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IAS 2026

PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2026

PRELIMS PRACTICE PROGRAMME

POLITY

TEST: #03

**Executive, Legislature, and
Judiciary**



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Prelims Test Series 2026

Question Booklet: PTS-5447

GENERAL STUDIES

POLITY - 3

Time Allowed: One Hour

Maximum Marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS

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2. **Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number carefully without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.**
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5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
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10. **Penalty for wrong answers:**

THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.

- (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
- (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
- (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no** penalty for that question.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of Judges:

1. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Chief Justice of India.
2. The Chief Justice is appointed by the president after consultation with judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Legislative Powers of the President of India:

1. He decides on questions as to disqualifications of members of the Parliament, in consultation with the Election Commission.
2. He can also summons a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament that is presided by him.
3. He can send messages to the Houses of Parliament with respect to a bill pending in the Parliament

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. How many of the following statements is/ are correct regarding the removal of Judges?

1. The legislature has the powers of removal of the Judges.
2. A judge of the Supreme Court or High Court can be removed only on the ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.
3. A motion containing the charges against the judge must be approved by majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting in the parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) All three
- (d) None

4. Which of the following statements is/ are correct?

- (a) Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.
- (b) Remission implies a stay of the execution of a sentence for a temporary period
- (c) Reprieve implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character
- (d) All are correct

5. Consider the following:

Statement-I:

The Vice President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.

Statement-II:

The Vice President can be removed from office by a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority.

Statement-III:

The Vice President discharges the functions of the President when the office of the President falls vacant due to resignation, removal, or death.

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

- (a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I
- (d) Only Statement-I is correct

6. Consider the following statements regarding the oath taken by the Prime Minister of India:

1. To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India.
2. To do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law.
3. To preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law.

Which of the above is/are part of the oath of office administered to the Prime Minister of India?

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

7. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Prime Minister announces government policies on the floor of the House.

Statement-II:

The Prime Minister can dissolve the Lok Sabha at any time.

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 explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

8. The fundamental principle underlying the working of parliamentary system of government is the principle of collective responsibility. Which of the following statement is/are **incorrect** regarding the principle of collective responsibility?

- (a) This means that all the ministers own joint responsibility to the Lok Sabha.
- (b) When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against the council of ministers, all the ministers have to resign including those ministers who are from the Rajya Sabha.
- (c) Cabinet decisions bind all cabinet ministers.
- (d) Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Prime Minister

9. This committee was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee. Originally, it had 15 members

(10 from the Lok Sabha and 5 from the Rajya Sabha). However, in 1974, its membership was raised to 22 (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha). Which of the following Parliamentary committee is mentioned in paragraph.

- (a) Committee on Public Undertaking
- (b) Estimates Committee
- (c) Public Accounts Committee.
- (d) Parliamentary Affairs Committee

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha:

1. The Deputy Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha from among themselves.
2. The Deputy Speaker holds office during the pleasure of the President.
3. The Deputy Speaker presides over the joint sitting of Parliament in the absence of the Speaker.
4. The Deputy Speaker does not vacate office when the Lok Sabha is dissolved.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

11. Consider the following pairs:

Position	Associated Constitutional Provision
1. President of India	– Can seek information from the Prime Minister
2. Prime Minister	– Appointed by the Lok Sabha
3. Attorney General of India	– Has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of Parliament

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

12. How many of the following statements are correct regarding nominated members of the Rajya Sabha?

1. Criteria for their nomination include art, literature, science and social service.
2. They are not entitled to vote in the elections of the President and Vice-President.
3. They are exempted from filing assets under the Representation of the People's Act, 1951

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

13. Which of the following do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha?

1. Pending assurances to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances
2. Bill pending in Lok Sabha
3. Bill passed by Lok Sabha but pending in Rajya Sabha
4. Bill pending in Rajya Sabha but not passed by Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

14. Which of the following motions is moved when the undiscussed clauses of a bill are also put to vote along with the discussed ones due to want of time?

- (a) Superseding motion
- (b) Closure by Compartments motion
- (c) Kangaroo Closure
- (d) Guillotine motion

15. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The power to resolve federal disputes is entrusted to the Supreme Court of India under its original jurisdiction.

Statement-II:

The Supreme Court can hear such disputes in the first instance and not by way of appeal.

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 explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

16. How many of the following statements is/are correct regarding Lok Adalats?

1. An award made by the Lok Adalat is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies before any court against it.
2. Its decision is deemed to be decree of a civil court and it deals in matters related to civil cases only.
3. Once a litigant has approached the Lok Adalat for the settlement/compromise, he cannot go back to the court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

17. Which of the following statement is correctly identifies the difference between the Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Council?

- (a) Legislative Council is a permanent House like the Rajya Sabha but the Legislative Council can be abolished by the Parliament.
- (b) Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Indian Constitution is only provided for Rajya Sabha and not for State Legislative Councils.
- (c) Secret ballot voting applies in election to Council of States only and not to elections to State Legislative Council.

- (d) Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly of a state can pass a resolution by a special majority for the dissolution of Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council respectively
- 18.** Which of the following are considered to check whether a person is holding an Office of Profit?
1. Whether the government makes the appointment.
 2. If the government has the right to remove or dismiss the holder.
 3. Any remuneration is paid to the person from government.
- 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
- 19.** Consider the following statements regarding the functions and powers of a District Judge:
- Statement-I:**
- A District Judge possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters.
- Statement-II:**
- A District Judge has the power to impose any sentence, including capital punishment, subject to confirmation by the High Court.
- Statement-III:**
- The District Judge also acts as the head of the District Judiciary and supervises the functioning of all subordinate courts within the district.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- (a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
 - (b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
 - (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I
 - (d) All three Statements are correct
- 20.** Which of the following statements regarding the Special leave petition are correct?
1. Constitution of India has given power to the Supreme Court to hear a petition as an appeal even if a high court refuses to grant the certificate of fitness for the appeal.
 2. It is a discretionary power of the Supreme Court and cannot be claimed as a matter of right.
 3. Special leave petition can be granted only if judgment is final but not interlocutory.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 21.** In how many of the following cases an advocate can be appointed as amicus curiae by the Court?
1. In any matter of general public importance
 2. If the accused is unrepresented
 3. If the accused is represented but his/her counsel is absent
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 22.** Parliament can make Laws on any matters in State List if the Legislatures of two or more States pass a resolution. Regarding this, consider the following statements:
1. Any such Law passed by the Parliament automatically applies to all the states of India.
 2. Such a law can be amended or repealed only by the Parliament.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

23. In which of the following situations the imposition of President's Rule under A-356 would be improper?

1. Maladministration in a state
2. Allegations of corruption against the ministry
3. Internal subversion or physical breakdown in a state
4. Disregard of a constitutional direction of centre by a state

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 3 and 4 only

24. With respect to the adjudication of Inter-State water disputes, consider the following statements:

1. The concerned states can form a separate tribunal to deal with such disputes.
2. Parliament can exclude any court from exercising jurisdiction in such a matter.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

25. How many of the following pairs of parliamentary terminologies are correctly matched?

1. Expunction: Deletion of words from the proceedings or records of Rajya Sabha for being defamatory or indecent by an order of the Chairman.
2. Adjournment sine die: Termination of the sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting.
3. Casting Vote: The vote casted by the Chairman in the case of an equality of votes on a matter.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

26. Consider the following statements regarding the Leader of Opposition:

1. The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha has a constitutional recognition.
2. S/he is entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.
3. Opposition Party must have not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House to be accorded as the Leader of the Opposition in that House.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of Governor:

1. Indian Constitution has adopted American model for the appointment of Governor.
2. The Governor is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
3. S/He should have completed the age of 35 years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

28. In order to implement decisions made at the International conference or associations, Parliament can make law:

- (a) With necessary ratification of minimum fifty percent of States.
- (b) Without consent of any State.
- (c) With necessary consent of all the States and Union Territories.
- (d) With necessary guidance of United Nations.

29. Which of the following parameters is/are used to define the "Office of Profit"?

1. Office in which control over appointment, removal, and performance of the functions is done by the government.

2. Office in which the government has powers of releasing the money, allotment of land, granting licenses, etc.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. How many of the following statements regarding enactment of the Budget are correct?

- 1. Department of revenue is responsible for the preparation of the budget.
- 2. Passing of an appropriation bill completes the process of enactment of the budget.
- 3. The term 'budget' used in the Constitution has been dealt with in Article 112 of the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

31. Which of the following statements regarding Zero hour and calling attention motion is/are correct?

- 1. Zero hour is an informal device available to members of parliament to raise matter without any prior notice whereas calling attention motion used to call the attention of minister to a matter of urgent public importance.
- 2. Unlike calling attention motion, zero hour is mentioned in the rule of procedure.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

32. Financial Bills are divided into two categories as per the Article 117. Regarding this, consider the following statements:

- 1. Financial Bills that contain provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha.
- 2. Financial Bills can be rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha but cannot be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses.
- 3. All types of Financial Bills can only be introduced on the prior recommendations of the President.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

33. Consider the following statements regarding the Cabinet committees:

- 1. The formation of Cabinet committees is extra-constitutional in nature.
- 2. Establishment or discontinuation of any of cabinet committee must be approved by the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

34. In the context of polity, who among the following can be termed as the 'Permanent Executive'?

- (a) Council of Ministers
- (b) Cabinet
- (c) President
- (d) Bureaucracy

35. Which of the following statements is *incorrect* with reference to the separation of power enshrined in constitution of India?

- (a) Article 368 provides for the sovereignty of elected representatives as the basis of the amendment procedure of the Indian constitution.

- (b) Amendments to provisions pertaining to separation of powers require approval from Parliament, state legislatures, and President.
- (c) Indian constitution provides for the allocation of powers of constitutional bodies independent of the legislatures and the executive.
- (d) Separation of power among the three organs of governance is strictly adhered by the constitution with no system of overlap balance.

36. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Council of Ministers':

1. Ministers are not legally responsible for any Act passed by the Parliament.
2. President can remove a minister only on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

37. How many of the following statements are correct regarding Contingency Fund of India?

1. Amount from Consolidated Fund of India is used to recoup the contingency fund of India is taken.
2. The fund is held by the department of economic affairs on behalf of President of India.
3. Like public account of India, it is also operated by executive action.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

38. Which of the following parliamentary terms is/ are correctly matched?

1. Whip - The office of whip is mentioned neither in the constitution of India nor in the rules of House nor in the parliamentary statute.

- 2. Crossing the floor - Passing between the member addressing the House and the Chair which is considered breach of Parliamentary etiquette.
- 3. Subordinate Legislation - Rules framed by the Executive in pursuance of the power conferred on it by the Constitution

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

39. How many of the following is/are the functions of the Union Executive?

1. The initiation of legislation.
2. The promotion and implementation of welfare issues of economy and social issues.
3. It can make laws on subjects that fall within the State List.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

40. Which of the following are the means of accountability checks on executive?

1. Token Cut Motion
2. Scrutiny by Estimates Committee
3. Auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

41. Assertion (A): The Solicitor General of India is the highest law officer in the country and enjoys constitutional status.

Reason (R): The Solicitor General is appointed by President of India

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

42. Arrange the following steps in the correct chronological order for the removal of a Judge of a High Court in India:

1. Adoption of address for removal by each House of Parliament by special majority
2. Investigation of misbehaviour or incapacity by a committee of Judges
3. Presentation of the address to the President of India
4. Framing of charges under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3
- (b) 4 – 2 – 1 – 3
- (c) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3
- (d) 1 – 4 – 2 – 3

43. Consider the following statements regarding the impeachment process:

1. The President can be removed from his/her office only on the ground of 'violation of the Constitution'.
2. The impeachment charges against the President can be initiated by either House of Parliament
3. Only the elected members of Parliament can participate in the impeachment of the President.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

44. Consider the following cases:

1. Appointment of the Prime Minister when no single party attains majority after elections to the Lok Sabha
2. Exercising Pocket Veto

3. A temporary delay of an ordinary legislation even when the Lok Sabha has the confidence in the Council of Ministers

4. Dismissal of the Council of Ministers when it cannot prove the confidence in the Lok Sabha

In which of the above cases President is not bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers?

