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Q17

With reference to ancient India (600-322 BC), consider the following pairs: Territorial Region River flowing in the region I. Asmaka : Godavari II. Kamboja : Vipasa III. Avanti : Mahanadi IV. Kosala : Sarayu How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All the four
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)

Only one. Asmaka-Godavari holds, and one more pair is keyed with it.

(b) Official key

Only two. Asmaka on the Godavari and Kosala on the Sarayu are the scored matches. **Kamboja** is not **Vipasa**; **Avanti** is not Mahanadi.

(c)

Only three. That keeps a false river pairing.

(d)

All four. Two pairs fail.

Summary

Official Set A key is (b) only two. Asmaka (Assaka) sits on the Godavari. Kosala is the Sarayu country. **Kamboja** is the north-west, not the Beas (**Vipasa**). **Avanti** is the Malwa-Narmada/Chambal world, not the Mahanadi. So two pairs are right, not one and not three.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Asmaka / Assaka

Southern Mahajanapada on the Godavari (near Paithan/Bodhan in most maps).

Kamboja

North-west frontier janapada. Neighbour of Gandhara, not the Vipasa.

Vipas

The Beas. A Punjab river in the Rigvedic list (Vipas, Shutudri).

Avanti

Ujjain / Mahismati. Shipra and Narmada neighbourhood, not Mahanadi.

Kosala and Sarayu

Ayodhya on the Sarayu is the epic pairing. Know it even when a paper scores only one pair overall.

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