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Q41

In which one of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located? (a) Andhra (b) Gandhara (c) Kalinga (d) Magadha Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Andhra. Dhanyakataka (Dharanikota / Amaravati) on the Krishna was a Mahasanghika centre.

(b)

Gandhara. Taxila-Peshawar; a different Buddhist landscape.

(c)

Kalinga. Odisha; Ashokan, later Buddhist, but not this town.

(d)

Magadha. Heartland of early Buddhism, not Dhanyakataka.

Summary

Official key is (a) Andhra. Dhanyakataka, at Dharanikota near Amaravati in the Krishna valley, was a major Mahasanghika (and later Mahayana) centre. Gandhara, Kalinga and Magadha are other Buddhist geographies.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Amaravati stupa

Satavahana-era mahacaitya in the Krishna valley.

Mahasanghika

Early Buddhist school; a split from Sthaviravada.

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