**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE – 27
END SEMESTER EXAMINATION – APRIL 2023**

**JN 6422: ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE JOURNALISM**

**Time – 2 ½ hrs Max. Marks - 70**

**Instructions:**

1. **This paper is for the students of VI semester EJP A.**
2. **This paper has TWO PARTS and SIX questions.**
3. **Answer the questions as instructed and mention the word count.**
4. **You may use the dictionary.**

**Part - A**

**I. Read this extract from ‘Environmentalism’ by Ramachandra Guha.**

On the basis of my own work in India I had imagined environmentalism to be principally a question of social justice, of allowing the poor to have as much claim in the fruits of nature as the powerful. But living and teaching in the United States I was to come face-to-face with a rather different kind of environmentalism, which shifted attention away from humans towards the rights of plants, animals and wild habitats…

… [I argue environmentalism as a] program of political reform, articulating concrete policies for states and societies to adopt, environmentalism needs to be distinguished from a more narrow aesthetic or scientific appreciation of the natural world. Classical literary traditions manifest an abiding concern with natural landscapes: in writing of the beauty of birds, animals, rivers and farms, both the Roman poet Virgil (c. 70--1 BC) and the Sanskrit dramatist Kalidasa (c, AD 375-415) would qualify as 'nature-lovers'. Moving on to the late Middle Ages, the exploration by European travellers of Asia and the Americas also kindled a keen interest in the richness and diversity of nature. The exuberance of plant and animal life in the tropics was documented by a whole array of European scientists, of whom the Englishman Charles Darwin (1809-82) is perhaps the best known and most influential.

However, as understood in this book environmentalism goes beyond the literary appreciation of landscapes and the scientific analysis of species. I argue that environmentalism must be viewed as a social program, a charter of action which seeks to protect cherished habitats, protest against their degradation, and prescribe less destructive technologies and lifestyles.

**I.A Answer the following question in 150-200 words: (15 marks)**

* 1. In the first paragraph Guha speaks of two outlooks, which one do you agree with? Provide specific arguments with examples. What is your unique outlook on the subject?

**I.B Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in 100-150 words: (3x10=30)**

1. What does ‘rights of plants, animals and wild habitats’ mean in the extract? Discuss if entities other than humans conceive the idea of ‘right’.
2. Does it seem like Guha is an anti-aesthetic when it comes to environment? Does he actually love nature? Discuss.
3. Is science important for environmentalism? Discuss.
4. What is your take on the idea that technology is a bane to the environment?

**II. Read this excerpt from Louise Foxcroft’s** ***Calories & Corsets.***

Fad diets are little better than useless. They do the biggest business and arguably the greatest harm, and they have been around since long before your great-grandmother was eyeing up that fetching knitted knee-length number for her trip to Bognor with a new beau.

Dieters can initially lose 5 to 10 percent of their weight on any number of fad diets, but the weight almost always comes back. A recent report by the American Psychological Association which looked at thirty-one diet studies found that, after two years of dieting, up to two-thirds of dieters weighed more than they did before they began their regimen. Sustained weight loss was found only in a small minority of the participants, while complete weight regain was found in the majority. Diets, they concluded, ‘do not lead to sustained weight loss or health benefits for the majority of people’. And there is evidence that yo-yo dieting is something of a Faustian bargain: it can make the whole enterprise more difficult so that repeat dieters find they have to eat less and for longer to lose the same amount of weight.

Recent evidence suggests that, even though the most important changes we can make to reduce our cancer risk (after giving up smoking) are to exercise and lose weight, repeated dieting is linked to cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes and a compromised immune system. The human cost of both obesity and yo-yo crash dieting is bad enough but there are huge economic costs too. We need to re-think our quest for unrealistic thinness through sometimes dangerous, expensive and misguided crash diets and pills, and return to a simple, sensible healthy approach to eating as first set out by the Greeks…

…It was clear, even to a child, that you needed to look the part, and in the early 1960s that part involved big pointy breasts, a nipped-in waist and round hips. Their ‘vital statistics’ were all-important, with 36, 24, 36 the preferred incantation. So as a young girl [age 10] I already believed that beauty could be measured and worked for, and the rewards were many. When I grew up, I would work on my body so that I, too, could sit on more men’s laps and bask.

**II A. Answer the following questions in 150-200 words each: (2x10=20)**

1. Write a letter offering scientific advice to the young girl from the passage who feels that ‘beauty could be measured’.
2. Do you think participation of women in science and science communication in India is important? Why?

**Part B**

**III. Answer the following question in FIVE sentences: (5 marks)**

1. The following graph is related to flu. Interpret it in simple terms using accessible metaphors.