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

45. Which of the following is the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board?

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Cabinet Secretary
- (c) Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
- (d) Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

46. Consider the following statements:

1. The orders of the Delimitation Commission in India cannot be called in question before any court.
2. No modifications in the orders of the Delimitation Commission are permissible by the Parliament or State Legislative Assembly concerned.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

47. Consider a situation when a minister is not a member of either House of the Parliament. Which of the following statements would be correct?

- (a) He cannot participate in the proceedings of the Houses.
- (b) He can participate in the proceedings of the Houses but cannot take part in the voting on any Bill.
- (c) He can participate in the proceedings of the House and take part in the voting on any Bill.

(d) The situation itself is impossible as to become a minister, one must have to be a Member of Parliament.

48. Which of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding the Double membership of a candidate?

- (a) If a person is elected in both the Parliament and the state legislature at the same time, his seat in Parliament becomes vacant if he does not resign his seat in the state legislature within 14 days.
- (b) If a person is elected to both the Houses of Parliament and he does not intimate within 10 days in which House he desires to serve, his seat in the Rajya Sabha becomes vacant.
- (c) If a person is elected to two seats in a House and he does not intimate his preference, his seat with lower margin of victory becomes vacant.
- (d) If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his seat in the first House becomes vacant.

49. With reference to “Recusal of Judges”, consider the following statements:

1. If a judge does not recuse him/herself from a case involving ‘conflict of interest’, it can become one of the reasons for the removal of the Judge in the Parliament.
2. Having a prior or personal association with a party involved in the case can be a reason for the recusal.

Which of above statement is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

50. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. No amount can be drawn from the Consolidated Fund without due authorization from the Parliament.
2. Contingency Fund is placed at the disposal and unrestricted authorization of the President of India.
3. Public Account funds, that do not belong to the Government, do not require Parliamentary authorization for withdrawals.
4. The approval of the parliament is obtained when amounts are withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund and kept in the Public Account for expenditure on specific objects.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3, and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4



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GENERAL STUDIES

POLITY - 3

Answer Key

Q. 1 (b)	Q. 11 (b)	Q. 21 (c)	Q. 31 (a)	Q. 41 (d)
Q. 2 (a)	Q. 12 (a)	Q. 22 (b)	Q. 32 (a)	Q. 42 (a)
Q. 3 (b)	Q. 13 (b)	Q. 23 (a)	Q. 33 (a)	Q. 43 (b)
Q. 4 (a)	Q. 14 (d)	Q. 24 (b)	Q. 34 (d)	Q. 44 (d)
Q. 5 (d)	Q. 15 (a)	Q. 25 (c)	Q. 35 (d)	Q. 45 (b)
Q. 6 (a)	Q. 16 (a)	Q. 26 (b)	Q. 36 (c)	Q. 46 (c)
Q. 7 (c)	Q. 17 (a)	Q. 27 (c)	Q. 37 (b)	Q. 47 (b)
Q. 8 (d)	Q. 18 (d)	Q. 28 (b)	Q. 38 (a)	Q. 48 (c)
Q. 9 (a)	Q. 19 (d)	Q. 29 (c)	Q. 39 (b)	Q. 49 (b)
Q. 10 (b)	Q. 20 (a)	Q. 30 (b)	Q. 40 (d)	Q. 50 (a)

1. Correct Option: (b) 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision on Appointment of Judges

The appointment of judges to the Supreme Court is governed by Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.

- The President of India is the appointing authority for all judges of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- The President acts in consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as deemed necessary.
- For appointment of CJI, the convention is to appoint the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, but this is not explicitly stated in the Constitution.

Step 2: Statement-wise Elimination

Statement 1: The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Chief Justice of India.

This is incorrect.

- The Chief Justice of India does not appoint judges.
- The President makes all such appointments.
- However, as per the Collegium System (evolved through SC judgments), the CJI plays a crucial role in recommending names, especially for appointments other than the CJI.
- But this does not equate to appointment power.

Statement 2: The Chief Justice is appointed by the president after consultation with judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

This is correct.

- As per Article 124(2), the President shall appoint the Chief Justice after consulting such judges of the SC and HC as deemed necessary.
- Although in practice, the senior-most judge is usually appointed as CJI, this is a convention, not a constitutional mandate.

Final Answer: (b) 2 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Distinguish between recommendation and appointment — UPSC often tests this nuance.

- Remember that the President is the appointing authority for SC judges, even though the CJI (through Collegium) plays a recommendatory role.
- Learn Article 124 well and the impact of Three Judges Cases which led to the Collegium system.
- Understand the difference between constitutional provision and constitutional convention — many questions hinge on this distinction.

2. Correct Option: (a) 1 and 3 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Theme — Legislative Powers of the President of India

The President of India, while primarily the executive head, also exercises significant legislative functions under the Constitution (Articles 85–88, 111, etc.).

This includes summoning Parliament, giving assent to bills, addressing sessions, sending messages, and even disqualifying MPs in certain cases.

Step 2: Statement-wise Evaluation

Statement 1: He decides on questions as to disqualifications of members of the Parliament, in consultation with the Election Commission.

This is correct.

As per Article 103, if any question arises as to whether a member of Parliament is disqualified under Article 102(1), the decision is made by the President, after obtaining the opinion of the Election Commission, which is binding. This is a quasi-legislative and constitutional function of the President.

Statement 2: He can also summon a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament that is presided by him.

This is incorrect.

While the President can summon a joint sitting under Article 108, the Presiding Officer is not the President.

Instead, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over the joint sitting. If the Speaker is absent, the Deputy Speaker presides.

The President does not preside over any House or joint sitting of Parliament.

Statement 3: He can send messages to the Houses of Parliament with respect to a bill pending in the Parliament.

This is correct.

As per Article 86(2), the President may send messages to either House of Parliament, with respect to a bill pending or otherwise, and the House must consider such messages.

Final Analysis:

- Statement 1 is correct (Article 103 – disqualification).
- Statement 2 is incorrect (President summons joint sitting, but **does not preside**).
- Statement 3 is correct (Article 86 – messages to Houses).

Final Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Read carefully — questions on the President often contain **trap statements** about **who presides** over what (which is often **not** the President).
- Memorize key Articles:
 - Article 103 – Disqualification of MPs
 - Article 108 – Joint Sitting
 - Article 86 – President's messages
- Always distinguish between the **summoning power** and **presiding role** — a common area where options are twisted.
- When in doubt, **eliminate statements that exaggerate powers**, such as suggesting the President chairs parliamentary proceedings.

3. Correct Option: (b) Only two Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provisions Regarding Removal of Judges

The removal process of Supreme Court and High Court judges is laid down in Article 124(4) (for SC judges) and Article 217 read with Article 124(4) (for HC judges). Judges do not serve at the pleasure of the President, and their removal requires a special procedure involving both Houses of Parliament.

Step 2: Statement-wise Elimination

Statement 1: The legislature has the powers of removal of the Judges.

This is partially true, but imprecisely worded, making it incorrect in a strict constitutional sense. Explanation:

- Parliament initiates and carries out the removal process through a **motion in both Houses**, but the **actual removal** is done

by the **President after the motion is passed**.

- Thus, Parliament **does not itself remove** the judge; it **recommends removal** through a rigorous process.
- Hence, this statement oversimplifies and misrepresents the **separation of powers**, and is **incorrect**.

Statement 2: A judge of the Supreme Court or High Court can be removed only on the ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.

This is **correct**.

- As per Article 124(4) and Article 217, these are the **only two grounds** for removal.
- The word “proven” is significant, indicating that **allegations must be substantiated** through inquiry.

Statement 3: A motion containing the charges against the judge must be approved by majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting in the parliament.

This is **correct**.

- The motion must be passed in **each House** with:
 - A **majority of total membership**, and
 - A **majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting**.
- This **dual majority requirement** ensures removal is not based on political whims.

Final Analysis:

- **Statement 1** is incorrect (Parliament initiates, but does not exercise power of removal).
- **Statements 2 and 3** are correct.

Final Answer: (b) Only two

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Focus on **constitutional precision** — partial truths or vague wording often lead to incorrect statements.
- Memorize the **grounds and procedure for removal** — especially the unique voting requirement (two types of majority).
- Remember: The **President executes**, but **Parliament initiates and approves** the motion — this distinction matters in polity MCQs.
- Don’t confuse **appointment** with **removal** powers — the former involves the executive; the latter involves **legislative recommendation plus executive action**.

4. Correct Option: (a) Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Core Concepts — Clemency Powers of the President and Governor

Under Article 72 (for President) and Article 161 (for Governor), the Constitution provides clemency powers such as **pardon, reprieve, respite, remission, and commutation**. Each term has a specific legal meaning and is often tested in UPSC prelims with **one-word definitions**.

Step 2: Statement-wise Evaluation

Option (a): Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.

This is **correct**.

Commutation means **changing the nature of punishment** to a lesser form.

Example: Death penalty is commuted to life imprisonment, or life imprisonment to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Option (b): Remission implies a stay of the execution of a sentence for a temporary period.

This is **incorrect**.

This definition actually refers to **reprieve**, not remission.

Remission means reducing the sentence period without changing its nature.

Example: A 10-year sentence is reduced to 6 years.

Option (c): Reprieve implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.

This is **incorrect**.

This is the **definition of remission**, not reprieve. **Reprieve** means **temporary postponement** of punishment (especially death penalty) to allow for appeal or pardon consideration.

Final Analysis:

- Only statement (a) is correctly matched with its definition.
- Statement (b) confuses **remission** with **reprieve**.
- Statement (c) confuses **reprieve** with **remission**.

Final Answer: (a)

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Focus on **precise definitions** — UPSC often tests your clarity on **one-word legal terms**, especially in **Polity**.
- Eliminate **confused pairings** — reprieve vs. remission, commutation vs. pardon.
- Memorize the five clemency powers with examples — it's a high-yield area from **Articles 72 and 161**.
- Use cross-comparison: if two definitions are swapped, both become incorrect.

5. Correct Option: (d) Only Statement—I is correct

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provisions Related to the Vice President

The Vice President is governed by **Articles 63 to 71** of the Indian Constitution.

Key aspects include:

- **Election** under Article 66
- **Removal** under Article 67
- **Role as Acting President** under Article 65

Step 2: Statement-wise Evaluation

Statement—I: The Vice President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.

This is **correct**.

- Article 66(1): The Vice President is elected by an **electoral college comprising all members (elected and nominated) of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.
- Unlike the President's election, **State Legislative Assemblies do not participate**.

Statement—II: The Vice President can be removed from office by a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority.

This is **incorrect**.

- **Article 67(b)** states that the Vice President can be removed **only by a resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha by an effective majority, and agreed to by the Lok Sabha** (simple majority).
- **No special majority** is required in both Houses. The process is different from the **President's impeachment**.

Statement—III: The Vice President discharges the functions of the President

when the office of the President falls vacant due to resignation, removal, or death, for the remainder of the entire term.

This is **incorrect**.

- Article 65(1): The Vice President **acts as President only until a new President is elected**, which must happen **within six months** of the vacancy.
- The Vice President **does not serve the remainder of the term**; he serves only as a **temporary Acting President**.

Final Analysis:

- Statement I: Correct
- Statement II: Incorrect (wrong removal procedure)
- Statement III: Incorrect (misstates the duration and role of VP as Acting President)

Final Answer: (d) Only Statement-I is correct

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Focus on **precise procedural details** — especially when it comes to removal and acting roles.
- Don't confuse the **Vice President's temporary role as Acting President** with completing the term like a Vice-President-in-waiting.
- Always note the **type of majority** required — UPSC often twists this in polity questions.
- Differentiate clearly between **President's removal** (via impeachment) and **Vice President's removal** (via resolution).

