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Q14

Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara'? (a) Mahendravarman I (b) Simhavishnu (c) Narasimhavarman I (d) Simhavarman Official key: A.

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) Official key**

Mahendravarman I. Mattavilasa, Vichitrachitta and Gunabhara are his Pallava titles (Mattavilasa-prahasana is the play).

(b)

Simhavishnu. Earlier Pallava; not this title-set.

(c)

Narasimhavarman I. Mamalla, not these three names.

(d)

Simhavarman. The name trap.

Summary

Official Set A key is (a) **Mahendravarman I.** The Pallava king of Kanchi is remembered as Mattavilasa (the farce of that name), Vichitrachitta and Gunabhara. **Simhavishnu**, **Narasimhavarman I** and Simhavarman are other Pallavas in the family tree, not the holders of this trio.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Mahendravarman I

Pallava, c. 600-630 CE. Author-king of Mattavilasa Prahasana. Rock-cut temples.

Mattavilasa Prahasana

A Sanskrit farce. The title Mattavilasa is taken from this play's world.

Narasimhavarman I

Defeated Pulakeshin II; Mamallapuram portraits. Title Mamalla.

Simhavishnu

Re-established Pallava power from Kanchi. Avanisimha in some records.

Pallava genealogy trap

Several Simhavarman/Simhavishnu kings. Always match titles to the exact name UPSC printed.

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