

INDIAN ECONOMY
The relentless march of FPIs to the exit gate

❖ **CONTEXT:** Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been on a selling spree in India. June 2022 witnessed the worst sell-off since March 2020 — when India announced a nationwide lockdown — at Rs.50,000 crore.

❖ **What are FPIs?**

- Foreign portfolio investors are those that invest funds in markets outside of their home turf. Their investments typically include equities, bonds and mutual funds.
- They are generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies whose shares they hold.
- The passive nature of their investment also allows them to enter or exit a stock at will and with ease.

❖ **What factors spur FPI moves?**

- Promise of attractive returns on the back of economic growth draws investors including FPIs into a country's markets.
- For example, as per data from the National Securities Depositories Ltd. (NDSL), FPIs brought in about Rs.3,682 crore in 2002. This grew to Rs.1.79 lakh crore in 2010. This correlates with the concurrent expansion of economic output in that period, despite the 2008 global financial crisis which saw FPI sell-offs in that time-frame in the country. The year 2017 saw FPI inflows exceed Rs.2 lakh crore.
- Likewise, FPIs withdrew Rs.1.18 lakh crore in March 2020 alone — the month when India announced a nationwide lockdown, triggering concerns around economic growth. In tandem, benchmark stock index Sensex fell from 42,270 in February 2020 to 25,630 in March 2020.
- FPIs also show keenness to invest in bonds when there is a favourable differential between the real interest rates on offer in the country they aim to invest in, and other markets, but more specifically, compared with the largest economy in the world, the U.S.

❖ **Why have FPIs been selling India holdings?**

- FPIs sold assets worth about Rs.50,000 crore in June 2022. This is the second highest sell-off in a month since 1993, after March 2020.
- Post-pandemic, recovery in the Indian economy has been uneven. The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 devastated lives and livelihoods. The economy stuttered again when a third, albeit less severe, wave saw the spread of the Omicron variant early this year. Add to this the return of pent-up demand in economies worldwide as the pandemic subsided. The pace of recovery caught suppliers off guard, contributing to supply-side shortages.
- As the industry was grappling with this challenge, came Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Sunflower and wheat supplies, to name just two commodities, from these two nations were impacted, leading to a rise in global prices for these crops.
- As supplies in general tightened across the globe, commodity prices too rose and overall inflation accelerated. India witnessed a quickening pace in price rise that stayed above the Reserve Bank's upper comfort level of 6% for five months running, touching 7.8% in April, before receding to a slightly less aggressive 7.04% in the subsequent month.
- Industrial production has seen a bumpy ride without giving confidence of a full and final recovery from the pandemic. For example, the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slid to 53.9 in June — the lowest level in nine months — from 54.6 in the previous month. Inflation pressures, which also dampened business confidence sentiment to a 27-month low in June, as per survey-based findings. Consumption expenditure too has remained weak in the subcontinent.
- With each of these factors contributing to a decline in confidence of robust economic performance, FPIs have been exiting market investments over these past months. Add to the mix the U.S. Federal Reserve raising the benchmark interest rate starting March 2022. On June 15, the Federal Reserve announced the most aggressive interest rate increase in almost 30 years, raising the benchmark borrowing rate by 0.75 percentage points in its battle against surging inflation. The key rate range had gone up from 0-0.25% in March to 0.75-1% in May.

- When the differential between the interest rates in the U.S. and other markets narrow, and if such an occurrence is accompanied by the strengthening of the dollar, then the ability of investors to realise healthy returns is impacted.
- For returns are measured not only by the value appreciation of assets but also by exchange rate changes. If the dollar strengthens against the rupee, then an investor is able to realise fewer dollars for a given quantum of rupee assets liquidated. If inflation quickens in the overseas market where the investor has placed funds in, then real returns are even further impacted.
- They then tend to exit assets seen as 'risky' such as in emerging markets like India, Brazil or South Africa. And indeed, the rupee has been depreciating against the dollar, which has seen a general strengthening against several other currencies. The rupee touched its record low of 79.33 against the greenback in last few days.
- ❖ **What impact does an FPI sell-off have?**
- When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. Because after all, they sell rupees in exchange for their home market currency. As supply of the rupee in the market rises, its value declines. In this instance, the rupee has been seeing all-time lows recently.
- About a year ago, it was trading in the region of 73 to a U.S. dollar; it is now flirting with the 78 level. With a weaker rupee, it is necessary to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods. The most telling impact is on the cost of India's crude oil imports that contribute to 85% of our oil needs.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

