

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI):

1. It measures how countries grow, attract, and retain talent.
2. Singapore, Switzerland, and the United States are among the top three countries on the index.
3. India ranked best among the BRICS countries.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) measures how countries grow, attract, and retain talent.
- It is an annual benchmarking report published by the prestigious chain of business schools, INSEAD.
- Singapore, Switzerland, and the United States are among the top three countries on the index.
- Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Australia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom make up the rest of the Top 10.
- India is ranked 103, the worst among that of the BRICS countries. China remains at the top of the BRICS group of countries at rank 40, Russia at 52, South Africa at 68 and Brazil at 69.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Sea Buckthorn:

1. In India, it is found below the tree line in the Western Ghats.
2. It is a plant found throughout Europe and Asia.
3. It produces small orange or yellow-coloured berries that are sour in taste but rich in vitamins, especially vitamin C.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) is a plant found throughout Europe and Asia.
- In India, it is found above the tree line in the Himalayan region, generally in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti.
- It is naturally distributed over 11,500 hectares in the Ladakh region.
- It produces small orange or yellow-coloured berries that are sour in taste but rich in vitamins, especially vitamin C.
- The shrub can withstand extreme temperatures ranging from minus 43 degrees Celsius to 40 degrees Celsius and is considered drought-resistant. These two characteristics make the shrub an ideal plant species to establish in cold deserts.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding New Pamban Bridge:

1. It is India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge.
2. It connects Rameswaram on Pamban Island to Mandapam.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- New Pamban Bridge is India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge.
- It connects Rameswaram on Pamban Island to Mandapam on the mainland in Tamil Nadu.
- The total length of the bridge is 078 km.
- It will have 99 spans with 18.3-meter-long girders. The navigational span will be 63 metres.
- It will replace the iconic Pamban Bridge, India's first sea bridge, which opened in 1914.
- The new bridge is being built parallel to the old Pamban Bridge by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
- The most unique feature of the new Pamban Bridge is its vertical lift facility. It will help boats pass under the bridge smoothly.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Indian Green Building Council:

1. It is part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
2. It is also among the five countries that are on the board of the World Green Building Council.
3. The rating is based on six environmental categories.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Indian Green Building Council is part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and was formed in 2001.
- It is India's Premier certification body.
- The council offers a wide array of services, which include developing new green building rating programmes, certification services, and green building training programmes.
- The council also organises the Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings.
- It is also among the five countries that are on the board of the World Green Building Council, discussing global issues at COP and similar global platforms.
- The rating is based on six environmental categories, which include sustainable station facility, health, hygiene and sanitation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, smart and green initiatives and innovation and development.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding World Energy Employment 2023 report:

1. Global employment in the energy sector grew by pre-pandemic levels.
2. The country saw the fourth-highest number of new clean energy jobs being created in the past three years.
3. Job growth in the clean energy as well as fossil fuel sectors remained negative in India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

World Energy Employment 2023 report

- Global employment in the energy sector grew by 3.4 million over pre-pandemic levels to 67 million in 2022.
- Clean energy sectors added 4.7 million jobs globally over the same period and stand at 35 million.
- Fossil fuel jobs recovered more slowly after layoffs in 2020 and remain around 1.3 million below pre-pandemic employment levels, at 32 million.

- Job growth in the clean energy as well as fossil fuel sectors remained positive in India compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2019.
- With this, the country saw the fourth-highest number of new clean energy jobs being created in the past three years.
- The report mentioned five major sectors of the energy industry that led to maximum job creation post-pandemic.
- These sectors were solar PV, wind, electric vehicles (EVs) and battery manufacturing, heat pumps, and critical mineral
- These five sectors have employed around 9 million workers until Out of all the sectors, Solar PV emerged as the largest, with around 4 million jobs.