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Q69

The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at (a) Ajanta (b) Badami (c) Bagh (d) Ellora Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

The painting of Bodhisattva **Padmapani** (Avalokiteshvara holding a lotus) is the celebrated mural in Cave 1 at Ajanta. It is among the most reproduced images of Indian Buddhist painting. That identification is the official key.

(b)

Badami is famous for Chalukya rock-cut temples and some paintings, not for the **Padmapani** of **Ajanta Cave 1**. This option is not the key.

(c)

Bagh caves in Madhya Pradesh have related classical murals but not this iconic **Padmapani** panel. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Ellora is known for Hindu, Buddhist and Jain rock architecture (Kailasa temple), not for the Ajanta **Padmapani** painting. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) Ajanta. Cave 1's **Padmapani** is the standard textbook illustration of Vakataka-period Buddhist mural art. Badami, Bagh and Ellora are important Deccan sites but do not own that painting. Ajanta's viharas preserve the classical palette and bodhisattva iconography asked here. Only (a) is correct.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Ajanta Cave 1

Mahayana vihara with Padmapani and Vajrapani murals

Period

Largely later phase, about fifth-sixth century CE under Vakatakas

Padmapani

Lotus-bearing form of Avalokiteshvara

UNESCO

Ajanta Caves are a World Heritage Site in Maharashtra

Bagh Caves

Related classical painting school in Dhar district, M.P.

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