- ❖ **CONTEXT: At the recently concluded summit of G-7 leaders in Germany, U.S. President Joe Biden and his allies unveiled their \$600 billion plan called the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Intelligence which is being seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), valued at a trillion U.S. dollars by some experts. Therefore, there is a need to re-visit the various projects under the BRI in different South Asian countries.**
- ❖ **What is China's Belt and Road Initiative?**
- In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, expressed his vision to build a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, to break the "bottleneck" in Asian connectivity. This vision led to the birth of the BRI. The initiative envisioned a Chinese-led investment of over \$1 trillion in partner countries by 2025.
- More than 60 countries have now joined BRI agreements with China, with infrastructure projects under the initiative being planned or under construction in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.
- To finance BRI projects, China offers huge loans at commercial interest rates that countries have to pay within a fixed number of years.
- The west has accused China of debt-trapping by extending "predatory loans" that force countries to cede key assets to China.
- However, research indicates that low and middle-income countries are often the ones to approach China after not being able to secure loans from elsewhere.
- In recent years, the BRI seems to have experienced a slowing down as annual Chinese lending to countries under the initiative slimmed from its peak of \$125 billion in 2015 to around \$50 to 55 billion in 2021.
- ❖ **What have been the BRI's investments in Pakistan?**
- On his 2015 visit to Pakistan, Mr. Xi and then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif unveiled the BRI's flagship project and its biggest one in a single country — the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over time, China pledged \$62 billion in low-interest loans and financing from Chinese state-owned banks and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), up from an initial \$46 billion pledge. The CPEC envisioned multiple projects involving energy, transport and communication systems.
- At the centre of the CPEC was the \$700 million development of the city of Gwadar into a smart port city that would become the "Singapore of Pakistan". Gwadar is strategically important as it is an hour's drive from Iran and less than 320 km from Oman.

- According to the master plan for Gwadar's development under BRI, approved in 2020, it would increase the city's GDP to \$30 billion by 2050 and create over a million jobs. However, multiple reports have shown that shipping activities at the Gwadar Port is almost negligible so far, with only some trade to Afghanistan.
- Additionally, Gwadar residents have also protested against the large security force deployed to protect Chinese nationals involved in projects after they became the target of multiple deadly attacks by Baloch nationalists. In late 2021, thousands of Gwadar residents staged a sit-in protest against the lack of promised basic amenities in Gwadar and Chinese deep-sea trawlers reducing fishing opportunities for locals.
- Other major projects are the orange line metro, coal power plants to tackle energy shortages and the Main Line 1 rail project from Peshawar to Karachi. While coal plants set up and managed by Chinese firms did help improve the power situation in Pakistan, former Prime Minister Imran Khan sought renegotiation of payments to China in 2020 alleging that Chinese companies had overcharged the country by \$3 billion.
- In May 2022 this year, Chinese power firms operating in Pakistan threatened to close down if the latter did not pay dues worth 300 billion in Pakistani rupees (approximately \$1.5 billion).

