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Q47

"Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects." The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India? (a) Buddhism (b) Jainism (c) Shaivism (d) Vaishnavism Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

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

Explanation**(a)**

Buddhism. Denies an eternal soul (anatta); not soul in rocks.

(b) Official key

Jainism. Jiva in plants, earth, water, air, fire - the quoted animism.

(c)

Shaivism. Theistic Shaiva schools, not this pan-jiva line.

(d)

Vaishnavism. Vishnu-centred bhakti, not jiva in stones as doctrine.

Summary

Official key is (b) Jainism. Jain metaphysics puts jiva in animals, plants and also in earth, water, fire and air bodies. The quotation is that doctrine, not Buddhist anatta or Puranic theism.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Jiva / ajiva

Jain pair: soul and non-soul.

Nigoda

Minute plant-bodied jivas in Jain biology.