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Question 1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Delimitation Commission, in the context of the recent submission of its interim report:

- 1.The readjustment of constituencies is based on the first census taken after the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023.
- 2.The constitutional basis for the readjustment of Lok Sabha seats after every census is provided for under Article 82.
- 3.The orders issued by the Delimitation Commission have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The news report explicitly states that the Delimitation Commission was constituted to realign seats following the first census after the passage of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Article 82 of the Indian Constitution mandates the Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every census, based on which a Delimitation Commission is set up to readjust constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** This is a crucial feature of the Delimitation Commission's powers. To ensure the finality of its orders and to avoid endless litigation that could stall the electoral process, its orders are considered final and cannot be challenged in any court of law.

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Question 2. The Parliamentary Standing Committee's recommendation for a national database on radicalized individuals primarily touches upon a conflict between:

- (a) National security and the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- (b) The powers of the Central Government and the State Governments.
- (c) The Right to Privacy and National Security imperatives.
- (d) Freedom of Religion and the principle of Secularism.

Answer: (c)

- **Statement (c)** is the most accurate. Creating a database of individuals deemed "radicalized" directly infringes upon the Right to Privacy, which was declared a fundamental right under Article 21 by the Supreme Court in the Puttaswamy judgment. The justification for such a database is always national security—to pre-emptively identify and track potential threats. Therefore, the central conflict is between an individual's right to privacy and the state's duty to ensure security.
- **Statement (a)** is related but less precise. While speech might be a factor in defining radicalization, the act of being placed on a database is a privacy issue first and foremost. Statements (b) and (d) are not the primary conflicts described in the news report's analysis.

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Question 3. According to the news report, the Universal Health Interface (UHI) aims to transform India's digital health ecosystem. Which of the following analogies best describes its intended function?

- (a) It is like Aadhaar, providing a unique identity for every patient.
- (b) It is like the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), creating a unified tax system for healthcare.
- (c) It is like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), creating an interoperable network for diverse health services.
- (d) It is like the National Health Mission, providing funds for public health infrastructure.

Answer: (c)

- **Statement (c)** is correct. UPI created a common language for different banks and payment apps to talk to each other, allowing a user of any app to pay any merchant or user on another app. Similarly, UHI aims to create an open, interoperable network where any UHI-compliant patient app can discover, book, and access services from any UHI-compliant provider app (hospitals, labs, doctors), breaking down digital silos.
- **Statement (a)** is related to the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) through the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), but UHI is the network layer, not the identity layer. Statements (b) and (d) describe different functions altogether.

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Question 4. The Supreme Court's split verdict on the Governor's power, as reported, pertains to the act of reserving bills passed by a State Legislature for the President's consideration. This power is explicitly mentioned in:

- (a) Article 163 of the Constitution
- (b) Article 200 of the Constitution
- (c) Article 213 of the Constitution
- (d) Article 356 of the Constitution

Answer: (b)

- **Option (b) is correct.** Article 200 of the Constitution outlines the options available to a Governor when a bill is passed by the state legislature and presented to him.
- The Governor can: (i) give assent, (ii) withhold assent, (iii) return the bill (if it is not a Money Bill) for reconsideration, or (iv) reserve the bill for the consideration of the President. The news report is directly about the use and potential misuse of this fourth option.
- **Article 163 deals with the Governor's discretionary powers in general.** Article 213 deals with the Governor's power to promulgate ordinances. Article 356 deals with the imposition of President's Rule.

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Question 5. The Housing Ministry's report on the Smart Cities Mission identified a key structural weakness hindering its long-term success. This weakness is directly related to a challenge in implementing the spirit of which Constitutional Amendment?

- (a) 42nd Amendment Act
- (b) 44th Amendment Act
- (c) 73rd Amendment Act
- (d) 74th Amendment Act

Answer: (d)

- **Option (d) is correct.** The news report identifies the "poor financial health of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)" and their inability to generate revenue as the core problem. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, aimed at democratic decentralization and empowerment of ULBs (municipalities) by granting them constitutional status and mandating the devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries from state governments.
- The analysis in the report explicitly links the problem to the reluctance of states to devolve financial powers as mandated by this amendment.
- The 73rd Amendment relates to Panchayati Raj Institutions (rural local bodies). The 42nd and 44th Amendments are major "mini-constitution" and "remedial" amendments, respectively, not focused on local governance.