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Q85

Artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide (b) silver nitrate and potassium iodide (c) silver iodide and potassium nitrate (d) silver nitrate and potassium chloride Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Silver iodide and potassium iodide. AgI is the standard ice-nucleating agent; KI appears with it in many seeding mixes.

(b)

Silver nitrate and potassium iodide. AgNO₃ is not the usual nucleant.

(c)

Silver iodide and potassium nitrate. The iodide is right; KNO₃ is the wrong partner.

(d)

Silver nitrate and potassium chloride. Both names miss the iodide nucleant.

Summary

Official key is (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide - the classic cloud-seeding pair. Nitrate/chloride options swap in the wrong silver or potassium salt.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Cloud seeding

Glaciogenic (AgI) or hygroscopic (salts) to encourage rain. Used in smog-response trials too.

Silver iodide (AgI)

Crystal structure close to ice. The workhorse nucleant.

IITM / CAIPEEX

Indian cloud-aerosol seeding experiments.

Hygroscopic flares

Sodium/potassium salts for warm clouds - neighbour of the KI option.

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