BANC 103: Archaeological Anthropology
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
(TMA)

Course Code: BANC 103
Assignment Code: BANC 103/ASST/TMA/ July 26-January 27
Total Marks: 100

Read the instructions carefully and answer accordingly. There are three Sections in the Assignment. Answer all questions from all the Sections.

Assignment I

Answer the following in about 500 words each. 20x2= 40

a. What is Archaeological Anthropology? Briefly discuss its history and development in India.
b. What is Exploration in archaeological studies? Briefly comment on different types of exploration.

Assignment II

Answer any two of the following questions in about 250 words each. 10x2=20

a. What is the Dating method? Briefly describe any two methods of absolute dating.
b. Briefly describe stone tool types of Upper Palaeolithic culture with suitable diagrams
c. Briefly comment on the stone tool-making techniques of Lower Palaeolithic culture

Answer the following questions in about 50 words each. 2x5=10

a. Archaeological site
b. Stone tools of Chalcolithic culture
c. Dendrochronology
d. Iron Age
e. Attirampakkam

Assignment III

Answer the following questions in about 250 words 10x3=30

a. Briefly comment on Direct and Indirect percussion tool-making techniques with suitable diagrams
b. Briefly discuss various Pebble tool types with suitable diagrams
c. Stone tools of the Neolithic culture with suitable diagrams

a. What is Archaeological Anthropology? Briefly discuss its history and development in India.

Answer

Archaeological anthropology is the branch of anthropology that studies past human societies through the physical remains they left behind. These remains include stone and metal tools, pottery, houses, burials, food remains, ornaments and traces of activities preserved in the ground. Archaeologists examine them in their original setting to understand how people lived, obtained food, used technology, organised communities and changed over time. It is closely linked with prehistoric archaeology, which examines societies before written records, but archaeological anthropology also studies societies that possessed writing. Its special concern is human culture and behaviour rather than only the collection of old objects.

The study depends on careful methods. Exploration locates sites, excavation reveals deposits in sequence, and laboratory analysis identifies the age, material and possible use of objects. Stratigraphy, dating techniques, comparison of artefacts and environmental evidence help reconstruct a site's history. Human bones may suggest diet, health and population relationships; animal bones and plant remains provide evidence of hunting, farming and the local environment. Thus, archaeology joins the natural and social sciences to explain cultural change over long periods.

Early investigations in India. Interest in ancient monuments was present long before modern archaeology, but organised scientific work developed mainly during British rule. The Asiatic Society of Bengal, founded in 1784 by William Jones, encouraged the study of inscriptions, languages and monuments. In the nineteenth century, Alexander Cunningham surveyed ancient sites and became closely associated with the Archaeological Survey of India, established in 1861. Early work largely concentrated on monuments, inscriptions and historical geography. It helped identify places known from Buddhist accounts and other historical sources, although prehistoric life received much less attention at first.

An important change occurred in 1863, when Robert Bruce Foote discovered a Palaeolithic stone tool at Pallavaram near Madras (now Chennai). His investigations, along with those of other geologists and antiquarians, showed that human life in India extended far earlier than written history. Foote later recorded numerous prehistoric localities and is remembered as a pioneer of Indian prehistory. The recognition of handaxes, flakes and prehistoric deposits