BHIC 110: **HISTORY OF INDIA: 1757-1857**
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course code: BHIC-110
Assignment Code: BHIC-110/ASST/TMA/2026-2027
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1) What was the impact of Commercialisation of agriculture? Discuss 20

2) Discuss the differences between the Orientalists and the Utilitarians. 20

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3) Did the Ryotwari System succeed in its objectives? Discuss 10

4) What is deindustrialization? Comment in the colonial context. 10

5) What were the causes of the Revolt of 1857? Discuss. 10

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6) The rise of novel 6

7) Mahalwari Settlement 6

8) Halipratha 6

9) City and countryside in the 19^{th} century 6

10) The beginnings of the indentured labour 6

1) What was the impact of Commercialisation of agriculture? Discuss 20

Answer

Commercialisation of agriculture means the growing production of crops for sale in markets rather than mainly for the cultivator's own consumption. In India under East India Company rule, agricultural production became increasingly connected to merchants, exporters, credit networks and the needs of British industry.

Cotton, indigo, opium, sugarcane, tobacco and other marketable products expanded in different regions, although food cultivation remained important. This process had economic possibilities but developed under unequal colonial conditions. Its effects therefore differed by crop, region and social group.

The causes and forms of commercialisation

British land-revenue demands encouraged cultivators to obtain cash even when they had traditionally paid obligations partly in kind. Money payments created pressure to sell some produce and sometimes borrow before harvest. Expanding roads, river transport, ports and commercial agencies connected interior districts to towns and overseas markets. European trading houses sought cotton for manufacture, indigo for dyeing and opium for the China trade. Indian merchants and moneylenders were also active in purchasing, financing and distributing crops. In some areas planters directly controlled cultivation; elsewhere peasants produced market crops on their own holdings or under advances from traders.

Expansion of trade and regional specialisation

An important result was the growth of commercial networks. Western India supplied cotton; Bengal and Bihar were important for indigo and opium; sugarcane and other cash crops were produced in suitable tracts. Producers could earn cash when demand and prices were favourable. Some prosperous peasants, traders and intermediaries accumulated wealth and expanded cultivation. The movement of farm goods supported market towns, transport services and merchant capital. Cultivators were not always passive victims: where land, bargaining power and market access permitted, they adjusted crop choices and used new opportunities. Yet these advantages were very unevenly distributed.