

# 11 Jan 2021: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

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## B. GS 2 Related

### Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

#### 1. Organisers of cockfights warned of penal action

##### Context:

Organisers of cockfights have been warned that cases would be booked against those organising and taking part in rooster fights and bull races under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and in gambling under the Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act.

##### **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act**

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted in 1960 and was authored by acclaimed dancer and animal lover, Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- It was enacted to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering on animals.
- As per the provisions of the law the Government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India in 1962.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- It falls under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

##### Provisions:

- The Act provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals.
- It defines animals and different forms of animals.
- It also discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- It provides the guidelines relating to experimentation on animals for scientific purposes.
- The Act enshrines the provisions relating to the exhibition of performing animals, and offences committed against the performing animals.

## Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 1. U.S. removes restrictions on diplomatic contact with Taiwan

#### Context:

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the State Department is voiding longstanding restrictions on how U.S. diplomats and others have contact with their counterparts in Taiwan.

#### Concerns:

- The latest move is expected to upset China.
- China's state media lashed out at the Secretary of State for seeking to maliciously inflict a long-lasting scar on China-U.S. ties.

#### **One China Policy**

- The One China policy recognizes the long-held position in Beijing that there is only one China, and that Taiwan is a part of that.
- According to the One-China policy: Any country wishing to establish diplomatic relations with Beijing must acknowledge there is only "One China" and sever all formal ties with Taiwan.
- China has been stepping up its threats to bring the self-governing island under its control by military force with frequent war games and aerial patrols.
- It has been using its diplomatic clout to stop Taiwan from joining any organisation that requires statehood for membership.

#### Details:

- The Trump administration has sought to strengthen bilateral relations with Taiwan.
- It announced that UN Ambassador Kelly Craft would go to Taiwan.
- Taiwan Foreign Minister welcomed the move.
- In August 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar became the first Cabinet member to visit Taiwan since 2014.

### 2. Gyawali to discuss border dispute

#### Context:

Addressing an extraordinary session of the Upper House of Parliament, Nepal's Prime Minister Mr. Oli said Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali would visit India on January 14 to discuss the dispute related to the border and several other issues.

- The announcement has put an end to speculation about a breakthrough visit to help revive the relationship which was hit by the Kalapani territorial dispute.

#### **Background:**

- India and Nepal had disagreements over a road to Lipulekh, leading to Nepal amending its constitution.
- The dispute erupted after India published a new political map in November 2019 following which Nepal introduced a map that claimed the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura region of Pithoragarh.

This topic has been covered in [24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis.](#)

#### **Details:**

- Nepal's Prime Minister has asserted that Nepal wants equality-based friendship with India and take it to a new height.
- He maintained that dissolution of the Lower House, Pratinidhi Sabha, was necessary and that the government under his leadership would seek a fresh political mandate to ensure stability.

This topic has been covered in [21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis.](#)

### **3. Qataris head to Saudi Arabia after reopening of border**

#### **Context:**

Gulf leaders signed a “solidarity and stability” deal after leaders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar publicly embraced, bringing Qatar back into the regional fold after a three-year-long rift.

This topic has been covered in [6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Comprehensive News Analysis.](#)

#### **Background:**

- Saudi Arabia shut its side of Qatar's only land border in June 2017 as part of a package of sanctions it said was a response to Doha's backing of radical Islamist groups and closeness to Iran.
- Qatar always denied the charges.
- Recently, Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, all of which had also imposed embargoes on travel and trade, agreed to lift the restrictions at a [Gulf Cooperation Council](#) summit in the kingdom.

**Details:**

- Qataris celebrated crossing their border with Saudi Arabia, calling the Kingdom “our second country”.
- Qatar Airways and Saudi Airlines said that they would soon begin resuming flights between their countries.

## C. GS 3 Related

### Category: ECONOMY

#### 1. Arunachal harbours a vanadium source

**Context:**

- Exploration being carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has placed Arunachal Pradesh on the vanadium map of the country, and geologists are confident of identifying a deposit soon.
- Arunachal Pradesh, considered a sleeping hydropower giant, is likely to become India's prime producer of vanadium.

**Vanadium**

- Vanadium is a hard, silvery-grey, malleable transition metal.
- It is a high-value metal used in strengthening steel and titanium.
- The elemental metal is rarely found in nature.
- It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected from the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores (iron ore).
- According to data provided by the GSI, India consumed 4% of about 84,000 tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017.
- The largest deposits of vanadium of the world are in China, followed by Russia and South Africa.
- China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal in 2017.
- India is a significant consumer of vanadium but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.

