

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS 2026

PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2026

PRELIMS PRACTICE PROGRAMME

POLITY

TEST: #04

**Centre-State Relations; Local Governance;
Constitutional and Non-Constitutional
bodies; Special Areas; UTs**



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AN INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICES

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Prelims Test Series 2026

Question Booklet: PTS-5448

GENERAL STUDIES

POLITY - 4

Time Allowed: One Hour

Maximum Marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
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.**
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the test booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **50** items (questions). Each item is printed in English. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
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.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet in response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
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 with reference to the Law Commission of India (LCI):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is established for a period of three years.
3. It submits its report to Supreme Court of India.
4. Selection of the head of law commission is completely at the discretion of the Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the recommendations of the Ashok Mehta Committee Report (1977) on Panchayati Raj, consider the following statements:

1. The Panchayati Raj system should be a two-tier structure.
2. Zilla Parishad should be the executive body and responsible for planning at the district level.
3. Panchayat Samiti should be the executive body at the block level, responsible for planning and coordination.
4. The State Government should not supersede Panchayati Raj institutions; instead, elections should be held within six months in case of dissolution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

3. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The validity of any law relating to the allotment of seats in the municipalities can be questioned only by the High Court.

Statement-II:

The Constitution bars interference by courts in electoral matters of municipalities, except

through an election petition presented to an authority designated by the State Legislature.

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The 73rd Amendment Act provides for the mandatory reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
2. The provisions relating to the reservation of seats in panchayats for the scheduled castes is not applicable to the states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Match the following states with one of their Scheduled Area districts where PESA applies:

<i>List I (State)</i>	<i>List II (District)</i>
A. Himachal Pradesh	1. Malkangiri
B. Odisha	2. Dang
C. Gujarat	3. Lahaul & Spiti
D. Andhra Pradesh	4. East Godavari

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
- (b) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1
- (c) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2
- (d) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

6. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): PESA empowers the Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas to safeguard traditions, customs, cultural identity, community resources, and the customary mode of dispute resolution.

Reason (R): One of the primary objectives of PESA is to ensure self-governance for people living in Fifth Schedule areas through a decentralised and participatory framework.

Which one of the following is correct?

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

7. “This type of urban local body is constituted for an area in transition from a rural area to an urban area. It serves as a link between the Gram Panchayat and the Municipality, providing basic civic amenities while the area undergoes urbanisation. Members are directly elected by the people of the area.”

Which of the following is described above?

- (a) Notified Area Committee
- (b) Nagar Panchayat
- (c) Town Area Committee
- (d) Township

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

1. The Chairperson of a Panchayat at the intermediate and district levels is elected indirectly by and from among the elected members thereof.
2. If the State Government dissolves a Panchayat, fresh elections must be held within six months from the date of dissolution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9. With reference to the 11th and 12th Schedules of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The 11th Schedule contains more functional items than the 12th Schedule.
2. Rural governance is more diverse in scope than urban governance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to the State Finance Commission (SFC), consider the following statements:

1. The State Finance Commission is constituted every five years by the Governor of the state.
2. It recommends the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the state government and local bodies in the state.
3. Its recommendations are binding on the state legislature.
4. It works under the Finance Commission of India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

11. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of Union Territories in India:

1. The UTs in India are administered through an agency system.
2. The legislative power of Parliament w.r.t. the union territories is affected after the establishment of a local legislature for them.
3. A UT can be moved to the jurisdiction of another High Court by an executive order.

Which of the above statements are **incorrect**?

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

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Women (NCW):

1. The National Commission for Women was established as a statutory body.
2. The Commission can investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of certain tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
2. Autonomous District Councils under the Sixth Schedule have the power to make laws on land, forests, shifting cultivation, and village administration.
3. The acts of Parliament or state legislatures automatically apply to Sixth Schedule areas in the same manner as other parts of India.
4. The Governor can increase or decrease the area of an autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

14. Arrange the following Committees related to the Panchayati Raj System in the chronological order:

1. L.M. Singhvi Committee
2. Hanumantha Rao Committee
3. Ashok Mehta Committee
4. P.K. Thungon Committee

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

15. Consider the following statements about the District Planning Committee (DPC):

1. The Constitution mandates the establishment of a District Planning Committee in every district to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities.
2. The composition of the DPC is uniform across all states, with two-thirds of the members elected by the members of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the district from amongst themselves.
3. The Chairperson of the DPC is appointed by the Governor from among the elected members of the Committee.
4. The DPC is responsible for preparing a draft development plan for the district, keeping in view matters of common interest between the Panchayats and the Municipalities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only One
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All three

16. With reference to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body functioning under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
2. It enforces the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
3. ED can initiate investigations and attach properties even in cases where predicate offences are yet to be established in a court of law.
4. The Director of ED is appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Commission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Zonal Councils in India are established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 to promote interstate cooperation and coordination.

Statement-II:

The Chief Ministers of the states in each zone act as the Chairman of the respective Zonal Council by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year.

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

18. Consider the following pairs:

Body	Type (Statutory/ Constitutional)	Objective/ Function
1. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)	Statutory	Regulates and promotes the insurance and reinsurance sectors
2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Statutory	Issues currency, regulates banks and manages monetary policy

3. Finance Commission of India	Constitutional	Recommends the distribution of tax revenues between Centre and States
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How many of the given above are correctly matched?

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

19. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas of undivided Assam, which were categorized as "excluded areas" under the Government of India Act, 1935.
2. The Sixth Schedule was formulated based on the report of the Bardoloi Committee formed by the Constituent Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

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

20. Which of the following statements with respect to provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act is/are correct?

1. The Act provides for the constitution of a Ward Committee in every municipality having a population of 3 lakh or more.
2. The Act mandates the creation of a Metropolitan Planning Committee for metropolitan areas.

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

21. Consider the following statements regarding eligibility to be a candidate for Panchayat elections in India:

1. The minimum age to contest Panchayat elections is 21 years.
2. Disqualification for insolvency or unsound mind applies to Panchayat elections as well.
3. Educational qualifications are uniformly prescribed across all States under the 73rd Amendment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is not a part of the Union Executive under the Constitution.

Statement-II:

The CAG functions as an independent constitutional authority to ensure impartial auditing of public accounts.

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

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, but Statement 2 does not explain Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is correct, but Statement 2 is incorrect
- (d) Statement 1 is incorrect, but Statement 2 is correct

23. Consider the following statements regarding the functions of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC):

1. It examines requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the Central List and advises the Government on such matters.
2. It investigates and monitors all matters relating to the safeguards provided for backward classes under the Constitution.
3. It has the power to look into the inclusion or exclusion of Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes in their respective lists.

4. It presents annual and special reports to the President on working of the safeguards for backward classes.

How many of the above statements are *incorrect*?

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

24. How many Finance Commissions have been constituted in India till date (2025)?

- (a) 14
- (b) 15
- (c) 16
- (d) 17

25. How many of the following statements about National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is/are correct?

1. It is also the apex body to lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure a timely and effective response to disasters.
2. It is headed by the Minister of Home Affairs.
3. It covers both natural as well as man-made disaster in its ambit.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

26. Which of the following are the reasons for the ineffective performance of local bodies in India?

1. Lack of functional devolution by the states
2. Irregular constitution of State Finance Commissions
3. Creation of Parallel bodies
4. Adoption of Principle of Subsidiarity

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners:

1. The appointment is made by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee.
2. The committee consists of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Union Minister of Home Affairs, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
3. The CVC is a statutory body.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

28. Which of the following statements regarding State Human Rights Commission is/are correct?

1. A serving or retired District Judge in the state can be its member.
2. Its members hold the position till the pleasure of the Governor.
3. Its members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

29. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment and removal of the Central Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners under the Right to Information Act, 2005:

1. The CIC and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Union Minister of Home Affairs.

2. The CIC can be removed from office by the President on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry conducted by the Supreme Court.

3. The CIC holds office for a term of five years from the date of entering office or until attaining the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

4. The CIC and Information Commissioners are eligible for reappointment after completing their term.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

30. Consider the following statements regarding National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

1. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. The Commission's mandate to ensure that all Laws, Policies and Programmes are in consonance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3. The Commission considers a 'child' as a person who is in between the age group 0-18 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

31. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the Election Commission of India (ECI):

1. The Election Commission can advise the President to disqualify a Member of Parliament under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. The Election Commission is empowered to determine the territorial constituencies for elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
3. During elections, the Election Commission can issue directions to government officials to ensure free and fair polls.
4. The decisions of the Election Commission in matters of election disputes are binding on all courts.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

- 32.** Match the following Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) with the states in which they are located:

List I Autonomous District Council	List II State
A. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council	1. Meghalaya
B. Bodoland Territorial Council	2. Tripura
C. Garo Hills Autonomous District Council	3. Assam
D. Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council	4. Mizoram

Codes:

- (a) A – 3, B – 3, C – 1, D – 2
- (b) A – 1, B – 3, C – 2, D – 4
- (c) A – 4, B – 1, C – 3, D – 2
- (d) A – 3, B – 1, C – 4, D – 2

- 33.** Consider the following statements regarding the current operational efficiency of the Panchayati Raj Institutions:

Assertion (A): It has been a common practice to achieve speedy implementation and greater accountability, parallel bodies (PBs) are created to perform the similar functions as Panchayats.

Reason (R): PBs have shown to achieve their goals more effectively, and have been largely

away from the shortcomings of the Panchayati Raj.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Both A and R are correct and R is suitable explanation for A.
- (b) Both A and R are correct but R is not a suitable explanation for A.
- (c) A is correct but R is incorrect.
- (d) Both A and R are incorrect.

- 34.** Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

In case of a conflict between the Central law and the state law on a subject enumerated in the Concurrent List, the Central law prevails over the state law.

Statement-II:

The Constitution expressly secures the predominance of the Union List over the State List.

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

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

- 35.** Consider the following statements regarding the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISWRD) Tribunals in India:

1. The Parliament has the power to adjudicate any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution, or control of waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
2. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides for the establishment of tribunals to resolve disputes between states.
3. The decision of an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal is binding on the states but can be challenged in the Supreme Court.

4. The 2019 amendment to the ISWRD Act provides for the constitution of a single, permanent tribunal with multiple benches.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

- 36.** Which of the following best describes the concept of *co-operative federalism* in the Indian context?

- (a) A system where the Union and State Governments are entirely independent in their respective spheres of power.
- (b) A system where the Union and State Governments share resources, responsibilities, and work jointly to achieve common national goals.
- (c) A system where the States enjoy supremacy over the Union in matters of governance.
- (d) A system where the Union Government directs and controls all functions of the State Governments.

- 37.** Consider the following statements regarding the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) in India:

1. The Metropolitan Planning Committee is a constitutional body mandated under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
2. Not less than two-thirds of the members of a Metropolitan Planning Committee are to be elected by, and from amongst, the elected members of the Municipalities and Chairpersons of Panchayats in the Metropolitan area.
3. The size and composition of the Metropolitan Planning Committee are uniformly fixed for all States by the Constitution.
4. The Metropolitan Planning Committee is tasked with preparing a draft development plan for the entire metropolitan region.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

- 38.** Consider the following statements regarding the legislative powers of the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry:

1. The Legislative Assembly of Puducherry can make laws with respect to matters enumerated in the State List and Concurrent List, subject to the overriding powers of Parliament.
2. A law made by the Puducherry Legislative Assembly on a Concurrent List subject will prevail over a Central law in that Union Territory if it has received the assent of the President.
3. The Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry can reserve certain bills passed by the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the President.
4. The Legislative Assembly of Puducherry has no power to legislate on matters in the State List.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

- 39.** Under Article 240 of the Constitution, the President of India has the power to make regulations for the peace, progress, and good governance of certain Union Territories. Which of the following Union Territories are covered under this provision?

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2. Lakshadweep
3. Ladakh
4. Puducherry

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

40. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The 12th Schedule empowers Municipalities with responsibilities for managing urban spaces, including market regulation and slum improvement, which necessitates a high degree of local administrative capability.

Statement-II:

This empowerment reflects a dual approach to urban governance, balancing central oversight with local execution to address both macro-level policies and micro-level issues effectively.

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

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding administrator of union territories:

1. He is the head of state like a governor.
2. Governor of a state cannot be appointed as administrator of an adjoining union territory.
3. The constitutional provisions for the administration of union territories also apply to the acquired territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) All of the above

42. Consider the following statements regarding the Staff Selection Commission (SSC):

1. The Staff Selection Commission is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Constitution of India.
2. It functions under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India.

3. The SSC conducts recruitment to Group 'B' (non-gazetted) and Group 'C' posts in various Ministries, Departments, and subordinate offices of the Government of India.

4. The headquarters of the SSC is located in New Delhi, and it also has regional and sub-regional offices across the country.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

43. Consider the following statements regarding the Union territory of Delhi:

1. The chief minister is appointed by the Lt. governor.
2. The council of ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding special provisions for certain states in India:

1. Article 371A provides special provisions for the state of Nagaland, including protection of religious and social practices of Nagas.
2. The Governor of Maharashtra has special responsibility for the development of Vidarbha region under Article 371.
3. The President of India has the power to establish separate development boards for Hyderabad-Karnataka region in Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Which of the following best describes the primary function of India's National Commission for Minorities?

- (a) Enforcing quota systems in government jobs
- (b) Promoting interfaith dialogues
- (c) Safeguarding the rights and interests of minority communities
- (d) Overseeing religious conversion processes

46. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

NITI Aayog plays a crucial role in promoting cooperative federalism in India.

Statement-II:

NITI Aayog includes representation from all States and Union Territories in its Governing Council.

Statement-III:

NITI Aayog has the power to allocate financial resources among States.

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) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

47. Consider the following statements regarding the Banking Ombudsman:

1. It can issue orders for the redressal of complaints, but not for compensation for grievances.
2. The Banking Ombudsman is appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. The Banking Ombudsman's decisions are advisory and not binding on the banks.

How many of the given statements is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):

1. CBFC certifies films for public exhibition and Ensures that films do not promote harmful practices or content that may be detrimental to public safety and moral values.
2. CBFC ensures compliance with film certification standards.
3. CBFC Provides advice and recommendations on content that may be deemed sensitive or controversial, ensuring compliance with societal norms and legal requirements and it regulates and supervises housing finance companies.

How many of the given statements is/are correct?

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

49. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): The Constitution of India guarantees the freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse throughout the territory of India under Article 301.

Reason (R): Parliament may impose restrictions on such freedom in the public interest, and States cannot impose any restrictions even with the President's assent.

Which one of the following is correct?

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

50. Arrange the following Union Territories of India in the correct chronological order of their creation:

1. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
2. Chandigarh
3. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
4. Ladakh

Select correct answer from the following:

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

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POLITY - 4

Answer Key

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

1. Correct Option: (d) 2 and 4 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Nature and Legal Status of the Law Commission of India (LCI)

- The Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory** and **non-constitutional** body.
- It is constituted by the Government of India **through an executive order**.
- It is generally set up for a **fixed tenure of three years** to undertake legal reforms and review existing laws.
- Its reports are **advisory in nature** and have no binding force.

Step 2: Evaluate the Statements

Statement 1: *It is a statutory body.*

- **Incorrect.**
- LCI is **not** created by an Act of Parliament; it is created by an executive resolution of the Government.
- Being non-statutory, it does not derive powers directly from any law.

Statement 2: *It is established for a period of three years.*

- **Correct.**
- Successive Law Commissions are usually constituted for a three-year term.

Statement 3: *It submits its report to Supreme Court of India.*

- **Incorrect.**
- The LCI submits its reports to the **Ministry of Law and Justice**, Government of India — not the Supreme Court.

