

TEST – 11 (Textbook) (SOLUTION)

(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2021)

8. Correct Answer : B

Answer Justification :

Justification: Recently IPBES has released a report on future pandemics – “Likelihood of Future Pandemics Report”.

The report has warned that future pandemics will emerge more often, they’ll spread more rapidly, do more damage to the world and kill more people than COVID-19, unless significant measures are taken.

Key Findings of the report are as follows

- COVID-19 is at least the sixth pandemic to have taken place in the last century since the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918.
- **Three of the pandemics were caused by influenza viruses, one by HIV followed by SARS and COVID-19.**
- **Almost all the pandemics so far, have been zoonoses (diseases caused by germs that spread between animals and people).**
- While the current pandemic’s origins lie in microbes carried by animals, “like all pandemics, its emergence has been entirely driven by human activities.
- More than 70% of emerging diseases, such as Ebola, Zika and Nipah, are caused by microbes found in animals which spread due to contact among wildlife, livestock and people.
- About 30% of emerging infectious diseases are attributed to land-use change, agricultural expansion and urbanisation.
- There are over 1.7 million currently ‘undiscovered’ viruses that exist in mammals and birds, out of which up to 827,000 could have the ability to infect people.
- Suggestions from the report - Pandemic risk can be lowered by reducing the human activities that drive loss of biodiversity.

Learning: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES)

- It is an intergovernmental organization established to improve the interface between science and policy on issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- In 2012 IPBES was established by the United Nations, but functions independently, HQ in Bonn, Germany.

Q Source: Insights current events

9. Correct Answer : C

Answer Justification :

Justification: While many zamindars were facing a crisis at the end of the eighteenth century, a group of rich peasants were consolidating their position in the villages. In Francis Buchanan’s survey of the Dinajpur district in North Bengal we have a vivid description of this class of rich peasants known as jotedars. By the early nineteenth century, **jotedars had acquired vast areas of land – sometimes as much as several thousand acres. They controlled local trade as well as moneylending, exercising immense power over the poorer cultivators of the region.**

Jotedars gave out loans to other ryots and sold their produce.

A large part of their land was cultivated through sharecroppers (adhiyars or bargadars) who brought their own ploughs, laboured in the field, and handed over half the produce to the jotedars after the harvest. Within the villages, 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. **They 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, and deliberately delayed payments of revenue to the zamindar.**

In fact, when the estates of the zamindars were auctioned for failure to make revenue payment, jotedars were often amongst the purchasers. **The jotedars were most powerful in North Bengal**, although rich peasants and village headmen were emerging as commanding figures in the countryside in other parts of Bengal as well. **In some places they were called haoladars, elsewhere they were known as gantidars or mandals.** Their rise inevitably weakened zamindari authority.