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Q42

With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements: 1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin. 2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics. 3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition. How many of the statements given above are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None 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)

Only one. Relics and votive use both hold; origin is the miss.

(b) Official key

Only two. Stupa as relic-chamber and as votive/commemorative in Buddhism. The form is not Buddhist in origin - pre-Buddhist burial mounds exist.

(c)

All three. Statement 1 over-claims origin.

(d)

None. Relic and commemorative uses are standard.

Summary

Official key is (b) only two. A stupa commonly holds relics and serves as a votive and commemorative Buddhist monument. Mound burial predates Buddhism, so 'Buddhist in origin' is the false limb.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Anda / harmika / chhatra

Classic stupa parts: dome, railing, umbrella.

Chaitya

Prayer hall, often with a stupa at the apse.

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