

P2. NATIONAL



**Road safety board set up, but debate over powers persists** -The National Road Safety Board has been constituted as a statutory advisory body to strengthen road safety governance.

P3. NATIONAL



**Africans, Russians, Ukrainians among 2,089 deported from Assam since 2016** : Recent developments in Assam highlight the implementation of identification and deportation mechanisms across international borders.

P4. NATIONAL



**A.P. farmers advised not to grow paddy as crisis looms** : Andhra Pradesh is experiencing a difficult Kharif season due to deficient monsoon rainfall, low reservoir storage, and irrigation constraints.

P7. ECONOMICS



**U.S. announces permanent tariffs; India remains at 10%** - The United States has imposed permanent tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act, 1974, on countries with inadequate measures against imports produced using forced labour.

Editor's Note

As another week comes to a close, The Pala Civil Times continues its mission of helping aspirants develop the ability to analyse issues of national and international importance from a UPSC perspective. With this objective, today's edition examines the Andhra Pradesh government's advisory restricting paddy cultivation amid a deficit monsoon and growing concerns over water availability. It also covers key national developments, including the latest data on the deportation of illegal immigrants from Assam and the significance of the newly constituted National Road Safety Board.

In the Decoded Editorials section, we explore the approval of India's first dengue vaccine, QDENGGA, highlighting both its promise and the challenges associated with its rollout. The edition also presents a detailed analysis of the U.S.–Saudi Arabia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and its implications for regional geopolitics, nuclear non-proliferation, and India's strategic interests. On the Economy page, we examine the recent U.S. tariffs linked to forced labour regulations and assess their implications for India's export competitiveness and global trade.

Taken together, these topics provide valuable insights into contemporary governance, public policy, international relations, economic affairs, public health, and geopolitical developments. We encourage every aspirant to approach these issues with curiosity, analytical thinking, and conceptual clarity. Happy reading!

Editorials Decoded



**Trump's Saudi Arabia nuclear gambit marks important shift**



The latest United States and Saudi Arabia nuclear agreement has significant implications for energy security, nuclear non-proliferation, regional power dynamics, U.S.–Saudi relations and the future of West Asian geopolitics.



**On Guard**



India's approved Dengue Vaccine QDENGGA offers protection against all four dengue virus serotypes while its effectiveness will depend on serotype prevalence, complete vaccination, affordability, and continued vector control measures.

## Road safety board set up, but debate over powers persists

The National Road Safety Board (NRSB) has been constituted under the Motor Vehicles Act as a statutory body to advise the Union and State governments on road safety and traffic management. Its establishment follows years of institutional debate amid rising road accident fatalities, which reached a record 1,77,175 deaths in 2024. Beyond reducing crashes, road safety governance is increasingly viewed as encompassing post-crash rehabilitation, disability support, and restoration of livelihoods, making recovery outcomes an important dimension of public policy.

### Evolution and Institutional Framework of the National Road Safety Board

- The Board was constituted on 29 June under **Section 215B of the Motor Vehicles Act**.
- It comprises experts and officials representing both the Union and State governments.
- The proposal traces its origin to the **Sundar Committee (2007)**, which envisioned a regulator empowered to prescribe standards, monitor compliance, conduct safety audits, and coordinate road safety actions.
- The National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board Bill, 2010 proposed a narrower institutional role focused mainly on highways and mechanically propelled vehicles.

### Advisory Role and Emerging Policy Debates

- Some experts argue that the Board's advisory mandate lacks corresponding obligations on governments to act upon its recommendations.
- Others maintain that an advisory structure aligns with India's federal framework, where legislative competence over road safety is shared between the Union and States.
- Granting regulatory powers over States is viewed by some as a potential source of jurisdictional and federal disputes.



