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Q96

Kalamkari painting refers to (a) a hand-painted cotton textile in South India (b) a handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India (c) a block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India (d) a hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Kalamkari is a South Indian tradition of hand-painted (and also block-printed) cotton textile, especially **Srikalahasti** and **Machilipatnam** in Andhra Pradesh. The name is from Persian **qalam** (pen) + kari (craft). This option is the official key.

(b)

Bamboo handicraft drawing in the North-East is a different craft, not Kalamkari. This option is not the key.

(c)

Block-painted woollen cloth of the western Himalaya describes other textiles (e.g. some Himachal traditions), not Kalamkari. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Hand-painted silk of the north-west is not the Kalamkari definition; Kalamkari is cotton of the Coromandel. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) a hand-painted cotton textile in South India. **Srikalahasti** kalamkari is pen-painted mythological cotton; **Machilipatnam** uses blocks with the same dye tradition. North-East bamboo, Himalayan wool and north-western silk are other crafts. Only (a) is Kalamkari.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Srikalahasti

Freehand pen Kalamkari, often temple cloths and scrolls

Machilipatnam (Pedana)

Block-printed Kalamkari of the Krishna district coast

GI tags

Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam Kalamkari have Geographical Indications

Natural dyes

Myrobalan, alum, indigo, madder in traditional process

Qalam

Bamboo/pen used to draw the outline

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