Statement 4: *Selection of the head of law commission is completely at the discretion of the Government.*

- **Correct.**
- The Chairperson (often a retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court) is appointed by the Government through an executive decision without a statutory selection process.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Incorrect
- Statement 2: Correct
- Statement 3: Incorrect
- Statement 4: Correct

Final Answer: (d) 2 and 4 only

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check for legal status** — Constitutional, Statutory, or Executive — this eliminates many wrong options.
- **Tenure details** — Commissions and committees often have fixed terms; memorise these for key bodies.
- **Reporting authority** — Always verify whether a body reports to Parliament, a Ministry, or another authority.
- **Appointment process** — If there's no mention of statutory criteria, it's usually at the government's discretion.
- **Beware of traps** — Words like *statutory*, *constitutional*, or *Supreme Court submission* are often used to mislead.

2. Correct Option: (c) Only three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the core recommendations of the Ashok Mehta Committee (1977)

- Replace the three-tier PRI system with a two-tier system: Zilla Parishad at the district level and Mandal Panchayat at the lower level.
- Zilla Parishad to be the primary executive body and responsible for district-level planning.
- PRI institutions should not be superseded for long; if dissolved, elections should be held within six months.
- Political parties should participate in PRI elections.

Step 2: Evaluate each statement

- The Panchayati Raj system should be a two-tier structure. **Correct** — Ashok Mehta recommended replacing the three-tier system with a two-tier system.
- Zilla Parishad should be the executive body and responsible for planning at the district level. **Correct** — This was a major recommendation.
- Panchayat Samiti should be the executive body at the block level, responsible for planning and coordination. **Incorrect** — This is from the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957), not Ashok Mehta. The Ashok Mehta model did away with the block-level Panchayat Samiti as the main executive body.
- The State Government should not supersede Panchayati Raj institutions; instead, elections should be held within

six months in case of dissolution.
Correct — This was recommended to avoid prolonged non-functioning of PRIs.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- Correct statements: 1, 2, and 4
- Incorrect statement: 3 (belongs to Balwant Rai Mehta Committee)

Final Answer: (c) Only three

3. Correct Option: (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Constitutional Provision and Context

- Article 243ZG, inserted by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, governs judicial intervention in municipal elections.
- Clause (a) bars any court from questioning the validity of laws relating to delimitation of constituencies or allotment of seats.
- Clause (b) states that no municipal election can be questioned except through an election petition to an authority specified by the State Legislature.
- This reflects the constitutional intent to keep election processes free from disruption, an approach upheld in *N.P. Ponnuswami v. Returning Officer* (1952) and later in *Mohinder Singh Gill* (1978).

Step 2: Assessment of Statement I

- Statement I says validity can be questioned “only by the High Court.”
- This is **incorrect** because Article 243ZG **removes jurisdiction from all courts**, including the High Court, except where State law provides for election petitions.
- The L.M. Singhvi Committee had recommended such exclusive forums to avoid fragmentation of authority and ensure speedy resolution.
- Therefore, giving the High Court sole authority is contrary to constitutional design.

Step 3: Assessment of Statement II

- Statement II says the Constitution bars court interference except via an election petition presented to an authority designated by the State Legislature.
- This is **correct** and matches the exact wording of Article 243ZG.

- Many states designate a District Judge or equivalent officer as the authority.
- This mirrors provisions in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, where only election petitions can challenge results.

Step 4: Integrated Reasoning

- Judicial precedents and committee recommendations both reinforce that municipal elections require a specialised, statutory dispute resolution mechanism.
- This ensures stability in local governance and prevents prolonged uncertainty.

4. Correct Option: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understanding the Reservation Mandate under the 73rd Amendment

- Article 243D of the Constitution, inserted through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, deals with reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- It provides:
 - **Clause (1):** Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population in the state.
 - **Clause (3):** Not less than **one-third of the total seats** in Panchayats shall be reserved for women — this includes seats reserved for SCs and STs.
- Importantly, the **one-third mandate applies to women**, not directly to SCs and STs.
- Therefore, Statement 1 is **incorrect** — the Act does not say “one-third of total seats for SCs and STs”; it says “proportionate seats for SCs/STs” and “one-third of total seats for women.”

Step 2: Applicability and Exceptions under Article 243M

- Article 243M provides that Part IX (Panchayats) does not apply to certain areas and states:
 - States of **Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram**.
 - Certain other areas like the hill areas in Manipur, Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule, and Sixth Schedule areas (in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram).
 - States like Arunachal Pradesh are also exempt because of their special constitutional provisions.

- Statement 2 says the exemption is applicable **only** to Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. This is **incorrect** because the list is broader — it also includes scheduled areas in other states and some tribal-dominated regions beyond these three states.

Step 3: Integrated Reasoning

- Statement 1 fails due to incorrect description of SC/ST reservation quantum.
- Statement 2 fails because it omits other exempted areas and states.

5. Correct Option: (a) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the Constitutional Context

- PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996** extends Part IX of the Constitution to **Fifth Schedule areas** with modifications to protect tribal rights, customs, and community resource management.
- Only **Fifth Schedule** areas are covered, not Sixth Schedule areas (like those in Northeast India).
- Therefore, before attempting such a question, aspirants must **link PESA with the Fifth Schedule**, not confuse it with Sixth Schedule states or general tribal areas.

Step 2: Identify the Fifth Schedule States and Their Districts

- The trick in the question is that you must know **one representative Scheduled Area district per state**.
- From the provided states:
 - Himachal Pradesh** → Lahaul & Spiti (along with Kinnaur and Chamba)
 - Odisha** → Malkangiri (along with Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and parts of others)
 - Gujarat** → Dang (along with Dahod, Narmada, Tapi, etc.)
 - Andhra Pradesh** → East Godavari (also West Godavari, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam)

Step 3: Match Using Elimination

- Option (b)** is wrong because Dang is not in Himachal Pradesh.
- Option (c)** is wrong because Malkangiri is in Odisha, not Himachal Pradesh.

- Option (d)** is wrong because East Godavari is not in Himachal Pradesh.
- The only logically consistent mapping is **A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4**.

How Students Should Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Connect Act with Constitutional Schedule**
 - Remember that **PESA = Fifth Schedule only**. This eliminates states like Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Sixth Schedule areas.
- State-District Linkage Memory Trick**
 - Always remember **one unique, well-known district** from each state under the Fifth Schedule.
 - Example: Dang (Gujarat), Malkangiri (Odisha), Lahaul & Spiti (HP), East Godavari (AP/Telangana).
- Use Elimination First**
 - Even if you are unsure about all matches, remove impossible pairs first (e.g., Dang cannot be in Himachal Pradesh).
- Revise Scheduled Area Lists Separately**
 - Make a one-page table of Fifth Schedule areas for quick recall — a common UPSC trap is to swap districts between states.
- Watch for Post-Bifurcation Confusion**
 - In states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Fifth Schedule districts remained the same after bifurcation — so East Godavari can appear in questions for both.

6. Correct Option: (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Objective and Scope of PESA

- The Panchayats(Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)** was enacted to extend Part IX of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) to **Fifth Schedule areas** while respecting tribal customs, traditions, and governance systems.
- The objective is clear in its **Preamble** — to provide **self-governance** to tribal communities through Gram Sabhas that act as the foundation of local decision-making.

Step 2: Evaluate Assertion (A)

- Assertion says Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas have powers to safeguard:
 - Traditions and customs**
 - Cultural identity**
 - Community resources**
 - Customary modes of dispute resolution**
- These powers are specifically mentioned in **Section 4 of PESA**.
- Example: Gram Sabhas must approve plans and projects, manage minor water bodies, and protect minor forest produce rights.
- Verdict:** Assertion is **correct**.

Step 3: Evaluate Reason (R)

- Reason says the primary objective of PESA is **self-governance** in Fifth Schedule areas through decentralisation and participation.
- This is explicitly the purpose behind empowering Gram Sabhas — so they can make decisions based on local needs and traditions rather than solely state bureaucracy.
- Verdict:** Reason is **correct**.

Step 4: Linking A and R

- The empowerment mentioned in the Assertion is a **direct outcome of the objective** mentioned in the Reason.
- Without the objective of self-governance, there would be no need to vest such special powers in Gram Sabhas.

How to Approach Such Assertion–Reasoning Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Separate A and R:**
 - Check each statement independently for factual correctness using constitutional provisions or key legislation.
 - If one is wrong, options narrow quickly.
- Identify Causality:**
 - If both are correct, ask: *Does the Reason directly explain the Assertion?*
 - In this case, yes — the self-governance objective explains why Gram Sabhas are empowered.
- Watch for Generalisation Traps:**
 - UPSC often frames Reasons as broader goals that *seem* related but aren't direct explanations.
 - Here, the Reason is specific enough to be the cause.

Rely on Keywords in the Act:

- Keywords like “safeguard traditions” and “self-governance” directly point to **Section 4 PESA**, helping verify correctness.

7. Correct Option: (b) Nagar Panchayat

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

- Step 1: Identify the core clue — “Transitional Area”**
 - The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, introduced **Article 243Q**, which explicitly mentions “transitional area” as an area in transition from rural to urban.
 - This is the **textbook definition** of the jurisdiction of a Nagar Panchayat.
- Step 2: Recognise the governance role described**
 - The question states it “serves as a link between the Gram Panchayat and the Municipality” → This confirms it is an intermediate body in urban governance.
 - Nagar Panchayats are created to manage civic responsibilities in areas that are *not yet fully urban* but are no longer rural.
- Step 3: Note the administrative clue — “Members are directly elected”**
 - Constitutional urban local bodies (Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Nagar Panchayats) have directly elected members.
 - Non-constitutional bodies like Notified Area Committees or Townships are **appointed** and hence ruled out here.
- Step 4: Apply option elimination**
 - (a) Notified Area Committee** → Appointed body by the State Government for special regions; no direct elections. Eliminated.
 - (c) Town Area Committee** → Exists in certain states for small towns; may not be fully elected and does not serve transitional areas. Eliminated.
 - (d) Township** → Created by large public enterprises to serve staff; administered by appointed town administrators. Eliminated.
 - (b) Nagar Panchayat** → Fits all criteria: transitional area, link between rural and urban governance, directly elected members. **Correct**.

- **Step 5: Constitutional validation**
 - Article 243Q(1)(c): “A Nagar Panchayat for a transitional area, that is to say, an area in transition from a rural area to an urban area.”
 - The State Government determines such areas based on population, density, revenue generation, and occupational patterns.
- How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims**
- **Spot Key Descriptive Words**
 - If you see “transitional area” in the question → immediate recall of Nagar Panchayat.
 - If “large urban area” → Municipal Corporation; “smaller urban area” → Municipality.
 - **Classify Using Article 243Q**
 - **Municipal Corporation** → Large urban area
 - **Municipality (Municipal Council)** → Smaller urban area
 - **Nagar Panchayat** → Transitional area
 - **Look for Governance Clues**
 - “Directly elected members” → Constitutional 74th Amendment body.
 - “Appointed administrator” → Non-constitutional body.
 - **Eliminate with Confidence**
 - Narrow down using appointment method and functional role.
 - For example: “Industrial enterprise provides civic services” → Industrial Township; “military area” → Cantonment Board.
 - **Use Real-World Anchors**
 - Recall examples:
 - *Kothagudem Nagar Panchayat* (Telangana) → example of rural to urban transition.
 - *Panaji Municipal Council* (Goa) → smaller urban area.
 - *BMC (Mumbai)* → large urban area (Municipal Corporation).
 - **Beware of Common UPSC Traps**
 - Confusing *Notified Area Committee* with *Nagar Panchayat*.
 - Misinterpreting *Town Area Committee* as *transitional area* — they are for small towns only.

- 8. Correct Option: (c) Both 1 and 2**
- Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer**
- **Step 1: Break down the constitutional basis**
 - The provisions in question come from **Part IX of the Constitution** (Articles 243–243O) introduced by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.
 - Articles **243C(5)** and **243E(3)** are directly relevant here.
 - **Step 2: Evaluate Statement 1** – “*The Chairperson of a Panchayat at the intermediate and district levels is elected indirectly by and from among the elected members thereof.*”
 - As per **Article 243C(5)**, while all members of the *Gram Panchayat* are elected directly, the Chairpersons of Panchayats at the *intermediate* and *district* levels are **elected indirectly** by and from among the elected members.
 - This was upheld in practice across states (e.g., in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka), where Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti heads are chosen internally.
 - **Verdict:** Statement 1 is **Correct**.
 - **Step 3: Evaluate Statement 2** – “*If the State Government dissolves a Panchayat, fresh elections must be held within six months from the date of dissolution.*”
 - Article **243E(3)** mandates that if a Panchayat is dissolved before its full five-year term, elections must be conducted **within six months**.
 - The new Panchayat will serve only for the remainder of the original term unless the remainder is less than six months (in which case elections may be skipped, per proviso).
 - Supreme Court in *State of Maharashtra v. Jalgaon Zilla Parishad* (2003) reinforced the constitutional requirement for timely re-elections to ensure democratic continuity.
 - **Verdict:** Statement 2 is **Correct**.
 - **Step 4: Eliminate options**
 - Since both statements are correct → **Option (c)** is the right answer.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Look for specific functional terms** – “directly” vs. “indirectly” elected is a common UPSC test point in local governance.

- **Trace the Article quickly** – Part IX (Panchayats) and Part IXA (Municipalities) have clear rules for elections, dissolution, and reconstitution.
- **Beware of absolute traps** – Not all members of all Panchayats are directly elected; intermediate and district level Chairpersons are exceptions.
- **Remember the 6-month rule** – This is a constitutional safeguard for preventing prolonged administrator rule.
- **Past trend check** – UPSC often tweaks such questions by reversing “direct” and “indirect” or changing the duration from “six months” to “one year” to confuse candidates.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

- **Step 1: Recall the constitutional framework**
 - The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** added the **11th Schedule** to the Constitution, specifying functions for Panchayats (rural local bodies).
 - The **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** added the **12th Schedule**, specifying functions for Municipalities (urban local bodies).
 - These schedules outline the areas in which state legislatures can devolve powers and responsibilities to local self-government institutions.
- **Step 2: Evaluate Statement 1** – *“The 11th Schedule contains more functional items than the 12th Schedule.”*
 - The **11th Schedule** lists **29 functional items** such as agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, rural housing, poverty alleviation, and rural electrification.
 - The **12th Schedule** lists **18 functional items**, mainly urban services such as water supply, urban planning, waste management, and slum improvement.
 - Since $29 > 18$, Statement 1 is **correct**.
- **Step 3: Evaluate Statement 2** – *“Rural governance is more diverse in scope than urban governance.”*
 - Rural governance covers a **wider variety of functions** — agriculture, natural resource management, poverty reduction, rural health, rural education, land reforms, and infrastructure development — in addition to basic services.

◦ This diversity is why the **11th Schedule naturally has more functional items** than the 12th.

◦ Urban governance, while complex, is more **service-oriented** (drainage, water supply, road maintenance, waste management), and functions are relatively narrower in scope.

◦ Therefore, Statement 2 is **correct**.

• Step 4: Link between the statements

◦ The diversity in rural governance (Statement 2) **explains** why the 11th Schedule (Statement 1) contains more items.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Recall the numbers** — 11th Schedule (29) vs. 12th Schedule (18). This is a high-accuracy recall fact for quick elimination.
- **Understand the functional logic** — Rural areas require governance over production sectors (like agriculture) + services, while urban areas focus mainly on services.
- **Watch for UPSC traps** — They may reverse the numbers or claim that urban governance is more diverse.
- **Use constitutional hooks** — 73rd Amendment → 11th Schedule → Panchayats; 74th Amendment → 12th Schedule → Municipalities.
- **If in doubt** — Think about variety of responsibilities: rural governance touches almost all development sectors, urban governance is primarily service delivery.

10. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

- **Step 1: Recall the Constitutional Basis**
 - The **State Finance Commission (SFC)** is provided for under **Articles 243-I** (for Panchayats) and **243-Y** (for Municipalities), inserted by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, 1992.
 - Every state must constitute its own SFC to review the financial position of local bodies and recommend devolution.
- **Step 2: Evaluate each statement**

Statement 1: *The State Finance Commission is constituted every five years by the Governor of the state.*

- **Correct.**
- Article 243-I mandates that the Governor shall, at the expiration of every five years,

constitute a Finance Commission for the state.

Statement 2: *It recommends the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the state government and local bodies in the state.*

- **Correct.**
- This is one of the SFC's core functions — analogous to the Central Finance Commission but at the state-local level, focusing on vertical and horizontal distribution within the state.

Statement 3: *Its recommendations are binding on the state legislature.*

- **Incorrect.**
- The SFC submits its report to the Governor, who lays it before the state legislature **along with an explanatory memorandum**. The recommendations are **advisory**, not binding — similar to the Central Finance Commission. Many states have been criticised (2nd ARC, 13th Finance Commission) for delays or partial acceptance.

Statement 4: *It works under the Finance Commission of India.*

- **Incorrect.**
- The SFC is an **independent constitutional body** at the state level. It does not function under the Central Finance Commission. However, the Central Finance Commission may take into account the recommendations of State Finance Commissions when deciding on grants-in-aid to states for local bodies.
- **Step 3: Count the Correct Statements**
 - Statement 1 — Correct
 - Statement 2 — Correct
 - Statement 3 — Incorrect
 - Statement 4 — Incorrect
 - **Only two statements are correct**

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the Constitutional Articles** — For SFC, remember **243-I** and **243-Y**. Knowing them helps avoid traps.
- **Look for “binding” traps** — UPSC often tests whether bodies are advisory or binding. Finance Commissions (both central and state) are **recommendatory**.
- **Beware of hierarchical myths** — The State Finance Commission is **not subordinate** to the Finance Commission of India; both operate in parallel within their jurisdictions.

- **Recall 5-year periodicity** — Both the Central and State Finance Commissions have the same constitutional time frame.
- **Check committee recommendations** — 2nd ARC and 14th Finance Commission reports repeatedly stress strengthening SFCs due to poor implementation.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

- **Step 1: Recall Constitutional and Administrative Provisions for UTs**
 - Article **239** of the Constitution provides that every Union Territory shall be administered by the President through an administrator (agency system).
 - Some UTs have legislatures (e.g., Delhi, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir), but their legislative powers and relationship with Parliament are governed by special provisions (Articles **239A**, **239AA**, **239AB**).
 - High Court jurisdiction over UTs can be altered **only by a law of Parliament**, not by an executive order.

• **Step 2: Evaluate Each Statement**

Statement 1: *The UTs in India are administered through an agency system.*

- **Correct.**
- This is explicitly provided under **Article 239**, which states that the President administers UTs through an administrator (Lt. Governor or Administrator). This is referred to as the **agency system**.

Statement 2: *The legislative power of Parliament w.r.t. the union territories is affected after the establishment of a local legislature for them.*

- **Incorrect.**
- Even if a UT has its own legislature (like Delhi or Puducherry), **Parliament retains full legislative power over that UT**. The existence of a local legislature does not curtail Parliament's authority — it only creates a concurrent legislative arrangement.

Statement 3: *A UT can be moved to the jurisdiction of another High Court by an executive order.*

- **Incorrect.**
- Changing the High Court jurisdiction of a UT requires **Parliamentary legislation** under **Articles 214 and 230**, not an executive order. For example, the jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court over Daman and Diu was decided through a parliamentary amendment, not a presidential notification.

- Step 3: Identify the Incorrect Statements
 - Statement 1 — Correct
 - Statement 2 — Incorrect
 - Statement 3 — Incorrect
 - **Incorrect statements: 2 and 3 only**

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Start with Articles — For UTs, key ones are 239, 239A, 239AA, 239AB, 240, 241, 230.
- Watch for traps in “power reduction” language — Parliament’s supremacy is rarely reduced in such cases.
- Be careful with jurisdiction changes — Anything involving the judiciary’s structure generally requires Parliamentary law.
- Elimination method — Here, knowing Statement 3 is wrong immediately rules out (a) and leaves (b) or (c); checking Statement 2 confirms the answer.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Identify the nature of the body

- The first thing to check is whether the **National Commission for Women** is constitutional, statutory, or an executive body.
- A quick recall:
 - Constitutional bodies are mentioned directly in the Constitution (e.g., Election Commission, Finance Commission).
 - Statutory bodies are created by a law passed by Parliament or a state legislature.
 - Executive bodies are created by executive resolution or order.
- The NCW was established under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**, which came into force in 1992.
- Since it originates from a **parliamentary statute**, it is a **statutory body**.
- Therefore, **Statement 1 is correct**.

Step 2: Understand the scope of NCW's powers

- Statement 2 mentions the power to *investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws*.

- This wording is not casual — it is directly drawn from **Section 10(1)(a) of the NCW Act**.
- The Commission’s functions also include:
 - Reviewing existing laws and suggesting amendments for better protection of women’s rights.
 - Taking up cases of violation of women’s rights with appropriate authorities.
 - Financing litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women.
 - Inspecting jails, remand homes, and other places of custody where women are lodged.
- This makes Statement 2 factually accurate.

Step 3: Look out for common traps in UPSC questions

- UPSC often inserts misleading phrases like “*binding nature*” of recommendations or “*can punish offenders*”.
- In reality, NCW’s recommendations are **advisory** — the power to enforce lies with other authorities, not the NCW.
- If Statement 2 had said “enforce safeguards” instead of “investigate and examine,” it would have been wrong.

Step 4: Arrive at the final answer

- Statement 1 → Correct (Statutory body via NCW Act, 1990).
- Statement 2 → Correct (Exact wording from NCW Act).
- Correct Option → **(c) Both 1 and 2**.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Classify the Body First** — Is it constitutional, statutory, or executive? This eliminates half the confusion.
- **Check for Power Verbs** — Words like “enforce” and “punish” are often red flags for such commissions. “Investigate” and “recommend” are safer clues.
- **Recall Legal Wording** — For high-probability bodies like NCW, NHRC, and CVC, remember 1–2 key functions exactly as stated in their parent Act.
- **Beware of Binding Powers** — Very few commissions have binding recommendations; most are **recommendatory**.
- **Eliminate Extremes First** — If you know even one statement is definitely correct or incorrect, narrow down options to 50–50 before deciding.

13. Correct Option: (c) Only three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the scope of the Sixth Schedule

- It applies to certain tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram under Articles 244(2) and 275(1).
- **Statement 1** is correct because it exactly matches the constitutional provision.

Step 2: Powers of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)

- Under **Paragraph 3** of the Sixth Schedule, ADCs can make laws on subjects such as:
 - Land
 - Forests (excluding reserved forests)
 - Shifting cultivation
 - Village administration
 - Customary law and inheritance
- **Statement 2** is correct as it directly reflects these legislative powers.

Step 3: Applicability of laws from Parliament/State legislatures

- Laws made by Parliament or State legislatures **do not automatically apply** to Sixth Schedule areas.
- They require the **Governor's discretion** for application and may be modified for local conditions.
- **Statement 3** is incorrect because it says "automatically apply" — which is contrary to the constitutional arrangement.

Step 4: Governor's powers over district boundaries

- **Paragraph 1(3)** of the Sixth Schedule allows the Governor to:
 - Increase or decrease the area of an autonomous district
 - Create new autonomous districts
 - Alter boundaries of districts
- **Statement 4** is correct.

Step 5: Final Tally

- Correct statements: 1, 2, 4
- Incorrect statement: 3
- **Total correct statements = 3 → Answer: (c)**

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Know the basic framework:** For Sixth Schedule, remember — states covered, legislative powers, role of Governor, and application of laws.

- **Spot trap phrases:** Words like "automatically" often indicate a wrong statement in governance questions.
- **Recall exact wording from the Constitution:** Terms like "subject to the discretion of the Governor" help eliminate wrong options.
- **Use elimination method:** Identify the wrong statement first — this reduces the answer space quickly.
- **Be aware of exceptions:** Sixth Schedule is unique in allowing significant local law-making power and limiting automatic application of national laws.

14. Correct Option: (b) 3-2-1-4

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the timeline of major committees on Panchayati Raj

- **Ashok Mehta Committee (1977)** – Appointed by Janata Government to suggest restructuring of Panchayati Raj; recommended a **two-tier system** with Zila Parishad as the primary body.
- **Hanumantha Rao Committee (1984)** – Focused on improving the efficiency of anti-poverty programmes through PRIs.
- **L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986)** – Recommended constitutional recognition of Panchayati Raj and the concept of **Gram Sabha**.
- **P.K. Thungon Committee (1988)** – Recommended stronger link between PRIs and district planning, leading towards provisions later included in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

Step 2: Place them in chronological sequence

- 1977 → Ashok Mehta Committee
- 1984 → Hanumantha Rao Committee
- 1986 → L.M. Singhvi Committee
- 1988 → P.K. Thungon Committee

Thus, the order is: 3 → 2 → 1 → 4

Step 3: Apply elimination

- Options (a), (c), and (d) do not begin with 3, so they can be discarded.
- Only option (b) matches the correct sequence.

Final Answer: (b) 3-2-1-4

How to Approach Such Committee-Based Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Make a year-wise timeline chart** — Committees on Panchayati Raj are a high-

repeat topic; years + recommendations help in both Prelims and Mains.

- **Identify committee purpose** — This prevents confusion between similarly named committees.
- **Look for 73rd Amendment linkage** — Committees post-1980s often have direct connections to constitutional changes.
- **Practice elimination** — Even if unsure of exact year, knowing the first and last committees can help narrow down options.

15. Correct Option: (c) Only three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision

- **Article 243ZD** of the Constitution provides for a **District Planning Committee (DPC)** in every district.
- Objective: Consolidate plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities and prepare a draft development plan for the district.
- Added by the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** to strengthen integrated planning at the district level.

Step 2: Evaluate each statement

Statement 1: *The Constitution mandates the establishment of a District Planning Committee in every district to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities.*

- **Correct.**
- This is exactly as per Article 243ZD(1). The DPC is a constitutional body, not optional.

Statement 2: *The composition of the DPC is uniform across all states, with two-thirds of the members elected by the members of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the district from amongst themselves.*

- **Incorrect.**
- While **two-thirds elected representation** is mandated under Article 243ZD(2), the exact **composition is decided by the State Legislature**. This means there is **no uniform composition** across states.

Statement 3: *The Chairperson of the DPC is appointed by the Governor from among the elected members of the Committee.*

- **Correct (in general practice).**
- The manner of choosing the Chairperson is decided by the **State Legislature**, but in most cases the Governor appoints from among the elected members, as per state laws.

Statement 4: *The DPC is responsible for preparing a draft development plan for the district, keeping in view matters of common interest between the Panchayats and the Municipalities.*

- **Correct.**
- This is the **core function** under Article 243ZD(3), which explicitly mentions integration of rural and urban planning.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect
- Statement 3: Correct
- Statement 4: Correct

Thus, three statements are correct → Option (c)

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify constitutional articles** — DPC is Article 243ZD. Remember it's linked to the 74th Amendment but involves rural (73rd) and urban (74th) planning integration.
- **Watch for "uniform across states" traps** — Many constitutional bodies have **state-level discretion** in their exact structure and functioning.
- **Focus on core function keywords** — "Consolidate plans" and "common interest" are high-yield cues.
- **Elimination method** — Even without knowing exact composition, spotting the "uniform" wording in Statement 2 makes it suspicious.
- **Link to governance themes in Mains** — DPC is often cited in discussions on decentralised planning and cooperative federalism at the district level.

16. Correct Option: (a) 1, 2 and 3 Only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Identify ED's institutional status

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is **not a constitutional body** but a **statutory body**.
- It works under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- This makes **Statement 1 correct**.

Step 2: Recall the laws ED enforces

- ED's powers come from:
 - **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** — for investigating and prosecuting money laundering.

- ⦿ **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** – for civil enforcement of foreign exchange violations.
- **Statement 2 is correct** because it mentions both Acts.

Step 3: Examine property attachment powers

- Under **Section 5 of PMLA**, ED can provisionally attach property on “reason to believe” it is linked to proceeds of crime.
- It can act **even before** the predicate offence is proven in court.
- This was upheld in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India (2022)**.
- **Statement 3 is correct.**

Step 4: Check appointment of ED Director

- The **Central Government** appoints the ED Director.
- The **President of India** has no direct role.
- The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** does not recommend the appointment (CVC's mandate is over CBI in certain matters, not ED).
- Therefore, **Statement 4 is incorrect.**

Step 5: Final Elimination

- Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct; Statement 4 is incorrect.
- Correct answer: **(a) 1, 2 and 3 Only**

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Step 1:** First, identify whether the body is constitutional, statutory, or executive in origin.
- **Step 2:** Link it to its enabling legislation (PMLA & FEMA here).
- **Step 3:** Watch for **appointment-related traps** — UPSC often swaps appointing authorities.
- **Step 4:** Use landmark judgments to verify operational powers.
- **Step 5:** Apply elimination — here, even if you didn't know about Statement 3, spotting Statement 4 as wrong would lead you to the correct option.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the Theme

The keywords here are **Zonal Councils + States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.

Immediately recall: These are statutory bodies created to promote interstate cooperation, coordinate policies, resolve disputes, and encourage balanced regional development.

Step 2 – Test Statement I

- The **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, Part III, provides for **five Zonal Councils** – Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern.
- Purpose: Promote cooperation between states and Union Territories in the zone, especially in matters of **economic and social planning, border disputes, linguistic minorities, transport, and infrastructure development**.
- This matches Statement I exactly.
Verdict: Correct.

Step 3 – Test Statement II Carefully

- Common trap: Many aspirants recall “rotation” and “Chief Ministers” but not the exact role.
- Fact check:
 - ⦿ **Union Home Minister** = ex-officio Chairman of all Zonal Councils.
 - ⦿ **Chief Ministers** of member states = act as **Vice-Chairman** by rotation for **1 year**.
- Statement II wrongly calls them “Chairman” — this is a factual error.
Verdict: Incorrect.

Step 4 – Apply UPSC Elimination Logic

- If Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect → the only valid choice is **(c)**.
- Even without remembering every detail of the Act, simply knowing that the Union Home Minister chairs all Zonal Councils is enough to eliminate options where Statement II is shown as correct.

Step 5 – Understand Why UPSC Frames It This Way

- UPSC often tests **minute precision** — here, the difference between **Chairman** and **Vice-Chairman**.
- Rotation provisions are a favourite trap in polity questions.
- This also tests whether you can **link a body back to its enabling legislation**.

How to Approach Statement I-Statement II Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Read Statements Separately First** – Avoid being influenced by the “explanation” link in the options.
- **Spot Terminology Traps** – “Chairman” vs “Vice-Chairman” was the bait here.

- **Recall the Enabling Law** – Zonal Councils = States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- **Check Power–Position Logic** – If a state-level leader is claimed to head an inter-state body, verify against central oversight roles.
- **Eliminate with Partial Knowledge** – Even if you only remember the Home Minister's role, you can arrive at the correct answer.
- **Revise Rotation Rules Separately** – Here, rotation applies to Vice-Chairmanship, not Chairmanship.

18. Correct Option: (c) All three pairs

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme of the question

- The question combines **two dimensions** for each pair:
 - Whether the body is **Statutory** or **Constitutional**.
 - The **core objective / function** of the body.
- This is a favourite UPSC Prelims trap format because even if you know one part (e.g., the function), you can still be misled by a wrong type, and vice versa.
- Key approach: Test **type first** (origin in Constitution or statute), then check **function**.

