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Q8

In which of the following relief sculpture inscriptions is 'Ranyo Ashoka' (King Ashoka) mentioned along with the stone portrait of Ashoka? (a) Kanganahalli (b) Sanchi (c) Shahbazgarhi (d) Sohgaura Official key: A.

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) Official key**

(a) Kanganahalli. At Kanaganahalli (Sannati, Kalaburagi, Karnataka) a limestone portrait of a king is labelled 'Ranyo **Ashoka**' - King **Ashoka** - on a sculpted slab from the Mahastupa. That inscribed portrait is the official key.

(b)

(b) Sanchi. Sanchi has Ashokan pillars and stupas but not this labelled stone portrait reading Ranyo **Ashoka**, so it is not the key.

(c)

(c) **Shahbazgarhi**. This is a major set of Ashokan Major Rock Edicts in Kharoshthi in present-day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, without that named portrait, so it is not the key.

(d)

(d) Sohgaura. A Mauryan storehouse plaque, not an **Ashoka** portrait inscription, so it is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) Kanganahalli. The Sannati-Kanaganahalli stupa yielded a labelled royal portrait 'Ranyo **Ashoka**', a rare named image of the emperor. Sanchi and **Shahbazgarhi** are Ashokan in other ways; Sohgaura is unrelated to that portrait. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Site

Kanaganahalli, Sannati, Karnataka

Legend

Ranyo **Ashoka** (Prakrit)

Shahbazgarhi

Major Rock Edicts in Kharoshthi

Askable twin

Maski edict uses the name **Ashoka**

River

Bhima valley Buddhist landscape

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