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Q58

Consider the following statements: 1. Ballistic missiles are jet-propelled at subsonic speeds throughout their flights, while cruise missiles are rocket- powered only in the initial phase of flight. 2. Agni-V is a medium- range supersonic cruise missile, while BrahMos is a solid- fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 Only (b) 2 Only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

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Explanation

(a)

1 only. Statement 1 reverses ballistic and cruise propulsion.

(b)

2 only. **Agni-V** is a solid-fuel ballistic missile, not a cruise missile; **BrahMos** is a ramjet cruise missile, not an ICBM.

(c)

Both. Each sentence is inverted.

(d) Official key

Neither. Ballistic missiles are rocket-boosted then coast; cruise missiles are jet-powered for most of the flight. **Agni-V** ≠ cruise; **BrahMos** ≠ ICBM.

Summary

Official key is (d) neither. A ballistic missile is rocket-powered in boost and then follows a ballistic arc; a cruise missile is typically jet-propelled and guided in the atmosphere. **Agni-V** is an Indian long-range ballistic missile; **BrahMos** is a supersonic cruise missile. Both statements swap the families.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Agni-V

Indian solid-fuel long-range ballistic missile.

BrahMos

Indo-Russian ramjet cruise missile; air/land/sea variants.

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