### Expanding Road Safety Beyond Accident Statistics

- Official accident data records crashes, deaths and injuries but does not track long-term disability, rehabilitation, return to work, or the financial condition of affected households.
- The absence of recovery-related indicators limits assessment of post-crash healthcare, rehabilitation services, disability support and livelihood restoration.
- Road crash injuries impose significant economic burdens, particularly on low-income households, often resulting in prolonged income loss, indebtedness and educational disruption.
- Women frequently bear disproportionate unpaid caregiving responsibilities and may experience reduced labour force participation following serious road injuries within households.
- The National Road Safety Board can recommend common indicators linking police, hospital, rehabilitation, disability certification and compensation data to evaluate recovery outcomes.

The establishment of the National Road Safety Board marks an important institutional step towards strengthening road safety governance in India. However, its long-term effectiveness will depend not only on improving accident prevention but also on expanding the policy framework to measure rehabilitation, disability, livelihood recovery and social protection after road crashes.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? (GS II – 2022)

#### RELEVANCE

**GS II - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors.**

## Africans, Russians, Ukrainians among 2,089 deported from Assam since 2016

Recent developments in Assam illustrate the implementation of legal mechanisms for identifying and deporting foreigners residing in the country without authorization, highlighting the need for coordinated institutional responses. Over the years, illegal immigration has emerged as an important governance and internal security issue with implications for border management, demographic trends, and population governance. In response, the Union Government has constituted a high-level committee to study demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal factors.

### High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes

- Constituted by the Union Government following the Prime Minister's announcement on 15 August 2025.
- Chaired by retired **Supreme Court judge Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar**.
- The committee has been asked to submit its report within one year, extendable by six months.
- The exercise gains significance as India's Census is scheduled for completion in 2027

### Current Status

- Assam has reported the deportation of 2,089 illegal foreigners between January 2016 and June 2026, including 2,023 Bangladeshi nationals, while smaller numbers were deported from Myanmar, Nigeria and several other countries. ***The designated State authorities detected and deported 39 nationals from Myanmar and 18 from Nigeria, two each from Afghanistan, Russia, and Ukraine, and one each from Kenya, Pakistan, and Uganda over the past 10 years.***
- From 2025 to 30 June 2026, Assam sent back 1,572 illegal foreigners and expelled 117 others, in accordance with a Ministry of Home Affairs communication issued on 2 May 2025.



### Current Implementation

- India's evolving approach to illegal immigration combines institutional policy formulation with administrative implementation.
- The High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes represents an effort to develop a coordinated framework for studying demographic trends and strengthening mechanisms for identification and deportation.
- Its recommendations, together with ongoing implementation by State authorities, are expected to contribute to a more structured and continuous approach to border management and population governance.
- The proposed framework aims to establish a legal, fair and streamlined process for dealing with illegal immigration while supporting long-term population governance.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (GS I – Indian Society – 2021)

Q. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (GS III – Internal Security – 2019)

