

**Q.1) Union Cabinet has given its approval to EXIM Bank for signing Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement. Consider the following statements**

1. The agreement is not binding in nature
2. Exim Bank can enter into bilateral agreement with large development finance institutions to raise resources for its business

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the signing of the

- Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement and
- Cooperation Memorandum Relating to Credit Ratings by Exim Bank with participating member banks under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.

**Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement**

- The initial Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency under the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism had a validity of five years, which has expired in March 2017.
- It is understood that some of the member banks (like CDB and VEB; CDB and BNDES) have entered into bilateral agreements for local currency financing under the Master Agreement signed in 2012.
- Although the current conditions are not conducive to usage, it was useful to keep the same alive as an enabling feature in case a suitable opportunity materializes in future.
- Exim Bank raises resources in the off-shore market in diverse currencies and swaps to mitigate the risk.
- The umbrella Agreement would serve as an enabler to enter into bilateral agreements with member banks subject to national laws, regulations and internal policies of the signatories.
- The Agreements will promote multilateral interaction within the area of mutual interest which will deepen political and economic relations with BRICS nations.

### Cooperation Memorandum Relating to Credit Ratings

- It would enable sharing of credit ratings amongst the BRICS member banks, based on the request received from another bank.
- This would be an ideal mechanism to mitigate the credit risks associated with cross-border financing.
- In future, such a mechanism could also serve as pre-cursor to the proposal of having an alternate rating agency by BRICS nations.

Exim Bank finances, facilitates and promotes India's international trade. It provides competitive finance at various stages of the business cycle covering import of technology, export product development, export production and export credit at pre-shipment and post-shipment stages and investments overseas.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cabinet-gives-nod-for-pacts-by-exim-bank-under-brics-mechanism/articleshow/60856482.cms>

### Q.2) Consider the following statements about Deep Space Gateway (DSG)

1. It is a planned human-tended facility in cislunar space
2. NASA and ESA signed an agreement supporting studies of the concept

### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.2) Solution (a)

The Deep Space Gateway (DSG) is a crew-tended cislunar space station planned by NASA and Roscosmos for construction in the 2020s. The station would be used as a staging point for the proposed Deep Space Transport. It is also being considered by international partners for use as a staging ground for robotic and crewed lunar surface missions.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/russia-us-to-cooperate-on-lunar-station/article19765995.ece>

### Q.3) Global Competitiveness Index is released by

- a) World Trade Organization
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) World Bank

### Q.3) Solution (b)

India has been ranked as the 40th most competitive economy -- slipping one place from last year's ranking -- on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index

The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) is prepared on the basis of country-level data covering 12 categories or pillars of competitiveness.

Institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication and innovation are the 12 pillars.

According to WEF's Executive Opinion Survey 2017, corruption is the most problematic factor for doing business in India.

The second biggest bottleneck is 'access to financing', followed by 'tax rates', 'inadequate supply of infrastructure', 'poor work ethics in national labour force' and 'inadequately educated work force', among others.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-is-worlds-40th-most-competitive-economy-wef/articleshow/60851466.cms>

### Q.4) Consider the following statements about Tourism in India

1. 'Adopt a Heritage' Project plans to entrust heritage sites to the public sector and private sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities.
2. Incredible India 2.0 campaign will be focusing on specific promotional plans, with greater emphasis to be given to social media.
3. India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's GDP

### Select the correct statements

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

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- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

### Q.4) Solution (d)

India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's GDP, according to a new report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

According to data, the travel and tourism sector generated Rs 14.1 trillion (USD208.9 billion) in 2016, which is world's 7th largest in terms of absolute size; the sum is equivalent to 9.6% of India's GDP.

President of India launched Incredible India 2.0 campaign and "Adopt a Heritage" project on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

Incredible India 2.0 campaign will be focusing on specific promotional plans, with greater emphasis to be given to social media, whereas, 'Adopt A Heritage' Project plans to entrust heritage sites to the public sector and private sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities. The President on 37th edition of "World Tourism Day" also launched "New Incredible India Website"

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/variety/president-launches-incredible-india-20-campaign-adopt-a-heritage-project/article9876374.ece>

### Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) The water holding capacity of the soil which uses compost helps with drought-proofing
- b) Farmers using compost therefore need less quantity of pesticides
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

### Q.5) Solution (c)

Benefits of compost on the farm are well-known. The water holding capacity of the soil which uses compost helps with drought-proofing, and the requirement of less water per crop is a welcome feature for a water-stressed future. Because of good water retention, farmers do not need second or third sowing if rains fail. By making soil porous, use of

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compost also makes roots stronger and resistant to pests and decay. Farmers using compost therefore need less quantity of pesticides. There is also evidence to suggest that horticulture crops grown with compost have better flavour, size, colour and shelf-life.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/swachh-bharat-mission-solid-waste-management-from-waste-to-health-4862741/>