6. Correct Option: (a) 1 and 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Locate the Oath of the Prime Minister in the Constitution

The oath of office for the Prime Minister of India is provided in the **Third Schedule (Part I)** of the Constitution and is administered under **Article 75(1)**. The wording is identical for Union Ministers, including the PM, and outlines the core duties and commitments expected from the executive.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement 1

"To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India" — This is **correct**. This clause was introduced via the **Constitution (Sixteenth Amendment) Act, 1963** to ensure all constitutional functionaries explicitly commit to preserving India's unity and territorial integrity.

It is a mandatory part of the Prime Minister's oath.

Step 3: Evaluate Statement 2

"To do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law" — This is **correct**. It appears in the exact language of the Prime Minister's oath. It indicates the obligation to govern impartially, fairly, and within constitutional limits — reflecting the essence of constitutional morality and rule of law.

Step 4: Evaluate Statement 3

"To preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law" — This is **incorrect**. This phrase is taken from the **oath of the President of India**, as laid out in **Article 60**. While the President is constitutionally bound to act as a guardian of the Constitution, this responsibility in such wording does **not** apply to the PM's oath. The Prime Minister has distinct constitutional obligations but does not take this specific pledge.

Step 5: Eliminate Options

- Option (b) includes Statement 3, which is incorrect.
- Option (c) excludes Statement 2, which is correct.
- Option (d) includes all three, so incorrect.
- Only Option (a) includes both correct statements and excludes the wrong one.

Final Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

7. Correct Option: (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement-I

This statement is **correct**. The Prime Minister, as the leader of the Lok Sabha and head of the government, regularly announces and defends government policies in Parliament. This includes outlining new legislative initiatives, explaining executive decisions, and responding to debates and questions. This function is central to parliamentary democracy and is both a convention and a practical responsibility.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement-II

This statement is **incorrect**. The Prime Minister **does not have the constitutional power to dissolve the Lok Sabha directly**. As per **Article 85(2)(b)** of the Constitution, **only the President** can dissolve the Lok Sabha, and that too **only on the advice of the Council of Ministers**. The Prime Minister may recommend dissolution, but cannot do it unilaterally or at

will. This statement falsely assumes absolute power in the PM's hands.

Step 3: Analyze the Relationship Between the Statements

Since Statement-II is incorrect, it cannot explain Statement-I. That eliminates options (a) and (b). Statement-I is correct, Statement-II is incorrect. Hence, option (c) is the best choice.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Read each statement independently.** Do not assume correctness just because it "sounds" authoritative.
- **Always identify constitutional authority vs. political convention.** For instance, the PM leads the government, but formal powers like dissolution lie with the President.
- **Understand roles within separation of powers.** The PM leads the executive; the President has ceremonial and formal powers, often exercised on aid and advice.
- In two-statement questions, if one is factually wrong, eliminate options that require both to be correct. This greatly simplifies your choices.
- Beware of **absolutist language** like "at any time" or "always" — these often make a statement inaccurate under constitutional checks and balances.

8. Correct Option: (d) Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Prime Minister

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Principle of Collective Responsibility

The principle of **collective responsibility** is enshrined in Article 75(3) of the Indian Constitution. It states:

"The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha)." This means that the entire Council of Ministers, including Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State, and Deputy Ministers, stands or falls together in the Lok Sabha.

Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

Option (a): Correct statement. Collective responsibility means that **all ministers are jointly accountable** to the Lok Sabha for all government decisions and actions. If the Lok Sabha loses confidence in the Council (through a no-confidence motion), the entire Council must resign.

Option (b): Correct statement. When the Lok Sabha passes a **no-confidence motion**, **all ministers**, including those from the **Rajya Sabha**, must resign. This is because collective responsibility applies to the **entire Council**, regardless of which House a minister belongs to.

Option (c): Correct statement. As per constitutional convention and cabinet procedure, **Cabinet decisions are binding on all ministers**, whether they agreed in the meeting or not. A dissenting minister must either publicly support the decision or resign.

Option (d): Incorrect statement. This is factually wrong.

Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President of India (Article 75), not the Prime Minister. However, in practice, the President acts **on the advice of the Prime Minister**, so the PM can recommend removal — but **constitutionally**, the **President** is the appointing and dismissing authority. Thus, this statement confuses constitutional authority with political reality, making it **incorrect in terms of the constitutional provision**.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify constitutional articles** relevant to the keyword — here, Article 75(3) relates directly to collective responsibility.
- Be clear on the **distinction between legal authority** and **political convention**.
- Look for **absolutist or misattributed phrases** — e.g., "pleasure of the Prime Minister" is a classic UPSC trap.
- Always verify **who appoints and who removes** ministers — the President does both, on advice of PM.
- In elimination, once you spot one **incorrect** statement in a "which is/are incorrect" question, double-check others to confirm they are accurate.

9. Correct Option: (a) Committee on Public Undertakings

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Identify the historical context and committee size

The question mentions that the committee was:

- Created in **1964**
- Based on the **recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee**
- Initially had **15 members** (10 Lok Sabha + 5 Rajya Sabha)

- Membership increased in **1974** to **22 members** (15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha)

This exact description matches only **one** committee in the Indian parliamentary system — the **Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU)**.

Step 2: Cross-check the details with known facts

Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU):

- Established in **1964**
- Based on the recommendation of the **Krishna Menon Committee**
- Originally had **15 members** (10 from Lok Sabha, 5 from Rajya Sabha)
- After 1974, its strength increased to **22 members** (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha)
- It examines reports and accounts of **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** and ensures they are run efficiently and economically.

Now eliminate other options:

(b) Estimates Committee:

- Existed since **pre-independence** (formed in 1921 under British rule, reconstituted after 1950)
- It has **30 members**, all from **Lok Sabha only**
- Hence, doesn't match the description.

(c) Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

- Established in **1921**, one of the oldest committees
- Currently has **22 members** (15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha)
- But was **not formed in 1964**, and **not on Krishna Menon's recommendation**
- So, doesn't match the historical reference

(d) Parliamentary Affairs Committee:

- This is a **Cabinet committee**, not a **Parliamentary committee**
- Hence, not relevant here.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Focus on keywords like years, membership, and recommendations** — they often directly point to a specific committee.
- Know the difference between **standing committees, financial committees, and cabinet committees**.
- Committees like **PAC, Estimates, and COPU** often appear in UPSC questions due to their role in **financial accountability**.

- Eliminate options based on structural clues — e.g., “only Lok Sabha” or “not a parliamentary committee.”

10. Correct Option: (b) 1 and 4 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Statement 1: The Deputy Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha from among themselves.

This is **correct**.

As per **Article 93** of the Constitution, the Lok Sabha shall, as soon as may be, choose two members to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The election is **done internally by the Lok Sabha**, and the Deputy Speaker is chosen from among its own members.

Statement 2: The Deputy Speaker holds office during the pleasure of the President.

This is **incorrect**.

Unlike ministers, the Deputy Speaker **does not hold office during the pleasure of the President**.

He/she can be **removed from office only by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha**, after giving due notice — similar to the Speaker. Hence, this is a **common trap statement** — and must be rejected.

Statement 3: The Deputy Speaker presides over the joint sitting of Parliament in the absence of the Speaker.

This is **incorrect**.

In case of a joint sitting (under Article 108), the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides**, and if the Speaker is absent, the **Deputy Speaker does not preside**.

Instead, the **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** presides.

If both are absent, then **any other person as determined by the members present** may preside.

Statement 4: The Deputy Speaker does not vacate office when the Lok Sabha is dissolved.

This is **correct**.

Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker **continues in office until the first meeting of the new Lok Sabha** after the general elections.

This ensures **continuity of presiding authority** even when the House is not in session.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Always **distinguish between constitutional offices and executive**

offices — not all hold office at the pleasure of the President.

- Learn the **hierarchy of presiding officers** in different parliamentary contexts — Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and joint sittings.
- Use elimination: even if you're unsure about one statement, rejecting known incorrect ones like Statement 2 can help narrow your answer.
- Articles like **93** (on Speaker and Deputy Speaker), **95** (on officiating duties), and **108** (on joint sitting) are high-value and frequently tested.

Final Answer: (b) 1 and 4 only

11. Correct Option: (b) Only two pairs

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Pair 1: President of India — Can seek information from the Prime Minister.

This is **correct**.

As per Article 78 of the Constitution, the Prime Minister is duty-bound to:

- Communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers,
- Provide information relating to the administration of the Union and proposals for legislation,
- Submit for consideration any matter the President may require.

Therefore, the President **can seek information** from the Prime Minister. Pair 1 is **correctly matched**.

Pair 2: Prime Minister — Appointed by the Lok Sabha

This is **incorrect**.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of India under Article 75(1). Though the PM must enjoy the confidence of the **majority in the Lok Sabha**, the formal appointment is made by the President — not by the House itself.

Hence, Pair 2 is **incorrectly matched**.

Pair 3: Attorney General of India — Has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of Parliament

This is **correct**.

As per Article 88, the Attorney General has the **right to speak and participate** in the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament and any parliamentary committee, but **without the right to vote**.

Thus, Pair 3 is **correctly matched**.

Final Evaluation:

- Pair 1: Correct
- Pair 2: Incorrect
- Pair 3: Correct

So, **only two pairs are correctly matched**.

Final Answer: (b) Only two pairs

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Focus on **who appoints whom** — many mistakes stem from confusing political legitimacy with constitutional process.
- Pay attention to **Article numbers** like 75 (PM appointment), 78 (President–PM communication), and 88 (AG privileges).
- Eliminate pairs based on small but significant words — like “appointed by” or “voting rights.”
- Use elimination wisely — even if unsure about one pair, confirming two correct ones can help lock in the right answer.

12. Correct Option: (a) Only one

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Statement 1: Criteria for their nomination include art, literature, science and social service

This is **correct**.

As per Article 80(3) of the Constitution, the President nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha who have special knowledge or practical experience in **literature, science, art, and social service**.

Hence, this statement is factually and constitutionally accurate.

Statement 2: They are not entitled to vote in the elections of the President and Vice-President

This is **incorrect**.

Nominated members of the **Rajya Sabha** are **entitled to vote in the election of the Vice-President** (because it is conducted by both Houses of Parliament), but **not in the election of the President**, which involves only **elected members** of both Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

So, this statement is partially true but becomes **incorrect** due to the inclusion of both elections.

Statement 3: They are exempted from filing assets under the Representation of the People's Act, 1951

This is incorrect.

All Members of Parliament, **including nominated members**, are required to file **details of their assets and liabilities** under the provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** and related rules.

Hence, this statement is false.

Final Evaluation:

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect
- Statement 3: Incorrect

Only one statement is correct.

Final Answer: (a) Only one

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Watch out for **over-generalizations** — especially when statements club together two aspects (e.g., voting in both President and VP elections).
- Always differentiate between **elected and nominated members** in context-specific functions — such as voting rights.
- Use **Article 80** and knowledge of **electoral procedures** to verify.
- Be aware that **statutory obligations** like asset declaration apply to **all MPs**, whether elected or nominated.

13. Correct Option: (b) 1 and 4 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Statement 1: Pending assurances to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances

- This does **not lapse**.
- Parliamentary assurances are examined regardless of Lok Sabha dissolution.
- The committee continues its function in the next Lok Sabha.

Statement 2: Bill pending in Lok Sabha

- This **lapses** on dissolution.
- Any bill that has not been passed by the Lok Sabha before its dissolution stands void.

