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ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q1(b)

Varna and Buddhism

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Anthropology GS 2 · 10 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Sangha

Monastic community that, in early texts, admitted members without a birth-varna test for ordination.

Ashoka

Mauryan emperor whose edicts spread dhamma without making varna the state creed.

Ambedkar

Read Buddhism as a reasoned exit from caste and led the 1956 conversion at Nagpur.

Navayana

Ambedkar's modern Buddhist path that keeps the anti-caste reading of the older critique.

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