

3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG RG

2023

ENGLISH

(Regular Generic)

Paper : ENG-RG-5016

(**Contemporary India : Women and
Empowerment**)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10

(a) Who made the famous assertion 'one is not born a woman, rather one becomes a woman'?

(b) State True or False :
Masculinity and femininity are cultural constructions.

(c) Who raised the issue of women's rights in the book, *The Subjection of Women*?

(d) In which year was the Sati Abolition Act passed in India?

- (e) Which organization made the first public campaign against 'Purdah' in India?
- (f) In which year was the Domestic Violence Act passed in India?
- (g) Which well-known organization was set up in 1927 to accelerate the pace of women's participation in Indian nationalist politics?
- (h) Which day is celebrated as International Women's Day?
- (i) Name a novel written on the Partition.
- (j) Name the movement of the 1970s in which village women of the Garhwal region hugged trees to save them.

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) What is marital rape?
- (b) What is the Sati (Prevention) Act?
- (c) What is Shariat?
- (d) What is a uniform civil code?
- (e) "Beneath your monstrous ego
I ate the magic loaf and
Became a dwarf."

Explain these lines from *The Old Playhouse*.

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) What do you understand by 'Women's Studies' under the Indian University system?
- (b) Assess Raja Ram Mohan Roy's contributions to the betterment of women's position in Indian society.
- (c) Write a short note on female foeticide.
- (d) What is domestic violence and abuse?
- (e) How does the Indian Constitution safeguard the rights of women?
- (f) How are ecological methods to increase agricultural productivity women-centric in the light of ecofeminism?

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) Write a note on the history of women's movements in pre-Independence India.
- (b) Discuss the far reaching effects of the passing of the Hindu Marriage Act (1955) and the Hindu Succession Act (1956).
- (c) Discuss how Partition literature represents the victimization of women. Cite examples from texts you have read.

- (d) How does Mahasweta Devi's *Mother of 1084* reveal the power structure of institutions?
- (e) How is Kamala Das's *The Old Playhouse* a poignant reflection on the challenges faced by women in traditional patriarchal societies?
- (f) How is media a crucial tool in propagating the patriarchal perceptions of gender?
- (g) Discuss the major themes in Krishna Sobti's *Zindaginama*.
- (h) Make an assessment of the status of women in contemporary India.