Statement 3: Bill passed by Lok Sabha but pending in Rajya Sabha

- This also **lapses**.
- Exception: A money bill passed by Lok Sabha but pending in Rajya Sabha does **not lapse**, but since not specified, assume general bill — hence it lapses.

Statement 4: Bill pending in Rajya Sabha but not passed by Lok Sabha

- This does **not lapse**.
- The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house, and any bill pending only there continues even after Lok Sabha dissolves.

Therefore, statements 1 and 4 are correct.

Final Answer: (b) 1 and 4 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Always identify whether the bill is in **which House** and **what stage** (pending/passed).
- Remember: **Dissolution affects only Lok Sabha**, not Rajya Sabha.
- Bills **pending in Lok Sabha** or **passed by Lok Sabha** but **pending in Rajya Sabha** usually **lapse**.
- Bills **pending only in Rajya Sabha** do **not lapse**.
- Parliamentary committee work (like **assurance committees**) is often **carried forward** even after dissolution.
- Eliminate options by carefully reading the keywords — especially where bills are pending or passed.

14. Correct Option: (d) Guillotine motion

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the context of the question

The question refers to a situation where **time constraints in Parliament** force the House to **put undiscussed clauses or demands to vote without discussion**. This is commonly used during the **budget session** when time is short.

Step 2: Eliminate options one-by-one using concepts

- **Superseding motion:**
 - This is a type of motion that seeks to replace or postpone the consideration of the main motion.
 - **Incorrect** in the context of time constraints or budget demands.
- **Closure by Compartments motion:**
 - This is a type of closure motion where a bill is divided into parts, and each part is voted upon separately.
 - While related to time management, it doesn't **club undiscussed and discussed parts together**.
 - **Incorrect**.

- **Kangaroo Closure:**
 - This is a procedure mainly used in the British Parliament where **only selected parts of a bill are discussed**, and others are skipped or voted upon directly.
 - India does not officially use this term.
 - **Eliminate** as inappropriate terminology.
- **Guillotine Motion:**
 - This is the correct answer.
 - In India, especially during budget sessions, **when time is short**, the Speaker applies the “Guillotine” on the remaining demands for grants, and **all undiscussed demands are put to vote together** without discussion.
 - **Correct.**

Final Answer: (d) Guillotine motion

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Link the context** (e.g., time constraint, pending discussion) with specific Parliamentary devices.
- Focus on **unique Parliamentary vocabulary** used in Indian polity — “Guillotine,” “Adjournment,” “No-confidence,” etc.
- If unfamiliar terms appear (e.g., Kangaroo closure), try **eliminating** based on your knowledge of Indian practices.
- Master **Parliamentary motions and tools** — often asked in UPSC Prelims to test application and terminology.
- Remember: **Budget session + time shortage = Guillotine motion.**

15. Correct Option: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the meaning of Original Jurisdiction

Original jurisdiction refers to the authority of a court to hear a case for the first time, rather than on appeal. In the context of the Indian Constitution, Article 131 confers original jurisdiction on the Supreme Court to resolve disputes involving the Centre and one or more States, or between different States. These are federal disputes and are directly entertained by the Supreme Court.

Step 2: Statement-wise Analysis

Statement-I: The power to resolve federal disputes is entrusted to the Supreme Court of India under its original jurisdiction.

This is correct. The Supreme Court has the exclusive original jurisdiction under Article 131 to deal with federal disputes.

Statement-II: The Supreme Court can hear such disputes in the first instance and not by way of appeal.

This is also correct. It defines original jurisdiction precisely — such cases are not heard in subordinate courts before coming to the Supreme Court.

Step 3: Evaluate the Relationship

Statement-II is not just correct but also explains Statement-I. The essence of Article 131 is that such federal disputes are entertained directly by the Supreme Court in the first instance, which means the explanation provided in Statement-II clarifies the context of Statement-I.

Final Answer: (a)

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Break down the terms used — here, ‘original jurisdiction’ must be understood precisely.
- Go statement by statement: First verify correctness independently, then assess if there is a cause–effect or explanation relationship.
- Remember that Article 131 grants the Supreme Court exclusive jurisdiction to resolve certain Centre–State or inter-State disputes.
- Be cautious of keywords like “explain,” “because,” and “in the first instance,” as they can decide the right option when both statements are true.

16. Correct Option: (a) Only one

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Legal Status of Lok Adalats

Lok Adalats are statutory bodies established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. They function to ensure speedy, cost-effective, and informal dispute resolution, especially in compoundable civil and criminal cases.

Now let us evaluate the statements one by one:

Statement 1: An award made by the Lok Adalat is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies before any court against it.

Correct. According to Section 21 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the award of the Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be a decree of a civil court and shall be final and binding on all the parties. No appeal shall lie to any court against the award.

Statement 2: Its decision is deemed to be decree of a civil court and it deals in matters related to civil cases only.

Incorrect. While it is true that the Lok Adalat's award is treated as a decree of a civil court, it does not deal with only civil matters. It can also take up compoundable criminal cases, motor accident claims, public utility disputes, labour disputes, etc.

Statement 3: Once a litigant has approached the Lok Adalat for the settlement/compromise, he/she cannot go back to the court.

Incorrect. This is not true. If no compromise or settlement is arrived at, the matter is returned to the regular court for disposal in accordance with the law. The parties are not barred from going back to the original court.

Step 2: Tally the Correct Statements

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect
- Statement 3: Incorrect
- Hence, only one statement is correct.

Final Answer: (a) Only one

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Know the statute:** Be aware of the Legal Services Authorities Act and what it enables Lok Adalats to do.
- **Keyword spotting:** Absolutist phrases like "only civil cases" or "cannot go back" should be treated with suspicion and verified.
- **Check for layered concepts:** Many statements mix truth with half-truths; don't get misled by partially correct framing.
- **Remember the scope of jurisdiction:** Lok Adalats deal with both civil and compoundable criminal cases, which is frequently tested.

17. Correct Option: (a) Only one

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Legal Status of Lok Adalats

Lok Adalats are statutory bodies established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. They aim to provide inexpensive and speedy

justice through compromise and settlement, especially in civil and compoundable criminal cases.

Now let us evaluate the statements one by one:

- **Statement 1:** An award made by the Lok Adalat is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies before any court against it. This is correct. According to Section 21 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the award of the Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be a decree of a civil court and shall be final and binding on all parties. No appeal shall lie to any court against the award.
- **Statement 2:** Its decision is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and it deals in matters related to civil cases only. This is incorrect. While the award is treated as a decree of a civil court, Lok Adalats are not limited to civil cases. They also entertain compoundable criminal cases, labour disputes, motor accident claims, and public utility cases.
- **Statement 3:** Once a litigant has approached the Lok Adalat for the settlement/compromise, he/she cannot go back to the court. This is incorrect. If no compromise or settlement is reached in the Lok Adalat, the matter is returned to the regular court, and the parties are free to pursue litigation.

Step 2: Tally the Correct Statements

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect
- Statement 3: Incorrect

Hence, only one statement is correct.

Final Answer: (a) Only one

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Know the statute clearly:** Be familiar with the Legal Services Authorities Act and what powers it grants to Lok Adalats.
- **Watch for absolutist words:** Terms like "only" or "cannot" often point to extreme or incorrect statements — flag them.
- **Break down compound statements:** Evaluate each part of a statement. Sometimes one part is true and the other false.
- **Recall the types of cases handled:** Remember that Lok Adalats deal with both civil and compoundable criminal cases — not just one.
- **Check appealability and binding nature:** Focus on sections like Section 21 of the Act to verify legal correctness.

18. Correct Option: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the concept of “Office of Profit”

The term *Office of Profit* is not explicitly defined in the Constitution but has been interpreted through judicial rulings and parliamentary practices. It aims to maintain the independence of legislators by preventing the executive from influencing them with government positions that offer financial benefits.

Let us examine each of the three statements.

Statement 1: Whether the government makes the appointment.

Correct. If the appointment is made by the government, it indicates that the office is held under the government. This is one of the key tests to identify an office of profit.

Statement 2: If the government has the right to remove or dismiss the holder.

Correct. The government's control over tenure and removal reflects that the post is subordinate to the executive. This is also a relevant factor in determining whether it is an office of profit.

Statement 3: Any remuneration is paid to the person from government.

Correct. Receipt of financial benefits such as salary, allowances, or perks from the public exchequer indicates that the office offers profit and is thus suspect under this doctrine.

All three criteria are used by courts to assess whether a position constitutes an “Office of Profit.”

Final Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Understand the doctrine behind the office of profit — its objective is to uphold legislative independence from the executive.
- Learn the key tests used by courts to determine whether an office is an office of profit (appointment by government, power of removal, remuneration, etc.).
- Do not assume that all offices held under the government are automatically disqualifying — several are exempted by law.
- Read each statement carefully, especially in multi-statement questions. One may seem partially true, but precision matters in Prelims.
- Be careful with strong words like “any,” “only,” and “must,” which often appear in tricky options and require careful validation.

19. Correct Option: (d) All three Statements are correct

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the role of a District Judge under the Indian judicial system

The District Judge is the highest judicial authority in a district and exercises both judicial and administrative functions under the supervision of the High Court of the state.

Evaluating the Statements One by One:

Statement-I: A District Judge possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters.

This statement is correct. Under the Code of Civil Procedure and Code of Criminal Procedure, the District Judge (in civil matters) and Sessions Judge (in criminal matters) hold both original and appellate jurisdiction, depending on the nature and gravity of the case. These jurisdictions make the District Court the principal court of original civil jurisdiction and a court of appeal in specified matters.

Statement-II: A District Judge has the power to impose any sentence, including capital punishment, subject to confirmation by the High Court.

This statement is correct. When functioning as a Sessions Judge, the District Judge can impose any sentence permissible under law, including life imprisonment and death penalty. However, capital punishment requires confirmation by the High Court under Section 366 of the CrPC.

Statement-III: The District Judge also acts as the head of the District Judiciary and supervises the functioning of all subordinate courts within the district.

This statement is correct. The District Judge is the administrative head of the entire district judiciary. He or she supervises and inspects the subordinate judiciary, handles transfers, and ensures proper judicial functioning, reporting to the High Court.

Final Assessment:

- Statement I – Correct
- Statement II – Correct
- Statement III – Correct

Correct Answer: (d) All three Statements are correct

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Understand judicial hierarchy: Know the powers and functions of various judicial officers — District Judge, Magistrate, Munsiff, etc.

- Look for interconnected roles: District Judge and Sessions Judge are not separate posts; the same person may serve both roles.
- Identify legal qualifiers: Words like “subject to confirmation by High Court” are legally significant and must be noted.
- Avoid assumptions based on title alone: “District Judge” also implies administrative responsibilities, not just courtroom powers.
- Use elimination wisely: If even one statement is clearly false, eliminate options accordingly.

20. Correct Option: (a) 1 and 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand What Special Leave Petition (SLP) Is

Special Leave Petition is a provision under Article 136 of the Constitution that empowers the Supreme Court of India to grant leave to appeal against any judgment or order of any court or tribunal (except military tribunals). It serves as a residual or discretionary power of the Supreme Court and is an extraordinary remedy.

Evaluation of Statements

Statement 1: Constitution of India has given power to the Supreme Court to hear a petition as an appeal even if a high court refuses to grant the certificate of fitness for the appeal.

Correct. Under Articles 132 to 134, a High Court certificate is generally required to appeal to the Supreme Court. However, Article 136 overrides this by enabling the Supreme Court to grant leave even when the High Court refuses the certificate. Thus, the Supreme Court can entertain an SLP without the High Court’s permission.

Statement 2: It is a discretionary power of the Supreme Court and cannot be claimed as a matter of right.

Correct. SLP is not a right, but an extraordinary discretionary power of the Supreme Court. The petitioner must convince the court that there is substantial legal or constitutional importance. The Court can accept or reject the petition without giving reasons.

Statement 3: Special leave petition can be granted only if judgment is final but not interlocutory.

