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Register Number:

DATE**: -04-2018 (1 PM)**

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BENGALURU-27**

**FINAL SEMESTER EXAMINATION – APRIL 2018**

**VI SEMESTER BA- OPTIONAL ENGLISH**

**OE 6313: South Asian Literatures – II (ELECTIVE)**

**Time: 21/2 hrs Max Marks: 70**

**Instructions:**

**1. This paper is meant for VI Semester EJP students who have chosen South Asian Literature-II as their Elective.**

**2. You are allowed to use a dictionary.**

**SECTION A**

**Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions set on it:**

**Buddha Murdered**

M A Nuhman (1944- )
(translated by Lakshmi Holmstrom)

In my dream, last night
Lord Buddha lay, shot dead.
Government police in civilian clothes
Shot and killed him
He lay upon the steps
Of the Jaffna Library,
Drenched in his own blood.
In the darkness of the night
The ministers arrived, raging:
'His name wasn't on our list,
So why did you kill him?'
'No, sirs,' they said,
'No mistake was made. Only,
Without killing him, it wasn't possible
To shoot even a fly.
So…'
'Ok. OK. But
Get rid of the corpse at once,'
The ministers said, and vanished.
The plainclothes men
Dragged the corpse inside
And heaped upon it
Ninety thousand rare books
And lit the pyre with the Sikalokavada Sutta.
So the Lord Buddha's body turned to ashes
And so did the Dhammapada.

**Answer the following questions in not more than 200 words each: (2x15=30)**

1. Review and explain in detail the symbolism that brings together the ‘Buddha’ and the ‘burning of the Jaffna library’. What elements of Tamil and Buddhist history in Sri Lanka does it relate to? Comment on the ironies underlying this combining of historical experiences.
2. Explore in detail the ‘cover-up’ the civilian police and the political leadership organise. What does this tell you about the varied struggles in Sri Lanka? Comment on the pogroms after the civil war.

**SECTION B**

**Answer the following questions in about 150 words each: (3x10=30)**

1. Compare and contrast *My Beautiful Launderette* with the *Reluctant Fundamentalist*; which one do you find yourself responding to more strongly and why? Provide suitable arguments for your choice.
2. Explore the different implications of the many dimensions of the varied language Movements in India. Comment also on the three-language formula that resolved the Language question in the Indian Republic
3. What are Gandhi’s views on the question of national language? Comment on the pros and cons of such a view.

**SECTION C**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:**

**Ram Guha**: It [Secularism] is a term with many meanings, sometimes even contradictory, and can create much confusion. I prefer the term Pluralism. It has two broad dimensions in India. One is linguistic pluralism and the other religious pluralism. The idea of linguistic pluralism, which we discussed in our last conversation, has been largely positive in creating a unified nation while allowing people to speak the languages of their choice. Religious pluralism is more complicated. It has to do with trust between people of different religious faiths, and a trust which entails an absence of violence or conflict…

I am happy to talk about inter-faith harmony and religious pluralism as a constitutive feature of Indian democracy. Inter-faith harmony is and will always be hard won because of the background of partition, and the insecurities of the (minorities) who were left behind in India. It is a difficult, uphill task and it requires action by civil society, it requires trust between individuals and communities. It requires strong and tough action by the State not to let animosity or suspicion or prejudice translate itself into violence, hatred and riots. Therefore, at both levels, at the level of civil society as well as the state, it is important to know the ways in which we can nurture inter-faith harmony and religious pluralism.

**Answer ANY ONE of the following: (1x10=10)**

1. According to Ram Guha, Secularism must be replaced by ‘pluralism’. Do you agree with his point of view? Provide suitable arguments to prove your point of view?
2. Explain how Inter-faith harmony and religious pluralism are integral to Indian democracy. Show also how democracy will be fostered by such inter-faith harmony and plurality.