Zamindars were very high.
- (b) This was because it was felt that if the demand was fixed for all time to come, the company would never be able to claim a share of increased income from land when prices rose and cultivation expanded.
- (c) To minimise this anticipated loss, the company pegged the revenue demand high, arguing that the burden on Zamindars would gradually decline as agricultural production expanded and prices rose.

**(ii) Increased Burden on Ryots due to Repressed Agricultural Prices:**

The high demand by the British was imposed in the 1790s, a time when the prices of agricultural produce were depressed, making it difficult for

the ryots to pay their due to the Zamindar. Thus, the Zamindars could not collect the rent and were unable to pay their fixed amount to the company.

**(iii) Invariability of Revenue and the Sunset Law:**

- (a) The revenue was invariable, regardless of the harvest and had to be paid punctually.
- (b) According to the Sunset Law, if payment did not come in by sunset of the specified date, the Zamindari was liable to be auctioned.

**(iv) Limitation of the Power of Zamindar:**

The Permanent Settlement initially limited the power of the Zamindar to collect rent from the ryot and manage his Zamindari.

The Consequences of failure of the Zamindars to pay land revenue demand are given below:

- (a) The Zamindars troops were disbanded, custom duties abolished and the cutcheries (courts) were brought under the supervision of a collector appointed by the company.
- (b) The Zamindars troops were disbanded.
- (c) They lost the power to organise local justice and the local police. The collectorate emerged as an alternative centre of authority.
- (d) An officer of the Zamindar, the amlah, came to the village at the time of rent collection to keep an eye on the process.
- (e) Bad harvests and low prices made the ryots difficult to pay dues to the Zamindars.
- (f) Sometimes ryots deliberately delayed the revenue payment.
- (g) Rich ryots and village headmen, jotedars and Mandals were against the zamindars.
- (h) The judicial process was long drawn to prosecute defaulters. In Burdwan, there were over 30,000 pending suits for arrears of rent payment in 1798.



## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

**Q 1. Zamindars were responsible for:**

- a. extraction of minerals from the hills.
- b. cotton trade with the British.
- c. maintaining bahl khatas for the British.
- d. paying revenue to the company.

**Q 2. The jotedars who were more powerful than zamindars in rural Bengal, were most powerful in:**

- a. East Bengal
- b. North Bengal
- c. South Bengal
- d. West Bengal

### Assertion and Reason Type Question

**Q 3. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:**

**Assertion (A): India opposed the practice of colonialism and imperialism.**

**Reason (R): India was a staunch believer of the non-Alignment Movement.**

- a. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- c. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d. (A) is false, but (R) is true.



### Fill in the Blank Type Questions

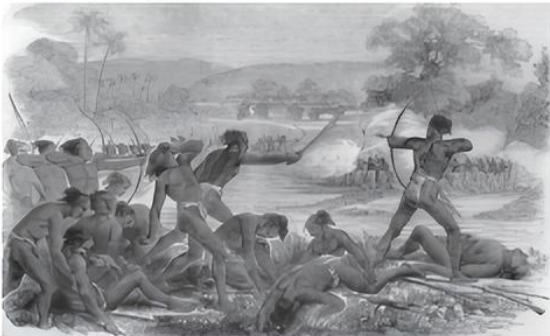
- Q 4. The British made the settlement with the Rajas and Taluqdars of Bengal classifying them as .....
- a. Jotedars                                      b. Zamindar  
c. Ryots    d. None of these
- Q 5. .... is the person who wields the Lathi or stick.
- a. Lathyal                                        b. Jotedar  
c. Zamindar                                      d. Ryot

### Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

- Q 6. In Francis Buchanan's survey of the Dinajpur district in North Bengal have a vivid description of the class of rich peasants known as zamindars.

### Source Based Question

- Q 7. Study the picture given below and answer the questions that follows by choosing the most appropriate option:



- (i) The Santhal rebellion occurred:
- a. during 1855-56 in Rajmahal hills of Bengal province.  
b. during 1831-32 in Maikal hills of Central province.  
c. during 1865-70 in Western Ghats of Bombay province.  
d. None of the above

- (ii) What can be conferred about the nature of resistance employed by Santhals?
- a. They used their traditional weapons which consisted of bow and arrows.  
b. Too many of them were wounded and killed in the revolt against British forces.  
c. Both a. and b.  
d. None of the above

- (iii) The main reason(s) behind the Santhal revolt was/were:
- a. high rate of interest charged by moneylenders.  
b. heavy taxation on land revenue charged by British authorities.  
c. intrusion of Dikus in their region.  
d. All of the above

- (iv) Who was/were the leader(s) of Santhal revolt?
- a. Sidhu Manjhi                                      b. Kanha Manjhi  
c. Both a. and b.                                      d. Jatra Bhagat

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 8. When and who started the permanent settlement of land?
- Q 9. Why did zamindars default on payments?

### Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 10. Explain how far East India company subdued the authority of zamindars in Bengal during 18th century?
- Q 11. Critically examine the fifth report of the late 18th century.

### Long Answer Type Question

- Q 12. Explain consequences of failure of the zamindars to pay land revenue demand.