❖ **What about Sri Lanka?**

- In Sri Lanka, multiple infrastructure projects that were being financed by China came under the fold of the BRI after it was launched in 2013.
- The island nation in the last couple of years has witnessed competition between India and China in port terminal and energy projects.
- In 2021, Colombo ejected India and Japan out of a deal to develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo port and got China to take up the project. It then awarded the project for the Western Side of the Terminal to the Adani Group.
- Some BRI projects in Sri Lanka have been described as white elephants — such as the Hambantota port, a deep seaport on the world's busiest east-west shipping lane, which was meant to spur industrial activity. The port had always been secondary to the busy Colombo port until the latter ran out of capacity.
- The Sri Lankan government took \$1.4 billion in Chinese loans for the port's expansion. Unable to service the huge loan and incurring \$300 million in losses due to delays, the government handed Hambantota port to a Chinese state-owned company on a 99-year lease in 2017.
- Other key projects under BRI include the development of the Colombo International Container Terminal, the Central Expressway and the Hambantota International Airport among others.

❖ **Are there projects in Afghanistan?**

- Afghanistan has not comprehensively been brought into the BRI, despite a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) being signed with China in 2016. China had promised investments worth \$100 million in Afghanistan which is small in comparison to what it shelled out in other South Asian countries. The projects have not materialised so far and uncertainties have deepened after the Taliban takeover in 2021.

❖ **How have projects from India and China progressed in Maldives?**

- Situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, Maldives comprises two hundred islands, and both India and China have strategic interests there. One of the most prominent BRI projects undertaken in the Maldives is the two km long China-Maldives Friendship Bridge — a \$200 million four lane bridge.
- Most of China's investment in the Maldives happened under former President Abdullah Yameen, seen as pro-China.
- Over the years, opposition protests grew against the large borrowing from China and Mr. Yameen was defeated in 2018.
- The Maldives' current regime of President Ibrahim Solih has tried to distance itself from the BRI, focusing more on its 'India First' policy.
- India has also in recent years sought greater ties with the Maldives under Prime Minister's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

❖ **What about Bangladesh?**

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- Bangladesh, which joined the BRI in 2016, has been promised the second-highest investment (about \$40 billion) in South Asia after Pakistan. Multiple studies, including research by the Council on Foreign Relations, show that Bangladesh has been able to benefit from the BRI while maintaining diplomatic and strategic ties with both India and China.
- It has managed to not upset India by getting India to build infrastructure projects similar to BRI in the country. In 2016, when the Chinese government promised Dhaka BRI investment worth around \$40 billion, India followed up in 2017 by extending a \$5 billion line of credit and economic assistance.
- BRI projects include China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridges, special economic zones, the \$689.35 million-Karnaphuli River tunnel project, up gradation of the Chittagong port, and a rail line between the port and China's Yunnan province. However, multiple projects have been delayed owing to the slow release of funds by China.

PRELIMS

1. NAIROBI FLIES

❖ **CONTEXT: Around 100 students of an engineering college in East Sikkim have reported skin infections after coming in contact with Nairobi flies**

❖ **What are Nairobi flies?**

- Nairobi flies, also called Kenyan flies or dragon bugs, are small, beetle-like insects that belong to two species, *Paederus eximius* and *Paederus sabaeus*. They are orange and black in colour, and thrive in areas with high rainfall, as has been witnessed in Sikkim in the past few weeks.
- Like most insects, the beetles are attracted by bright light.

❖ **How are humans affected by them?**

- Usually, the insects attack pests that consume crops and are beneficial for humans — but at times, they come in contact with humans directly and cause harm. These flies do not bite, but if disturbed while sitting on anyone's skin, they release a potent acidic substance that causes burns.
- This substance is called pederin, and can cause irritation if it comes in contact with the skin, leading to lesions or unusual marks or colouring on the skin. The skin begins to heal in a week or two, but some secondary infections can occur, especially if the victim scratches the irritated skin.

❖ **Have there been outbreaks of the disease?**

- Major outbreaks have happened in Kenya and other parts of eastern Africa. In 1998, unusually heavy rain caused a large number of insects to come into the region, reported the Associated Press.
- Outside Africa, outbreaks have happened in India, Japan, Israel, and Paraguay in the past.

❖ **What is the way to protect oneself against Nairobi flies?**

- Sleeping under mosquito nets can help. If a fly lands on a person, it should be gently brushed off, and should not be disturbed or touched to reduce the chances of it releasing pederin.
- The area where the flies sit should be washed with soap and water. If they are squelched and end up leaving toxic fluids on the skin, care should be taken that unwashed hands do not touch any other part of the body, particularly the eyes.

