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Q13

Consider the following statements: 1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar. 2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi. 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 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 only. **Nimbarka** (Nimbarkacharya), the Dvaitadvaita Vaishnava teacher, belongs to a much earlier medieval centuries-range than Akbar's sixteenth century, so 'contemporary of Akbar' fails and 1 only is not the key.

(b)

(b) 2 only. **Kabir** (fifteenth-early sixteenth century) died before Shaikh Ahmad **Sirhindi** (1564-1624, Mujaddid Alf-i-Sani) flourished at Akbar-Jahangir's court, so **Kabir** cannot have been 'greatly influenced' by **Sirhindi**. 2 only is not the key.

(c)

(c) Both 1 and 2. Both chronology claims fail, so both-true is not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) Neither 1 nor 2. **Nimbarka** was not Akbar's contemporary, and **Kabir** was not a disciple of **Sirhindi**. Neither statement stands, so this is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) neither 1 nor 2. **Nimbarka**'s sampradaya is pre-Mughal. **Kabir**'s milieu is Sultanate-era Bhakti-Sufi north India; **Sirhindi** is a Naqshbandi reformer under Akbar and **Jahangir**, after **Kabir**. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Nimbarka

Dvaitadvaita; Radha-Krishna worship

Sirhindi

Naqshbandi; opposed Akbar's din-i-ilahi line

Kabir

Nirguna bhakti; weaver of Banaras tradition

Askable twin

Dadu, Raidas, Nanak in the same bhakti belt

Jahangir

Imprisoned Sirhindi for a time

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