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Q58

Satya Shodhak Samaj organized (a) A movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar (b) A temple-entry movement in Gujarat (c) An anti-caste movement in Maharashtra (d) A peasant movement in Punjab Official key: C.

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)

A movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar points to other streams such as the Tana Bhagat or later Jharkhand tribal politics, not to Satya Shodhak Samaj. This option is therefore not the key.

(b)

A temple-entry movement in Gujarat recalls campaigns such as those associated with Gandhi in later decades or regional temple-entry satyagrahas, not Jyotirao Phule's Samaj. This option is wrong.

(c) Official key

Satya Shodhak Samaj was founded by Jyotirao Phule in Pune in 1873 as an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra. It attacked Brahmanical dominance, promoted education of Shudras and Ati-Shudras, and conducted non-Brahmin marriages and social reform. That is why (c) is the official key.

(d)

A peasant movement in Punjab would fit the Unionist or later kisan streams, not Satya Shodhak Samaj. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c) an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra. Phule's Satya Shodhak Samaj (Truth-Seekers' Society) organised lower-caste assertion, schooling and a critique of priestly monopoly in the Bombay Presidency. It is not a Bihar tribal, Gujarat temple-entry, or Punjab peasant body. Savitribai Phule's work on girls' education sits in the same Maharashtra reform milieu. Only (c) locates the Samaj correctly.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Founder

Jyotirao (Jyotiba) Govindrao Phule, 1873, Pune

Gulamgiri

Phule's 1873 work dedicated to the American anti-slavery movement

Savitribai Phule

Pioneer of girls' schooling in Pune; associated with the same reform

Non-Brahmin movement

Later Maharashtra politics drew on Satya Shodhak ideas

Deenbandhu

Newspaper linked to the Satya Shodhak circle

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