Incorrect. While the Court typically entertains SLPs against final judgments, it can also entertain appeals against interlocutory orders (interim judgments) if the matter involves grave injustice or constitutional importance. Therefore, SLP is not limited only to final judgments.

Tally of Correct Statements

- Statement 1 – Correct
- Statement 2 – Correct
- Statement 3 – Incorrect

Final Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Identify constitutional articles relevant to the topic (e.g., Article 136 for SLP).
- Watch out for extreme or absolute words like “only”, “always”, or “never”.
- Differentiate between rights and discretionary powers — not all legal remedies are enforceable as a matter of right.
- Learn key legal distinctions — such as final vs. interlocutory orders.
- Use elimination — even if one statement is clearly false, eliminate options accordingly.

21. Correct Option: (c) All three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Role of *Amicus Curiae*

The term *amicus curiae* (Latin for “friend of the court”) refers to a lawyer appointed by the court to assist in legal proceedings — not to represent any party, but to offer independent legal insight. It helps the court in cases where legal clarity, public interest, or representation of an unrepresented party is required.

Statement-wise Evaluation

Statement 1: In any matter of general public importance

Correct. Courts may appoint senior advocates as *amicus curiae* in Public Interest Litigations (PILs), constitutional matters, and issues involving significant public or national importance. These experts help the court in clarifying the law, suggesting policy implications, or balancing competing interests (e.g., environment, electoral reform, etc.).

Statement 2: If the accused is unrepresented

Correct. In criminal trials, especially where the accused cannot afford legal counsel, courts — to ensure a fair trial as per Article 21 and the Legal Services Authorities Act — may appoint an *amicus curiae* or legal aid advocate. This ensures due process is not compromised.

Statement 3: If the accused is represented but his/her counsel is absent

Correct. Even when an accused has legal representation, but the advocate is absent (due to delay, withdrawal, or tactical absenteeism), courts have discretion to appoint *amicus curiae* temporarily. This ensures proceedings are not stalled and the accused's rights are protected.

Tally of Correct Statements

- Statement 1 – Correct
- Statement 2 – Correct
- Statement 3 – Correct

Final Answer: (c) All three

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Understand the legal doctrine or institution** being asked (here, *amicus curiae*).
- **Break down each scenario** and evaluate it against legal practice or constitutional provisions.
- **Identify keywords** like “unrepresented,” “absent,” “public importance” — and link them with case law or constitutional rights (especially Article 21 and 39A).
- **Beware of trap phrasing**—even partially true statements may be fully incorrect.
- **Think from a judicial perspective** — Would justice require assistance from a neutral expert in that scenario?

22. Correct Option: (b) 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision Involved

- The question refers to **Article 252** of the Indian Constitution.
- Under Article 252, Parliament can **legislate on matters in the State List**, but **only when two or more State Legislatures pass a resolution requesting** such a law.
- This is an exception to the general rule that only state legislatures legislate on State List subjects.

Step 2: Evaluate Each Statement

Statement 1: Any such law passed by the Parliament automatically applies to all the states of India.

- **Incorrect.** Article 252 laws apply only to those states that passed the resolution in the first place.
- Other states can **opt-in** later by passing similar resolutions, but the law **does not automatically extend** to all states.

- Hence, the statement makes an incorrect generalisation.

Statement 2: Such a law can be amended or repealed only by the Parliament.

- **Correct.** Once Parliament enacts a law under Article 252, **only Parliament can amend or repeal it**.
- Even though the subject belongs to the State List, **states lose the power to alter that law** once it's enacted by Parliament under this provision.
- The initiating states must again pass a resolution to request any changes — **they cannot do it unilaterally**.

Step 3: Conclude and Choose the Correct Option

- Statement 1 is **incorrect**.
- Statement 2 is **correct**.

Final Answer: (b) 2 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the Article Involved:** Article 252 deals with State List laws made by Parliament on state request.
- **Do not assume universality:** Just because Parliament makes a law doesn't mean it applies to all states unless specified.
- **Look for legislative power transfer:** Article 252 temporarily transfers power to Parliament — but only Parliament can later amend/repeal such laws.
- **Be alert to absolute terms:** Words like “automatically” or “all states” should raise a red flag.
- **Apply cooperative federalism logic:** Indian federalism often requires states to voluntarily coordinate — not accept uniform imposition unless Constitution permits.

23. Correct Option: (a) 1 and 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the scope of Article 356

- **Article 356** allows the **President to impose President's Rule** in a state if he is satisfied that the governance of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- However, the use of this provision is **subject to judicial review**, especially after the landmark **SR Bommai judgment (1994)** by the Supreme Court.

Step 2: Evaluate each statement**Statement 1: Maladministration in a state**

- **Improper ground.**
- The SR Bommai case clearly stated that **maladministration or inefficiency is not a valid ground** for invoking Article 356.
- These are **not violations of the Constitution**, and the solution lies in democratic processes, not dismissal of the government.

Statement 2: Allegations of corruption against the ministry

- **Improper ground.**
- **Corruption allegations**, unless leading to **constitutional breakdown**, cannot justify President's Rule.
- Such matters should be addressed via **investigations, courts, and the legislature**, not Article 356.

Statement 3: Internal subversion or physical breakdown in a state

- **Proper ground.**
- If there's **internal subversion**, armed rebellion, or complete breakdown of law and order, and the **state machinery is unable to function**, it may lead to **constitutional failure**, which can be valid ground under Article 356.

Statement 4: Disregard of a constitutional direction of Centre by a state

- **Proper ground.**
- Article 365 says that if a state fails to comply with a constitutional direction from the Centre, it can be deemed as a situation warranting Article 356.
- This is considered a **constitutional breakdown** and thus, a **valid trigger**.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- **Improper grounds:** 1 and 2
- **Proper grounds:** 3 and 4

Final Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims**

- **Link with SR Bommai case:** Always recall this judgment while evaluating legitimacy of President's Rule.
- **Differentiate between political and constitutional breakdown:** Not all political crises amount to a constitutional breakdown.
- **Watch for Article 365:** It's often used in conjunction with Article 356 for non-compliance cases.

- **Check for misuse:** UPSC often tests your ability to spot where constitutional provisions are being stretched beyond their intent.

- **Elimination Technique:** Eliminate options that include clearly improper grounds like maladministration or unproven allegations.

24. Correct Option: (b) 2 only**Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer****Step 1: Understand the Constitutional and Legal Provisions**

- **Article 262** of the Constitution deals with the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers or river valleys.
- It provides Parliament the power to:
 - Make laws for the adjudication of inter-State water disputes.
 - Exclude the jurisdiction of all courts, including the Supreme Court, over such disputes.
- In pursuance of Article 262, the **Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956** was enacted.

Step 2: Evaluate the Statements**Statement 1: The concerned states can form a separate tribunal to deal with such disputes.**

- **Incorrect.**
 - States do not have the power to form their own tribunals.
 - Only the **Central Government** is empowered, under the **Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956**, to constitute a tribunal upon receiving a complaint from one or more states.
 - This is a **Union subject**, not a matter of state discretion.

Statement 2: Parliament can exclude any court from exercising jurisdiction in such a matter.

- **Correct.**
 - As per **Article 262(2)**, Parliament may by law provide that **neither the Supreme Court nor any other court** shall have jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute.
 - This power has been exercised via the Inter-State Water Disputes Act.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Incorrect
- Statement 2: Correct

Final Answer: (b) 2 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Go back to the Constitution:** When in doubt, trace the article being referred to. Article 262 is directly relevant here.
- **Statutory Framework:** Know the acts passed under constitutional articles. The 1956 Act is important for water disputes.
- **Beware of decentralization traps:** Water is a state subject, but inter-state disputes are centrally adjudicated.
- **Absolute Power Indicators:** Statements that imply states forming tribunals independently are usually suspect — such adjudicatory mechanisms are centrally controlled in inter-state issues.
- **Check for exclusion clauses:** Jurisdiction of courts being barred is a special constitutional feature — always worth remembering when it appears.

25. Correct Option: (c) All three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand Each Term

Pair 1: Expunction

- Meaning: Expunction refers to the deletion of specific words or expressions from the official parliamentary records.
- Who Can Order It: The Presiding Officer (i.e., the Chairman in Rajya Sabha or the Speaker in Lok Sabha) can order expunction.
- When: If the language used is considered defamatory, indecent, or unparliamentary.
- Verdict: Correctly matched.

Pair 2: Adjournment sine die

- Meaning: “Sine die” means “without a day.”
- Parliamentary Usage: When a House is adjourned without setting a date for the next meeting.
- Note: The House may or may not be reconvened depending on decision of the Presiding Officer or Executive.
- Verdict: Correctly matched.

Pair 3: Casting Vote

- Meaning: A vote cast by the Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman) in the case of a tie—when the number of votes in favor and against a motion are equal.
- Who Can Use It: Chairman (Rajya Sabha) and Speaker (Lok Sabha), as the case may be.
- Verdict: Correctly matched.

Step 2: Count the Correctly Matched Pairs

- Pair 1: Correct
- Pair 2: Correct
- Pair 3: Correct
- Total Correctly Matched Pairs = 3

Final Answer: (c) All three

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Clarify Similar Concepts: Parliamentary terms often look similar but differ greatly — for example, adjournment vs prorogation vs dissolution.
- Check for Presiding Authority: Always note who is authorized to do what — Speaker vs Chairman.
- Focus on Context: Many terms are situation-specific. For instance, casting vote is not a regular vote — only used in a tie.
- Revise From Source Documents: Read through official parliamentary procedure documents or NCERT and textbook for such definitions.

26. Correct Option: (b) 2 and 3 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

Statement: *The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha has a constitutional recognition.*

- **Incorrect.**
- The **Leader of Opposition** is not a **constitutional post**.
- It is a **statutory position**, defined under the *Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977*.
- There is **no mention** of this post in the Constitution of India.

Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

Statement: *S/he is entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.*

- **Correct.**
- As per the 1977 Act, the Leader of Opposition in both Houses of Parliament gets **salary, allowances, and perks at par with a Cabinet Minister**.

Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

Statement: *Opposition Party must have not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House to be accorded as the Leader of the Opposition in that House.*

- **Correct.**

- As per **Direction 121(c)** of the Speaker, **Lok Sabha**, for a party to be recognized as the Official Opposition, it must have **at least 10% of the total membership** of the House.

Final Tally

- Statement 1 – Incorrect
- Statement 2 – Correct
- Statement 3 – Correct

Correct Option: (b) 2 and 3 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Always cross-check Constitutional vs. Statutory status.**
 - Many posts (like CAG, EC) are constitutional, while others (like NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman, LoP) are not.
- Remember numerical thresholds.**
 - 10% rule for LoP recognition is not in the Constitution but in procedural directions of Lok Sabha Speaker.
- Use elimination technique.**
 - If even one statement is definitively wrong (e.g., constitutional status here), eliminate all options containing it.
- Link to current affairs.**
 - Recall how in 2014 and 2019, no party was officially recognized as opposition in Lok Sabha because they didn't meet the 10% criterion.

27. Correct Option: (c) 2 and 3 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

Statement: *Indian Constitution has adopted American model for the appointment of Governor.*

- Incorrect.**
- In the **American system**, the **Governor is elected** by the people of the state.
- India follows the Canadian model, where the Governor is appointed by the Centre (**President**) and not elected.
- Hence, this statement is factually wrong.

Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

Statement: *The Governor is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.*

- Correct.**
- Article 155 of the Constitution provides that the **Governor shall be appointed by the**

President by warrant under his hand and seal.

- This is a standard constitutional procedure for such appointments.

Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

Statement: *S/He should have completed the age of 35 years.*

- Correct.**
- As per **Article 157**, a person shall be qualified to be appointed as Governor if:
 - (a) he is a citizen of India, and
 - (b) has completed the age of **35 years**.

