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

**III SEMESTER B.A - END SEMESTER EXAM – OCTOBER 2021**

**GE 318 - General English (SSA - Special Course**

**-HEP/EPS/IES/BSW/BVC/EJP/CPE/TEP/JIP)**

**TIME: 21/2 HRS MAX. MARKS: 70**

**This paper contains FOUR printed pages and TWO parts**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **This paper is meant for students of SSA-SPECIAL COURSE (HEP/EPS/IES/BSW/BVC) and for III Sem CPE/EJP.**
2. Please indicate your stream clearly on the front page of your answer booklet.
3. You will lose marks for exceeding word limits.
4. You are permitted to use a dictionary during the exam.
5. Answer all questions.

**I. Read this article on Bangalore from *The Economic Times*.**

Jagadisan Thiruvadi is 90 years old and lives alone in Malleswaram. He likes to attend talks at the Nightingales Enrichment Centre for elders in his neighbourhood and show his friends the nature videos that he shoots. He has had an incredible life — after starting out as a porter at Chennai Central station, he became a sugar technologist, later a sales chemist, and ended his career as the managing director of Monsanto India, quitting the company after disagreeing with the higher management’s decision to introduce genetically modified crops in India.

When he steps out of his house, he meets the scorn of impatient, frustrated motorists. “People, especially youngsters are rash and abusive. Once, a young girl riding a scooter called me an old hag and asked me to stay at home,” he recounted, painfully.

The traffic on the roads has forced Pushpa Ranganath, a 68-year-old retired teacher, and her husband to sell their vehicles. Now, they depend entirely on cabs. “The footboards in buses are too high for me to climb as I suffer from acute arthritis and recently underwent a knee replacement surgery,” the resident of Bannerghatta Main Road said. “People on the road have become too insensitive. The city does not even have footpaths for us to walk on, so we step out in constant fear of being hit or robbed by chainsnatchers on two-wheelers.”

Places frequented by elders, such as the post offices and hospitals, are often insensitive to their concerns. Janakiraman, 84, who retired as the chief electrical engineer in the Railways – he played a big role in bringing the electric trains to Bengaluru – said: “As post offices get busy only few days in a year, there is a lot of rush. Little changes like provision of passbook printing machines and following a queue system will make the experience less stressful.” The Indiranagar resident added, “Lifts and seats reserved for senior citizens in public places are often taken up by someone else, and there is no enforcement. When we ask, they say, ‘adjust madbeku’.”

Run by the city police and Nightingale Medical Trust, the helpline provides assistance to elders round-the clock. The elders helpline has received 8,662 complaints of various nature so far and out of which 4,521 have been successfully resolved by counsellors and social workers with the help of police and lawyers. The number of complaints filed have steadily increased every year. Harassment by family members (elder abuse) has shown a significant increase in the past few years. Other complaints include: elders seeking maintenance from their children because they are not being looked after, tenant-owner problems, financial cheating by trusted people, property issues and nonpayment of salary, insurance, etc.

The Bengaluru City Police and Nightingale Medical Trust — who run a helpline for the elderly — recently made the service a roundthe-clock one. Reason: The growing need for psychological, legal and other kinds of assistance senior citizens in the city seek. They receive an average of 40 calls or visitors every day and up to 1,700 per month.

Calling Bengaluru, a Pensioner’s Paradise makes 62-year old Kala Sunder — a volunteer who works with the elderly — break into laughter. The IT boom and its resultant technological advancements have left seniors behind, she said, explaining that simple things like paying a bill or hailing a cab have to be done online or on a mobile app today. “While there are some tech-savvy elders, most of them are left to rely on youngsters for almost everything,” Sunder said.

A 2014 Help Age India survey found that about 15% of all senior citizens in the IT city live alone or with their spouses. Those without a trustworthy maid or house help find it difficult to get new helpers, either because they are unaffordable, or because of trust issues.

The lack of trust does not come out of nowhere. The elders’ helpline has recorded a sharp increase in financial cheating cases recently. Take the case of 60-year-old Kalpana (name changed). She used to work, including night shifts, in the BPO sector, until last year when she quit due to acute breathing troubles, hernia and hemorrhoids. Staying in Horamavu, she gets around the city on cabs. After a few trips with a particularly good mannered cab driver, she started calling his cab for all her trips.

“About two years ago, I loaned him `1,10,000 to buy his own taxicab. He drew up an agreement, surrendered his RC book and was paying me `15,000 every month. Soon, he found an excuse to get his RC book back and disappeared,” she said. Left with little balance in her bank account, she now survives on the little money that her daughter sends from Dubai.

That incident broke her. She said, “I am depressed, with no one to talk to. I am trying hard to make ends meet and am looking out for a job. But no one wants to employ senior citizens. I feel like I am standing in the middle of the ocean with nowhere to go.”

Things are worse for those who do not have a steady income source. “I regret not having worked for the government or a public sector unit,” a 76-year-old resident of Malleswaram complained. “Our pensions do not increase and bank interest rates have fallen from nearly 10% to 7%. Today, banks charge you for everything from updating a passbook to paying with your debit card.” He suffered a heart attack a few years ago and the medical expenses were heavy.

This, in turn, points to why the city is seeing an increasing number of job fairs for senior citizens. A recent one conducted in March saw participation from more than 5,000 seniors.

Dr Radha S Murthy, managing trustee of Nightingale Medical Trust said that the number of elderly suffering from Dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease has increased. She called for more day-care centres, and a system to track and trace elders who go missing due to dementia. “We need a holistic approach to promote community-based support systems focusing on health, social integration, elder abuse and empowerment,” she said, stressing on the need to involve citizen volunteers, nonprofits, and corporates.

**I.A. Answer the following questions in about 200 words each: (4x15=60)**

1. This article from *The Economic Times* is titled “Once a pensioner's paradise, Bengaluru is not the same anymore”. Do you think it is an apt title? Why? What would your alternate title be?
2. Do you think the writers are being fair in their assessment about Bangalore? Isn’t this how cities are elsewhere in the country too? Provide evidence for your argument.

1. If you were given an opportunity to do something for the senior citizens of Bangalore, what would it be? Explain how it would benefit both the senior citizens and the city.
2. The standard discourse about Bangalore is that the IT industry has destroyed what was a pensioner’s paradise. According to an article from *Economic and Political Weekly* (*EPW*) “to present Bangalore as a city undergoing a tug of war between the pensioners and the IT brat pack is not only narrow but highly exclusionist.”Do you agree with the opinion from *EPW*? Explain with reference to your understanding of Bangalore city, what has been left out.

**II. Look at the following cartoon and respond with respect to the above article and Bangalore City in about 150 words: (1x10=10)**



[WRONG QUEUE, MR. GRIMLEY – THIS IS PENSIONS – YOU’RE ONLY 83]

1. How does this cartoon address the topic mentioned in the above article that you read? Identify the tone of the comic strip. Recreate the dialogue using Kannada or any other Indian Language of your choice (in English script). Also include translation.

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