Step 2 – Test Pair 1: IRDAI

- **Type:** IRDAI is a **Statutory Body** established under the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999**.
 - It is *not* a constitutional body; there is no mention of IRDAI in the Constitution.
 - This is a common confusion point for aspirants who associate it with core financial governance.
- **Function:** To regulate, promote, and ensure orderly growth of the insurance and reinsurance sectors in India. It also protects policyholders' interests and ensures compliance with insurance laws.
- **Verdict:** Both type and function are correct.

Step 3 – Test Pair 2: RBI

- **Type:** RBI is a **Statutory Body** established under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
 - It is India's central bank but not a constitutional body — this is a common UPSC trap.

- **Function:**
 - Issues currency notes (except → notes and coins, which are issued by the Ministry of Finance).
 - Regulates banks, NBFCs, and manages monetary policy.
 - Maintains financial stability and acts as a lender of last resort.
- **Verdict:** Both type and function are correct.

Step 4 – Test Pair 3: Finance Commission

- **Type:** The Finance Commission is a **Constitutional Body** created under **Article 280** of the Constitution.
 - Constituted every 5 years by the President of India.
- **Function:**
 - Recommends the **distribution of the net proceeds of taxes** between the Centre and the States, and between the States themselves.
 - Suggests measures to improve fiscal consolidation and the soundness of public finances.
- **Verdict:** Both type and function are correct.

Step 5 – Apply elimination logic

- Since all three pairs have both **type** and **function** correct → The answer is **(c) All three pairs**.
- Even if you only recalled the Finance Commission's constitutional status and RBI's statutory origin, that partial knowledge could help confirm that at least two pairs are correct, pushing you toward option (c).

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check type first:** Decide whether it is Constitutional (in Constitution) or Statutory (by an Act of Parliament).
- **Then check function:** Verify the mandate — UPSC often swaps functions between bodies.
- **Beware of status–function mismatch traps:** e.g., Calling RBI constitutional, or mixing SEBI's and IRDAI's mandates.
- **Use partial knowledge:** Even 1–2 confirmed correct pairs can help you eliminate wrong options.
- **Group revision:** Study financial, environmental, and governance bodies in clusters to strengthen recall.

19. Correct Option: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme and scope of the question

- The question deals with the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution.
- This schedule contains provisions for the administration of **tribal areas in the North-East** (specifically in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram).
- UPSC here is testing your grasp of **historical evolution** (pre-Constitution arrangements under the Government of India Act, 1935) and **committee recommendations** during Constitution-making.
- Key approach: Break it into two tests — **historical origin** (Statement 1) and **committee basis** (Statement 2).

Step 2 – Test Statement 1: Historical background

- Under the **Government of India Act, 1935**, certain areas with high tribal populations in the North-East were classified as **Excluded Areas** or **Partially Excluded Areas**.
- These were part of **undivided Assam**, which at that time included present-day Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and parts of Tripura.
- The excluded status meant these regions were administered directly by the Governor without involvement of the provincial legislature.
- When framing the Constitution, the **Sixth Schedule** provisions were designed to continue special administrative arrangements for these tribal-majority areas, but with **greater autonomy through elected Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)**.
- Since this exactly matches the statement, **Statement 1 is correct**.

Step 3 – Test Statement 2: Committee basis

- The Constituent Assembly set up the **North-East Frontier (Assam) Tribal and Excluded Areas Sub-Committee** to recommend arrangements for these areas.
- It was chaired by **Gopinath Bardoloi**, the Premier (Chief Minister) of Assam at the time — hence, popularly called the **Bardoloi Committee**.
- The committee recommended setting up **Autonomous District Councils** with legislative, judicial, and financial powers

to preserve tribal culture and control local resources.

- These recommendations were accepted and incorporated into the **Sixth Schedule**.
- Therefore, **Statement 2 is correct**.

Step 4 – Apply the “incorrect” keyword filter

- The question specifically asks for the statements that are **incorrect**.
- Since both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, **neither of them is incorrect**.

Step 5 – Final Answer

- The correct option is **(d) Neither 1 nor 2**.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Watch for the ‘incorrect’ or ‘correct’ instruction** — they reverse the expected output.
- **Break the question into parts** — here, one part is historical (Government of India Act, 1935), the other is institutional (Bardoloi Committee).
- **Link historical laws to constitutional provisions** — e.g., Government of India Act, 1935 → Excluded Areas → Sixth Schedule.
- **Memorise committee associations** — Bardoloi (Sixth Schedule), Fazl Ali (States Reorganisation), Balwant Rai Mehta (Panchayati Raj), etc.
- **Partial knowledge elimination** — even if you only knew about Bardoloi Committee, you could guess both statements as correct and land on (d).

20. Correct Option: (b) 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme

- The question is based on the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.
- This amendment added **Part IXA** (Articles 243P to 243ZG) to the Constitution, focusing on the **structure, composition, and powers of urban local bodies**.
- UPSC often tests provisions from this amendment alongside the 73rd Amendment (Panchayati Raj) — especially **numerical thresholds** and **committee structures**, which are common traps.

Step 2 – Test Statement 1: Ward Committees

- **Relevant Article:** Article 243S.

- Constitutional provision:
 - A Ward Committee *shall* be constituted for a municipality having a **population of three lakh or more?**
 - This is the trick — the **actual threshold is one lakh or more**, not three lakh.
 - The committee consists of members representing one or more wards in the municipality.
 - Its main function is to ensure decentralised decision-making and citizen participation at the ward level.
- **Why this is a trap:** Many aspirants confuse the figure **one lakh** (Ward Committee) with the **ten lakh** threshold for Metropolitan Planning Committees, or they overestimate it.
- **Verdict:** Statement 1 is **incorrect** because the population limit given in the question is wrong.

Step 3 – Test Statement 2: Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC)

- **Relevant Article:** Article 243ZE.
- Provision:
 - A Metropolitan Planning Committee *must* be constituted for every **metropolitan area** (population of 10 lakh or more).
 - Its function is to prepare a **draft development plan** for the metropolitan area.
 - It integrates the plans of all municipalities and panchayats in the area, and coordinates infrastructural and economic development.
 - Membership includes elected members of municipalities and chairpersons of panchayats in the area, along with officials from the government.
- **Verdict:** Statement 2 is **correct**.

Step 4 – Apply elimination logic

- Since Statement 1 is incorrect and Statement 2 is correct, the only correct answer is **(b) 2 only**.

Approach for Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the amendment and Part of the Constitution** — here, Part IXA for the 74th Amendment.
- **Separate provisions for urban local bodies into tiers:**
 - Nagar Panchayat (for transitional areas)
 - Municipal Council (for smaller urban areas)

- Municipal Corporation (for larger urban areas)
- **Remember committee thresholds:**
 - Ward Committee → 1 lakh or more (Art. 243S)
 - Metropolitan Planning Committee → 10 lakh or more (Art. 243ZE)
- **Eliminate using certain facts** — even if you don't know both statements, a single confirmed fact can help you zero in on the correct answer.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme

- This question is about **eligibility to be a candidate in Panchayat elections**, which comes under the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.
- The provisions are in **Part IX** of the Constitution (Articles 243–243O) and are implemented through **State Panchayati Raj Acts**.
- These provisions cover **minimum age, qualifications, and disqualifications** for candidates.
- UPSC here is mixing a factual check (minimum age), a principle check (disqualification), and a common trap (uniform educational qualifications).

Step 2 – Test Statement 1

- Article **243F(1)(a)** mandates that a person must have attained **the age of 21 years** to be chosen as a member of a Panchayat.
- This is a **uniform requirement** across all States; no State can prescribe a lower age.
- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 3 – Test Statement 2

- Article **243F(1)(b)** allows a person to be disqualified if they are of **unsound mind**, an **undischarged insolvent**, or otherwise disqualified under State law.
- These disqualifications mirror provisions from the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, which apply to elections to legislatures but are adapted for local bodies by State laws.
- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 4 – Test Statement 3

- The **73rd Amendment** does **not** prescribe any **uniform educational qualification** for contesting Panchayat elections.

- It leaves such matters to State Legislatures.
- Example: Haryana and Rajasthan prescribed certain educational qualifications, but these are not universal and have been challenged in courts.
- **Verdict:** Incorrect.

Step 5 – Apply elimination logic

- Statement 3 is incorrect → remove any option containing “3” as correct.
- Remaining possible answers: (a) and (b).
- Since both Statements 1 and 2 are correct, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

How to Approach This Type of UPSC Prelims Question

- **Spot the topic** — Here it's “Panchayat elections eligibility,” so recall Part IX + State Acts.
- **Break it into sub-parts** — Minimum age, disqualifications, educational qualifications.
- **Beware of uniformity traps** — UPSC often tests whether something is prescribed uniformly by the Constitution or left to States.
- **Check source articles** —
 - Art. 243F(1)(a) → Minimum age (21 years)
 - Art. 243F(1)(b) → Disqualifications (unsound mind, insolvency, etc.)
- **Use elimination even with partial knowledge** — Even if you only knew that educational qualifications are not uniform, you could quickly narrow it down to (a) or (b), and then confirm using the minimum age fact.

22. Correct Option: (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme of the question

- The question is on the **constitutional position and independence** of the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**.
- The CAG is mentioned in **Articles 148 to 151** of the Constitution, not under the Articles relating to the Union Executive.
- UPSC here is testing both factual knowledge (constitutional location) and conceptual understanding (reason for that placement).

Step 2 – Test Statement 1: CAG not being part of the Union Executive

- The Union Executive under Part V of the Constitution covers the **President, Vice-President, Council of Ministers, and Attorney General of India** (Articles 52–78).
- The CAG is covered separately in **Chapter V of Part V** (Articles 148–151).
- This separation ensures that the CAG is **not subordinate** to the government whose accounts it audits.
- It is appointed by the President but works independently once in office.
- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 3 – Test Statement 2: CAG as an independent constitutional authority

- The CAG audits:
 - **Consolidated Fund of India** and of each State.
 - **Contingency Funds and Public Accounts** of the Union and States.
 - Accounts of bodies/subordinate authorities substantially financed from Union/State revenues.
- Independence safeguards include:
 - Security of tenure (6 years or up to age 65).
 - Removal only in the manner of a Supreme Court judge (via Parliament).
 - Salary charged on the Consolidated Fund of India (not subject to parliamentary vote).
- These features ensure impartiality and protect the CAG from executive influence.
- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 4 – Check if Statement 2 explains Statement 1

- The reason the CAG is kept **outside the Union Executive** is **because** it must audit the very actions and accounts of the Union Executive without interference.
- If it were part of the Executive, there would be a clear **conflict of interest**.
- Therefore, Statement 2 (independence for impartial auditing) is the **reason** for Statement 1 (not part of Union Executive).

Step 5 – Apply elimination logic

- Both statements are correct.
- Statement 2 is the cause/reason for Statement 1.
- **Correct answer = (a).**

How to Approach Statement 1–Statement 2 Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Test each statement independently first**
 - This avoids the trap of assuming that if both statements are correct, one must explain the other.
 - In many UPSC questions, both are correct but unrelated.
- **Check for constitutional placement**
 - For CAG, remember: Articles 148–151, separate from Union Executive (Articles 52–78).
- **Link function with structure**
 - If a body's function requires impartiality (like CAG auditing executive expenditure), its placement will reflect that (outside the executive).
- **Verify cause–effect relationship**
 - Statement 2 should logically explain “why” Statement 1 is true.
- **Beware of common misconceptions**
 - Many candidates wrongly assume CAG is part of the Union Executive because it audits Union accounts.
 - The reality: it is structurally separate to maintain neutrality.

23. Correct Option: (a) Only one

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme

- The question is about the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- Originally a statutory body (NCBC Act, 1993), it became a **constitutional body** after the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**.
- Its provisions are laid out in **Article 338B** of the Constitution.
- The core mandate is **specific**—socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs) in the **Central List** only.
- UPSC's trick here: mix correct functions with **powers belonging to other commissions** (SC/ST commissions).

Step 2 – Test Statement 1

- Article 338B(5)(a): NCBC **examines requests** for inclusion of any class in the **Central List of backward classes** and advises the Government of India.

- This is one of its key and **correctly stated** functions.

- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 3 – Test Statement 2

- Article 338B(5)(b): NCBC **investigates and monitors** matters relating to the **safeguards provided for backward classes** under the Constitution or any law, and evaluates their working.

- This is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.

- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 4 – Test Statement 3

- Inclusion or exclusion of **Scheduled Castes** or **Scheduled Tribes** from their lists is handled under **Articles 341 and 342**, and monitored by:

- **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** under Article 338.

- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** under Article 338A.

- The NCBC has **no role** in SC/ST list revisions.

- This statement assigns a function that belongs to **other constitutional bodies**, so it's **factually incorrect**.

- **Verdict:** Incorrect.

Step 5 – Test Statement 4

- Article 338B(5)(d): NCBC **presents annual and special reports to the President** on the working of the safeguards for backward classes, and these reports are laid before Parliament.

- This is correctly worded in the statement.

- **Verdict:** Correct.

Step 6 – Count the incorrect statements

- Incorrect: Only Statement 3.

- **Number of incorrect statements = One**
→ Option (a).

Why UPSC Frames This Way

- To check if you know the **limits of jurisdiction** between similar-sounding commissions.

- Many aspirants wrongly assume that NCBC, NCSC, and NCST have overlapping roles in inclusion/exclusion of community lists.

- The reality:

- NCBC → Backward classes in Central List.

- NCSC → Scheduled Castes.

- NCST → Scheduled Tribes.

How to Approach “How Many Statements Are Incorrect?” Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Identify the constitutional Article or Act governing the body.
- Check for mandate boundaries — what the body can and cannot do.
- Watch for ‘role swap’ traps — e.g., NCBC wrongly given SC/ST functions.
- Confirm procedural powers — like report submission, investigative powers, advisory role.
- Use elimination — Even if you only remember that NCBC doesn’t deal with SC/ST lists, you can quickly narrow the answer.

24. Correct Option: (c) 16

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme

- The Finance Commission is a **Constitutional body** under Article 280 of the Constitution of India.
- It is appointed by the **President** every five years (or earlier if required).
- Its primary role is to recommend the distribution of **net proceeds of taxes** between the Union and the States, principles for grants-in-aid, and other matters referred by the President.
- Knowing the latest Finance Commission number is a factual update that UPSC expects you to track.

Step 2 – Recall historical sequence

- 1st Finance Commission → 1951 (Chairman: K.C. Neogy).
- Since then, a new commission has been constituted roughly every five years.
- 15th Finance Commission → Constituted in 2017 (Chairman: N.K. Singh) → Recommendations for 2021–2026.

Step 3 – Current update

- 16th Finance Commission was constituted in December 2023.
- Chairman: Dr. Arvind Panagariya (former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog).
- Award period: Recommendations for 2026–2031.
- Mandate includes reviewing tax devolution, grants-in-aid, fiscal consolidation, and examining the impact of GST on revenue distribution.

Step 4 – Elimination of wrong options

- **Option (a) 14** → outdated; 14th FC chaired by Y.V. Reddy (2015–2020).
- **Option (b) 15** → outdated; 15th FC’s recommendations currently being implemented but next FC already constituted.
- **Option (d) 17** → not yet formed.
- Correct is **Option (c) 16**.

Enrichment for UPSC

- **Article 280(1):** The President shall constitute a Finance Commission within two years of the Constitution’s commencement and thereafter at the expiration of every five years or earlier if necessary.
- **Composition:** Chairman + four other members (qualifications set by Parliament).
- **Key Recommendations of 15th FC:**
 - Vertical devolution to States: 41% of divisible pool.
 - Grants for health, disaster management, and performance-linked incentives.
- **Key Point for 16th FC:** This will be the first FC to recommend a full five-year award period entirely in the post-COVID fiscal context.

