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Q53

With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: 1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism. 2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 Official key: B.

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

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Explanation**(a)**

Option (a) is 1 only. **Sautrantika** and **Sammitiya** were schools of Buddhism, not Jainism. Sautrantikas relied on sutra as authority; Sammitiyas were a Pudgalavada Buddhist group. Statement 1 is therefore false, so this option is not the key.

(b) Official key

- **Statement 2 is correct:** the Sarvastivadins held sarvam asti - dharmas exist in past, present and future, so constituents of phenomena are not wholly snuffed out as mere instants but persist in a latent or tri-temporal way. Statement 1 is false because those sects are Buddhist. Hence 2 only is the official key.

(c)

Option (c) is both 1 and 2. The Buddhist identity of **Sautrantika** and **Sammitiya** makes statement 1 wrong, so both cannot be correct. This option is not the key.

(d)

Option (d) is neither. Statement 2 on **Sarvastivada** is a standard point in Indian Buddhist philosophy, so the neither choice fails. This option is therefore wrong.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. **Sautrantika** and **Sammitiya** belong to the Buddhist sangha, not to Jain orders. **Sarvastivada** taught that dharmas exist in all three times, against a purely momentary reading. Jainism's well-known schools are Svetambara and Digambara (and related sub-sects), not these two names. Only statement 2 survives.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Sarvastivada

Northern Buddhist school; 'all exists' in past, present, future

Sautrantika

Buddhist school taking sutra, not all Abhidharma, as final authority

Sammitiya

Pudgalavada Buddhist sect affirming a kind of person

Jain major sects

Digambara and Svetambara

Vaibhashika

Sarvastivada Abhidharma tradition often paired with Sautrantika in debates

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