Final Tally

- Statement 1 – Incorrect
- Statement 2 – Correct
- Statement 3 – Correct

Correct Option: (c) 2 and 3 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Understand comparative models.**
 - India adopts **parliamentary features from Britain** and **federal features from Canada**, not the USA in this case.
- Recall exact constitutional articles.**
 - Article 155: Appointment of Governor
 - Article 157: Qualifications for appointment as Governor
- Be cautious of age-related traps.**
 - For Governor: **35 years**
 - For President: **35 years**
 - For Rajya Sabha: **30 years**
 - For Lok Sabha: **25 years**
- Eliminate options using extreme or obviously incorrect claims.**
 - Statement 1 makes an incorrect comparative claim, which can be eliminated directly.

28. Correct Option: (b) Without consent of any State

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision

- Article 253 of the Indian Constitution empowers Parliament to make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing:
 - Any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country, or

- Any decision made at an international conference, association, or other body.

Step 2: Note the Override of Federal Distribution

- Even if the subject matter falls under the State List, Parliament can make laws to implement such international obligations.
- This provision overrides the federal division of legislative subjects. Parliament does not require the consent or ratification of States to legislate under Article 253.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect

(a) **With necessary ratification of minimum fifty percent of States** Incorrect. Article 253 does not require any ratification by States. This is applicable in constitutional amendments under Article 368 in specific cases, not here.

(c) **With necessary consent of all the States and Union Territories** Incorrect. Consent of States or UTs is not required under Article 253.

(d) **With necessary guidance of United Nations** Incorrect. Indian Parliament is sovereign in its legislative domain and does not require UN guidance for making laws.

Final Answer: (b) Without consent of any State

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Focus on specific articles like Article 253 when it comes to treaty obligations and international decisions.
- Eliminate options that mention consent or ratification by States, which is not a requirement in this case.
- Understand the federal exceptions—Article 253 is one such exception where Parliament acts in a unitary capacity.
- Watch out for invented phrases like “UN guidance” or “50% ratification” which are not grounded in the Constitution.

29. Correct Option: (c) Both 1 and 2

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Concept of “Office of Profit”

- The **Office of Profit** is not defined explicitly in the Constitution but has been elaborated through **judicial interpretations** and **Parliamentary Acts**.
- Holding an office of profit under the government may **disqualify a legislator** under Article 102(1)(a) (for MPs) and Article 191(1)(a) (for MLAs), unless that office is exempted by law.

under Article 102(1)(a) (for MPs) and Article 191(1)(a) (for MLAs), unless that office is exempted by law.

Step 2: Judicial Criteria to Identify “Office of Profit”

- The courts have outlined **key criteria** for determining whether a post is an office of profit:
 - Who makes the appointment?
 - Who has the power of removal?
 - Who determines the remuneration?
 - What are the functions of the office and who exercises control over them?
 - Whether the government provides any financial or material benefit (e.g., salary, perks, land, housing, allowances, or licenses).

Step 3: Evaluate the Statements

- **Statement1:** Correct. If the **government controls the appointment, removal, and functioning of an office**, it indicates **institutional and financial dependency**, satisfying key parameters of office of profit.
- **Statement2:** Correct. If the **government provides financial benefits** (such as land, licenses, or grants), this is seen as material benefit — another criterion to define an office of profit.

Final Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Link it to Constitutional Articles:** Understand relevance to **Article 102 and 191**.
- **Remember Supreme Court Judgments:** In cases like *Jaya Bachchan v. Union of India (2006)*, the court laid down multiple parameters for defining “office of profit.”
- **Focus on Control and Benefit:** Two key components are **government control** and **material benefit**.
- **Avoid Overgeneralization:** Not all government-associated roles are “office of profit” unless they meet the key criteria.

30. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement 1: Incorrect.

The **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** under the **Ministry of Finance** is the nodal agency responsible for budget preparation. The **Department of Revenue** deals primarily with tax collection and formulation of tax policies.

Statement 2: Correct.

The **Appropriation Bill** allows the government to withdraw funds from the **Consolidated Fund of India**. Its passage by Parliament and subsequent assent by the President marks the **completion of the budget enactment process**.

Statement 3: Correct.

Article 112 of the Indian Constitution refers to the **Annual Financial Statement**, which is the constitutional term for the **Union Budget**.

Tally of Correct Statements

- Statement 1: Incorrect
- Statement 2: Correct
- Statement 3: Correct

Final Answer: (b) Only two**How to Approach Such Questions**

- Always recall the **exact constitutional article** related to the subject (e.g., Article 112 for Budget).
- **Eliminate departments logically**—identify which department leads vs. supports budget activities.
- Understand the **procedural steps in budget enactment**—Estimates→Demand for Grants→Appropriation Bill→Finance Bill.
- Beware of **common confusion** between budget preparation (DEA) and revenue collection (Department of Revenue).
- Spot extreme or absolute language in statements (e.g., “responsible for preparation”) and verify with actual policy documents.

31. Correct Option: (a) 1 only**Step-by-Step Explanation:****Statement 1: Correct**

- **Zero Hour** is an *informal parliamentary innovation* in India, not mentioned in the rules of procedure. It starts immediately after Question Hour and allows MPs to raise urgent matters without prior notice.
- **Calling Attention Motion**, on the other hand, is a *formal device* in both Houses. It allows a member to call a minister's attention to an urgent matter of public importance, and the minister responds with a statement.

Statement 2: Incorrect

- It is actually the **Calling Attention Motion** that is part of the **Rules of Procedure**, particularly in the Rajya Sabha (but not

formally in Lok Sabha rules—it exists by convention).

- **Zero Hour**, despite being widely practiced, is **not mentioned** in the Rules of Procedure of either House. It is purely a **convention**, started in 1962.

Final Answer: (a) 1 only**How to Approach Such Questions**

- **Classify procedural vs informal devices** — Know which instruments are formally recognized (e.g., Calling Attention Motion) and which are conventions (e.g., Zero Hour).
- **Link keywords carefully** — “Mentioned in Rules of Procedure” is a factual clue. Double-check it for tools like Zero Hour, which are not codified.
- **Recall origin and nature** — Zero Hour is an Indian innovation post-1962; Calling Attention Motion was borrowed from British practices.
- **Apply elimination** — If one part of a statement has a factual error (like Statement 2), you can eliminate options confidently.

32. Correct Option: (a) Only one**Step-by-Step Explanation:****Statement 1: Incorrect**

- **Article 117(1) and (3)** of the Constitution state that a *Financial Bill cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha*.
- All Financial Bills **must be introduced only in the Lok Sabha**.
- So, any **Financial Bill (whether Type I or Type II) involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha**.

Statement 2: Correct

- **Financial Bills (Type II)** under Article 117(1) and (3), unlike Money Bills, **can be rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha**.
- However, **Money Bills cannot be referred to a Joint Committee**, but **Financial Bills can**.
- But this statement **only says**: “cannot be referred to a Joint Committee” — this is **incorrect** if the statement is assumed for all financial bills.
- Since the phrasing is ambiguous, **on cautious interpretation, this statement is partially correct** — applicable only to **Money Bills**.

- For Financial Bills (Article 117(1)), Joint Committee is allowed, so we treat the statement as incorrect overall.

However, if we revise this understanding:

- Money Bills cannot be referred to a Joint Committee.
- But Financial Bills (non-Money) can be referred to a Joint Committee.
- Since the statement doesn't specify the type, and says "Financial Bills" broadly, it is Incorrect.

Hence, Statement 2 is Incorrect.

Statement 3: Correct

- All Financial Bills, whether they are Money Bills or other Financial Bills, require the President's recommendation for introduction in Parliament.
- This is clearly mentioned in Article 117(1) and 117(3).

Final Tally:

- Statement 1 – Incorrect
- Statement 2 – Incorrect
- Statement 3 – Correct

Only one statement is correct.

Final Answer: (a) Only one

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Know the classification clearly:**
 - Money Bills – Article 110
 - Financial Bills (Type I) – Article 117(1)
 - Financial Bills (Type II) – Article 117(3)
- Memorize Introduction Rule:**
 - All financial/money bills can only be introduced in Lok Sabha with President's prior recommendation.
- Rajya Sabha's Role:**
 - Money Bills – Cannot amend/reject, only recommend.
 - Financial Bills – Rajya Sabha has equal powers (except for Money Bills).
- Keyword traps:**
 - Be wary of general terms like "Financial Bill" if the statement doesn't specify type.
 - If it generalizes, consider exceptions and common interpretation pitfalls.

33. Correct Option: (a) 1 only

Step-by-Step Explanation:

Statement 1: The formation of Cabinet Committees is extra-constitutional in nature

- Correct.
- Cabinet Committees are not mentioned in the Constitution.
- They are formed under the Rules of Business of the Government of India, 1961, which are executive instructions.
- Hence, they are extra-constitutional but legal.

Statement 2: Establishment or discontinuation must be approved by the Lok Sabha

- Incorrect.
- Cabinet Committees are established, restructured, or discontinued by the Prime Minister as per administrative convenience.
- There is no requirement of Lok Sabha approval.
- These are intra-executive mechanisms and not part of the parliamentary procedures.

Final Verdict:

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect

Correct Answer: (a) 1 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Understand the Constitutional vs Extra-Constitutional Distinction**
 - Anything not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution but legally permissible (like Cabinet Committees, NITI Aayog) is extra-constitutional.
- Know Who Controls What**
 - Cabinet Committees are executive mechanisms—controlled by the Prime Minister, not the Parliament.
- Avoid Getting Trapped by "Must Be Approved" Wording**
 - Statements with rigid phrases like "must be approved by Lok Sabha" should raise red flags — always verify against constitutional or legal procedures.
- Revise Administrative Tools**
 - Keep track of things like Cabinet Committees, Group of Ministers (GoMs), Empowered Groups of Ministers (EGoMs), etc., and their nature.

34. Correct Option: (d) Bureaucracy

Step-by-Step Explanation:

Step 1: Understand the Concept of Executive

In a parliamentary system, the **executive** refers to the body that is responsible for implementing laws and running the administration of the country. It is divided into:

- **Political Executive** (Temporary)
- **Permanent Executive**

Step 2: Who is the Permanent Executive?

- **Permanent Executive** refers to **civil servants or bureaucracy**.
- They **remain in office irrespective of political changes**.
- Their role is to **advise the political executive, implement policies, and run day-to-day administration**.
- They are **non-elected** and selected based on merit through the civil services examination.

Step 3: Eliminate the Incorrect Options

(a) Council of Ministers – This is the **political executive**, elected and temporary.

(b) Cabinet – A subset of the Council of Ministers; also part of the **political executive**.

(c) President – While being a **constitutional executive**, the President is also **not permanent** in this sense (elected for 5 years).

(d) Bureaucracy – Correct. They are **appointed, not elected**, and continue to serve irrespective of changes in the political regime.

How to Approach This in UPSC Prelims

- **Know your constitutional vs administrative terms** – ‘Permanent Executive’ is not a constitutional term but a governance concept.
- **Look for contrast with ‘Political Executive’** – UPSC often asks questions that require understanding of this contrast.
- **Remember the role and nature of Bureaucracy** – UPSC loves to test the roles of civil services in both GS and Polity.

35. Correct Option: (d) Separation of power among the three organs of governance is strictly adhered by the constitution with no system of overlap balance.

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement (a): Correct

- Article 368 empowers Parliament to amend the Constitution. The process reflects representative sovereignty but is subject to constitutional limitations (e.g., basic structure doctrine).

Statement (b): Correct

- Amendments affecting federal structure (such as distribution of powers) require ratification by at least half the states, in addition to passage by Parliament and Presidential assent.

Statement (c): Correct

- Constitutional bodies like the Election Commission, CAG, and UPSC are independent and not directly under the control of Legislature or Executive.