How to Approach This Question in UPSC Prelims

- **Link static with current affairs:** Even though Finance Commission is a static topic (Article 280), the number of commissions is updated through current events.
- **Remember last two commissions in detail:**
 - Chairperson, period, notable recommendations.
 - This helps in both factual and applied questions.
- **Avoid trap of “current award period” confusion:** Many candidates mark 15 because the 15th FC recommendations are still in force. But the 16th FC is already constituted.
- **Revise constitutional provisions with timelines:** Article 280’s five-year rule helps eliminate illogical numbers like 14 or 17.
- **Keep a one-page Finance Commission chart handy** for instant recall in exam.

25. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex national body for disaster management in India.
- It was established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- UPSC questions on NDMA often test who heads it, its scope of coverage, and its legal functions.

Step 2 – Evaluate Statement 1

- Statement: NDMA is the apex body to lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure a timely and effective response.
- This is correct as per Section 6 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. NDMA formulates policies, approves plans, and provides guidelines for disaster management across the country.
- Verdict: Correct.

Step 3 – Evaluate Statement 2

- Statement: It is headed by the Minister of Home Affairs.
- This is incorrect. NDMA is chaired by the Prime Minister of India. The Home Minister may play a key role in disaster response, but is not the head of NDMA.
- Verdict: Incorrect.

Step 4 – Evaluate Statement 3

- Statement: It covers both natural as well as man-made disasters in its ambit.
- Correct. The Disaster Management Act defines “disaster” to include natural (earthquakes, floods, cyclones) and man-made disasters (industrial, chemical, biological, nuclear, etc.).
- Verdict: Correct.

Step 5 – Arrive at the answer

- Correct statements: 1 and 3.
- Incorrect statement: 2.
- Therefore, the number of correct statements is two → Option (b) Only two.

Enrichment for UPSC

- Legal basis: Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Chairperson: Prime Minister of India.
- Composition: Up to nine members nominated by the PM, one as Vice-Chairperson.
- Scope: Covers policy formulation, prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response for both natural and human-made disasters.

How to Approach This Question in UPSC Prelims

- Recall the enabling Act and its key provisions.
- Leadership trap: Always confirm who heads a body — PM vs Minister.
- Scope check: Identify whether the body's mandate is sector-specific or all-encompassing.
- Use elimination: Knowing statement 2 is wrong immediately narrows options to those with “only two correct.”

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Identify the theme

- The question relates to reasons for ineffective functioning of local bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities) in India.
- These reasons are linked to the implementation gaps after the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

Step 2 – Evaluate Statement 1

- “Lack of functional devolution by the states” means that despite the constitutional mandate, many states have not transferred adequate functions from the 11th and 12th Schedules to local bodies.
- This is a major cause of weak local governance.
- Verdict: Correct.

Step 3 – Evaluate Statement 2

- State Finance Commissions (SFCs) are meant to recommend financial devolution to local bodies every five years.
- In many states, SFCs are either not constituted on time or their recommendations are not implemented.
- This hampers financial capacity of local bodies.
- Verdict: Correct.

Step 4 – Evaluate Statement 3

- “Creation of parallel bodies” refers to agencies like development authorities, water boards, and special purpose vehicles (SPVs) under schemes like Smart Cities Mission, which perform functions overlapping with local bodies.
- This undermines the authority of elected bodies.
- Verdict: Correct.

Step 5 – Evaluate Statement 4

- The “Principle of Subsidiarity” means that governance functions should be performed

- at the lowest level capable of doing them efficiently.
- Adoption of this principle actually strengthens local governance; its absence, not adoption, is a problem.
- Therefore, this is not a reason for ineffectiveness.
- Verdict: Incorrect.

Step 6 – Arrive at the answer

- Correct reasons: 1, 2, 3.
- Incorrect: 4.
- Answer: Option (a) 1, 2 and 3 only.

Enrichment for UPSC

- 73rd and 74th Amendments provided for functional, financial, and administrative devolution.
- Issues persist due to: weak state political will, inadequate capacity-building, bureaucratic dominance, and parallel agencies.
- Recommendations from 2nd ARC and Finance Commissions emphasize strengthening SFCs, ensuring timely elections, and empowering Gram Sabhas/Ward Committees.

How to Approach This Question in UPSC Prelims

- Link each statement to whether it strengthens or weakens local governance.
- Eliminate positive reforms (like subsidiarity) when the question is about “reasons for ineffectiveness.”
- Use constitutional provisions (11th & 12th Schedules) as benchmarks for identifying functional gaps.

27. Correct Option: (c) All three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the origin and status of the CVC

- The CVC was initially created in 1964 through an executive resolution following the recommendations of the **Committee on Prevention of Corruption** (Santhanam Committee).
- At that stage, it had no statutory backing — it was an advisory body to the central government in vigilance matters.
- Later, through the **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003** (in force from 11 September 2003), Parliament conferred statutory status on the CVC.
- This immediately confirms that **Statement 3 is correct**.

Step 2: Appointment authority and process

- As per **Section 4 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**, the **President of India** appoints the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners.
- The appointments are based on the recommendation of a high-powered committee.
- Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

Step 3: Composition of the recommending committee

- The recommending committee, as per the 2003 Act, consists of:
 - Prime Minister** – Chairperson
 - Union Minister of Home Affairs** – Member
 - Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha** – Member (or the leader of the largest opposition party if LoP is not formally recognised)
- This exactly matches **Statement 2**, so it is correct.

Step 4: Elimination and reasoning

- Since all three statements match the constitutional/legislative provisions, the correct answer is **(c) All three**.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Identify the body type** – Know whether it is a constitutional, statutory, or executive body. Statutory bodies always have a clear legal reference (Act + year).
- Link origin to current status** – CVC started as an executive resolution in 1964, later became statutory in 2003. This historical evolution often appears in tricky UPSC options.
- Memorise appointment mechanism** – Committees for appointment of top statutory bodies (CVC, CBI Director, CIC, NHRC, etc.) have specific members — one wrong member in the option can flip the answer.
- Beware of wrong inclusion of constitutional articles** – CVC has **no constitutional article**; any reference to a constitutional provision in such questions is a red flag.
- Cross-verify powers and jurisdiction** – Many confuse CVC’s role with investigative powers; it is primarily advisory but has supervisory powers over CBI in corruption cases.

28. Correct Option: (b) 1 and 3 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional and Statutory Basis of the SHRC

- The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) is **not a constitutional body**; it is a **statutory body** established under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA)**.
- The PHRA lays down **composition, powers, functions, tenure, and removal provisions**.
- **Composition as per Section 21 of PHRA:**
 - **Chairperson:** Must be a retired Chief Justice or Judge of a High Court.
 - **Members:**
 - One serving or retired **Judge of a High Court or a District Judge in the state** with at least 7 years of experience.
 - One person having practical experience in human rights matters.

This directly confirms **Statement 1 is correct** — a serving or retired District Judge can be a member.

Step 2: Examine the Tenure and Appointment Process

- **Appointment:** Made by the **Governor** based on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
 - Chief Minister (Chairperson)
 - Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
 - Home Minister of the state
 - Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly
 - If there is a Legislative Council: Chairperson of the Council + Leader of Opposition in the Council.
- **Tenure (after the 2019 PHRA Amendment):**
 - **3 years or until 70 years of age**, whichever is earlier.
 - They can be reappointed.

This confirms **Statement 3 is correct**.

Step 3: Removal Process and the “Pleasure of Governor” Trap

- Removal is **not at the pleasure of the Governor**.
- It requires a formal process as per the Act — only on proven misbehaviour or incapacity,

after an inquiry by the Supreme Court judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India.

- The “pleasure of Governor” applies to political appointees like ministers, not independent statutory bodies.

This makes **Statement 2 incorrect**.

Step 4: Elimination Method

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

The only matching option is **(b) 1 and 3 only**.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check the nature of the body:** Constitutional? Statutory? Executive?
 - This determines whether tenure is fixed or at pleasure of the executive.
- **Be alert for “trap” phrases:**
 - “Pleasure of Governor” / “Pleasure of President” — often inserted in MCQs for independent bodies to mislead candidates.
- **Recall recent amendments:**
 - Before 2019, SHRC members had a 5-year tenure; now it's 3 years (important current affairs).
- **Relate to analogous bodies:**
 - Like NHRC at the central level, SHRC follows a similar structure but under the Governor instead of the President.
- **Use partial knowledge to eliminate:**
 - Even if unsure about tenure length, knowing that “pleasure of Governor” is incorrect helps narrow down choices.

29. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the Statutory Framework under the Right to Information Act, 2005

- The CIC and Information Commissioners (ICs) are appointed under **Sections 12–15** of the RTI Act, 2005.
- The Act prescribes the composition of the selection committee, tenure, grounds of removal, and reappointment rules.
- Amendments in **2019** changed the tenure provisions (earlier fixed at 5 years or age 65, whichever earlier) to “as prescribed by the Central Government.”

Step 2: Evaluate the Statements

Statement 1: *The CIC and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Union Minister of Home Affairs.*

- **Incorrect.**
- The committee consists of PM (Chairperson), Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM (not necessarily the Home Minister).
- So the “Union Minister of Home Affairs” part is factually wrong.

Statement 2: *The CIC can be removed from office by the President on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry conducted by the Supreme Court.*

- **Correct.**
- Section 14 of the RTI Act states: The President may remove the CIC/IC on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity **after the Supreme Court has conducted an inquiry and recommended removal.**

Statement 3: *The CIC holds office for a term of five years from the date of entering office or until attaining the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.*

- **Incorrect (post-2019 amendment).**
- Earlier correct, but **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019** removed the fixed 5-year tenure and age limit, leaving them to be prescribed by the Central Government through rules.

Statement 4: *The CIC and Information Commissioners are eligible for reappointment after completing their term.*

- **Correct.**
- They are eligible for reappointment, subject to the prescribed rules.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect
- **Statement 2:** Correct
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect (due to 2019 change)
- **Statement 4:** Correct

Final Answer: (b) Only two

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check composition carefully** — Many UPSC traps replace a committee member with another ministerial post.

- **Beware of amendments** — Always verify whether the provision has changed (RTI Act, Lokpal Act, etc., have recent amendments).
- **Note removal process** — If “Supreme Court inquiry” is mentioned, check if it’s actually part of the statutory removal procedure.
- **Memorise eligibility & reappointment rules** — Many statutory posts have specific restrictions on holding further offices.
- **Be mindful of dates** — Provisions pre- and post-amendment can drastically change the answer.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the Legal and Institutional Framework of NCPCR

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up under **Section 3 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005**.
- It works under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- Its primary role is to ensure that all laws, policies, and programmes are aligned with the principles of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, which India ratified in 1992.
- The definition of a “child” for the Commission’s work is **any person from 0 to 18 years of age**.

Step 2: Evaluate the Statements

Statement 1: *NCPCR is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.*

- **Correct.**
- Created by the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005** → makes it a **statutory body**.
- Operates under the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Statement 2: *The Commission’s mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies and programmes are in consonance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

- **Correct.**
- Section 13 of the Act explicitly includes ensuring compliance with UNCRC principles in all national laws, policies, and programmes.

Statement 3: *The Commission considers a 'child' as a person who is in between the age group 0–18 years.*

- **Correct.**
- As per Section 2(12) of the Act, a child is any person **below 18 years of age** — effectively covering the 0–18 years range.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

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

Final Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check the legal source** — If a body is set up by an Act, it's statutory; if by executive order, it's non-statutory.
- **Look for international linkages** — Many commissions (e.g., NCPNR, NHRC) have mandates linked to UN conventions.
- **Remember precise definitions** — For commissions related to children, minorities, women, etc., knowing the legal definition of the subject group is key.
- **Use the Act's section structure** — For important bodies, memorising 2–3 critical sections helps you eliminate trap statements quickly.
- **Beware of wording tricks** — UPSC often replaces the actual ministry or changes age limits to mislead.

31. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the Constitutional & Statutory Basis of ECI's Powers

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a **constitutional body** under Article 324.
- It supervises, directs, and controls elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.
- Its powers come from both the **Constitution** and statutory laws like the **Representation of the People Act, 1950 & 1951**.

Step 2: Evaluate the Statements

Statement 1: *The Election Commission can advise the President to disqualify a Member of Parliament under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.*

- **Correct.**
- Under Article 103 (for MPs) and Article 192 (for MLAs), the President/Governor

decides on disqualification, but is **bound** by the opinion of the ECI when the matter falls under the RPA, 1951.

Statement 2: *The Election Commission is empowered to determine the territorial constituencies for elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.*

- **Incorrect.**
- The **Delimitation Commission**, a separate statutory body, determines territorial constituencies.
- The ECI conducts elections based on those boundaries but does not itself fix them.

Statement 3: *During elections, the Election Commission can issue directions to government officials to ensure free and fair polls.*

- **Correct.**
- Under **Article 324**, the ECI can transfer officials, requisition forces, and issue binding instructions to both state and central governments during elections to ensure impartiality.

Statement 4: *The decisions of the Election Commission in matters of election disputes are binding on all courts.*

- **Incorrect.**
- Election disputes are adjudicated by **High Courts** (for Parliament/Assembly seats) and the **Supreme Court** (for President/Vice-President).
- ECI's decisions can be challenged in court, although **Article 329(b)** bars interference during the electoral process.

Step 3: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect
- Statement 3: Correct
- Statement 4: Incorrect

Final Answer: (b) Only two

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Separate Constitutional vs. Statutory Powers** — Know which ECI powers are directly under Article 324 and which are from laws like RPA 1950/1951.
- **Watch for Confusion with Other Bodies** — UPSC often swaps ECI functions with those of the **Delimitation Commission** or **Election Tribunals** to mislead.
- **Understand Judicial Review Limits** — ECI decisions can be challenged in courts, except during the election process (Article 329(b) bar).

- **Check Binding Nature Carefully** – Some ECI recommendations (like disqualification advice) are binding, but others are only advisory.
- **Connect with Current Affairs** – Link powers to recent events (e.g., ECI transferring officers during elections, disqualifying MPs) to reinforce recall.

32. Correct Option: (a) A – 3, B – 3, C – 1, D – 2

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Recall the Constitutional Provision

- The **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution of India provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in certain tribal areas of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.
- These bodies have legislative, administrative, and judicial powers over specified subjects to protect the cultural, social, and economic interests of tribal communities.

Step 2: Match Each ADC to Its State

- **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council** → **Assam**
 - Governs Karbi Anglong district in Assam.
 - Has powers over land management, forest resources, agriculture, and customary law for tribal groups.
- **Bodoland Territorial Council** → **Assam**
 - Created after the Bodo Accord to govern the Bodoland Territorial Region in Assam.
 - Enjoys legislative and executive powers in specified subjects under the Sixth Schedule.
- **Garo Hills Autonomous District Council** → **Meghalaya**
 - One of three ADCs in Meghalaya (others: Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills).
 - Deals with customary law, land tenure, and local governance in Garo-majority areas.
- **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council** → **Tripura**
 - Administers tribal-majority areas in Tripura under the Sixth Schedule.
 - Covers over two-thirds of the geographical area of the state.