#### RELEVANCE

**GS III - Security challenges and their management in border areas.**

## A.P. farmers advised not to grow paddy as crisis looms

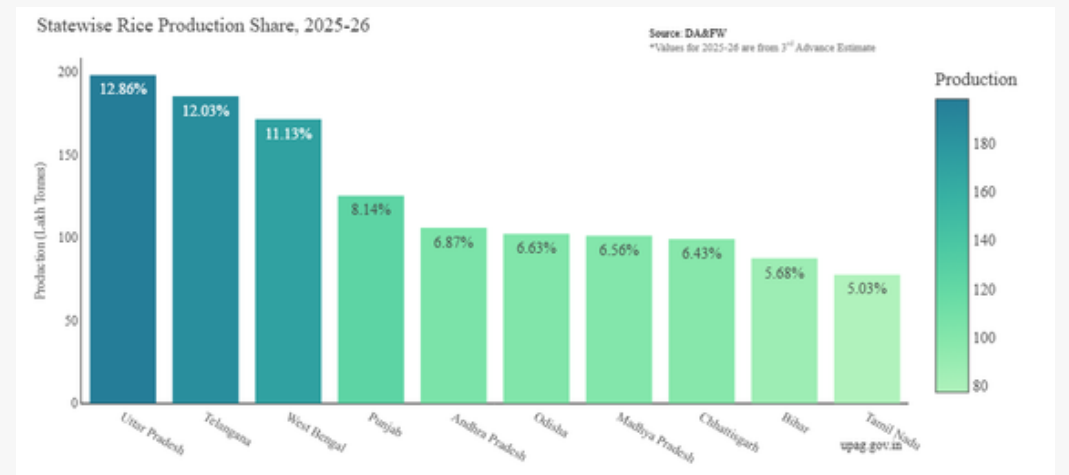
Paddy is a water-intensive Kharif crop whose cultivation depends on timely monsoon rainfall and adequate irrigation. In southern India, favourable climatic conditions permit two or even three rice crops annually, although parts of the Peninsular region, including Andhra Pradesh, receive comparatively low rainfall and rely heavily on irrigation. ***During the 2026 Kharif season, deficient monsoon rains and reduced reservoir storage created severe water stress, affecting paddy cultivation and compelling the government to prioritise drinking water supplies.***

### Hydrological Situation and Water Availability

- Deficient and delayed monsoon rainfall led to critically low storage in the **Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar** reservoirs on the Krishna River.
- Upstream reservoirs, including **Almatti, Narayanpur and Jurala**, also retained significant vacant storage due to poor inflows.
- Although **Pulichintala Reservoir** stored about 29 tmc ft, only around 25 tmc ft was considered utilisable under prevailing conditions.
- To sustain drinking water supplies in the Krishna Delta, Godavari water was diverted through the Polavaram Right Main Canal using the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme.
- The government expressed concern over unauthorised pumping of canal water affecting downstream drinking water availability.

### Impact on Kharif Paddy Cultivation

- In the Central Godavari Delta, scant rainfall associated with El Niño and interruptions in canal water supply affected paddy cultivation.
- Paddy nurseries had been raised in about 89% of the intended area, while only 18% of sowing had been completed by mid-July.
- More than 8,321 acres in the tail-end areas of the Central Delta experienced severe water stress.
- Paddy nurseries in several mandals began drying due to inadequate rainfall and irrigation.
- Farmers in the Krishna Delta were advised not to undertake paddy cultivation because of the prevailing water scarcity.***



### Government Response & Irrigation Management

- The State Government declared safeguarding drinking water supplies until June 2027 as its highest priority.
- District authorities directed the free flow of irrigation water through canals and irrigation locks to improve water availability.
- Water releases were planned from the Yeleru Reservoir and through the Pithapuram Branch Canal to support Kharif cultivation.
- In West Godavari district, action was initiated against fertiliser black marketing, including suspension of licences of dealers selling urea illegally.
- Authorities also reviewed fertiliser availability to meet seasonal agricultural requirements.

### Way Forward

The 2026 Kharif season demonstrates the close relationship between monsoon performance, reservoir storage, irrigation infrastructure and agricultural productivity in Andhra Pradesh. Managing limited water resources requires balancing irrigation demands with drinking water needs while ensuring efficient distribution through existing canal systems.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario. (GS III – 2019)

### RELEVANCE

**GS III - Agriculture, Major crops and cropping patterns.**

## On guard (The Hindu : 25-07-2026)

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes and caused by four distinct dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4). Developing an effective vaccine is scientifically challenging because protection must be generated simultaneously against all four serotypes while avoiding severe disease during subsequent infections. The approval of QDENG, India's first dengue vaccine, represents an important milestone in reducing the country's growing dengue burden, although successful disease control will require effective implementation alongside existing public health measures.

### Key Features of QDENG

- QDENG (TAK-003), developed by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals, is a live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine approved in India for individuals aged 4–60 years.
- It is administered in two doses, spaced three months apart.
- The vaccine provides protection against all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4).
- It can be administered irrespective of previous dengue infection and does not require pre-vaccination screening, simplifying its use in immunisation programmes.
- The vaccine has been approved in more than 40 countries, has received WHO prequalification, and is recommended by the WHO for use in dengue-endemic areas with high transmission.