2. Restoring Banni grasslands, Gujarat battles invasive tree species

❖ **CONTEXT: The Gujarat forest department will restore 10,000 hectares of the Banni grasslands in the coming year, and every year in the coming decade.**

- The grasslands of Gujarat constitute about 4.33 per cent (8,490 sq km) of the total geographical area, distributed in eight districts and three different climatic regions — Kutch, Saurashtra and central Gujarat.
- A majority of grasslands in Gujarat (41 per cent) are found in the Kutch district. Banni grassland was declared a Protected Forest in 1955, under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- Besides having 40 species of grass and 99 species of flowering plants, Banni is also home to the Indian wolf, jackal, Indian fox, desert fox, desert cat, caracal, hyena, chinkara, Nilgai, wild boar, Indian hare, common monitor lizard — and the cheetah before it became extinct.
- Banni also has 273 bird species and in years of good rainfall, is home to thousands of migratory birds.

- ❖ **Threat to Banni grassland over the years:** The landscape of Banni has shown drastic changes with the deterioration of the grassland taking place due to “heavy uncontrolled grazing”, widespread ingress of *Prosopis Juliflora* (a harmful exotic tree species), dams constructed on rivers flowing towards Banni, periodic occurrence of droughts and continuous increase in soil salinity.
- It was found that in the year 1989, the area was dominated with grasslands covering 54.57 per cent of the area followed by saline areas devoid of vegetation or sparsely distributed vegetation covering 27.30 per cent and *Prosopis Juliflora*, an alien invasive species, covering only 15.72 per cent of the area.
- The Land Use Land Cover (LULC) assessment of the grassland over a 10 years interval revealed that grassland areas over the period gradually reduced while in the same period *Prosopis Juliflora* dominant area increased and encroached to more than 30 per cent. Therefore, within a gap of 20 years, the *Prosopis Juliflora* dominant areas doubled in Banni
- The mainstay of the restoration project is, the removal of this alien species, which incidentally was introduced to the area by the forest department in the 1960s to stop the ingress of the salt flats. As the tree increases salinity.
- With a huge 20-lakh livestock population that depends on the grassland, the second part of the project envisions the production and storing of fodder for local farming and pastoral communities that live here.
- ❖ **Steps taken:** Forest division has been given a target to bring additional 2400 ha under controlled grass cultivation in 2022-23 by the state government. Forest department achieved this target by creating 27 grass plots of varying size and cumulatively covering 2400 ha.
- Gando baval (*prosopis juliflora*) and other unwanted vegetation has been removed from these plots and protective trench has been dug around them.
- 3. **Centre to soften punitive steps in environment cases**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: The Union Environment Ministry proposes to soften the provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) by replacing a clause that provides for imprisoning violators with one that only requires them to pay a fine.**
- The Union Environment Ministry proposes to soften the provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) by replacing a clause that provides for imprisoning violators with one that only requires them to pay a fine. This, however, does not apply to violations that cause grave injury or loss of life. The proposed fines, in lieu of imprisonment, are five to 500 times greater than those currently levied.
- The Act currently says that violators will be punishable with imprisonment up to five years or a fine up to Rs.1 lakh, or both. Were violations to continue, an additional fine of up to Rs.5,000 daily during which such failure or contravention continues after the conviction would be levied. There is also a provision for jail terms to extend to seven years.
- The two major changes proposed are appointing an “adjudication officer” who will decide on the penalty in cases of environmental violations such as reports not being submitted or information not provided when demanded. “However, in case of serious violations which lead to grievous injury or loss of life, they shall be covered under the provision of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 read with Section 24 of the EP Act.
- Funds collected as penalties would be accrued in an “Environmental Protection Fund”.
- In case of contraventions of the Act, the penalties could extend to anywhere from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.5 crore.
- The removal of prison terms also applies to the Air Act, which is the cornerstone legislation for dealing with air pollution, and the Water Act, which deals with violations to water bodies.
- 4. **Odisha tops state ranking for implementation of National Food Security Act**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: The centre has ranked Odisha first and Goa last among 20 ‘general category’ states and Union Territories in implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013, the first time such a ranking has been done.**
- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister released the ‘State Ranking Index for NFSA’ 2022 during a conference of state food ministers on food and nutrition security in India.

