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Q13

The irrigation device called 'Araghatta' was (a) a water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley (b) a large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes (c) a larger earthen pot driven by bullocks (d) a large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

A leather bag over a pulley. That is the mot / charsa neighbourhood, not araghatta as keyed.

(b) Official key

A large wheel with earthen pots on the outer ends of its spokes. That is the official identification of araghatta (the Persian-wheel type **noria**).

(c)

A large earthen pot driven by bullocks. Not the wheel-and-pots machine.

(d)

A bucket pulled up by hand. The coaching trap if you read araghatta as a simple well-bucket.

Summary

Official Set A key is (b). Araghatta in the Indian irrigation record is the pot-garland wheel: a large wheel, pots on the rim, turned to lift water - the Persian-wheel picture. A leather bag on a pulley, a bullock-pot, or a hand bucket are neighbouring lift devices, not the official letter here.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Araghatta / arahatta

A well-irrigation lift in early medieval Indian texts. Often drawn as a pot-wheel; this paper keys a hand-bucket.

Persian wheel

Animal- or water-driven wheel with pots. The standard school diagram next to this question.

Noria

The Mediterranean/West Asian pot-wheel cousin of the Persian wheel.

Mot / charas

Leather bag lifted over a pulley by animals. Option (a)'s neighbourhood.

Ghati yantra

Sanskrit pot-machine language in some inscriptions - a neighbour term, not a fourth option.

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