Statement (d): Incorrect

- India does **not** follow a rigid separation of powers.
 - There is overlap: executive is part of legislature, judiciary can strike down laws, President has legislative powers (ordinance).
 - Hence, the phrase “strictly adhered... no overlap” is factually wrong.

How to Approach Such Questions in Prelims

- **Identify the keyword** – This question asks for the *incorrect* statement. Always highlight that first in your mind.
- **Watch for extreme language** – Phrases like “strictly adhered” or “no overlap” are red flags.
- **Know Indian exceptions** – Unlike the U.S., India has a *functional* separation of powers with **checks and balances** and institutional overlaps.
- **Revisit doctrine-related questions** – The doctrine of separation of powers is often tested with *conceptual application*, so revise articles, examples, and judicial interpretations (e.g., Kesavananda Bharati case).

36. Correct Option: (c) Both 1 and 2

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement 1: Ministers are not legally responsible for any Act passed by the Parliament

- **Correct.** Ministers are **politically** responsible to the Parliament (specifically Lok Sabha), but **not legally** responsible for Acts of Parliament.

- Once a law is passed, it becomes the law of the land, and ministers are not legally liable for its content unless they violate it as individuals.
- The concept of “**collective responsibility**” under Article 75(3) is **political**, not legal.

Statement 2: President can remove a minister only on the advice of the Prime Minister

- Correct.** Though the President formally appoints and removes ministers, in reality, they do so **only on the advice of the Prime Minister**.
- This is a settled **constitutional convention** upheld by court rulings and is essential to the **Parliamentary system of government**.
- The Prime Minister has the prerogative to choose or drop ministers; the President merely formalises the process.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Clarify types of responsibility** – Understand the difference between **legal**, **political**, and **individual** responsibility of ministers. This is frequently tested.
- Know Article 75(3)** – It provides for **collective responsibility** of the Council of Ministers to the Lok Sabha, which is political, not legal.
- Presidential powers are nominal** – The President **acts on the aid and advice** of the Council of Ministers (read: PM). Any apparent discretion is almost always **formal**.
- Spot subtle traps** – Questions often hide the trap in legal vs. political roles; understanding constitutional conventions helps break down such questions confidently.

37. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement 1: Amount from Consolidated Fund of India is used to recoup the Contingency Fund of India

- Correct.**
 - The **Contingency Fund of India** is an **imprest fund** placed at the disposal of the President to meet unforeseen expenditures.
 - Whenever money is withdrawn from this fund, it must be recouped from the **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)** after due authorization by the Parliament.

Statement 2: The fund is held by the Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of the President of India

- Incorrect.**
 - The **Contingency Fund** is held **by the Finance Secretary** (Department of Expenditure), not the **Department of Economic Affairs**.
 - The Secretary acts on behalf of the **President** for operating this fund.

Statement 3: Like Public Account of India, it is also operated by executive action

- Correct.**
 - Both the **Contingency Fund** and **Public Account** are operated **without prior parliamentary approval**.
 - While parliamentary **post-facto approval** is required for the contingency fund (through recoupment), initial withdrawal is done by **executive action**.

Final Tally of Correct Statements:

- Statement 1 – Correct
- Statement 2 – Incorrect
- Statement 3 – Correct

Therefore, only two statements are correct.

Final Answer: (b) Only two

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Understand the three funds of India** – Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund, and Public Account: their control, purpose, and procedure.
- Pay attention to which authority operates the fund** – many questions hinge on differentiating roles between Departments of Expenditure vs Economic Affairs.
- Focus on parliamentary control** – which funds require prior approval, which require post-facto approval, and which don't require any.
- Eliminate using functional logic** – For example, contingency means urgency, so executive action logically applies before legislative approval.

38. Correct Option: (a) 1 only

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement 1: Whip – The office of whip is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the rules of House nor in the parliamentary statute

- This statement is correct.
- The office of the Whip is based on **parliamentary convention**. It is not explicitly mentioned in the **Constitution**, in the **Rules of Procedure**, or in any **statutory law**.
- Despite this, the Whip plays a crucial role in ensuring party discipline and directing members to vote according to the party line.

Statement 2: Crossing the floor – Passing between the member addressing the House and the Chair which is considered breach of Parliamentary etiquette

- This statement is incorrect.
- The term “**crossing the floor**” refers to a **legislator switching allegiance** from one political party to another, especially from the ruling party to the opposition or vice versa.
- The action described in the statement (walking between a member and the Chair) is a breach of **parliamentary decorum**, but it is **not** what “crossing the floor” means.

Statement 3: Subordinate Legislation – Rules framed by the Executive in pursuance of the power conferred on it by the Constitution

- This statement is also incorrect.
- Subordinate or delegated legislation refers to **rules, regulations, notifications, or orders** made by the **Executive or any delegated authority** under a law passed by the legislature, not directly under the Constitution.
- The Constitution enables Parliament to delegate such powers through statutes; the Executive does not derive them directly from the Constitution.

Number of Correct Statements: Only one (Statement 1)

Final Answer: (a) 1 only

39. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement 1: The initiation of legislation

- **Correct.**
- The Union Executive (particularly the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister) **initiates most of the legislation** in Parliament.
- Although **Parliament enacts laws**, most bills, especially money and policy bills, are introduced by the government (executive).

- So, initiation of legislation is indeed a key executive function in a **parliamentary democracy**.

Statement 2: The promotion and implementation of welfare issues of economy and social issues

- **Correct.**
- The Union Executive is **responsible for policy formulation and implementation**.
- This includes promoting economic development, implementing social welfare schemes (e.g., PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat), and executing programmes across sectors.
- Hence, this is **within the executive's domain**.

Statement 3: It can make laws on subjects that fall within the State List

- **Incorrect.**
- Making laws is the function of the **legislature**, not the executive.
- Moreover, **Union Parliament**, not the Executive, may legislate on the **State List** only under **special circumstances** (e.g., Article 249, during National Emergency, with states' consent etc.).
- The **Executive does not have independent power to make laws**, especially on State subjects.

Number of Correct Statements: Two

Correct Option: (b) Only two

40. Correct Option: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Step-by-Step Explanation

Statement 1: Token Cut Motion

- **Correct.**
- A **Token Cut Motion** is introduced in the Lok Sabha to **draw attention to a specific grievance or issue** within the sphere of responsibility of the executive.
- Although it does not aim to reduce the budget by more than Rs. 100, it **serves as a mechanism to hold the government accountable** and spark a debate on the matter raised.

Statement 2: Scrutiny by Estimates Committee

- **Correct.**
- The **Estimates Committee** (one of the financial committees of Parliament) evaluates whether public funds are being used economically and efficiently.

- It **examines budget estimates**, suggests improvements in efficiency, and thus **ensures parliamentary oversight** over the executive's financial performance.

Statement 3: Auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

- Correct.**
- The **CAG audits all expenditure** from the Consolidated Fund of India and reports directly to the President, who lays it before Parliament.
- These audit reports **reveal mismanagement, inefficiencies, and irregularities** in government functioning, enabling the legislature to hold the executive accountable.

Final Tally: All three are correct

Correct Option: (d) 1, 2 and 3

41. Correct Option: (d) A is false, but R is true

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Roles of Law Officers

- The **highest law officer in India** is the **Attorney General (AG) of India**, not the **Solicitor General**.
- The **Solicitor General** is the **second-highest law officer**, assisting the AG in legal matters.

Step 2: Know the Constitutional vs Statutory Position

- The **Attorney General** is a **constitutional post**, defined under **Article 76 of the Constitution**.
- The **Solicitor General**, however, does **not enjoy constitutional status**. It is a statutory position governed by rules made by the Government under the **Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987**.

Step 3: Verify the Appointment Process

- The **Solicitor General** is appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, headed by the Prime Minister.
- However, technically, **such appointments are made in the name of the President**, which makes the **Reason (R)** technically **correct**, though not constitutionally mandated.

Evaluation of the Statements

- Assertion (A):** Incorrect
 - Solicitor General is **not** the highest law officer and **not a constitutional post**.

- Reason (R):** Correct
 - Appointments are made by the central government and formalised in the **name of the President**.

Final Answer: (d) A is false, but R is true

How to Approach Such Assertion-Reason Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Break the Assertion into Components:** Test each claim (e.g., "highest officer" and "constitutional status") separately.
- Check Reason Independently:** Is the reason factually accurate, even if not directly explanatory?
- Test the Explanation Link:** Ask, "If R is true, does it fully and directly explain A?"
- Know Hierarchies and Posts:** For law officers, always remember:
 - Attorney General** (Constitutional – Article 76)
 - Solicitor General** (Statutory – Executive appointment)
 - Additional Solicitor General** (Subordinate to SG)

42. Correct Option: (a) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision

- Article **217(1)(b)** of the Constitution says that a Judge of a High Court can be removed in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of a Supreme Court judge — i.e., as per Article **124(4)**.
- This process is detailed through the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, not directly in the Constitution.

Step 2: Identify the Procedural Sequence for Removal

- Investigation by Committee (Statement 2):**
 - Once a motion is admitted in either House, the Speaker/Chairman constitutes a **three-member inquiry committee** (comprising a Supreme Court Judge, Chief Justice of a High Court, and a distinguished jurist).
- Framing of Charges (Statement 4):**
 - This inquiry committee frames the **charges** against the Judge based on the motion and conducts an investigation.
- Adoption of Address (Statement 1):**
 - If the committee finds the judge guilty of misbehaviour or incapacity, **both**

Houses of Parliament must adopt an address for removal by **special majority**.

- **Presentation to the President (Statement 3):**

- The adopted address is **then presented to the President**, who issues the order of removal.

Step 3: Eliminate Wrong Options Using Logical Flow

(b) 4–2–1–3 is incorrect: Framing of charges can only follow constitution of the committee (2).

(c) 2–1–4–3 is incorrect: Parliament votes (1) only *after* charges are investigated and established (4).

(d) 1–4–2–3 is incorrect: Parliament cannot adopt a motion before the inquiry committee has acted.

Only **option (a)** preserves the correct order of institutional steps and legal logic.

Final Answer: (a) 2 – 4 – 1 – 3

How to Approach Such Chronology Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Start with the Investigative Authority:** Most constitutional removal or disciplinary procedures begin with an **inquiry or investigation**.
- **Remember Legislative Role Comes After Inquiry:** Parliament's vote happens **only after guilt is established**.
- **End with Formal Executive Order:** The **President acts last** upon the recommendation of Parliament.
- **Familiarize with Key Acts like Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968:** Knowing supporting laws helps decode constitutional silences.
- **Use Keyword Triggers:** Words like “adoption of address,” “committee investigation,” or “presentation to President” signal specific stages.

43. Correct Option: (b) 1 and 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Impeachment Process of the President

- **Article 61** of the Indian Constitution outlines the procedure for **impeachment of the President**.
- **Ground:** The President can only be removed on the **ground of “violation of the Constitution”** — no other ground is valid.

- **Initiation:** The **impeachment motion** can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
- **Voting:** The motion must be passed by a **two-thirds majority of the total membership** of each House (not just those present and voting).
- **Participation:** All **members** of Parliament (elected + nominated) are involved in the impeachment vote.

Step 2: Evaluate Each Statement

- **Statement 1: Correct**

- Explicitly mentioned in Article 61: Only **“violation of the Constitution”** is the valid ground for impeachment.

- **Statement 2: Correct**

- The charges **may be preferred by either House**, as per Article 61(1).

- **Statement 3: Incorrect**

- Both **elected and nominated members** of Parliament participate in the impeachment process.
- Unlike the election of the President (Article 54), which involves only elected members, the impeachment process under Article 61 includes **all MPs**.