### Efficacy and Scientific Considerations

- Clinical trials involving over 28,000 participants demonstrated that QDENG is safe, well tolerated and capable of providing sustained protection against dengue and dengue-related hospitalisation.
- **Vaccine protection is strongest against DENV-2, followed by DENV-1**, while uncertainty remains regarding protection against DENV-3 and DENV-4 among individuals without prior dengue infection.
- Since DENV-3 prevalence is increasing in India, vaccine effectiveness could be lower if this serotype predominates during transmission seasons.
- **Protection after the first dose is uneven, making completion of the two-dose schedule essential, particularly before peak dengue transmission.**
- Findings from the TIDES trial raised concerns regarding negative efficacy against DENV-3-related hospitalisation among seronegative children, highlighting the importance of continued monitoring

### Implementation Challenges and Public Health Significance

- Expansion of Aedes mosquitoes into semi-urban and rural areas has increased the need for effective dengue prevention strategies.
- Ensuring that highly mobile populations, including migrant workers, receive the second vaccine dose may present operational challenges.
- The vaccine's pricing could limit access for vulnerable populations living in densely populated urban areas with poor sanitation.
- Wider vaccine coverage may require government efforts to improve affordability while maintaining high vaccination uptake.
- Vaccination should complement, rather than replace, surveillance and vector control measures for effective dengue management.

### Way Forward

The approval of QDENG marks an important advancement in India's response to dengue by providing the country's first approved vaccine against the disease. However, its long-term public health impact will depend on complete vaccination coverage, affordability, continued surveillance of circulating dengue serotypes and sustained vector control. An integrated approach combining immunisation with conventional dengue control measures will be essential for reducing disease burden.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. In the context of vaccines manufactured to prevent COVID-19 pandemic, consider the following statements: (2022)

1. The Serum Institute of India produced COVID-19 vaccine named Covishield using mRNA platform.
2. Sputnik V vaccine is manufactured using vector based platform.
3. COVAXIN is an inactivated pathogen based vaccine.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

### RELEVANCE

**GS II - Issues relating to development and management of the social sector relating to Health.**

## Trump's Saudi Arabia nuclear gambit marks important shift (Indian Express : 25-07-2026)

The United States and Saudi Arabia have entered into a civil nuclear cooperation agreement to support the development of Saudi Arabia's civilian nuclear energy programme. The agreement combines energy cooperation with strategic and geopolitical objectives, including nuclear non-proliferation, regional security and economic diversification. Its implementation has become closely linked to wider developments involving Iran, Israel and the evolving security architecture of West Asia.

### Key Features of the Civil Nuclear Agreement

- *The agreement enables the transfer of civilian nuclear materials, technology and equipment from the United States to Saudi Arabia and lays the foundation for a 30-year nuclear partnership.*
- **U.S. companies are expected to receive preferred access** in developing Saudi Arabia's nuclear infrastructure.
- A bilateral safeguards agreement introduces additional verification measures covering sensitive activities such as enrichment, conversion, fuel fabrication and reprocessing.
- Initially, Saudi Arabia will import nuclear fuel, while a joint two-year study will examine the commercial feasibility of domestic uranium enrichment.
- If approved, any enrichment facility would be built and operated by U.S. companies under arrangements intended to prevent the transfer of sensitive enrichment technology.



### Strategic Context and Regional Dynamics

- Saudi Arabia seeks nuclear energy to diversify its economy under Vision 2030, reduce dependence on hydrocarbons and meet rising electricity demand from industrial development and AI infrastructure.
- Iran's advanced nuclear programme, have strengthened Saudi Arabia's interest in developing civilian nuclear capabilities.
- Unlike the earlier U.S.-UAE nuclear agreement, the current agreement does not explicitly prohibit Saudi Arabia from pursuing domestic uranium enrichment.
- The arrangement seeks to balance Saudi Arabia's energy and security requirements while maintaining U.S. supervision over proliferation-sensitive activities.

