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Q51

Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom? (a) Kakinada (b) Motupalli (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam) (d) Nelluru Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

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

Explanation**(a)**

Kakinada is a modern Andhra port on the Godavari delta. It rose under later colonial and industrial use, not as the celebrated harbour of the Kakatiya kingdom. This option is therefore not the key.

(b) Official key

Motupalli (Motupalle) on the Andhra coast was the principal seaport of the Kakatiyas of Warangal. Foreign notices, including Marco Polo, record it as a busy medieval trading harbour under Kakatiya protection. Customs and overseas commerce of the kingdom were organised through this port. That is why (b) is the official key.

(c)

Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam) became famous later under the Golconda Qutb Shahis and European factories. It is not the Kakatiya-age seaport named in the sources for this question. This option is not the key.

(d)

Nelluru (Nellore) was a coastal town in the same region but not the standout Kakatiya seaport. The kingdom's overseas trade is tied in the record to Motupalli. This option is therefore wrong.

Summary

Official key is (b) Motupalli. The Kakatiyas of Warangal used Motupalli as their chief medieval seaport on the Andhra coast. Travellers described its customs and overseas trade under Kakatiya rule. Kakinada is a later working port; Machilipatnam's European fame belongs to the Golconda centuries. Nellore was not that harbour. Only Motupalli matches the Kakatiya seaport asked for.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Kakatiya capital

Warangal (Orugallu) in the eastern Deccan

Marco Polo

Noted Motupalli as a thriving thirteenth-century port

Ganapati Deva / Rudrama Devi

Kakatiya rulers associated with coastal trade patronage

Masulipatnam

Rose as a Golconda and European factory port after Kakatiya decline

Motupalli location

Prakasam / coastal Andhra, Bay of Bengal

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