**Details:**

- Promising concentrations of vanadium have been found in the palaeo-proterozoic carbonaceous phyllite rocks in the Depo and Tamang areas of Papum Pare district in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - Vanadium content was also found in the Pakro area of Pakke-Kesang district, Palin-Sangram in Kra Daadi, Kalamati in West Siang, Kalaktang in West Kameng and Kaying in Siang district.
- This was the first report of a primary deposit of vanadium in India, with an average grade of 0.76% V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> [vanadium pentoxide].

- Vanadium mineralisation in Arunachal Pradesh is geologically similar to the stone coal vanadium deposits of China hosted in carbonaceous shale.
- This high vanadium content is associated with graphite, with a fixed carbon content of up to 16%.
- The expected grade of vanadium mineralisation in Arunachal Pradesh is comparable to the important vanadium deposits of the world.

## 2. Q3 private investment in manufacturing jumps 102%

### Context:

India has witnessed a continued rise in private investments in the third quarter (Q3) of 2020-21, led by a 102% surge in manufacturing investments.

### Details:

- This has, in turn, helped India register a 10.3% increase in fresh project spending in Q3 over the previous quarter.
- This suggests a reversal from recent years' trend of government capital expenditure propping up the economy while the private sector remained reluctant to invest due to flat consumer demand and weak balance sheets.
- However, new project investment intentions from the government declined by 7.21% in terms of project expenditure and 19.32% in terms of projects, compared to the previous quarter.
  - New capital expenditure proposals from the government collapsed between October and December 2020, owing to funding constraints to the States.

### Note:

Maharashtra received the highest investment projects in Q3, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

## D. GS 4 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

## E. Editorials

**Category: INFRASTRUCTURE**

## 1. The front seat in electric mobility

**The lithium and cobalt industry is likely to grow domestically to support the switch to electric vehicles.**

### **Context:**

- To meet its global commitment and mitigate the adverse impact of automobiles, the Government is keen to shift the narrative towards electric vehicles.

### **Details:**

- The progression to electric vehicles is important for India because such vehicles are sustainable and profitable in the long term.
- The shift to electric vehicles will have benefits in multiple ways, such as help in reducing crude oil imports, reduce carbon emissions, and build domestic energy independence.

### **Impact on India's foreign policy**

- Embracing electric vehicles is an economically and environmentally viable option and will also have a definitive impact on the conduct of India's foreign policy.
- This will also influence India's foreign policy as our energy security dependence will shift from West Asia to Latin America. India imported 228.6 MT of crude oil worth \$120 billion in 2018–19, which made it the third-largest oil importer in the world in terms of value.
- At present, India's biggest trading partners in Latin America are Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela, and the majority of trade is concentrated on crude oil which includes 14%-20% of India's total crude oil imports.
- However, this may soon shift to lithium and cobalt. The impetus on developing domestic battery manufacturing will need a fundamental change in India's relationship with resource-rich Latin America as the government plans to buy overseas lithium reserves.
- The opportunity to tap into Latin America's famous lithium triangle that encompasses lithium deposits under the salt flats of northwest Argentina, northern Chile, and southwest Bolivia will be extremely important.
- The three countries hold about 80% of the explored lithium of the world.







## **Efforts made**

### **1. The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020**

- National Mission document provides the vision and the roadmap for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country.
- This plan has been designed to enhance national fuel security, to provide affordable and environmentally friendly transportation and to enable the Indian automotive industry to achieve global manufacturing leadership.
- Under the NEMMP 2020, there is an ambitious target to achieve 6-7 million sales of hybrid and electric vehicles by the year 2020. Based on the experience gained in the Phase-I of FAME India Scheme, it has been observed that a sufficient number of charging infrastructure is required to achieve expected outcome of the plan, which is being addressed presently in Phase-II of [FAME Scheme](#).

### **2. 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles'**

- FAME-I
  - The government adopted the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and EV (FAME) scheme in 2015 with an outlay of INR 8.95 billion (USD 130 million), which provided subsidies for electric 2- and 3-wheelers, hybrid and e-cars and buses.
- FAME-II
  - Government has approved Phase-II of FAME Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years commencing from 1st April 2019.
  - Out of total budgetary support, about 86 per cent of the fund has been allocated for Demand Incentive to create demand for EVs in the country.
  - The government has allocated incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to be used for commercial purposes till 2022, and earmarked another \$135 million for charging stations.

### **3. NITI Aayog proposal**

- A proposal for a \$4.6 billion subsidy for battery makers has also been proposed by the NITI Aayog.
- These policies are embedded with the vision to have 30% of electric vehicles plying the roads by 2030.

