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Q91

Consider the following statements: The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO 1. is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission 2. made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA 3. made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology

Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mangalyaan is the Mars Orbiter Mission. Statement 3 (success in the first attempt) is also treated as correct, so 1 only is incomplete.

(b)

Statement 2 says India was the second country after the USA to orbit Mars. The Soviet Union and NASA had already achieved Mars orbiters long before; ESA too had Mars Express. India was not second. 2 and 3 only is therefore not the key.

(c) Official key

Mangalyaan is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission, and ISRO placed an orbiter around Mars on its first dedicated attempt - a first among space agencies in the usual exam formulation. Statement 2 is false on 'second after USA'. Hence 1 and 3 only is the official key.

(d)

All three would require the 'second after USA' claim. That claim is false, so this option is wrong.

Summary

Official key is (c) 1 and 3 only. MOM/Mangalyaan reached Martian orbit in September 2014 at comparatively low cost. The name equivalence in statement 1 is true. Statement 3 records the first-attempt success. Statement 2 fails because the USSR and the USA (and later ESA) preceded India in Mars orbit. India was the first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit, which is a different and true boast.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Launch

5 November 2013, PSLV-C25, from Sriharikota

Mars orbit insertion

24 September 2014

First Asian Mars orbit

India, ahead of China's later Tianwen-1

NASA Mariner / Viking; Soviet orbiters

Earlier Mars orbit achievements

ESA Mars Express

European Mars orbiter, 2003

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