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Q34

Which one of the following statements best reflects the idea behind the "Fractional Orbital Bombardment System" often talked about in media? (a) A hypersonic missile is launched into space to counter the asteroid approaching the Earth and explode it in space. (b) A spacecraft lands on another planet after making several orbital motions. (c) A missile is put into a stable orbit around the Earth and deorbits over a target on the Earth. (d) A spacecraft moves along a comet with the same speed and places a probe on its surface. Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Hypersonic vs asteroid. Planetary defence, not FOBS.

(b)

Landing on another planet. Ordinary interplanetary flight.

(c) Official key

A warhead placed in a fractional Earth orbit and deorbited onto a target. That is FOBS.

(d)

Comet rendezvous. Science mission, not bombardment.

Summary

Official key is (c). Fractional Orbital Bombardment System puts a payload into a partial Earth orbit and brings it down on a target - the path China tested in 2021 coverage. It is not asteroid defence, a planetary landing, or a comet probe.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

FOBS

Cold War Soviet concept; fractional orbit, then deorbit.

HGV

Hypersonic glide vehicle - often paired with FOBS in 2021 news.

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