### **4. Attracting foreign automobile companies to set up base in India**

- Japanese automobile major Suzuki Motor formed a consortium with Japanese automotive component manufacturer Denso and multinational conglomerate Toshiba to set up a manufacturing unit in Gujarat.
- The unit will get into the production of lithium-ion batteries and electrodes.

## **Scouting for mineral assets**

- The need to secure a stable supply of lithium and cobalt prompted India's National Aluminum Company (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL) to form

a consortium named Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) to scout for strategic mineral assets like lithium and cobalt abroad for commercial use and for supplying to meet the domestic requirement for battery manufacturers.

- The present lithium imports are narrow in sources, imports from China, Vietnam, and Hong Kong meet India's needs, this has pushed India to look for resources elsewhere as well.
- The last two years have seen a surge in the appetite for lithium-ion batteries, and consequently, lithium imports have tripled from \$384 mn to \$1.2 bn.
- Lithium also has advantages other than being an important component of lithium batteries.
- Lithium is also used as a drug to treat bipolar disorder and is soon becoming the metal to treat a world polluted by excessive carbon emissions.

### **Conclusion**

- The Indian government's initiation to take the front seat in electric mobility has been well appreciated.
- The Government has also taken preemptive action to send a high-level delegation to have a precise understanding of the availability of lithium and possibilities of joint ventures that will supply domestic markets and drive international markets.
- Most importantly, this will be a long-term solution to clean our cities, build new markets, and skill people for new jobs towards an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Out of the 15 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM 2.5 concentration, 14 are in India. The country will stand to benefit by embracing electric mobility as it will lead to a substantial reduction in vehicular emissions.

## **Category: ECONOMY**

### **1. Planning an exit out of the easy money regime**

#### **Context:**

- The RBI's abilities to balance the inflation-growth equation would be tested with the Indian economy recovering and the need to ease the expansionary monetary policy.

#### **Details:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown has crippled economies world over, with India being no exception.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) resorted to an expansionary monetary policy to make way for credit creation and dispersal.
- As a part of such a policy, the RBI slashed policy interest rates aggressively, creating conditions of a market with high liquidity availability and instituted a slew of measures for targeted assistance to especially distressed sectors.

### **Must be a deliberative process**

- The economy has appeared to have been on a recovery mode, with better second-quarter performance than the first quarter and also the second quarter seeing an expansion in the manufacturing output.
- There has been optimism expressed by several economists who have talked of a 'V-shaped recovery' and have predicted an improved performance in the rest of the fiscal year.
- The RBI must be devising a strategy for a gradual easing of the expansionary policy. The role of a central bank comes under the microscope when a country is undergoing a tough financial crisis.
- Crisis management is one of the responsibilities of RBI, like most central banks across the world. In this scenario, RBI's expansionary policy to resuscitate the economy that's struggling post the pandemic, cannot be seen as a strategy without a due-date.
- Reversing a crisis-induced expansionary policy has to be a deliberative process, care has to be given to ensure that its timing and sequencing are not disruptive. The lessons from the global financial crisis have taught us that any knee-jerk reaction on the exit-path can undo a lot of hard work done until then.

### **So what are the challenges that the RBI will confront on the way out?**

- The biggest challenge that the RBI will have to deal with is balancing inflation and growth aspirations.
- The inflation-growth policy dilemma is not a novel issue haunting the RBI. This is an issue that is prevalent even when the macroeconomic situation is benign; the pandemic has just accentuated the dilemma.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review suggested that the inflation remained above the RBI's target band for the past several months, and according to the RBI's own estimates, is expected to remain above the band for the next several months.
- But the RBI chose not to alter the policy rate out of concerns for growth and financial stability.
- The MPC expects inflation to climb down on its own in the near future as supply chains, disrupted by the lockdown, get back on track and the bumper winter crop comes into the market.

### **Inflation and revival**

- The expansionary monetary policy without enhancing the supply capabilities will pave way for inflation.
- Inflation could be on an upward journey owing to several factors even though there could be some apparent softening purely because of base effects.
- Several economists fear that persistent inflation will spill over food items.
- Core inflation is the change in the costs of goods and services but does not include those from the food and energy sectors. This measure of inflation excludes these items because their prices are much more volatile.
- Core inflation could firm up because of rising input prices. 'Excessive margins', among the factors cited by the MPC as one of the causes of high inflation, may not disappear if firms, regaining pricing power amid demand recovery, raise prices to mend their balance sheets.
- The much talked about economic recovery is still fragile in nature, and the recovery hasn't been uniform, with large industries finding their foothold while small and medium enterprises and the entire informal sector being some way away from recovery.

