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1. Consider the following statements with respect to FASTag

1. It is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion.
2. It is a reloadable tag that automatically deducts toll charges and enables cashless payment
3. It enables transfer of one FASTag to another Vehicle paving way for multiple access of the tag

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for **making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion**
 - FASTag (RFID Tag) is **affixed on the windscreen** of the vehicle and enables a customer to make the toll payments directly from the account which is linked to FASTag. It offers the **convenience of cashless payment** along with benefits like - savings on fuel and time as the customer does not have to stop at the toll plaza
 - Reloadable tag is an **electronic, stored value card** that permits a user to increase the value on the card (e.g., prepaid credit card, store cash card)

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- If a FASTag is linked to the prepaid account, then it **needs to be recharged/ topped-up** as per the usage of the customer. If **adequate balance is not maintained** by the customer, the **FASTag gets blacklisted** at the toll plaza. In such a scenario if the customer travels through a toll plaza without recharging then he won't be able to avail the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) services and would be required to pay the toll fare through cash.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** FASTag is **vehicle specific** and once it is affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle. So it **avoids duplication**.

Why in the news?

Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Shri Nitin Gadkari announced that FASTag is being made mandatory for all vehicles in the country from 1st of January, 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683339>

<https://www.npci.org.in/netc>

2. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana:

1. It is a scheme for retail marketing led value addition plan for minor forest produce.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.

Which of the following Statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)

- Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) is a **retail marketing led value addition plan** for Minor Forest Produce (MFP), meant for forest-based tribes to optimize the tribal income, locally.
- Under the program, **MFP-based tribal groups / enterprises of around 300 members** are formed for collection, value addition, packaging & marketing of Minor Forest Produces (MFPs).
- These tribal enterprises will be in the form of Van Dhan SHGs which will be a group of 15-20 members and such 15 SHG groups will further be federated into a larger group of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKS)** of around 300 members.
- TRIFED will support the VDVKS through providing them with **model business plans, processing plans & tentative list of equipment for carrying out the value addition work of MFPs.**

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

- TRIFED came into existence in 1987. It is a **national-level apex organization** functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India

3. Consider the following statements about Tso Kar lake

- 1)The site is one of the most important breeding areas of the Black-necked Crane
- 2)It has been recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- 3) It belongs to the state of Uttarakhand.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

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d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Tso Kar or 'white lake' lies in the Rupshu Valley in the Southern part of **Ladakh**.
- It is called as white lake as the white salt of the water deposits all over the lake shore.
- The Tso-Kar area is inhabited by the Khampas or Rupsa Chang, a nomadic group
- It has been recently declared as **Ramsar site and a wetland of International Importance**.
- The site is one of the most important breeding areas of the **Black-necked Crane**.

Ramsar convention:

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an **intergovernmental treaty** that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the **conservation and wise use of wetlands** and their resources.
- At the time of joining the Convention, each Contracting Party must designate at least one wetland site within their territory for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List).
- There are currently over 2,300 Ramsar sites all over the world.
- The Convention includes various measures to respond to threats to the ecological character of sites.
- The **2nd of February** each year is **World Wetlands Day**.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683303>

4. The 'NAMASTE portal' recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

a) It provides one stop facilitative service for international tourist in India

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- b) It provides standardized terminologies and morbidity codes for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems of medicines
- c) It is citizen centric platform that aims to serve as common point for all innovation happening across the nation
- d) It is the e-commerce portal and a banner to sell various products by tribals across the country

Answer: B

Explanation

NAMASTE Portal

- **National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (NAMASTE Portal)** was launched on 17th October, 2017 (2nd Ayurveda day)
- The National Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).
- The portal **provides standardized terminologies & morbidity codes** for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems of medicines.
- Morbidity codes **provide a comprehensive classification of diseases** described in the traditional medicines system

AYUSH Grid

- AYUSH Grid, **initiated by the Ministry of AYUSH**, aims to bring **onboard all AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) facilities** including hospitals and laboratories and to promote traditional systems of healthcare.

Why in the news?

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683320>

5. Consider the following statements

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- 1) Sowa-Rigpa is an ancient Indian medical system conceived and propounded by Lord Buddha in India.
- 2) Sowa-Rigpa is acknowledged as a traditional medical system by the government of India only.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Sowa-Rigpa is an ancient Indian medical system conceived and **propounded by Lord Buddha in India** and later was enriched in the entire Trans-Himalayan region.
- Today, Sowa-Rigpa is acknowledged as a traditional medical system by the governments of **India, Bhutan, Mongolia and Tibet.**
- The principle medical text "rGyud-bZi" (Chatush Tantra-a textbook of fundamental principles of Sowa-Rigpa in Sanskrit language) was pioneered by Lord Buddha and translated into Bhoti language around 8-12 Century and amended by Yuthok Yontan Gombo and other scholars of Trans Himalayan region according to the socio-climatic conditions.
- According to Sowa-Rigpa, **health is an equation of balance of tridosha and five cosmophysical energies** (Panchmahabuta), balance within the body, balance with the environment, and with the Universe.
- Pulse examination and astrological evaluation/analysis of an individual are the unique diagnostic tools in Sowa-Rigpa. The natural resources which are safe, effective and time-tested are used as the sources of medication.

Why in the news?

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