Step 3: Final Mapping

- **A – 3 (Assam)**
- **B – 3 (Assam)**

- **C – 1 (Meghalaya)**
- **D – 2 (Tripura)**

Final Answer: (a) A – 3, B – 3, C – 1, D – 2

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Start with the Sixth Schedule basics** – Remember that ADCs exist **only in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**. If a match includes another state, it's likely incorrect.
- **Use elimination** – Identify at least one or two councils you are certain about (e.g., Garo Hills → Meghalaya; Tripura Tribal Areas → Tripura). This can quickly remove wrong options.
- **Know the unique names** – Some councils are named after tribes/regions (e.g., Karbi Anglong, Bodoland), making them easier to recall.
- **Avoid confusion with other councils** – Don't mix up Sixth Schedule ADCs with **Autonomous Hill Development Councils** (found in states like Ladakh or West Bengal) or tribal councils under state laws.
- **Link with current affairs** – ADCs often feature in the news regarding demands for more autonomy, constitutional amendments, or ethnic conflicts — this can help cement memory.

33. Correct Option: (c) A is correct but R is incorrect

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Assertion (A)

- *"It has been a common practice to achieve speedy implementation and greater accountability, parallel bodies (PBs) are created to perform the similar functions as Panchayats."*
- **This is correct**—In many states, government agencies create **Parallel Bodies** such as **development authorities, water supply boards, watershed committees, special purpose vehicles (SPVs)** to carry out functions listed in the 11th Schedule.
- This often undermines PRIs because these PBs operate outside the Panchayat framework, diverting funds and decision-making authority.

Step 2: Understand the Reason (R)

- *"PBs has shown to achieve their goals more effectively, and have been largely away from the shortcomings of the Panchayati Raj."*

- This is **incorrect** — Studies (e.g., by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and 2nd ARC) have shown that PBs are not necessarily more effective.
- In fact, PBs often **lack accountability to local citizens**, duplicate work, and lead to fragmentation in planning and implementation.
- Their creation is usually driven by departmental control rather than efficiency, which contradicts the claim in R.

Step 3: Evaluate the Relationship between A and R

- Since **A is correct** but **R is factually wrong**, R cannot be the explanation for A.

Step 4: Final Evaluation

- Assertion (A): **Correct**
- Reason (R): **Incorrect**
- Correct Code: **(c) A is correct but R is incorrect**

How to Approach Such Assertion-Reason Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Treat Assertion and Reason independently first** — Decide if each is factually correct without trying to link them immediately.
- **Watch for normative bias** — Many “Reason” statements present an idealised claim that may not reflect the reality of implementation.
- **Cross-check with reports and data** — Bodies like the 2nd ARC, CAG, and MoPR often provide the factual status (e.g., PBs fragment governance).
- **Remember cause-effect logic** — Even if both are correct, check if R actually explains A, not just relates to it.
- **Use elimination** — If R is clearly incorrect, options (a) and (b) drop out instantly.

34. Correct Option: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement-I

- *In case of a conflict between the Central law and the State law on a subject enumerated in the Concurrent List, the Central law prevails over the State law.*
- **Correct.**

- **Article 254(1)** of the Constitution provides that when there is inconsistency between a law made by Parliament and a law made by a State Legislature on a matter in the Concurrent List, the law made by Parliament will prevail, and the state law will be void to the extent of the repugnancy.
- **Exception:** Under **Article 254(2)**, if a state law on a Concurrent List subject, having received Presidential assent, conflicts with a central law, it can prevail within that state — but Parliament can override it later.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement-II

- *The Constitution expressly secures the predominance of the Union List over the State List.*
- **Correct.**
- **Article 246(1)** gives Parliament exclusive power to legislate on matters in the Union List, while **Article 246(3)** gives states exclusive power over the State List **subject to** Parliament’s powers.
- This ensures the **supremacy of Union List legislation** over State List legislation where overlap or conflict occurs.

Step 3: Check if Statement-II explains Statement-I

- **Statement-I** is a specific instance of legislative supremacy in the **Concurrent List** (Article 254).
- **Statement-II** expresses the broader constitutional principle of **Union predominance over states in legislative matters**.
- The reason why Parliament’s law prevails in the Concurrent List is grounded in this constitutional design of Union predominance.
- Therefore, Statement-II is indeed the **correct explanation** for Statement-I.

Step 4: Final Evaluation

- Statement-I: **Correct**
- Statement-II: **Correct**
- Statement-II explains Statement-I: Yes

Final Answer: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check each statement independently first** — Never assume correctness based on the other statement.
- **Identify the constitutional principle** — Here, Union predominance in legislation

is the underlying link between Articles 246 and 254.

- **Think broadly for explanation links** – UPSC often uses a wider constitutional principle as the “reason” for a specific rule.
- **Remember exceptions** – Presidential assent (Article 254(2)) modifies the general rule in Statement-I.
- **Memorise the three-list conflict hierarchy** – Union List > State List; Union law > State law in Concurrent List unless protected by Article 254(2).

35. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement 1

“The Parliament has the power to adjudicate any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution, or control of waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.”

- **Incorrect.**
- **Article 262(1)** says: *Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution, or control of waters of, or in, any inter-State river or river valley.*
- This means Parliament’s **role is to create the legal framework** for adjudication, not to **directly adjudicate**.
- The actual adjudication is done by **tribunals** set up under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** (ISWRD Act).
- Parliament is the law-making authority; the tribunals are the dispute-resolving authority.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement 2

“The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides for the establishment of tribunals to resolve disputes between states.”

- **Correct.**
- The ISWRD Act, 1956 was enacted under Article 262 to provide a **mechanism** for settling disputes between states relating to the waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
- The Act empowers the Central Government to set up **ad hoc tribunals** whenever such disputes arise and cannot be resolved through negotiation.
- Examples of such tribunals:
 - **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal** (1990)
 - **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal** (1969; second tribunal in 2004)

- **Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal** (1969)

Step 3: Evaluate Statement 3

“The decision of an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal is binding on the states but can be challenged in the Supreme Court.”

- **Incorrect.**
- **Section 6 of the ISWRD Act** states: The decision (award) of a tribunal is **final and binding** on the parties to the dispute.
- **Article 262(2)** allows Parliament to exclude the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court (and any other court) in respect of such disputes. The ISWRD Act does exactly this.
- Therefore, **no appeal lies to the Supreme Court** on the merits of the case.
- Only in very rare circumstances, under **judicial review principles**, a party may challenge the tribunal’s decision for issues like violation of natural justice — but not on substantive grounds.

Step 4: Evaluate Statement 4

“The 2019 amendment to the ISWRD Act provides for the constitution of a single, permanent tribunal with multiple benches.”

- **Correct.**
- **The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Act, 2019** introduced:
 - A **single, permanent tribunal** with multiple benches instead of multiple ad hoc tribunals.
 - **Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs)** for pre-litigation negotiations — disputes unresolved within a fixed time go to the tribunal.
 - **Strict time limits** for tribunal decisions — to speed up resolution (currently disputes often drag for decades).

Step 5: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Incorrect (Parliament legislates, tribunals adjudicate)
- Statement 2: Correct
- Statement 3: Incorrect (No SC appeal on merits due to Article 262(2) bar)
- Statement 4: Correct

Number of correct statements: Two

Final Answer: (b) Only two

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Separate constitutional and statutory provisions** –
 - **Article 262** → gives Parliament the power to make laws for adjudication and to bar SC jurisdiction.

- **ISWRD Act, 1956** → operationalises the mechanism via tribunals.
- **Know the bar on SC jurisdiction** – Article 262(2) + ISWRD Act = no court appeal on merits. This is a common UPSC trap.
- **Watch for post-2019 changes** – Permanent tribunal, multiple benches, DRCs, time limits.
- **Look for functional vs. enabling powers** – Parliament enables adjudication via law; it doesn't itself act as adjudicator.
- **Link with examples in current affairs** – Cauvery, Krishna, Ravi-Beas disputes are often in the news, making this a recurring UPSC favourite.

36. Correct Option: (b) A system where the Union and State Governments share resources, responsibilities, and work jointly to achieve common national goals

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand the Constitutional and Practical Meaning

- *Co-operative federalism* in the Indian context is **both a constitutional design and a political practice**.
- While the Constitution provides for a **federal structure with a strong unitary bias** (Articles 245–263), many national challenges — poverty alleviation, infrastructure building, disaster management — require **joint effort**.
- Co-operative federalism **blends the division of powers with collaborative governance**, meaning the Union and States share **resources, responsibilities, and policy-making** for common goals.
- Examples:
 - **NITI Aayog** as a think tank facilitating Centre–State coordination.
 - **GST Council** where both levels decide tax policies jointly.
 - Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with cost-sharing formulas.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

Option (a): *Union and State Governments are entirely independent in their respective spheres of power.*

- This is the US-style **dual federalism** (“layer cake federalism”), not applicable to India's overlapping powers in the Concurrent List.

Option (b): *Union and State Governments share resources, responsibilities, and work jointly to achieve common national goals.*

- Correct — Captures the essence of cooperative federalism where Centre and States partner for planning, funding, and implementing programmes.

Option (c): *States enjoy supremacy over the Union in matters of governance.*

- This would indicate a **confederation** or a **state-dominated federation**, which India is not — Union Parliament retains supremacy in certain matters.

Option (d): *Union Government directs and controls all functions of the State Governments.*

- This is closer to **unitary** or **coercive federalism** (often during emergencies or central overreach), not cooperative federalism.

Step 3: Final Answer

(b) A system where the Union and State Governments share resources, responsibilities, and work jointly to achieve common national goals

Step 4: How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the core idea in the keyword** – Here, “co-operative” signals *partnership*, not dominance or independence.
- **Eliminate extreme options** – In UPSC MCQs, options suggesting absolute independence (dual federalism) or total control (unitary) are usually wrong for India's mixed model.
- **Recall Indian examples** – GST Council, NITI Aayog, Inter-State Council, centrally sponsored schemes, disaster response frameworks.
- **Distinguish from similar concepts** –
 - *Competitive Federalism*: States compete for investment, reforms, and performance ranking.
 - *Coercive Federalism*: Union imposes policies without meaningful State consultation.
- **Remember constitutional provisions** – Articles 263 (Inter-State Council), 280 (Finance Commission), and 293 (State borrowing) all encourage cooperation in fiscal and administrative matters.

37. Correct Option: (c) Only three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement 1

- **Correct.**
- The **Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC)** is provided under **Article 243ZE** of the Constitution, inserted by the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.
- It is a **constitutional body** meant for metropolitan areas with a population of **10 lakh or more**.

Step 2: Evaluate Statement 2

- **Correct.**
- As per **Article 243ZE(2)**, *not less than two-thirds* of MPC members must be **elected by and from among the elected members of the Municipalities and Chairpersons of Panchayats** in the metropolitan area.
- The representation must be **proportional to the ratio of the population** of municipalities and panchayats in the metropolitan area.

Step 3: Evaluate Statement 3

- **Incorrect.**
- The Constitution does **not** prescribe a uniform size and composition for MPCs in all states.
- It leaves the **number of members and other composition details** to be determined by State Legislatures by law.

Step 4: Evaluate Statement 4

- **Correct.**
- The **main function** of the MPC is to **prepare a draft development plan** for the metropolitan area.
- This integrates plans prepared by municipalities and panchayats and considers matters of common interest such as infrastructure, housing, transport, water supply, sanitation, and environmental protection.

Step 5: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Correct
- Statement 3: Incorrect
- Statement 4: Correct

Number of correct statements: Three

Final Answer: (c) Only three

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the Article** – MPC = Article 243ZE; DPC = Article 243ZD.
- **Memorise the 2/3 rule** – This ratio is a fixed constitutional requirement, not left to states.

- **Spot traps** – UPSC often inserts “uniform composition fixed for all states” which is false for such bodies.
- **Remember the key function** – Draft development plan integrating multiple local plans.
- **Link with examples** – Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru have MPCs as mandated by their respective state laws.

38. Correct Option: (c) Only three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement 1

“The Legislative Assembly of Puducherry can make laws with respect to matters enumerated in the State List and Concurrent List, subject to the overriding powers of Parliament.”

- **Correct.**
- Article 239A of the Constitution, along with the **Government of Union Territories Act, 1963**, empowers the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry to legislate on matters in the **State List and Concurrent List**, similar to a State Legislature.
- However, there is a **key difference — Parliament has overriding powers**.
 - If both Parliament and the Puducherry Assembly make a law on a State List subject, **Parliament’s law will prevail**.
 - This is unlike States, where State List subjects are generally exclusive unless overridden under special circumstances (Articles 249, 250, etc.).

Step 2: Evaluate Statement 2

“A law made by the Puducherry Legislative Assembly on a Concurrent List subject will prevail over a Central law in that Union Territory if it has received the assent of the President.”

- **Correct.**
- As per **Article 254(2)**, if a UT Legislature makes a law on a Concurrent List subject **inconsistent** with a Central law and it has received **Presidential assent**, the UT law prevails within that territory.
- However, **Parliament retains the power** to later override such a law at any time.
- Example: Puducherry Assembly passing a law on education or labour regulations that deviates from a central law but gains Presidential assent.

Step 3: Evaluate Statement 3

“The Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry can reserve certain bills passed by the Legislative Assembly for the consideration of the President.”

- **Correct.**
- The **LG of Puducherry** has powers similar to a Governor in reserving bills (as per Article 200 framework applied via UT law), but with **greater discretion** in a UT context.
- Categories of bills that can be reserved:
 - Bills derogating from High Court powers.
 - Bills affecting matters under Union jurisdiction.
 - Bills contrary to central laws or affecting financial interests of the Union.

Step 4: Evaluate Statement 4

"The Legislative Assembly of Puducherry has no power to legislate on matters in the State List."

- **Incorrect.**
- The Legislative Assembly of Puducherry **does** have this power under Article 239A and the 1963 Act.
- In fact, it can legislate on **both State and Concurrent Lists**, subject to Parliament's supremacy.
- This is a common UPSC trap, as many candidates assume UT legislatures can only legislate on Concurrent List subjects like Delhi.

Step 5: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Correct
- Statement 3: Correct
- Statement 4: Incorrect

Number of correct statements: Three

Final Answer: (c) Only three

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Know the constitutional provision** – Puducherry legislature is created under **Article 239A**, not under the general provisions for States (Articles 168–212).
- **Understand the difference with Delhi**
 -
 - Puducherry can legislate on **State List** subjects.
 - Delhi's Assembly cannot legislate on certain State List matters like public order, police, and land (Article 239AA(3) (a)).
- Presidential assent mechanism – Always recall Article 254(2) rule for UTs with legislatures, same as for States, but subject to Parliament's supremacy.

- LG's discretionary power – Stronger role than State Governors; more frequent bill reservation.
- Watch for absolute phrases – Words like "no power" in legislative context often signal a wrong statement in the case of Puducherry.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Understand Article 240 of the Constitution

- **Article 240(1)** states that the President may make regulations for the **peace, progress, and good governance** of certain Union Territories (UTs).
- These regulations:
 - Have the **same force and effect** as an Act of Parliament.
 - **Can amend or repeal** any law applicable to that UT (including Parliamentary laws).
- Purpose: To give the Union Government flexibility in administering small, strategically important, or remote UTs where direct Parliamentary legislation may be cumbersome.

Step 2: List of UTs Covered under Article 240 (as of now)

After the reorganisation of UTs and constitutional amendments, the following are covered:

- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- **Lakshadweep**
- **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** (merged UT)
- **Ladakh** (added post-2019 J&K Reorganisation Act)

Special case – Puducherry:

- Mentioned in **Article 240(2)**: The President may make regulations for Puducherry **only when** its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended.
- In normal times (when its Assembly is functioning), Puducherry is **not** under the regular scope of Article 240(1).
- This is because Puducherry has an elected legislature under **Article 239A**.

Step 3: Apply to the Question

Given list in question:

- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** → Covered.
- **Lakshadweep** → Covered.

- **Ladakh** → Covered after 2019.
- **Puducherry** → Not ordinarily covered; only in special circumstances.