- The improved performance should not be read too much into, as some of the firms are resorting to laying off workers to trim the wage bill.

### Plight of savers

- RBI can ill-afford to forget the plight of savers, who are being shortchanged by low-interest rates at a time of high inflation.
- All these concerns taken together make a complex cocktail of dilemmas for the RBI as it seeks to normalise the policy rates.
- A second and related challenge will be to withdraw the 'excess' liquidity in good time.
- Banks are routinely depositing trillions of rupees with the RBI every day, evidencing that all the money that the central bank unleashed into the system is not doing much good anymore.
- For sure, there was a clear purpose behind the RBI joining the global central bank bandwagon of 'dash for cash' to inspire confidence in the economy when confidence was at a very low ebb.
- Every financial crisis can be traced back to mispricing of risk, and mispricing of risk is what results when there is too much liquidity sloshing around the system for too long. It will drive investors into dodgy ventures and threaten financial stability.

### Market reactions

- The RBI aims to protect financial stability by normalising liquidity, any move to do that will have to deal with possible market tantrums.
- The policy of 'quantitative easing' was famously followed by the US Federal Reserve in the aftermath of the sub-prime crisis.
  - **Quantitative easing (QE)** is a monetary policy whereby a central bank purchases at scale government bonds or other financial assets in order to inject money into the economy to expand economic activity.
- Post the announcement of gradual tapering of the 'Quantitative easing', it set off a wave of panic and uncertainty.
- RBI will have to manage its communication as carefully as it does the liquidity withdrawal.

### Financial stability

- The current account surplus this year together with massive capital flows has meant an excess of dollars in the system putting upward pressure on the rupee which is already overvalued in real terms.
- The RBI has absorbed the excess US Dollars to the tune of \$90 billion from the economy.
- The mopping-up operation in this fiscal year has been with an aim to prevent the appreciation of exchange rate and to maintain the competitiveness of the rupee, which is very crucial for Indian exports to remain competitive in the global market.
- The RBI also cannot be overzealous in absorbing the excess dollars as that may further lead to excess in rupee availability, leading to a spike in liquidity and consequently the inflation.
- Thus RBI's actions of intervening in the forex market are not without limitations. Managing the impossible trinity will be a tricky challenge for RBI going forward.

## **Conclusion**

- The RBI is confronted with a classic case of ‘the impossible trinity’ of keeping doors open for capital flows while simultaneously maintaining a stable exchange rate and restraining inflation. Maintaining a policy balance across all three conflicting objectives can be tricky.

## **Category: HEALTH**

### **1. Felled by fire**

#### **Context:**

- A fire that killed 10 babies in a hospital in Bhandara, Maharashtra, was likely caused by an explosion in one of the several radiant warmers in the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU).

#### **Details:**

- The fire incident has brought in much-needed focus and attention to safety norms in medical facilities.
- The incident is a shocking reminder of the infrastructural inadequacies in the Indian healthcare ecosystem.

#### **Incident**

- Some of the victims, a few just days old, had been brought to the hospital for better care from smaller health facilities.
- The response of the staff has come under the scanner, reports have highlighted their incapacities in dealing with the incident, reflecting poor training standards.
- There are reports of poorly trained staff failing to respond adequately.
- The incident is not a one-off incident, several incidents have occurred in government and private hospitals, a reflection of safety protocols.
- There were devastating fires in COVID-19 facilities in Vijayawada and Ahmedabad, with several casualties, last year.
- It was blamed on poor oversight by fire authorities or faulty electrical repairs.

#### **The response**

- The Maharashtra government has initiated a probe into the Bhandara fire and also ordered a fire audit of hospitals, but this will not effectively address the inadequacies.
- Hospital fires are a distinct entity, and research indicates that there are specific factors that trigger them off and aggravate their impact.

- Intensive Care Units, neonatal ICUs and operating rooms are often the sites of fires, implicating the presence of a high concentration of oxygen in a confined space.
- The Journal of Clinical Anesthesia conducted a review of Indian hospital fires and identified higher oxygen availability in intensive care facilities as the likely primary cause, with motors and electrical units in the room providing the ignition, and plastics fuelling it.
- It is thus important for the audits to take into consideration all these factors and evaluate them, only then the audits can be said to be reliable, if not they'll remain mere paperwork.
- Oxygen monitors for hospital rooms, to ensure that the ambient level is within safe norms set at a maximum of 23.5% by the U.S. National Fire Protection Association could prevent an accident. Locating electrical equipment for air-conditioners with sparking potential away from oxygen saturated areas may also reduce the risk.