Final Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Differentiate Between Election and Removal Processes**
 - **Election:** Only elected members of both Houses + elected MLAs.
 - **Impeachment:** All members of Parliament (nominated included), **only Parliament**, no role of state legislatures.
- **Spot Exclusive Constitutional Grounds**
 - For President: Only **“violation of the Constitution”** — a narrow and strict standard.
- **Know Who Participates When**
 - UPSC often tests confusion between elected/nominated members — always **distinguish carefully** based on context.
- **Memorize Article Numbers**
 - **Article 54** – Election of President
 - **Article 61** – Impeachment process

44. Correct Option: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the General Rule – Article 74(1)

- The President shall act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers (CoM) headed by the Prime Minister.
- However, there are certain situations where the President exercises discretion, either explicitly or implicitly.

Step 2: Examine Each Case

- **Appointment of Prime Minister in a Hung Parliament**

- When no party has a clear majority, the President uses discretion to appoint the person who is most likely to command majority in the Lok Sabha.
- No CoM exists at this stage to offer advice.

- **Exercising Pocket Veto**

- The Constitution does not prescribe any time limit for the President to give assent to ordinary bills (non-money, non-constitutional).
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad and President Zail Singh are known to have exercised pocket veto.
- This is done without Council's advice in exceptional situations.

- **Temporary Delay of Ordinary Legislation**

- Although normally the President gives assent based on CoM advice, delaying assent (not rejecting or accepting immediately) is within Presidential reserve powers, especially if the President has concerns or wants to refer it for reconsideration.
- This is not absolute discretion, but falls outside binding advice initially.

- **Dismissal of CoM when they lose Lok Sabha Confidence**

- If the Council of Ministers fails to prove majority, the President must dismiss it.
- This is a constitutional compulsion, not bound by their advice.
- Example: V.P. Singh's government resignation in 1990.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- All 4 situations involve actions where the President is not bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Final Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Remember: Discretion ≠ Daily Practice**
 - Discretion is rare but critical in constitutional crises or transitions.
- **Know Situational Exceptions**
 - Appointment, Dismissal, Veto powers, and Dissolution-related cases are the usual discretionary domains.
- **Differentiate Binding vs Reserve Powers**
 - Reserve powers are those not explicitly mentioned but have evolved through practice and constitutional conventions.
- **Use Real Examples to Clarify Concepts**
 - Presidents like Zail Singh, K.R. Narayanan, and Kalam have set important precedents on presidential discretion.

45. Correct Option: (b) Cabinet Secretary

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand What the Civil Services Board (CSB) Is

- The Civil Services Board (CSB) is a high-level committee at the Union level.
- It was constituted based on directions of the Supreme Court (2013 – T.S.R. Subramanian case) and subsequent DoPT guidelines.
- The CSB is tasked with:
 - Recommending appointments, transfers, and postings of senior IAS officers (particularly for posts under the Central Government).
 - Ensuring fixed tenures for officers to reduce political interference.

Step 2: Know the Composition of the CSB (as per DoPT guidelines)

At the central level, the CSB typically comprises:

- **Chairman:** Cabinet Secretary (ex-officio)
- **Members:**
 - Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)
 - Secretary of the ministry concerned

This structure may vary slightly for different cadres, but the Cabinet Secretary remains

the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board at the Union level.

Step 3: Evaluate the Options

(a) **Prime Minister** – Head of the government, but **not the CSB chairman**.

(b) **Cabinet Secretary** – **Correct**; he is the **ex-officio chairman** of the CSB.

(c) **Principal Secretary to PM** – Senior official, but not part of the CSB.

(d) **Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions** – Politically in charge of DoPT, but **not the CSB chairman**.

Final Answer: (b) Cabinet Secretary

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Link institutions to their heads:** Learn who chairs bodies like CSB, CVC, NITI Aayog, etc.
- **Don't assume seniority equals chairmanship:** The Prime Minister or ministers may not head every institution.
- **Follow DoPT rules and Supreme Court cases:** These often guide administrative reforms (e.g., TSR Subramanian judgment on CSB).
- **Know the administrative chain of command:** Especially for bodies involved in appointments, postings, and cadre management.

46. Correct Option: (c) Both 1 and 2

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Role and Legal Status of the Delimitation Commission

- The **Delimitation Commission** is a **statutory body** established under the **Delimitation Commission Act**.
- Its main function is to redraw the boundaries of **Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies** based on the latest census.
- It operates **independently of the executive and legislature**.

Step 2: Examine the Legal Finality of the Commission's Orders

- **Orders of the Delimitation Commission have the force of law.**
- As per the **Delimitation Act**, once the Commission's orders are published in the Gazette, they come into effect and cannot be questioned in any court.
- Also, **no changes can be made by the Parliament or the concerned State Legislature** in the Commission's orders.

Step 3: Evaluate Each Statement

• Statement 1: Correct

- The Delimitation Commission's decisions **cannot be challenged in any court of law**. This was specifically incorporated to prevent politicization of the delimitation process.

• Statement 2: Correct

- Once the final order is published, **Parliament or State Assemblies have no power** to alter or modify the delimitation orders.

Final Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the nature of the institution** (e.g., statutory, constitutional, executive).
- **Check for legal immunity or finality:** Some bodies like the Delimitation Commission or Finance Commission enjoy legal finality.
- **Be alert to constitutional vs statutory distinctions** – Statutory bodies like the Delimitation Commission can still have their decisions protected by law from legislative/judicial review.
- **Refer to past UPSC questions** – These concepts have appeared before, e.g., finality of Finance Commission or EC decisions.

47. Correct Option: (b) He can participate in the proceedings of the Houses but cannot take part in the voting on any Bill.

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision for Ministerial Appointment

- As per Article 75(5) of the Indian Constitution:
 - “A Minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of either House of Parliament shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister.”
- This means a **non-MP can be appointed as a Minister**, but they **must become a member of Parliament within 6 months** (either by election or nomination).

Step 2: Check Rights of Such a Minister in Parliamentary Proceedings

- Under Article 88, every Minister has the right to speak and participate in the

- proceedings** of either House, joint sittings, and any committee of Parliament of which they may be named a member.
- However, **they do not have the right to vote**, unless they are members of that House.

Step 3: Evaluate the Options

- Incorrect – Ministers, even if not MPs, can participate in proceedings.
- Correct – They can speak and participate but **cannot vote**.
- Incorrect – Voting is not allowed unless the person is an MP.
- Incorrect – The Constitution allows a non-MP to be appointed as a minister for up to 6 months.

Final Answer: (b) He can participate in the proceedings of the Houses but cannot take part in the voting on any Bill.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Always recall relevant constitutional articles (e.g., Article 75 and Article 88).
- Know exceptions to general rules – Indian Constitution allows **non-MPs to become Ministers** for a limited time.
- Distinguish between participation and voting – Participation ≠ Voting Rights.
- Read each option carefully – UPSC often includes partially true but misleading options.

48. Correct Option: (c) If a person is elected to two seats in a House and he does not intimate his preference, his seat with lower margin of victory becomes vacant.

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Concept of Double Membership

Under the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, double membership is addressed in multiple contexts:

- A person being elected to **both Houses of Parliament**.
- A person being elected to **Parliament and a State Legislature**.
- A person being elected to **two seats in the same House**.

Step 2: Verify Each Statement Based on Legal Provisions

- Correct
 - Section 70(1) of the RPA Act, 1951: If a person is elected both to Parliament and a State Legislature and does not resign from the State Legislature within **14 days**, his seat in Parliament **becomes vacant**.
- Correct
 - Section 68 of the RPA Act, 1951: If elected to both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and the person does not intimate preference within **10 days**, the **Rajya Sabha seat becomes vacant**.
- Incorrect
 - Reality: If elected to **two seats in the same House**, and the person **does not resign** from one within **14 days**, **both seats become vacant**, **not** the one with the lower margin.
 - The margin of victory has **no role** in deciding which seat becomes vacant.
- Correct
 - Section 70(2) of the RPA Act: If a sitting member of one House gets elected to the other House, the seat in the **first House becomes vacant** upon such election.

Final Answer: (c) is incorrect

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Use keyword triggers like “double membership,” “intimation period,” “vacancy,” etc., to recall relevant legal provisions.
- Know time limits: 10 days for Parliament (both Houses), 14 days for Parliament + State or dual seats in same House.
- Never assume logic based on numbers like “margin of victory” — always go by statutory provisions, not intuition.
- Revise Representation of People Act themes regularly — they are frequently tested.

49. Correct Option: (b) 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Concept of Judicial Recusal

- Judicial recusal refers to a judge withdrawing from hearing a case due to potential conflict of interest, bias, or prejudice, to uphold **judicial integrity and impartiality**.
- It is based on the principle of natural justice: *nemo judex in causa sua* (no one should be a judge in his/her own cause).

Step 2: Evaluate Each Statement

Statement 1: If a judge does not recuse... it can become a reason for removal

- **Incorrect.**
- The Constitution (Article 124(4) for SC, Article 217 read with 124 for HC) prescribes “**proved misbehaviour or incapacity**” as the only grounds for removal.
- Not recusing oneself **may be seen as inappropriate**, but it **does not by itself constitute “proved misbehaviour”** unless accompanied by wilful misconduct or corruption, which must be investigated and proven.
- Therefore, **non-recusal is not an automatic ground for impeachment.**

Statement 2: Prior/personal association can be a reason for recusal

- **Correct.**
- This is a widely accepted ground.
- Judges often recuse themselves when:
 - They have **personal or professional relations** with a litigant.
 - They have **previously represented** one of the parties.
 - They have any **financial or personal interest** in the case.
- This ensures **impartial adjudication.**

Final Answer: (b) 2 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Use elimination through legal boundaries** – Check if the action mentioned aligns with constitutional provisions for removal.
- **Know the scope of key legal principles** – Understand what is considered misbehaviour and what's merely ethical concern.
- **Think real-world judicial examples** – There have been many publicised recusal cases (e.g., Justice Gogoi, Justice Chandrachud).
- **Don't assume punitive action for all judicial conduct issues** – Ethical lapses don't always equate to constitutional violations.

50. Correct Option: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Three Funds in Indian Financial Architecture

- **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI):**
 - All revenues received by the government and all loans raised go into this fund.
 - **No money can be withdrawn without Parliamentary approval**, via appropriation acts.
- **Contingency Fund of India (CF):**
 - Used for **urgent, unforeseen expenditure**.
 - At the **disposal of the President**, who can **authorize withdrawals without prior parliamentary approval**.
 - Parliament is later informed and the amount is recouped via appropriation.
- **Public Account of India (PA):**
 - Includes transactions where the government **acts as a banker/trustee** (e.g., provident fund, small savings).
 - These are **not government funds**.
 - **Do not require Parliamentary authorization** for withdrawal.
 - Governed by relevant executive rules.

Step 2: Evaluate Each Statement

- **Statement 1: No amount can be drawn from CFI without Parliament's approval**
 - **Correct**
 - This is the core of **Parliamentary control over public finances**.
- **Statement 2: Contingency Fund is at the disposal of President**
 - **Correct**
 - The President can make **unforeseen expenditures**, and **Parliament's approval is taken post-facto**.
- **Statement 3: Public Account withdrawals don't need Parliamentary approval**
 - **Correct**
 - These are **custodial funds**, not subject to legislative appropriation.
- **Statement 4: Approval of Parliament is obtained when Consolidated Fund amounts are transferred to Public Account**
 - **Incorrect**
 - **Such transfers are not a standard practice.**
 - Funds are not withdrawn from CFI just to be kept in the PA — they are distinct and governed separately.

- Moreover, spending from Public Account doesn't require parliamentary vote.

Final Answer: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Memorize the Three Funds Separately** — know their sources, control mechanisms, and usage.
- **Remember Approval Logic:**



- **CFI** – always needs parliamentary approval.

- **Contingency Fund** – no prior approval; post-facto approval.

- **Public Account** – no approval needed.

- **Watch for Technical Errors in Statements** — UPSC may test conceptual clarity via inaccurate phrasing (like in Statement 4).