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## A Biographical Study of B. N. Sastri: His Life and Works

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**Abstract:** B.N.Sastri has published various works on Indian and Telangana history. He describes the inscriptions. His historical evidence supported Telangana History. B.N. Sastri is historian, and epigraphist. From inscriptions decoder to historian, freedom warrior, poet, storyteller, writer, playwright, critic, greatest school teacher, newspaper editor, and others, he is a multi-talented scholar. His name is well-known among Telugu people.

### Introduction:

B.N.Sastri is the author of a large number of publications that cover the history of Telangana. He sheds new light on the past, illuminating how the inscriptions came to be brought to life. It was he who presented the evidences that demonstrated Telangana's historical significance. He is a famous person who was born in Telugu and became well-known all over the world. B.N. Shastri is a researcher, an epigraphist, and an ascetic who specialises in historical study. He is a multi-talented scholar who got to the top of history and literature by working his way up from being an inscriptions decipherer to a historian, freedom fighter, poet, storyteller, writer, playwright, critic, finest school teacher, newspaper editor, and other professions. The hearts of Telugu people are already quite acquainted with his name, and no one has anything new to say about him.

### B. N. Sastri: Life and Works

Bhinnuri Narasimha Sastri is the full name of BN Sastri, however he is also known by the moniker 'Sasanala Sastri.' He was born on December 10th, 1932 in the village of Waligonda, which is located in the Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district. His parents were named Saraswathamma and Ramakrishnaiah. Not only did he finish the Peddala Balasiksha, but he also committed all of the poetry to memory. He began his education at a young age, and by the time he reached adulthood, he was fluent in several languages, including Urdu, Telugu, English, Sanskrit, and Pali. In 1958, in the middle of a lot of ups and downs, he managed to finish his BA. In 1959, he enrolled in the Master of Arts programme at OU, where he quickly became the best student. He has produced two volumes

of articles pertaining to seminars held at O.U. He was bestowed with the blessings of eminent teachers such as Acharya Khandavalli, Biruduraju, and Palla Durgaiyah.

From the time he was in the seventh grade, he was the activist of protests against the dictatorial reign of the Nizam. He also took part in a training camp designed to teach people how to compose movement songs, which was held in Prodduthur in Nalgonda and was headed by Ravi Narayana Reddy. In addition to this, he is the author of the book "Viplava Jwala," which details the circumstances that prevailed during the reign of the Nizam. In response to a variety of situations, he penned the historical novels Vakataka Mahadevi and Tukkadevi as well as the social novels Radha, Jeevan Patham, Thirani Korika, Parivarthana, and Jivitham - Gamanam, He also authored the book Radha. In addition to Neerajan, he is the author of other plays, including Co-operation, Gramjeevanam, Kirayadaru, and two more plays. The piece of children's poetry known as Shastri Papai Pathakam is considered to be the best. In the work known as "Kashi Khandamu Dani Prasastam," Shastri is presented to us in the perspective of a critic. Shastri was able to keep his creative edge in the world of literature despite the fact that he was always engaged in the study of history. His expertise as a researcher was shown by the fact that he investigated as many as one thousand inscriptions and personally solved and discovered four hundred of them. Sastri is a scholar who has written 12 volumes of Inscriptions, 5 Sarvasvams, and 21 volumes of significant works on the history and culture of Andhra Pradesh all by himself. In addition to this, there exists a great deal of unpublished texts.

Shastri's reputation as the world's most accomplished researcher is largely due to the findings of his investigation into the Vishnukundins. This study has contributed to the degree of standing that can be maintained in comparison to well-known historians such as Komarraju, Mallampalli, Nelaturi, and Maremanda. Sastri has focused his attention on researching two inscriptions that belonged to the Vishnukundin family: the inscription of Govinda Sharma and the inscription of Vikramendra Bhattaraka Varma. Both of these inscriptions were written in Sanskrit. On the basis of these, he rewrote history by establishing that the Vishnu Kundins were the kings of the Telangana region, whose capital is today's Indrapalanagaram. This caused a great deal of controversy. It was discovered by historians that Vishnukundins formerly controlled Amaravati, Vijayawada, Vengi, and Dendulur in the past; however, Sastri's study has uncovered the life history of these rulers. According to him, between the years 388 and 390 AD, Maharajendravarma founded the city of Indrapala and reigned over the territory that is now known as Telangana. In 1965, an article on all of this subject matter was published in Bharati magazine, and it immediately became the centre of attention for everyone. In spite of this, Suravaram Prathapareddy had previously provided the "Social History of Andhras" from the 11th century all the way up to the Kumphini period. On the other hand, the history before to the 11th century is still largely unknown. In one instance, Komarrajugaru offered his viewpoint that the Andhra people's history and culture are incomplete due to the fact that they did not gather the inscriptions that were found in Telangana. He said that this was the reason for his viewpoint. In light of these considerations, B.N. Shastri's emphasis on edicts was completely directed toward research and progressed in that direction.

First and foremost, Shastri published a book that was divided into volumes titled "Sasana Samputi 1,2." As part of his Master of Arts degree, he was required to study the history and culture of Andhras; hence, he has a vast understanding on a variety of topics. In this book, which was published in 1974, the first half discusses the five bronze inscriptions of Vishnukundina, Mathara, and Kalingas, while the second section examines 33 inscriptions from the Kanduri Chodas, Kalyani Chalukyas, Kakatiya, and other dynasties of the region. Another book titled "Tripurantaka Temple Inscriptions" provides condensed explanations of a total of 72 inscriptions, in addition to specifics on 15 newly discovered inscriptions. The second of the twelve Jyotirlingas is located at Srisailem. According to what is written about it in the book, the Tripurantaka Temple is the Dwara Kshetra that is located in the eastern direction. