

Register Number:

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

**V SEMESTER BA-JIP**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 2021**

**Examination conducted in March 2022**

**JN 5219: Literary Journalism, Nonfiction and Foreign Affairs/ Narrative Journalism**

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

**Instructions:**

1. **This paper is for students of III JIP who have chosen the Narrative Journalism elective.**
2. **This paper has THREE SECTIONS & Three printed pages.**
3. **Please provide word counts following every response that you make.**
4. **You are allowed to use a dictionary.**

**Section A.**

**Read this excerpt from Samanth Subramanian’s *This Divided Island* and answer the following questions in about 200 words each (2x15 - 30)**

“The Independence Memorial Hall, Indi said, had been attacked by a terrorist in 1995, a man who had sold coconuts from a cart for three years before he strapped a bomb on to the cart and trundled it down here. This building now, this is the Cinnamon Gardens police station. It’s a lovely building, but I hadn’t even seen it properly until last year, because they had protective walls all around it. That’s the case with a lot of buildings in Colombo actually, no? The prime minister’s house, for instance, you couldn’t have seen that either, during the war, because of the walls. Ah, right here, this spot, this is where a trishaw with a bomb in it hit the Pakistani ambassador’s convoy—at least, I think it was the Pakistani ambassador’s convoy—because Pakistan was giving military aid to the Sri Lankan government. Okay, this is an area called Slave Island. You see that hotel, the Nippon Hotel? A bomb blew up a bus next to it, around lunchtime. On this side, this is the Beira Lake, and now we’re passing the building where all the tax records are kept. A light aircraft, on a Tiger bombing run, crashed into it a few years ago, although it was probably aiming for another target. Was that the bombing that nobody paid attention to because everybody was watching the cricket World Cup final? I can’t remember. And this is the Central Bank building. You must have heard of this place, no? The Tigers bombed it in 1996. They drove a truck of explosives through its gate. This is awful traffic. But Pettah is the old part of the city, and it’s always crowded like this. The riots in 1983 were particularly bad in Pettah. Shops were burned down, people murdered, that kind of thing. This road we’re on, it goes to a suburb called Maradana. On this spot, on Armour Street, the Tigers killed President Premadasa. A suicide bomber blew him up in 1993. See, now we’re driving by the naval headquarters. Four or five years ago, if you were in a car on this road, you’d be stopped again and again so that the police could check your ID. It still feels strange to drive through without hitting any checkpoints at all. On the waterfront, around this area, the army held an exhibition last year, of stuff they captured from the Tigers, even the ammo they used, that kind of thing. I have photos of some of it back home. Remind me later. I’ll show them to you.

After 90 minutes, just as the Led Zeppelin set was nearly spent, Indi pulled up to my house and promised gaily that we’d meet again soon for a beer. The rain was whipping Colombo hard, soaking me as I fumbled with the slick lock of the rolling gate. I sprinted across the yard and up into the apartment. Then I sat in the living room, with the lights still off, dripping on to the tiles and listening to the wind careen over the damaged city outside the door.

1. What is the role played by the author Samanth Subramanian in this excerpt, and through the rest of the book? How do you think that influences the narrative?
2. What are your impressions of the trip the author and his guide took across Colombo city? If you were on a this tour with the same guide, how differently - or alike - would you present this?

**Section B**

Answer these questions in about 85-100 words each (4x5 - 20)

1. Samanth says that the cliched description of Sri Lanka’s shape is a teardrop. However, he likens it to a different object. What is it? Is it an apt metaphor?
2. Name the four sections the book is divided into, and describe - in about 15 words each - what each section deals with
3. Imagine you are the editor assigned to work with Samanth Subramanian on putting a final form and structure to his book about the Tamil-Sinhalese civil war in Sri Lanka. What would your suggestion be? Would the book still take the form it is now in, or would you present it differently?
4. What are your impressions of the essay ‘Bad Art Friend’ that we read this semester? How does it compare to Divided Island, in terms of how the story unfolds?

**Section C**

**Answer the following questions in about 250 words (1x20 - 20)**

“The Sinhalese like to think of their Buddhism as muscular. Their faith had seeded and nourished itself in Sri Lanka, and it had proven hardy enough to thrive here, even as it crumbled under the weight of Hinduism in India, the land of its birth. A politician from a Sinhalese nationalist party once described to me the Sri Lankan state’s relationship with Buddhism ‘as equal to that between the Vatican and Catholicism, or between Saudi Arabia and Islam. Actually, it’s superior to those, because our record is much older than either of these two countries.’ Sinhalese Buddhism is a coiled and wary creature, its reflex always to be aggressive in defence. Since 2006, when the Sri Lankan government had started winning the war, and after its victory in 2009, this ready Buddhist aggression had fused with military triumphalism. ”

**This quote, from the first section of the book, is reflected in a later chapter which details the Sri Lankan government’s support of a retelling of its history. Are there any other parallels you can see, in events around the world?**