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Q74

With reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world? (a) Avalokiteshvara (b) Lokeshvara (c) Maitreya (d) Padmapani Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2018 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

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

Explanation

(a)

(a) **Avalokiteshvara**. The bodhisattva of compassion, already active in Mahayana devotion (**Padmapani** is a form). He is not the **Buddha**-yet-to-come. This option is not the key.

(b)

(b) Lokeshvara. A name overlapping **Avalokiteshvara**/Lokeshvara in some traditions, still a present bodhisattva of compassion, not the future **Buddha**. This option is not the key.

(c) Official key

(c) **Maitreya**. In Buddhist eschatology **Maitreya** is the next **Buddha**, who will descend from Tushita to teach when **Shakyamuni**'s dharma has faded. That is the "future **Buddha**" of the question. This option is the official key.

(d)

(d) **Padmapani**. "Lotus-bearer," an epithet/form of **Avalokiteshvara**, not the future **Buddha**. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (c) **Maitreya**. Indian and wider Buddhist tradition names **Maitreya** as the **Buddha** still to come. **Avalokiteshvara**, Lokeshvara and **Padmapani** belong to the compassion-bodhisattva complex already in the present age. They "save" as helpers, but they are not the future Samyaksambuddha of the lists. The WRAP key is therefore (c).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Maitreya

Future **Buddha**; resides in Tushita heaven until then

Avalokiteshvara

Bodhisattva of compassion; Chenrezig in Tibet

Padmapani

Lotus-in-hand form of Avalokiteshvara (e.g. Ajanta)

Shakyamuni

Historical **Buddha** of the present kalpa in this schema

Manjushri

Bodhisattva of wisdom, another Mahayana helper

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