- Among the special category states (the North Eastern states, Himalayan states, and the Island states), Tripura has obtained the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are at the second and third positions. Despite the logistical limitations in these areas, they displayed a high degree of accomplishment in competing with the general category states as well.
- As per the government's ranking, Odisha is at first position with a score of 0.836, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.797) and Andhra Pradesh (0.794).
- Gujarat is at fourth place, followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.
- Kerala has been ranked at the 11th position, Telangana (12th), Maharashtra (13th), West Bengal (14th) and Rajasthan (15th).
- Punjab is at the 16th position, followed by Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Goa.
- The current version of the Index measures the effectiveness of NFSA implementation majorly through operations and initiatives under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System).
- The ranking will lead to healthy competition among states under the NFSA, also known as the food law, under which the Centre provides highly subsidised foodgrains to nearly 80 crore people. The government provides 5kg food grains per person per month at Rs 1-3 per kg.

❖ **The INDEX**

- It does not cover programs and schemes implemented by other ministries and departments under the NFSA.
- The Index denotes only the efficiency of TPDS operations, it does not reflect the level of hunger, if any or malnutrition, or both, in a particular state or union territory, the report clarified.
- The Index focuses on NFSA and TPDS reforms, which can be standardized across the states and union territories.
- It rests upon three pillars that consider various facets of food security and nutrition. Each pillar has parameters and sub-parameters that support this evaluation.
- The first pillar measures coverage of NFSA, rightful targeting, and implementation of all provisions under NFSA.
- The second pillar analyzes the delivery platform, while considering the allocation of foodgrains, their movement, and last-mile delivery to Fair Price Shops (FPS).
- The final pillar focuses on nutrition initiatives of the department.
- The findings from the exercise revealed that most states and union territories have fared well in digitization, Aadhaar seeding, and ePoS installation, which reiterates the strength and scale of the reforms.

❖ **Suggestions by the INDEX**

- However, states and union territories can improve their performance in a few areas. Exercises, such as conducting and documenting social audits thoroughly and operationalizing functions of state food commissions across states and union territories, will further bolster the true spirit of the Act.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of Secularism?

India, since Independence, has been following a peculiar nation of secularism, where all religions are treated equally and supported by the State. However, this concept, at present, is undergoing a paradigm change wherein Constitutional morality is being considered a significant component of secularism by the judiciary. Another characteristic of this change is the growth of misguided perceptions about secularism. The ultimate outcome of these changes is the rise of various challenges to our diverse cultural practices.

Thus, we have a logical classification of these challenges under two dimensions:

- **Challenges posed by misguided perceptions**
 - **Religiousness is anti-secular and pro-fundamentalist:** Thus perception discourages various religious practices like rituals, clothing, thoughts etc. People who wear the saffron dress, who keep beard and pat skull cap (Taqiyah) and all considered fundamentalists.
 - **Secularism is equated to atheism and apostasy:** Those who do not believe in good or abandon their religious beliefs are marked as secular. This thought is leading to a slow degradation of cultural practices.

- **Restrictions to food choices:** Some states, through following the majoritarian religious sentiments, restrict the sale of beef.
- **Judiciopapism:** Sometimes, the judiciary also takes a narrow glimpse of secularism and interferes into religious celebrations and practices. Ex. Rajasthan High Court's ban on Santhara and Supreme Court's ban on the sale of crackers on Diwali.
- **Challenges due to rise of Constitutional morality**
 - Following are the grounds of objections to several cultural practices as considered by the judiciary.
 - **Right to Equality:** The practice of triple talaq and the ban on entry of women in Sabarimala temple were all declared unlawful by the Supreme Court. Those were done on account of gender inequality and gender exploitation inherent to these practices.
 - **Animal Rights:** Supreme Court banned the traditional practice of Jallikattu because of the cruelty to animals involved in this.
 - **Objection to Harmful Cultural Practices:** The illegality of female genital mutilation (FGM), practices in Dawoodi Bohra Community was brought into the limelight in 2018. The centre and the Supreme Court are having the opinion to ban this practice in India.

