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Q58

With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"? (a) Arab merchants (b) Qalandars (c) Persian calligraphists (d) Sayyids Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Arab merchants. Not **kulah**-daran.

(b)

Qalandars. Wandering dervishes; different headgear story.

(c)

Persian calligraphists. Unrelated.

(d) Official key

Sayyids. **Kulah**-daran - 'cap-wearers'; the pointed cap of **Sayyid** lineages in Sultanate India.

Summary

Official key is (d) Sayyids. **Kulah**-daran ('those who wear the **kulah**') refers to Sayyids distinguished by their head-cap in the **Delhi Sultanate** milieu.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Sayyid

Claimed descent from the Prophet; a status group in Sultanate and Mughal India.

Kulah

A conical cap; a social marker in the sources.

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