### RELEVANCE

**GS II - India and its neighbourhood and bilateral relations.**

### Geopolitical Implications

- The agreement has become linked to Saudi Arabia's possible participation in the Abraham Accords, with the U.S. indicating that the nuclear partnership depends on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel.
- Saudi Arabia continues to maintain that normalisation with Israel requires a credible pathway towards an independent and sovereign Palestinian state.
- The agreement could influence the regional nuclear balance by affecting Iran's position on uranium enrichment and future nuclear negotiations.
- Continued regional tensions involving Iran, Israel and Palestine are likely to shape the implementation and future of the agreement.

### Way Forward

The U.S.-Saudi civil nuclear agreement represents a significant convergence of energy policy, strategic competition and regional diplomacy. While it supports Saudi Arabia's economic diversification and civilian nuclear ambitions, it also raises important questions regarding nuclear non-proliferation, regional security and geopolitical alignment.

### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-1:** Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.

**Statement-II:** The Arab Peace Initiative' mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and the Arab League.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-1 is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

## U.S. announces permanent tariffs; India remains at 10%

The United States has introduced permanent tariffs on several trading partners following an investigation into the enforcement of prohibitions on goods produced using forced labour. The measure links trade policy with labour standards and supply-chain governance. India received a lower tariff after prohibiting the import of goods made using forced labour, reflecting the growing importance of domestic regulatory frameworks in international trade.

### U.S. Tariff Framework and Investigation

- The U.S. had imposed a temporary 10% tariff on all trading partners for 150 days, which expired on 1 August 2026.
- In March 2026, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative initiated two investigations under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, 1974.
- The first investigation examined whether trading partners effectively prevented the import of goods produced using forced labour.
- The second investigation, relating to excess manufacturing capacity affecting the U.S. economy, is still pending and may result in additional tariffs.
- The tariffs are intended to address both human rights concerns and trade distortions arising from forced labour.

### India's Response and Tariff Outcome

- The investigation's draft report had proposed a 12.5% tariff on India and several other countries.
- India subsequently issued a DGFT notification on 13 July amending the Foreign Trade Policy to prohibit the import of goods produced using forced labour.
- Following this policy measure, India was placed in the 10% tariff category instead of 12.5%.
- Countries receiving the lower tariff are those that prohibit forced labour imports, commit to such prohibitions through trade agreements with the U.S., or maintain partial mechanisms to prevent such imports.

### Trade Implications for India

- The lower tariff provides India with a relatively more favourable position than several competing exporting countries facing 12.5% tariffs.
- Exporters believe this could improve India's competitive position in sectors where competitors face higher tariff rates.
- However, industries such as gems and jewellery and textiles and apparel anticipate increased pricing pressure, lower profit margins and potential reputational concerns.
- The textile industry has expressed concern that differential tariff treatment could divert sourcing orders.
- The overall impact is expected to differ across sectors depending on export competitiveness and market conditions.

| F. Trump's Tariff Comeback                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Countries Facing 10% Tariff                                                                                                                                                                | Countries Facing 12.5% Tariff                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> <li>Canada</li> <li>Mexico</li> <li>Malaysia</li> <li>Pakistan</li> <li>Bangladesh</li> <li>Indonesia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China</li> <li>Vietnam</li> <li>Singapore</li> <li>Australia</li> <li>Brazil</li> <li>South Africa</li> <li>Saudi Arabia</li> <li>United Arab Emirates</li> <li>New Zealand</li> <li>Thailand</li> <li>Philippines</li> </ul> |

### What lies ahead

The tariff measures illustrate the growing use of labour standards as a component of trade policy. While such measures are presented as promoting ethical supply chains, they also have implications for market access and export competitiveness, particularly for developing economies. India's policy response enabled it to secure a comparatively lower tariff, but effective implementation of labour and trade regulations will remain important in an evolving global trading environment.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met? (GS III - 2025)

#### RELEVANCE

GS II - India and its bilateral relations.