### **Conclusion:**

- The health sector is expanding, thus it is essential that all the upcoming infrastructure adheres to rigorous safety standards.
- The regulatory standards must be up to international standards and the regulatory authorities must not compromise on safety. Only when a regulatory mechanism is robust, a strict safety protocol will be adhered to in full.
- The Centre should also create a public platform for insights gained from inquiries into hospital fires to be shared. Hospitals should mandatorily hold regular safety and evacuation drills which are key to saving lives when disaster strikes.

## **F. Prelims Facts**

### **1. Gangasagar Festival**

- The Gangasagar festival is celebrated between 13th – 15th January at the Sagar Island (West Bengal) located at the confluence of river Ganga and the Bay of Bengal.
- This confluence is also called Gangasagar. The Kapil Muni Temple is located near the confluence.
- The globally acclaimed spiritual and cultural event is known as Gangasagar Mela 2020 or Ganga Sagar Yatra or Ganga Snan.
- Gangasagar Mela is famous worldwide and this mela is celebrated with great pomp and grandeur in West Bengal.
- Every year on the day of Makar Sankranti, Hindu pilgrims gather to take a holy dip at the confluence.
- The Gangasagar pilgrimage and fair is said to be the second-largest congregation of mankind after the triennial ritual bathing of Kumbha Mela.

**Read more on Kumbha Mela covered in [29<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Comprehensive News Analysis](#).**



## G. Tidbits

### 1. Two flight surgeons to train in Russia

#### What's in News?

Two flight surgeons will fly to Russia for a hands-on experience in space medicine from their Russian counterparts for the Gaganyaan mission.

#### Details:

- The flight surgeons are doctors from the Indian Air Force (IAF) who have specialised in aerospace medicine.
- Flight surgeons are responsible for the astronauts' health before, during and after a flight.
- The flight surgeons will also get to train with the prospective astronauts.
- The four test pilots of the IAF, chosen for India's first manned mission to space, have been undergoing training at the Yu. A. Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre near Moscow since February 2020.
  - The centre was built to support manned space programmes, space exploration activities, space engineering, cosmonauts' training as well as ensuring their safety in space, and providing post-flight rehabilitation programmes for cosmonauts.
- The flight surgeons will also travel to France for training. France has a well-established mechanism for space medicine.

Read more on [Gaganyaan Mission](#).

## H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. Which of the following are the member states of Gulf Co-operation Council?

1. Bahrain
2. Kuwait
3. Oman
4. Iraq
5. Qatar

Choose the correct option:

- a. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



- c. 2, 4 and 5 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Gulf Co-operation Council is a political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf, except for Iraq.
- Its member states are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

**Q2. Gangasagar Festival is organised in which Indian state?**

- a. Uttarakhand
- b. West Bengal
- c. Uttar Pradesh
- d. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Gangasagar festival is celebrated between 13th – 15th January at the Sagar Island (West Bengal) located at the confluence of river Ganga and the Bay of Bengal.
- This confluence is also called Gangasagar. The Kapil Muni Temple is located near the confluence.
- The globally acclaimed spiritual and cultural event is known as Gangasagar Mela 2020 or Ganga Sagar Yatra or Ganga Snan.
- Gangasagar Mela is famous worldwide and this mela is celebrated with great pomp and grandeur in West Bengal.

**Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to Vanadium:**

1. It is a malleable transition metal rarely found in nature.
2. It is used in strengthening steel and titanium.
3. The largest deposits of vanadium of the world are in India.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. 1 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Vanadium is a hard, silvery-grey, malleable transition metal.
- It is a high-value metal used in strengthening steel and titanium.
- The elemental metal is rarely found in nature.
- It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected from the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores (iron ore).
- The largest deposits of vanadium of the world are in China, followed by Russia and South Africa.
- India is a significant consumer of vanadium, but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.

**Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to the Animal Welfare Board of India:**

1. The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body.
2. It was started under the stewardship of Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale.
3. The Board is within the jurisdiction of the Government of India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- As per the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, the Government of India formed the Animal Welfare Board of India in 1962.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body.
- It is an advisory body advising the Government of India on animal welfare laws, and promotes animal welfare in the country of India.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- The Board is within the jurisdiction of the Government of India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

## I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Explain the term 'Impossible trilemma' in the context of the Indian economy. (10 marks, 150 words) [GS 3, Economy]

2. The shift to electric mobility will serve a greater purpose than just reducing pollution. Comment. (10 marks, 150 words) [GS 3, Infrastructure]

