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Q72

With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements: 1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri. 2. Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow. 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: D.

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

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

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. **Buland Darwaza** and the khankah complex at Fatehpur Sikri are predominantly red sandstone with marble inlay, not buildings "made of white marble" in the Taj sense. Statement 1 is therefore incorrect. This option is not the key.

(b)

(b) 2 only. **Bara Imambara** and **Rumi Darwaza** at Lucknow are brick-and-lime/stucco Nawabi monuments, not red sandstone-and-marble Mughal construction. Statement 2 is incorrect. This option is not the key.

(c)

(c) Both 1 and 2. Both material claims fail. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Neither 1 nor 2. Fatehpur Sikri's great gate is red sandstone, not a white-marble fabric; Lucknow's Imambara and **Rumi Darwaza** are not sandstone-and-marble Mughal work. Neither statement stands. This option is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Neither 1 nor 2. Akbar's Fatehpur Sikri uses red sandstone as the main facing, with marble as accent-not white marble as the body of **Buland Darwaza**. Awadh's **Bara Imambara** and **Rumi Darwaza** are brick monuments of the late 18th century, not red sandstone and marble. Both statements are therefore false. The stored key is (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Buland Darwaza

Victory gate of the Jama Masjid, Fatehpur Sikri; red sandstone

Salim Chishti dargah

White marble tomb in the same courtyard, often confused with the gate

Bara Imambara

Asaf-ud-Daula, Lucknow, 1784; brick with bhulbhulaiya

Rumi Darwaza

Lucknow gateway, ~1784, Awadhi brick-stucco

Pietra dura

Marble inlay typical of later Shah Jahan work, not these two sites as described

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