

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 26-10-2024

1. The World Economic Outlook is a report published by

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. Asian Development Bank

2. With reference to Kartarpur Corridor, consider the following statements.

- 1) The corridor leads to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan.
- 2) The gurdwara is located on the banks of the Indus River.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), consider the following pairs.

1.	Cartagena Protocol	Safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)
2.	Nagoya Protocol	Fair and equitable way of sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources
3.	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	30×30 target

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

4. Which of the measures given below have the potential to address the issue of stubble burning?

- 1) Setting up Compressed Biogas plants

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- 2) Rationalise the electricity subsidies for agriculture
- 3) Encourage Direct Seeding of Rice

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), consider the following statements.

- 1) GeM is a wholly government-owned company.
- 2) It is mandatory for all the ministries to source goods and services from the GeM.
- 3) GeM is available for use by private sector buyers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**Solutions:**

**1. Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is an **International Monetary Fund's** report that provides analysis and forecasts of economic developments and policies in its member countries. Hence, **answer is option C.**
- The report encapsulates the state of the global economy and highlights risks and uncertainty that threaten growth.
- It is usually published **twice a year.**

**Why in News?**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its latest World Economic Outlook for 2024.

**Highlights of the Report**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its global growth forecast for 2024 and 2025 at 3.2%.
- India's GDP growth is likely to moderate from 8.2 per cent in 2023 to 7 per cent in 2024 and 6.5 per cent in 2025.

**2. Answer: A**

### Explanation:

#### About

- The Kartarpur Corridor, also known as the **corridor of 'international peace and harmony'**, is a 4.2-km-long passage which facilitates travel of **Indian Sikh pilgrims** to the **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Kartarpur Corridor was first proposed in early 1999 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan respectively.
- The corridor was inaugurated in **2019** to **commemorate the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev**.
- The gurdwara is located on the right bank of the **Ravi River**. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- It is in Kartarpur Sahib that **Guru Nanak Dev** had spent the last 18 years of his life. The gurdwara is built where Guru Nanak is said to have died.



3. Answer: C

### Explanation Protocols to CBD

#### Cartagena Protocol

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to **ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)** resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.
- It entered into force in 2003.

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### Nagoya Protocol

- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims at **sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way**. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.
- It entered into force in 2014.

### Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** was adopted at COP 15 in December 2022.
- GBF aims to guide biodiversity policy through **four overarching goals to be achieved by 2050** and a **set of 23 targets to be reached by 2030**, to achieve a vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.
- The most significant part of the framework is a **commitment to protect 30% of land and water considered important for biodiversity by 2030, known as the 30×30 target**. Currently, 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine areas are protected. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

### Why in News?

- The 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) is taking place in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1, 2024.
- The theme for COP 16 is "**Peace With Nature**," and it aims to address global biodiversity challenges, including habitat loss and species extinction.

### 4. Answer: D

### Explanation

#### What is stubble burning?

- Stubble burning is the **process of intentionally setting fire to the straw stubble** that remains after grains, like paddy, wheat, etc., have been harvested, to remove them from the field to sow the next crop.
- This is commonly practiced by farmers of **Punjab and Haryana**.

#### Issues surrounding the stubble management

- Unlike wheat straw, which is commonly used as animal feed and sells at good prices, rice is **unfit to be fed to cattle** because of its **high content of unpalatable silica**, and, therefore, has **little market value**.
- If ploughed back into the field, it **interferes with subsequent crop operations**.
- Only **some farmers use farm machines** like happy seeder and straw management machines to incorporate the stubble back into the soil instead of setting it on fire.
- Even after encouraging multiple initiatives including applying a decomposer to encourage in-situ management of stubble or using the **direct seeding of rice (DSR) technique** by the center and state, the problem remains intractable. Hence, **option 3 is correct**.



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**Direct seeding rice (DSR)** is a practice of sowing paddy which involves planting rice seeds directly into the field, instead of the traditional method of growing seedlings in nurseries and then transplanting them into the fields.

### Possible solutions

- **Rethink the policy of providing free power:** Give a **direct cash/benefit transfer (DBT)** instead of a power subsidy. This can avert the over-exploitation of groundwater and help diversify crops away from paddy. Hence, **option 2 is correct.**
- **Create a market for paddy straw/stubble:** An effective market has to be created for stubble that at least compensates them for the extra effort and cost involved in its harvest, collection and disposal.
- **Convert straw to CBG:** Among various options, the **use of straw for the production of compressed biogas** through methods of anaerobic digestion is best from economic and environmental perspectives. It also produces **bio-slurry**, which can go back into the soil to **replenish soil fertility.** Hence, **option 1 is correct.**
- **Subsidized machineries:** Further **modifications and subsidized supply of machinery** for in-situ use of paddy stubble will also be very helpful in preventing farm fires in some areas.
- **Legal enforcement:** Once an effective channel for procuring paddy straw is created, a **law against the burning of any crop straw** should be strictly enforced.

### 5. Answer: B

#### Explanation

- Launched in 2016, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a **100 percent government-owned company** setup under the aegis of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that **enables procurement of common use goods and services** with minimal human interface.
- GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.
- GeM was developed with the technical support of the **National eGovernance Division** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- In 2017, the government made it **mandatory** for all the departments and ministries to source goods and services from the GeM. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- At present, the platform is open for procurement by **all government buyers:** central and state ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous institutions, local bodies, etc.
- In 2022, the government gave its approval for expanding the mandate of GeM to **allow procurement by Cooperatives as buyers on GeM.**
- As per existing mandate, **GeM is not available for use by private sector buyers. Suppliers (sellers) can be from across all segments: government or private.** Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**

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### Why in News?

- The Government of Sikkim and Government e Marketplace (GeM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work towards increasing adoption of GeM amongst the Government of Sikkim buyer departments for public procurement of goods and services