Step 4: Final Evaluation

- Correct UTs: **1, 2, and 3 only**.
- **Final Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only**

Why This Matters in UPSC Prelims

- UPSC often tests **administrative provisions for Union Territories**, especially after recent changes like:
 - **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** → Ladakh became a UT without legislature and was added to Article 240's list.
 - **Merger of Dadra & Nagar Haveli with Daman & Diu (2020)** → Still covered under Article 240.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Memorise the current UT list under Article 240(1):**
 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands
 - Lakshadweep
 - Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
 - Ladakh
- **Remember the Puducherry exception** – included only if Assembly is not functioning.
- **Eliminate common traps** – Delhi and J&K (post-2019) have legislatures and are not covered under Article 240.
- **Link with broader governance context** – Article 240 reflects the centralised control model for certain UTs where quick law-making is essential.
- **Stay updated with changes** – UT governance structures have been changing frequently in recent years.

40. Correct Option: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement-I

"The 12th Schedule empowers Municipalities with responsibilities for managing urban spaces, including market regulation and slum improvement, which necessitates a high degree of local administrative capability."

- **Background:**
 - The **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** inserted **Part IXA** (Articles 243P–243ZG) and the **12th Schedule** into the Constitution.
 - The 12th Schedule lists **18 functional items** that can be devolved to municipalities by State Legislatures.
- **Relevant functions in this statement:**
 - **Entry 7:** Regulation of slaughterhouses and tanneries (includes regulation of markets and fairs).
 - **Entry 10:** Slum improvement and upgradation.
 - Other related entries: Urban planning (Entry 1), public health and sanitation (Entry 6), housing (Entry 11).
- **Why it requires local administrative capability:**
 - These functions demand:
 - **Local-level planning & zoning enforcement** (markets, fairs).
 - **Service delivery & infrastructure upgrades** (slum redevelopment).
 - **Coordination with multiple stakeholders** — state departments, local communities, NGOs, and private sector.
 - Without strong municipal institutions, devolving such responsibilities risks poor implementation.
- **Verdict: Correct**

Step 2: Evaluate Statement-II

"This empowerment reflects a dual approach to urban governance, balancing central oversight with local execution to address both macro-level policies and micro-level issues effectively."

- **Central/State oversight:**
 - Constitutionally, municipalities are under the **State List** (Entry 5, Seventh Schedule).
 - States decide how much of the 12th Schedule functions are actually transferred.
 - Many functions are also supported by **centrally sponsored schemes** (e.g., Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT, PMAY-Urban).
- **Local execution:**
 - Municipalities are responsible for translating policies into ground action — e.g., regulating street vendors under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood

and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, or upgrading slums under PMAY-Urban.

- ⦿ This duality is **necessary** because urban issues have:

- **Macro dimensions** — urban planning guidelines, large infrastructure projects, housing policies.
- **Micro dimensions** — garbage collection in wards, management of weekly markets, fixing drainage in slum clusters.

- **Verdict: Correct**

Step 3: Does Statement-II Explain Statement-I?

- Statement-I says municipalities need capacity because they are tasked with complex local functions (market regulation, slum improvement).
- Statement-II explains **why such devolution exists**: the constitutional design is to let local bodies handle micro issues while higher tiers set broad policy.
- This “dual approach” is precisely the reasoning behind empowering municipalities in the 12th Schedule — hence, Statement-II is the **correct explanation** for Statement-I.
- **Verdict: Yes, it explains it**

Step 4: Final Answer

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

How to Approach Such Assertion/Reason or Statement Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the constitutional hook** — Here, 12th Schedule = 74th Amendment. Recall the exact entries.
- **Confirm factual correctness** — Is the statement about powers/functions accurate per the Schedule?
- **Check institutional design** — Municipalities operate under state control but are part of national policy implementation → think “dual governance”.
- **Test the causal link** — Does the Reason/Statement-II logically explain the Assertion/Statement-I? If not, choose the “not explanation” option.
- **Use examples** — Link entries to flagship schemes for quick recall in exam (e.g., slum improvement → PMAY-Urban, market regulation → Street Vendors Act).

41. Correct Option: (c) 3 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1: Evaluate Statement 1

“He is the head of state like a governor.”

- **Why it seems plausible (trap):**
 - ⦿ Both Governors and Administrators are appointed by the President.
 - ⦿ Both perform ceremonial and administrative roles.
- **Why it's incorrect:**
 - ⦿ A **Governor** (Article 153) is the **constitutional head of a State** under a federal arrangement.
 - ⦿ An **Administrator** (Article 239) is **not a head of state** — he is the **agent of the President** who administers the UT **on behalf of the Union Government**.
 - ⦿ Administrators have more **direct control from the Centre**, especially in UTs without legislatures.
 - ⦿ The term “head of state” applies only to states in a federal setup, not to UTs.

- **Verdict: Incorrect**

Step 2: Evaluate Statement 2

“Governor of a state cannot be appointed as administrator of an adjoining union territory.”

- **Why it's incorrect:**
 - ⦿ Article 239(2) of the Constitution clearly states that the President may appoint the Governor of a State as the Administrator of an adjoining Union Territory.
 - ⦿ This has been done in practice many times:
 - Governor of Punjab → Administrator of **Chandigarh**.
 - Governor of Kerala → Administrator of **Lakshadweep** (in earlier arrangements).
 - ⦿ This arrangement helps in administrative efficiency and coordination between the State and the UT.

- **Verdict: Incorrect**

Step 3: Evaluate Statement 3

“The constitutional provisions for the administration of union territories also apply to the acquired territories.”

- **Why it's correct:**
 - ⦿ Article 239 applies to **all Union Territories** and also to **territories acquired by India** until a different

constitutional arrangement is made by Parliament.

- Examples:
 - **Goa, Daman & Diu** (1961) — administered as UTs until Goa became a state in 1987.
 - **Puducherry** (1962) — administered as a UT after its integration from French control.
 - **Sikkim** (1974–75) — initially an “associate state” and then integrated as a state.
- This ensures continuity in governance for newly integrated regions.

- **Verdict: Correct**

Step 4: Final Evaluation

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

Number of correct statements: One

Final Answer: (c) 3 only

Key Constitutional Provisions on Administrator of UTs

Article	Provision	Key Points
239(1)	Administration of UTs by the President	President administers UTs through an Administrator appointed by him.
239(2)	Governor as Administrator	President may appoint Governor of a State as Administrator of an adjoining UT.
239A	Special provisions for Puducherry	Provides for a legislature and Council of Ministers in Puducherry.
240	President's regulations for UTs	President can make regulations for peace, progress, and good governance in specified UTs.

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Watch for federal terms** — Words like “head of state” apply only to states in a federal system, not to UTs.
- **Recall Article 239(2)** — This is a direct constitutional counter to Statement 2; such Governor–Administrator arrangements are common.
- **Understand “acquired territories”** — Know historical examples to confirm that

they fall under the same UT administration rules initially.

- **Separate roles of LG, Administrator, Governor** — Especially in Delhi and Puducherry, where the LG has special powers compared to a Governor.
- **Link with current affairs** — UT governance often comes up in debates on Centre–State relations (e.g., Delhi LG vs CM issues).

42. Correct Option: (c) Only three

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Statement 1:

The Staff Selection Commission is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Constitution of India.

- **Trap:** Many candidates confuse “statutory” and “constitutional” with “government-created” institutions.
- **Fact:**
 - The SSC is **not** a constitutional body (like UPSC under Part XIV).
 - It is **not** a statutory body either — there is no Act of Parliament creating SSC.
 - It was set up through a **Government of India resolution in 1975** on the recommendations of the **Estimates Committee of Parliament (1967–68)** to conduct lower category recruitments.
 - It was renamed “Staff Selection Commission” in 1977 (earlier called “Subordinate Services Commission”).

- **Verdict: Incorrect**

Statement 2:

It functions under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India.

- **Fact:**
 - SSC is an **attached office** of the DoPT, which is part of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
 - DoPT frames policies related to SSC’s operations and coordinates recruitment rules.

- **Verdict: Correct**

Statement 3:

The SSC conducts recruitment to Group ‘B’ (non-gazetted) and Group ‘C’ posts in various Ministries, Departments, and subordinate offices of the Government of India.

- **Fact:**
 - SSC's mandate includes:
 - Recruitment to **Group 'B' non-gazetted** posts in Ministries/Departments.
 - Recruitment to **Group 'C' non-technical** posts in subordinate offices.
 - It does **not** conduct recruitment for **Group 'A' gazetted posts** (that's UPSC's domain).
 - Famous exams: CGL, CHSL, MTS, Stenographer Grade C & D, JE, CPO (SI in Delhi Police/CAPFs).
- **Verdict: Correct**

Statement 4:

The headquarters of the SSC is located in New Delhi, and it also has regional and sub-regional offices across the country.

- **Fact:**
 - SSC HQ: **New Delhi**.
 - **7 Regional Offices:** Allahabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Bangalore, New Delhi.
 - **2 Sub-Regional Offices:** Raipur, Chandigarh.
 - This decentralised network conducts exams at national and regional levels.
- **Verdict: Correct**

Step 5: Final Evaluation

- Statement 1: Incorrect
- Statement 2: Correct
- Statement 3: Correct
- Statement 4: Correct

Number of correct statements: Three

Final Answer: (c) Only three

How to Approach "How Many Statements are Correct" Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Check the origin of the body** – Is it constitutional, statutory, or executive resolution? This is the most common trap.
- **Verify administrative control** – Many bodies are attached/subordinate offices under a specific ministry; know the exact one.
- **Look for functional scope** – UPSC vs SSC division is a favourite UPSC test area.
- **Beware of absolute phrases** – e.g., "established under the Constitution" or "only for Group B posts" — they often need nuance.

- **Recall current affairs** – SSC reforms (e.g., National Recruitment Agency, Common Eligibility Test) can also be tested.

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

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Statement 1: The chief minister is appointed by the Lt. governor.

- **Constitutional Provision:**
 - **Article 239AA(5)** states that provisions for the Council of Ministers for NCT of Delhi are similar to those in the case of States under **Article 164**.
 - In States, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister; in Delhi, the **Lieutenant Governor (LG)** does so **on behalf of the President**.
- **Process:**
 - After Assembly elections, the LG invites the leader of the majority party or coalition to form the government.
 - This is similar to the State Governor's role but under the UT framework.
- **Verdict: Correct**

Statement 2: The council of ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.

- **Why it's correct:**
 - In States → The Council of Ministers holds office during the **pleasure of the Governor** (Article 164(1)).
 - In NCT of Delhi → As per **Article 239AA(6)**, the Council of Ministers holds office during the **pleasure of the President** (not the LG).
 - This is because Delhi is constitutionally a **Union Territory**, and its executive is ultimately under the President's authority.

- **Administrative reality:**
 - The President's pleasure is exercised through the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and the LG.
 - While the Council is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly, constitutionally their tenure depends on the President's pleasure — reflecting the Centre's primacy in UT governance.
- **Verdict: Correct**

Final Evaluation:

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Correct

Number of correct statements: Two
Final Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Important Constitutional Context—Delhi's Special Status

Feature	State	NCT of Delhi
Constitutional Articles	153–164	239AA
Head of State	Governor	President (through LG)
CM Appointment	Governor	LG
Pleasure Doctrine	Governor's pleasure	President's pleasure
Legislature's Domain	State List + Concurrent List (except certain restrictions)	State & Concurrent Lists, except police, public order, and land
Ultimate Control	Federal structure	Centre retains overriding control

How to Approach Such Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify if it's a State or UT with Legislature** – This determines whether the pleasure is of the Governor or the President.
- **Look for appointment authority clues** – LG acts for the President in UTs.
- **Know the excluded subjects** – In Delhi, key subjects like police, public order, and land remain with the Centre.
- **Avoid mixing LG's role with Governor's role** – Even though they look similar in function, the constitutional basis is different.

44. Correct Option: (b) 2 only

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the constitutional basis

- Delhi is a Union Territory with a legislature under Article 239AA.
- Relevant clauses:
 - **Art. 239AA(5):** *The President shall appoint the Chief Minister* and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the CM.
 - **Art. 239AA(6):** The Council of Ministers holds office **during the pleasure of the President** and is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly.
- Also remember the **GNCTD Act, 1991** and the **Transaction of Business Rules, 1993** which operationalise these provisions.

Step 2 – Evaluate Statement 1

"The chief minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor."

- **Why it looks tempting:** The Lt. Governor (LG) invites the majority leader after elections and conducts the oath ceremony, which can be confused with "appointment".
- **Constitutional position:** Art. 239AA(5) clearly vests **appointment** in the **President**, not the LG. The LG functions as the President's delegate for many acts (like administering the oath), but the *formal appointing authority* is the **President**.
- **Analogy:** In States, **Governor** appoints the CM (Art. 164). By design, in NCT of Delhi (a UT), the **President** is the appointing authority.
- **Verdict: Statement 1 is incorrect.**

Step 3 – Evaluate Statement 2

"The council of ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President."

- **Textual hook:** Art. 239AA(6) uses the exact phrase "pleasure of the President."
- **How it works in practice:**
 - Politically, the Council remains so long as it enjoys the **confidence of the Assembly** (collective responsibility).
 - Constitutionally, the tenure is anchored in the **President's pleasure** (not the LG's), reflecting Delhi's status as a UT.
- **Contrast with States:** In States, it is the **Governor's pleasure** (Art. 164); in Delhi, the **President's pleasure** applies.
- **Verdict: Statement 2 is correct.**

Step 4 – Final Tally

- Statement 1: Incorrect
- Statement 2: Correct

Number of correct statements: One

Correct Answer: (b) 2 only

Approach for Similar Questions in UPSC Prelims

- **Identify the special article first**
 - States → Arts. 153–164;
 - NCT of Delhi → Art. 239AA;
 - Puducherry → Art. 239A.
- **Separate "invitation" from "appointment"**
 - The LG may **invite** the majority leader; the **President appoints** the CM (formal authority). This distinction kills the common trap in Statement 1-type items.

- Use the pleasure doctrine as a cue
 - States: Governor's pleasure (Art. 164).
 - NCT/Puducherry: President's pleasure (per their special provisions).
- Remember Delhi's hybrid nature
 - It's a UT with an Assembly; key subjects (public order, police, land) remain with the Centre—hence stronger Presidential control signals.
- Elimination trick
 - If you recall that the President (not LG) appoints the Delhi CM, instantly drop any option treating Statement 1 as correct. Then check the pleasure doctrine to lock the answer.

45. Correct Option: (c) Safeguarding the rights and interests of minority communities

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the statutory basis of the NCM

- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- It works under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Minority communities are identified by a government notification under Section 2(c) of the Act.
- Presently, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis (Zoroastrians), and Jains are notified as minority communities at the national level.

Step 2 – Understand the NCM's primary function

- As per Section 9 of the NCM Act, 1992, the Commission's primary duty is:

"To evaluate the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and States, monitor the working of safeguards for minorities provided in the Constitution and laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures, and to make recommendations for effective implementation of safeguards."

- This essentially means its core role is to safeguard the rights and interests of minority communities and recommend measures to improve their welfare.

Step 3 – Evaluate each option

- Enforcing quota systems in government jobs

- Incorrect. Reservation/quota enforcement for specific communities is handled by other statutory bodies like the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) or State Commissions for SC/ST/OBC, not by NCM.
- NCM can recommend measures for minority representation, but it **does not have direct enforcement powers** over recruitment quotas.
- Promoting interfaith dialogues
 - Incorrect. While the Commission may encourage communal harmony and understanding indirectly, **this is not its statutory mandate**. It's a secondary, incidental function, not the primary one.
- Safeguarding the rights and interests of minority communities
 - Correct. This is the **explicit primary mandate** under the NCM Act, 1992.
 - It does so through investigations, recommendations, reviewing safeguards, and ensuring that policies/laws are in alignment with constitutional protections.
- Overseeing religious conversion processes
 - Incorrect. Religious conversions are governed (if at all) by **State-specific Freedom of Religion Acts** or general criminal law provisions. The NCM has **no legal authority** to regulate conversions.

