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Q38

Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally (a) Agriculturists (b) Warriors (c) Weavers (d) Traders
Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Agriculturists. Banjaras were not primarily settled cultivators. This letter is not the key.

(b)

Warriors. They could be armed on the road, but their social-economic identity in medieval sources is as carriers and traders. This letter is not the key.

(c)

Weavers. Textile communities are a different occupational group. This letter is not the key.

(d) Official key

Traders. Banjaras (Lambadas) moved grain, salt and other goods with pack-oxen for armies and markets across medieval India. That stored letter is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) traders. Medieval Banjaras were nomadic transporters and traders, not a cultivating, warrior or weaving caste as the primary label. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Tanda

Banjara caravan / camp

Pack animal

Bullocks; later also mentioned with other stock

Mughal armies

Relied on Banjaras for grain supply on campaign

Other names

Lambada / Lambadi in Deccan usage

Salt and grain

Typical long-distance cargoes

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