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Q54

With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets ? 1. Nayaputta 2. Shakyamuni 3. Tathagata Select the correct answer using the code given below : (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 only. Nayaputta is an epithet of Mahavira, not the Buddha.

(b) Official key

2 and 3 only. Shakyamuni and Tathagata are Buddha epithets.

(c)

All three. Nayaputta does not belong here.

(d)

None. Two of the three names are his.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 and 3 only. Gautama is Shakyamuni (sage of the Shakyas) and Tathagata ("thus-gone"). Nayaputta / Nataputta is a Jain epithet of Mahavira (of the Jnatri clan). So 1 drops.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Tathagata

A self-designation of the Buddha in the Pali canon.

Mahavira

Last Tirthankara of this age in Jain tradition; also called Nayaputta.