GS III - Indian Economy

### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. In the context of vaccines manufactured to prevent COVID-19 pandemic, consider the following statements: (2022)

1. The Serum Institute of India produced COVID-19 vaccine named Covishield using mRNA platform.
2. Sputnik V vaccine is manufactured using vector based platform.
3. COVAXIN is an inactivated pathogen based vaccine.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Ans : b**

**1. The Serum Institute of India produced COVID 19 vaccine named Covishield using mRNA platform – This statement is incorrect.** Covishield, produced by the Serum Institute of India, is based on a viral vector platform (specifically the AstraZeneca–Oxford vaccine), not mRNA technology.

**2. Sputnik V vaccine is manufactured using vector based platform – This is correct.** Sputnik V is a viral vector–based vaccine, using two different adenovirus vectors (rAd26 and rAd5) to deliver genetic material for the spike protein of the SARS CoV–2 virus.

**3. COVAXIN is an inactivated pathogen based vaccine – This is correct.** COVAXIN, developed by Bharat Biotech, is an inactivated virus–based vaccine, where the SARS–CoV–2 virus is inactivated to trigger an immune response without causing the disease.

Q. Consider the following statements:

**Statement–I:** Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.

**Statement–II:** The Arab Peace Initiative' mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and the Arab League.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement–I and Statement–II are correct and Statement–II is the correct explanation for Statement–I
- b) Both Statement–I and Statement–II are correct and Statement–II is not the correct explanation for Statement–I
- c) Statement–I is correct but Statement–II is incorrect
- d) Statement–I is incorrect but Statement–II is correct

**Ans : C**

The development of open, friendly relations between Israel and some Gulf Arab states has emerged as a significant new dynamic of the 21st century Middle East. Although the diplomatic accords signed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain with Israel in 2020 constituted a breakthrough in relations, the lines of communication and cooperation between the Gulf states and Israel are not new.

Multiple countries in the region, including Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman, established connections with Israel in the 1990s after the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel signed the Oslo Accords. So, statement 1 is correct

However, The Israeli government rejected the initiative immediately, calling it a “non starter,” though the Quartet on the Middle East endorsed the Initiative in 2003. So, statement 2 is not correct.

## Practice Questions and answers

Q. With reference to the National Road Safety Board, consider the following statements:

- 1.It has been constituted under Section 215B of the Motor Vehicles Act.
- 2.It functions as a statutory advisory body on road safety and traffic management.
- 3.It possesses binding regulatory powers over State governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

- Statement 1: Correct. The Board has been constituted under Section 215B of the Motor Vehicles Act.
- Statement 2: Correct. It is a statutory advisory body.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. It does not possess binding regulatory powers over State governments.

Q. With reference to the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes, consider the following statements:

- 1.It has been constituted to study demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal factors.
- 2.It is chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar.
- 3.It has been mandated to recommend mechanisms for the identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

- Statement 1: Correct. The committee will study demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal factors.
- Statement 2: Correct. It is chaired by Justice (Retd.) Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar.
- Statement 3: Correct. One of its mandates is to recommend a permanent operational mechanism for the legal, fair, and time-bound identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants.

Q. With reference to the recent U.S. tariffs relating to forced labour, consider the following statements:

- 1.The tariffs were imposed following an investigation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, 1974.
- 2.India was placed in the lower tariff category after prohibiting the import of goods produced using forced labour.
- 3.The U.S. investigation relating to excess manufacturing capacity has already been concluded.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

Statement 1: Correct. The tariffs arose from a Section 301 investigation into forced labour-related import prohibitions.

Statement 2: Correct. India's DGFT notification contributed to its placement in the 10% tariff category instead of the proposed 12.5%.

Statement 3: Incorrect. The investigation relating to excess manufacturing capacity is still pending.