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Q2

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

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS I · 12 marks · Indian Heritage and Culture

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Core demand of the question

- Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss
- Cover his own works, court poets, languages, and how kingship funded letters
- Keep the explanation within a 12.5-mark length

Revision summary

He ruled Vijayanagara from 1509 to 1529 and wrote the Telugu **Amuktamalyada** as **Andhra Bhoja**.

Sanskrit court drama and shastra sat beside that Telugu kavya.

Allasani Peddana and the **Ashtadiggajas** made the capital a Telugu literary peak.

Kannada, Tamil, and temple mathas also took grants.

War treasure and a multi-lingual empire made patronage a tool of kingship.

Flow diagram

Krishnadeva Raya -> Amuktamalyada Sanskrit plays
Krishnadeva Raya -> Ashtadiggajas Peddana
Krishnadeva Raya -> Telugu Kannada Tamil mathas
Amuktamalyada Sanskrit plays -> Scholar-patron court
Ashtadiggajas Peddana -> Scholar-patron court
Telugu Kannada Tamil mathas -> Scholar-patron court

Conclusion

- Discuss both the king's own Telugu-Sanskrit output and the Ashtadiggaja system, with Peddana as the named proof.
- Treat learning as part of Vijayanagara kingship, funded by agrarian and war surplus, not as a side-light to battles.

Krishnadeva Raya was a scholar-king who wrote **Amuktamalyada** and a patron who gathered the **Ashtadiggajas** and temple learned men. Vijayanagara's fame in letters rests on that double

role, which turned conquest into a court of many languages.

Facts & figures

Reign, 1509-1529

Tuluva emperor of Vijayanagara whose military peak includes the Raichur campaign of 1520.

Amuktamalyada

Telugu poem on Andal and Ranganatha that also advises the king on listening to the land and its people.

Allasani Peddana

Author of Manucharitram and chief poet among the Ashtadiggajas at Krishnadeva Raya's court.

Ashtadiggajas

Traditional set of eight great Telugu poets said to have adorned the Vijayanagara court.

Andhra Bhoja

Honorific comparing the king to Bhoja of Dhara as a learned royal patron.

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