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Q11

Building 'Kalyaana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of (a) Chalukya (b) Chandela (c) Rashtrakuta (d) Vijayanagara Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

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

Explanation**(a)**

(a) Chalukya. Early and later Chalukya temples are known for cave and structural vimanas (Badami, Pattadakal, Aihole), not as the classic home of kalyana mandapas, so this is not the key.

(b)

(b) Chandela. Khajuraho nagara temples are famed for sculptural density, not kalyana mandapas as a hallmark, so this is not the key.

(c)

(c) Rashtrakuta. Ellora's Kailasa and other rock-cut work define them; **kalyana mandapa** is not their signature, so this is not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Vijayanagara. Large open kalyana mandapas (marriage halls) with ornate pillars are a notable feature of Vijayanagara temple additions (Hampi, Vithala, and successor Nayaka work). That kingdom is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) Vijayanagara. From the fourteenth century the Hampi complex and later Nayaka temples added spacious pillared kalyana mandapas for ritual marriage of the deity. Chalukya, Chandela and Rashtrakuta styles are identified by other hallmarks. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Kalyana mandapa

Hall for the divine marriage ritual

Type site

Vithala temple, Hampi

Successor style

Nayaka mandapas at Madurai, Srirangam

Askable twin

Amman shrine and raya gopuram as Vijayanagara markers

Chandela contrast

Khajuraho nagara cluster

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