Thus, it is obvious that while some of the challenges are the outcome of the misleading notion of secularism, others are due to the exploitative and discriminatory nature of cultural practices only. The solution lies in getting all the stakeholders like religious leaders, judges, right's activists, civil society groups, NGOs and government representatives together over a common platform to discuss the challenges and to bring unanimity for preserving the cultural practices of our country.

MCQs

1. Both Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) are related to investment in a country. Which one of the following statements best represents an important difference between the two?
 - a) FII helps bring better management skills and technology, while FDI only brings in capital
 - b) FII helps in increasing capital availability in general, while FDI only targets specific sectors**
 - c) FDI flows only into the secondary market, while FII targets primary market
 - d) FII is considered to be more stable than FDI
2. Consider the following:
 1. Foreign currency convertible bonds
 2. Foreign institutional investment with certain conditions
 3. Global depository receipts
 4. Non-resident external deposits
 Which of the above can be included in Foreign Direct Investments?
 - a) **1, 2 and 3**
 - b) 3 only
 - c) 2 and 4
 - d) 1 and 4
3. Consider the following statement/s with regards to Nairobi Flies recently appears in news
 1. The Nairobi Flies attack pests that consume crops and are beneficial for humans
 2. These flies release a potent acidic substance called pederin when they bite that causes burns on skin.
 3. The recent outbreak in Assam is first of its kind outside Africa.
 Which of the above statement/s is or are not correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only**
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) None of the above
4. Recently Banni grassland in news for its ecological degradation due to invasion of alien tree species, consider the following with reference to Banni grassland
 1. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has identified this grassland reserve as one of the last remaining habitats of the cheetah in India.
 2. It is dominated by low-growing forbs and graminoids which has shown drastic changes with the deterioration of the grassland taking place due to widespread ingress of Prosopis Juliflora
 Choose the correct statement using the code given below
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2**

- d) Neither 1 and 2
5. Consider the following statement with reference to recently released State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022.
1. It does not cover programs and schemes implemented by other ministries and departments under the NFSA
 2. Among the special category states Tripura has obtained the first rank.
 3. The recent released ranking is first of its kind
- Choose the correct statement using the codes given below
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) All of the above**
6. Which of the following state is topped the rank in general category state in State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022.
- a) Andhra Pradesh
 - b) Maharashtra
 - c) Odisha**
 - d) Uttar pradesh
7. With reference to Indian laws about wildlife protection, consider the following statements
1. Wild animals are the sole property of the government.
 2. When a wild animal is declared protected, such animal is entitled for equal protection whether it is found in protected areas or outside.
 3. Apprehension of a protected wild animal becoming a danger to human life is sufficient ground for its capture or killing.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2**
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 3 only
8. With reference to National Food Security Act, 2013 consider the following statements
1. According to the act only central government is responsible for identifying eligible households, but issuing of ration cards, distributing food grain entitlements through fair price shops is the responsible of both the state and central government.
 2. Under the act Right to Food recognised as a legal right.
- Which of the above statement/s is or are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2**
9. Consider the following pairs
1. Gwadar port - Pakistan
 2. Hambantota port – Srilanka
 3. Chittagong port - India
 4. Mundra port – Bangladesh
- How may above pair/s is or are correctly matched
- a) Only one pair
 - b) Only two pairs**
 - c) All the three pairs
 - d) None of the above pairs
10. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication?
- a) A licence is required to cultivate that plant**
 - b) Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances
 - c) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant
 - d) Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the ecosystem