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Q44

Which one of the following explains the practice of 'Vattakirutal' as mentioned in Sangam poems? (a) Kings employing women bodyguards (b) Learned persons assembling in royal courts to discuss religious and philosophical matters (c) Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals (d) A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death Official key: D.

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

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

Explanation

(a)

Women bodyguards. **Sangam** has viraliyar and guards, not this rite.

(b)

A learned assembly. That is a **sangam** / avai, not vattakirutal.

(c)

Girls watching fields. A pastoral image, not the word.

(d) Official key

A defeated king starving himself to death. **Vatakkirutal** / vattakirutal in **Sangam** poetry.

Summary

Official key is (d). Vattakirutal (**vatakkirutal**) is the **Sangam** rite in which a defeated king sits facing north and fasts to death. It is not bodyguards, a court of scholars, or field-watch.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Vatakkirutal

Northern-facing ritual starvation of a defeated Tamil king.

Sangam

Early Tamil anthologies; Purananuru records such deaths.