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The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati

Royal School of Humanities and Social Sciences

M.A. History, 1st Semester

Semester End Examination, January 2023

Course Title : Economic and Socio-Cultural History of Ancient India

Course Code : HST184C101

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 70

Note: Attempt all questions as per instructions given.

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Section – A

1. Attempt **all** questions. (Maximum word limit 50) 2 x 8
- What was the nature of the pre-literate Indian society?
 - Differentiate between *jana* and *varna*.
 - What is the version of the *Dighanikaya* regarding formation of State?
 - Mention the territorial boundaries of the Pandya state.
 - State four common causes which contributed in the rise of Buddhism and Jainism.
 - Which two dynasties did play a crucial role in the growth of Indian feudalism?
 - What is meant by *Shreni*?
 - Why had Kerala become a busy centre of Roman trade?

Section – B

2. Attempt **any two** of the following: 6 x 2
- Analyse the prehistoric Indian society based on a case study.
 - Trace the process of social stratification in India during the later Vedic period.
 - Write short note on *Varna* and *Ashrama* systems.
3. Attempt **any two** of the following: 7 x 2
- How did legitimization, war and threat of war lead to State formation in the mid-Gangetic valley?
 - Write a comparative note on the State formation processes in the Gangetic valley and that of the Southern Peninsula.
 - What factors led to the emergence of Indian feudalism?
4. Attempt **any two** of the following: 7 x 2
- Assess the Rig Veda as a source of ancient Indian history.
 - Compare between the philosophical discourses of the Later Vedic period and the Post-Vedic period texts.
 - Elaborate the Buddhist tantric philosophy with special emphasis on *Yantra* and *Tantra*.
5. Attempt **any one** of the following: 14 x 1
- 'Introduction of iron technology, wet-rice cultivation vis-à-vis an increased volume of trade completed the State formation process in northern India.' Comment.
 - Assess the contribution of the Roman trade in the development of urbanisation in India.