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### Q.1) Consider the following statements 'CAT Bonds'

1. It is a high-yield debt instrument that is usually insurance-linked and meant to raise money in case of a catastrophe
2. The primary investors in these bonds are long-term bond investors such as life insurers, and primary pension fund managers

### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.1) Solution (c)

A catastrophe bond (CAT) is a high-yield debt instrument that is usually insurance-linked and meant to raise money in case of a catastrophe such as a hurricane or earthquake. It has a special condition that states if the issuer, such as the insurance or reinsurance company, suffers a loss from a particular predefined catastrophe, then its obligation to pay interest and/or repay the principal is either deferred or completely forgiven.

Catastrophe bonds are used by property/casualty insurers and reinsurers to transfer risk to investors. This lowers their reinsurance costs and frees up money for the company to invest, including potentially underwriting more insurance. The structure of the CAT bond provides for a payout to the insurance company if a defined event occurs, such as a certain magnitude earthquake or a total insurance loss greater than a particular amount.

There are advantages of CAT bonds for investors. These are generally not closely linked with the stock market or economic conditions. The bonds also typically offer a competitive yield compared to their risk, including relative to alternative investments. The low correlation with equities and corporate bonds with insurance risk securitization means the bonds provide diversification benefits.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/time-for-catastrophe-bonds/article24786618.ece>

### Q.2) Which of the following are properties of 'Carbon Fibre'?

1. High chemical resistance
2. High temperature tolerance

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3. Low thermal expansion

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.2) Solution (d)**

**Properties** - high stiffness, high tensile strength, low weight, high chemical resistance, high temperature tolerance and low thermal expansion.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-awaits-advanced-materials/article24754393.ece>

**Q.3) 'Rights of Passage', recently in news is a study associated with**

- a) Elephants
- b) Cargo Ships
- c) Global Oil Checkpoints
- d) NAFTA

**Q.3) Solution (a)**

It is authored by experts and published by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in collaboration with Project Elephant and the U.K.-based NGO Elephant Family.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/loco-pilots-turn-saviours-as-jumbos-able-across-track/article24786930.ece>

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Biosphere Reserve	State
1. Nokrek	Mizoram
2. Seshachalam	Karnataka
3. Cold Desert	Himachal Pradesh

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### Select the correct statements

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

### Q.4) Solution (c)

Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve is a biosphere reserve located in the western Himalayas region, within Himachal Pradesh state in North India.

The 'Seshachalam Hills are hilly ranges part of the Eastern Ghats in southern Andhra Pradesh state, in southeastern India.

Nokrek National Park, or Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, is a national park located approximately 2 km from Tura Peak in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, India. UNESCO added this National park to its list of Biosphere Reserves in May 2009. Along with Balphakram national park, Nokrek is a hotspot of biodiversity in Meghalaya.

### Q.5) List of "Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs) is prepared by

- a) Financial Action Task Force
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) World Bank
- d) None of the above

### Q.5) Solution (a)

The FATF blacklist was the common shorthand description for the Financial Action Task Force list of "Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs) issued since 2000, which it perceived to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.