# Medieval History · GS - I

**Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was a also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| 2016 | GS - I | Medieval History |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Vijayanagara Empire; literary contributions; Ashtadiggajas; Telugu literature; Sanskrit scholarship; temple patronage**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Krishnadeva Raya (1509–1529), the greatest ruler of the Tuluva dynasty of Vijayanagara, promoted literature, scholarship, architecture and religious institutions.

### Krishnadeva Raya as a Scholar

- He authored *Amuktamalyada* in Telugu, a celebrated work dealing with the life of Andal and aspects of kingship and administration.
- He was knowledgeable in Sanskrit and Telugu literary traditions.
- His works reflected religious devotion, political wisdom and literary sophistication.

### Patronage of Literature

- He supported the development of Telugu literature, which flourished during his reign.
- His court included the celebrated **Ashtadiggajas**, traditionally associated with eight eminent Telugu poets.
- Allasani Peddana, often regarded as Andhra Kavita Pitamaha, composed *Manucharitramu*.
- Poets such as Nandi Thimmana and Tenali Ramakrishna are associated with the literary culture of his court.

- Sanskrit scholarship and religious learning also received royal support.

**Broader Cultural Patronage**

- He patronised temples and supported their expansion, including major contributions at Tirupati.
- His reign witnessed developments in temple architecture, sculpture and public works.
- Royal patronage strengthened the relationship between political authority, religion and literary culture.

**Conclusion**

Krishnadeva Raya combined personal scholarship with sustained royal patronage, helping make Vijayanagara a major centre of South Indian cultural and literary achievement.

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