

**14-12-2022**

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

**V SEMESTER EXAMINATION — DECEMBER 2022**

**ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE JOURNALISM - JN 5422**

**Time allotted: 2 ½ hours Max Marks: 70**

* **This paper is for V semester BA-EJP students**
* **You are ALLOWED to use a dictionary**
* **Please stick to the word-limits suggested.**
* **This paper contains THREE pages and TWO sections**

**I. Read the below excerpt from an article by Ben Goldfarb from the Atlantic.**

To wander in the 21st century, unfortunately, is to court death. The giant anteater’s range, which runs from Honduras to Argentina, is bisected by BR-262, the highway that cuts across the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul as it winds from the Bolivian border to the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, the road knifes through two ecosystems: the Pantanal, Earth’s largest tropical wetland, and the Cerrado, the savanna that covers more than 20 percent of Brazil. Eucalyptus, iron, cattle, and cocaine pulse through this infrastructural aorta, transported in trucks against which soft-bodied, naive animals stand no chance. Researchers who have tallied BR-262’s roadkill, consider the highway Brazil’s deadliest, and one of the worst in the world.

The anteater’s pennantlike tail furnishes its Portuguese name—tamanduá-bandeira, the flag anteater. It also provides the moniker of the research initiative that had brought us to BR-262: Projeto Bandeiras e Rodovias, or Anteaters and Highways, a multipronged examination of how Brazil’s metastasizing road network affects one of its most charismatic mammals.

As a conservation issue, roads are a paradox. They mediate humanity’s most conspicuous interactions with wildlife—I would wager that more Americans have seen a flattened opossum than a live one. Yet roads are also so ubiquitous, they’re practically invisible, their harm dismissed as the unavoidable price of modernity. When Wyoming and Idaho proposed to let hunters shoot roughly two dozen grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in 2018, the scheme was slammed by hundreds of thousands of furious petition-signers. That the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has described roads as “the most imminent threat to grizzly habitat today,” however, doesn’t inflame the citizenry. Quoth the sage John Oliver: “Infrastructure isn’t sexy.”

**I. A.** **Answer ANY TWO of the questions that follow in 150-200 words.** **(2x10=20)**

1. Comment on the language of the extract. Is it a good example of science communication?

2. While the extract comments on how the roads are often an invisible enemy. Have animals and road kill become invisible to us? Does the size or species of the animal make us notice road kill?

3. Comment on the quote, "Infrastructure isn’t sexy" using your readings of environmental movements around Bangalore.

**I. B. Write short answers in about FIVE sentences for each of the following questions (3x5=15)**

4. Compare and contrast the nasal experience offered by any two water bodies in Bangalore

5. What are the best and worst parts of being tested for COVID?

6. Evaluate the impromptu waterlogging experiences offered by any two Bangalore neighbourhoods during the monsoons.

**II. Read the below excerpt from ‘Throwaway society: Rejecting a life consumed by plastic’ by Andrew McKirdy and answer the following questions.**

Mona Neuhauss runs a business called No Plastic Japan that sells reusable stainless steel straws to individuals and establishments such as cafes and restaurants in a bid to wean them off single-use plastic straws. “I think we underestimate it,” Neuhauss says. “If one person doesn’t use a plastic bag for a whole year, that’s a huge amount — especially for people who buy something from the convenience store every day, and you get a bag every time.

I tell Neuhauss about my plan to stop using single-use plastic for a week, and she warns me it will be tough. “It’s going to be the regular things like shopping for food,” she says.

First, I visit a convenience store, and leave almost immediately when I discover that practically the only things I can buy are the fried chicken and steamed buns, which are served in paper or cardboard, on sale at the counter.

Next, I visit a greengrocer. I regularly visit this shop, but I had never really noticed before how many of the fruit and vegetables come pre-wrapped in plastic. Some things are obviously wrapped to group them for price or to protect them from damage, but I do wonder why individual onions or other solid vegetables with skin need to be kept under plastic.

I go to a supermarket and buy two apples and a packet of butter. The cashier doesn’t even raise an eyebrow when I say I have brought my own bag. I go to another greengrocer and buy lettuce. The person serving me thanks me for not taking a bag. So far, so good.

I then beat a hasty retreat from a bakery whose products are all pre-wrapped, then buy a tomato, five potatoes, a carrot, an onion, a jar of jam and a can of tomatoes at a supermarket. The cashier is unconcerned when I say I don’t want a bag, but she looks at me like I’m some kind of eccentric when I say I don’t want my potatoes placed in a smaller plastic bag either.

I am beginning to feel slightly embarrassed, and that only increases when I buy three slices of ham at a different supermarket’s delicatessen counter. The clerk agrees to wrap them in paper, but he tells me they might fall out if he doesn’t then put the package in a plastic bag. When I ask him not to, he looks at me like I’m a full-blown lunatic.

**II. A. Answer ANY TWO of the questions that follow in 150-200 words              (2x10=20)**

7. What is it about the communication around environmental movements that makes the public look at activists like “lunatics”? Do you think this ‘look’ is just government propaganda?

8. Are issues like plastic free nations overshadowing larger more important environmental issues?

9. Identify a successful environmental campaign and explain how you assess if the campaign was successful.

**II. B. Answer the following question in about 150 words.**

**(1x15=15)**

10. Design a poster to brief the incoming first year students of 2023 about the allure of the Banyan tree in college. (Drawing skills are not going to be graded.) Explain what you have chosen as your focus.

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