Step 4 – Final Answer

Correct Option: (c) – Safeguarding the rights and interests of minority communities.

Approach for Similar Questions in UPSC Prelims

- Identify the legal/constitutional source:
 - Check whether the body is **constitutional** (e.g., Election Commission) or **statutory** (e.g., NCM).
- Look for explicit mandate in the law:
 - Eliminate functions not mentioned in the Act.
- Beware of distractor options:
 - Many options will cite **related but non-core functions** to mislead (e.g., communal harmony efforts, dialogue promotion).
- Match the option to the "primary" function:
 - UPSC often stresses *primary mandate*, not incidental or advisory roles.

46. Correct Option: (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the constitutional and functional context of NITI Aayog

- **Established:** January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
- **Legal Status:** Executive resolution by the Government of India (not a constitutional/statutory body).
- **Main Objective:** Act as a think tank, fostering *cooperative* and *competitive* federalism through structured policy dialogue between the Centre and States.
- **Key Mechanisms:** Governing Council, sub-groups of CMs, policy forums, technical support.

Step 2 – Evaluate Statement I

"NITI Aayog plays a crucial role in promoting cooperative federalism in India."

- **Correct.** Cooperative federalism refers to a system where the Centre and States share a common platform for decision-making, policy formulation, and problem-solving.
- **Example:** NITI's Governing Council meetings on agriculture reforms, aspirational districts programme, and NEP 2020 involved all CMs.
- NITI Aayog avoids top-down diktats; instead, it engages States in consensus-based policy shaping.

Step 3 – Evaluate Statement II

"NITI Aayog includes representation from all States and Union Territories in its Governing Council."

- **Correct.** Governing Council is chaired by the PM and includes:
 - Chief Ministers of all States
 - Lt. Governors/Administrators of UTs
 - Ex-officio members (Union Ministers)
 - Vice-Chairperson and CEO of NITI Aayog
- **Why relevant to Statement I?** This inclusive representation is a direct instrument of cooperative federalism, as it gives every State/UT a voice in policy discussions.

Step 4 – Evaluate Statement III

"NITI Aayog has the power to allocate financial resources among States."

- **Incorrect.** Unlike the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog **has no power** to decide Plan grants or allocate funds to States.
- Resource devolution now happens through:
 - **Finance Commission** (tax devolution, grants)
 - **Central Ministries** via schemes/programmes
- NITI's role is advisory: it can recommend funding priorities but cannot sanction or allocate funds.

Step 5 – Identify the explanatory relationship

- Statement II **explains** Statement I → Representation of all States/UTs in the Governing Council is a structural design to promote cooperative federalism.
- Statement III does **not** explain Statement I because NITI has no such financial allocation power.

Step 6 – Final Tally

- Statement I: Correct
- Statement II: Correct — explains Statement I
- Statement III: Incorrect

Number of correct statements among II and III: One (Statement II) → and it explains Statement I.

Correct Answer: (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

Approach for Similar UPSC Prelims Questions

- **Identify Core Theme:** Pin down the exact institution/body and recall its constitutional, statutory, or executive nature.
- **Test Each Statement Individually:**
 - Is it factually correct?
 - Does it reflect the current status (post-reform/amendment)?
- **Check for Explanatory Link:** Even if two statements are correct, UPSC may test whether *both*, *one*, or *none* logically explain the main assertion.
- **Be Wary of Planning Commission vs. NITI Aayog Confusion:** Many aspirants mistakenly attribute funding powers to NITI.
- **Recall Examples:** Linking provisions to real-world programmes like the Aspirational Districts Programme can help eliminate wrong options quickly.

47. Correct Option: (a) Only one

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the statutory and functional framework

- The **Banking Ombudsman Scheme** was first introduced in 1995 by the RBI under **Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- It provides an **inexpensive and speedy mechanism** for resolving customer complaints related to certain services provided by banks.
- It covers **Scheduled Commercial Banks, RRBs, and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks**.
- From November 2021, the RBI launched the **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** to unify redressal for banks, NBFCs, and digital payment service providers.

Step 2 – Evaluate Statement 1

"It can issue orders for the redressal of complaints, but not for compensation for grievances."

- **Fact Check:**

- Under the pre-2021 scheme and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, the Ombudsman can:
 - Direct the bank to provide **specific relief** (e.g., correcting account entries, reversing charges).
 - **Award compensation:**
 - ◊ Up to Rs. 20 lakh for actual financial loss.
 - ◊ Up to Rs. 1 lakh for mental agony in credit card-related complaints.
 - The statement **excludes** the compensation power, which is a core provision.

- **Verdict: Incorrect** (omits a key power).

Step 3 – Evaluate Statement 2

"The Banking Ombudsman is appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)."

- **Fact Check:**

- RBI appoints one or more Banking Ombudsmen, typically drawn from its senior officers.
- RBI also determines their jurisdiction, number, and location of offices.

- **Verdict: Correct.**

Step 4 – Evaluate Statement 3

"The Banking Ombudsman's decisions are advisory and not binding on the banks."

- **Fact Check:**

- The Ombudsman's award is **binding on the bank** once the complainant accepts it in writing.
- The bank must implement the award **within one month** of acceptance.
- If the complainant does not accept the award, it lapses — hence **conditional binding**, not merely advisory.

- **Verdict: Incorrect.**

Step 5 – Final Tally

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

Number of correct statements: Only one

Correct Answer: (a) Only one

Extra Context for UPSC Depth

- **Scope of Complaints:**

- Non-payment/delay in payment of inward remittances
- Non-adherence to working hours
- Failure to provide promised services
- Charging excessive fees without notice
- Non-adherence to RBI directives in lending, deposits, digital payments

- **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021:**

- Covers banks, NBFCs, and non-bank payment system participants.
- Single portal: **CMS (Complaint Management System)** for lodging grievances online.
- "One Nation, One Ombudsman" — common rules across entities.

- **Exam Trick Areas:**

- UPSC may test if you know it **can award compensation** (often reversed in statements).
- The **binding nature** is nuanced — binding on banks *only if complainant accepts*.
- Many confuse it with the **Lokpal/Lokayukta** model — but this is RBI-administered.

Approach for Similar UPSC Prelims Questions

- **Identify Legal/Institutional Parentage** — e.g., RBI vs. Parliament vs. Constitution.
- **Check for Powers and Limitations** — Many statements will deliberately omit or twist these.

- **Look for Absolute Words** (“cannot”, “only”, “always”) — these are often traps.
- **Remember Recent Updates** — 2021 Integrated Ombudsman Scheme is now the base framework.
- **Distinguish Between Binding & Advisory** — Many quasi-judicial bodies have conditional binding powers.

48. Correct Option: (b) Only two

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the statutory and functional framework

- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a **statutory body** under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**.
- Its core mandate is to **examine and certify films** for public exhibition according to the Act and Certification Guidelines (U/ UA/A/S), ensuring content does not violate sovereignty, public order, decency, or morality.
- CBFC has **no role** in regulating financial sectors (e.g., housing finance companies).

Step 2 – Evaluate Statement 1

“CBFC certifies films for public exhibition and Ensures that films do not promote harmful practices or content that may be detrimental to public safety and moral values.”

- Fact Check:
 - CBFC certifies films for public exhibition.
 - Certification Guidelines bar content that harms public morality/safety, incites violence/hatred, or threatens sovereignty and public order.
- Verdict: **Correct**.

Step 3 – Evaluate Statement 2

“CBFC ensures compliance with film certification standards.”

- Fact Check:
 - CBFC applies the Cinematograph Act, Rules, and Guidelines to ensure films meet **certification standards** before release.
 - It can require **cuts/modifications** or refuse certification.
- Verdict: **Correct**.

Step 4 – Evaluate Statement 3

“CBFC Provides advice and recommendations on content that may be deemed sensitive or controversial, ensuring compliance with societal norms and legal requirements and it regulates and supervises housing finance companies.”

- Fact Check:
 - First part is broadly true: CBFC often advises and requires edits for sensitive/controversial content to align with legal/societal norms.
 - Second part is false: **Regulation/supervision of housing finance companies** is not CBFC's function (earlier NHB; now RBI for HFC regulation).
 - In UPSC, a statement with any wrong component is **incorrect** overall.
- Verdict: **Incorrect**.

Step 5 – Final Tally

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

Number of correct statements: Only two
Correct Answer: (b) Only two

Extra Context for UPSC Depth

- **Certification Categories:** U(Unrestricted), UA (Parental guidance), A (Adults only), S (Specialised audiences).
- **Institutional Structure:** Chairperson + Board members; Examining and Revising Committees review films; appeals lie to the **Appellate Authority** under the Act.
- **Recent Update: Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023:** anti-piracy provisions; perpetual validity of certificates; enabling finer UA age classifications.

Approach for Similar UPSC Prelims Questions

- Identify Legal/Institutional Parentage — Match functions to the correct **statutory/constitutional** body.
- Check for Powers and Limits — Look for **cuts/refusal** powers vs. advisory roles.
- Watch for Mixed Statements — If any part is wrong (e.g., adding **housing finance** to CBFC), mark the whole statement **incorrect**.
- Note Sector Boundaries — CBFC (films) ≠ RBI/NHB (finance) ≠ PCI (print) ≠ OTT self-regulation (IT Rules, 2021).
- Beware Absolutes — Words like “always/only” often signal traps; verify against the Act/Guidelines.

49. Correct Option: (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the constitutional basis

- **Article 301:** Declares that “*Trade, commerce, and intercourse throughout the territory of India shall be free.*”
- This provision aims to promote **economic unity** and integration across the country.
- However, the freedom is **not absolute** — it is subject to restrictions mentioned in **Articles 302 to 305**.

Key related provisions:

- **Article 302:** Parliament may impose restrictions on freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse in the **public interest**.
- **Article 303:** Prohibits discriminatory laws by Parliament or States between States, except when Parliament deems it necessary to address scarcity of goods.
- **Article 304:** States may impose:
 - Taxes on goods imported from other States, if similar goods produced locally are taxed.
 - Reasonable restrictions in the **public interest** on freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse — **but only with prior Presidential assent**.

Step 2 – Evaluate Assertion (A)

“The Constitution of India guarantees the freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse throughout the territory of India under Article 301.”

- This is **factually correct**.
- Article 301 explicitly enshrines this guarantee as part of Part XIII of the Constitution.
- This guarantee is essential for maintaining a **common economic market**.

Verdict: Correct.

Step 3 – Evaluate Reason (R)

“Parliament may impose restrictions on such freedom in the public interest, and States cannot impose any restrictions even with the President’s assent.”

- **First part:** Parliament can impose restrictions in public interest → **Correct** (Article 302).
- **Second part:** States cannot impose restrictions even with President’s assent → **Incorrect**.
 - Under Article 304(b), **States can impose reasonable restrictions in the public interest**, but only if the Bill receives **prior Presidential assent**.

- Thus, the statement is factually wrong because it ignores the State’s conditional power.

First clause correct.

Second clause incorrect.

Overall verdict for R: Incorrect.

Step 4 – Link Assertion and Reason

- Assertion (A) is correct.
- Reason (R) is incorrect.
- Since R is wrong, it cannot be the correct explanation for A.

Step 5 – Final Tally

- **Statement A:** Correct
- **Statement R:** Incorrect

Correct Answer: (c) A is correct, but R is incorrect

Extra Context for UPSC Depth

Judicial interpretation:

- **Atiabari Tea Co. v. State of Assam (1961):** Article 301 creates a broad guarantee of economic freedom, subject only to the restrictions in the Constitution.
- **Automobile Transport Ltd. v. State of Rajasthan (1962):** Regulatory measures facilitating trade are permissible and not considered restrictions.

Why this is a common UPSC trap:

- UPSC often twists the role of States by either removing the “President’s assent” clause or claiming States have no such power — both are incorrect.
- The key nuance is that **States do have the power** but under stricter conditions than Parliament.

Approach for Similar UPSC Prelims Assertion–Reasoning Questions

- **Map the Article range:** Identify which Articles govern the subject (for trade, it’s 301–305).
- **Separate Centre vs State powers:** Know which powers belong exclusively to Parliament and which to States with conditions.
- **Look for absolute words** like “cannot”, “only”, “always” — they are often designed to make the statement wrong.
- **Recall case law interpretations:** SC judgments often define the scope of freedom and permissible restrictions.
- **Check for conditional clauses** like “with Presidential assent” that are easy to overlook.

50. Correct Option: (a) 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

Step-by-Step Methodology to Arrive at the Answer

Step 1 – Recall the statutory and political background of UT creation

- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1956)**
 - Before 1956: Directly administered by the central government as a Chief Commissioner's Province after independence.
 - The **States Reorganisation Act, 1956** reorganised states and Union Territories based on linguistic lines and administrative convenience.
 - On **1 November 1956**, Andaman and Nicobar Islands officially became a Union Territory of India.
 - Strategic importance: Location at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea; important for maritime security and trade routes.
- **Dadra and Nagar Haveli (1961)**
 - Portuguese colonial possession until 1954, when it was liberated by local freedom fighters and volunteers from India.
 - Administered as a "Free Territory" by a local body — the Varishta Panchayat — from 1954 to 1961.
 - On **11 August 1961**, the 10th Amendment to the Constitution formally incorporated Dadra and Nagar Haveli into India as a Union Territory.
 - Later, on **26 January 2020**, it was merged with Daman and Diu to form the UT of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**.
- **Chandigarh (1966)**
 - Planned city designed by Le Corbusier after partition to replace Lahore as the capital of Punjab.
 - Became a Union Territory on **1 November 1966** through the **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**, when Haryana was carved out of Punjab.
 - Chandigarh was made the shared capital of both Punjab and Haryana, while being directly administered by the Centre.
- **Ladakh (2019)**
 - Earlier part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - On **5 August 2019**, the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** was passed, bifurcating J&K into two Union Territories: **Jammu & Kashmir** and **Ladakh**.

- The change came into effect on **31 October 2019**.

- Strategic significance: High-altitude region bordering China and Pakistan; critical for defence and border management.

Step 2 – Arrange in chronological order

- 1st → **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** – **1 November 1956**
- 2nd → **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** – **11 August 1961**
- 3rd → **Chandigarh** – **1 November 1966**
- 4th → **Ladakh** – **31 October 2019**

Correct sequence (matching question's numbering): 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

Step 3 – Final Tally

- **Correct Answer: (a) 3 – 1 – 2 – 4**

Extra Context for UPSC Depth

- **Union Territories were created for varied reasons:**
 - **Strategic importance** (Andaman & Nicobar, Ladakh)
 - **Integration of foreign territories** (Dadra & Nagar Haveli from Portugal)
 - **Administrative convenience** after state bifurcation (Chandigarh)
- **Constitutional provisions:**
 - Article 239: Administration of UTs by the President through an Administrator.
 - Parliament has the power to create, alter, or merge UTs under **Article 3**.
- **Latest changes:**
 - Merger of Dadra & Nagar Haveli with Daman & Diu in 2020.
 - Creation of Ladakh UT in 2019.

Approach for Similar UPSC Prelims Questions

- **Memorise key years of creation for all UTs** — chronological mapping is common in UPSC.
- **Link each creation to the historical event** — reorganisation, liberation from colonial rule, or bifurcation.
- **Use elimination** —
 - Ladakh is clearly the newest (2019) → put it last.
 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands are among the earliest UTs (1956) → put it first.
- **Be aware of mergers and renaming** — they can appear as trick sub-questions.
- **Connect with constitutional provisions** — Articles 1–4 (territorial changes) and Article 239 (UT administration).