



## UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS 28-11-2023

**1. Consider the following statements, with reference to the recent Compressed Bio-Gas Blending Obligations (CBO):**

1. CBO will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 and mandatory from FY 2025-26.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
3. CBO will be 5% of total CNG/PNG consumption from 2028-29 onwards.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

**Answer:** (C)

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas recently introduced the phase wise mandatory blending of CBG in CNG (Transport) & PNG (Domestic) segments of City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector. CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) aims to promote production and consumption of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) in the country. The key objectives of the CBO include:

1. To stimulate demand for CBG in City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector,
2. Import substitution for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and
3. Saving in Forex, promoting circular economy and to assist in achieving the target of net zero emission.

It will be monitored and implemented by the Central Repository Body (CRB), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. CBO will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 and mandatory blending obligation would start from FY 2025-26. CBO shall be kept as 1%, 3% and 4% of total CNG/PNG consumption for FY 2025-26, 2026- 27 and 2027-28 respectively. From 2028-29 onwards CBO will be 5%. Hence, all statements are correct.

**2. Consider the following statements, with reference to Chavittu Natakam:**

1. It is a theatre art form that flourished at Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu with the spread of Christianity.
2. Stamping Drama is one of the attractive features of this art where the artists produce resonating sounds by stamping the floor while dancing.



**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer:** (B)

**Explanation:** Recently at a stampede in Cochin University of Science and Technology, 4 students were killed including an artist who performs Chavittu Natakam. Chavittu Natakam is a colourful and vigorous theatre form that flourished at Kodungalloor in Kerala with the spread of Christianity. It is considered to be a folk art form noted for its attractive make-up of characters, their elaborate costumes, detailed gesture and well-defined body movements. The Portuguese are supposed to have introduced this art form in Kerala. Chinna Thampi Pilla and Vedanayakan Pilla are considered to be the originators of this art form. The influence of the western visual art opera can be discerned in Chavittu Natakam. Art forms like Kathakali and Kalaripayattu have also influenced Chavittu Natakam. ‘Stamping Drama’ is the most attractive feature of this art where the artists produce resonating sounds by stamping the floor while dancing. This folk-drama dance takes place on a stage that is referred to as ‘thattu’. The ‘thattu’ is laid with planks of wood. The exquisite costumes of the artists portray the characters on stage. Generally, the costumes resemble ancient Greek-Roman soldiers and European kings. Instruments like Chenda, Padathamber, Maddalam and Ilathalam, provide background music. These days Tabla, Fiddle, Flute and Bulbul are also played. The Chavittunatakam performance opens with an invocation and the opening sequence is in the form of a Virutham. It is a humming which is followed by a scene of a durbar and the play begins. The actors sing their lines loudly, and with exaggerated gestures stamp the wooden stage with great force. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

**3. Consider the following statements, with reference to Sangai Deer:**

1. It is the state animal of Manipur and comes under the critically endangered category of IUCN.
2. Phumdi is the most important and unique part of Sangai’s habitat.
3. It is a unique and rare species found exclusively in Khawnglung wildlife sanctuary.



**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

**Answer:** (B)

**Explanation:** The recent proposal of hydro-electric modernisation plan in the Manipur's famous Loktak Lake could be detrimental to the endangered species of Sangai deer. Sangai Deer is also called the Manipur Brow-antlered deer and Dancing Deer. The Sangai is found nowhere in the world but in Manipur. It is a unique and rare species found exclusively in Manipur's Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNPN). Phumdi is the most important and unique part of Sangai's habitat. It is the state animal of Manipur. The IUCN Status of Sangai is Critically Endangered. It is included under the Schedule-1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Sangai population stood at 91 in 2006, 88 in 2007, 92 in 2008, 76 in 2019 and 64 in 2023. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

**4. Amaterasu, sometimes seen in the news recently, is related to which of the following?**

- (A) A protein crucial for switching from fetal to adult haemoglobin during gene therapy.
- (B) A reproductive mechanism in which the posterior part of the body detaches from the original body for mating purposes.
- (C) An extremely high-energy particle that exceeds 240 exa-electron volts (EeV).
- (D) A new species of speedy dinosaur that lived in the desert during the early Cretaceous period.

**Answer:** (C)

**Explanation:** Recently researchers have discovered an extremely high-energy particle that seemingly came from a part of the universe where there is nothing and it was named "Amaterasu" after a Japanese goddess Amaterasu is an extremely high-energy particle that exceeds 240 exa-electron volts (EeV) and seemingly arrived from a void in space where nothing is known to exist. This energy is millions of times more powerful than the particles produced by the



Large Hadron Collider, which is the most powerful accelerator ever built. It is second only to the “Oh-My-God” particle, another high-energy cosmic ray detected in 1991. That came in at 320 EeV. Ultra-high energy particles like Amaterasu usually travel through space quite smoothly since they don’t bounce off magnetic fields, like low-energy cosmic rays but this is not the case with Amaterasu. The scientists propose 3 explanations for the enigmatic origin of the particle. It could be from a source that we have not yet identified. It might have been magnetically deflected much higher than current models predict. Scientists might need to rewrite their incomplete understanding of high-energy particle physics. Hence, statement (c) is correct.

**5. Which of the following states has emerged as the only state in the country that has completed the social audit of work done under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in all village panchayats in the state?**

- (A) Maharashtra
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Goa

**Answer:** (C)

**Explanation:** Kerala has emerged as the only state in the country that has completed the social audit of work done under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in all village panchayats in the state. According to the State Social Audit Unit, which cited data from the Union Rural Development Ministry, social audits for the first six months of the current fiscal year have been completed in all 941 village panchayats in Kerala. Apart from Kerala, only three other states have achieved more than 60 percent progress in the social audit. As per section 17 of the MGNREG Act 2005, gram sabhas in village panchayats have to monitor the execution of works within that local body and conduct mandatory regular social audits of all the projects under the scheme. The aim of social audit is to ensure that the benefits of development schemes reach their genuine beneficiaries. Hence, option (c) is correct.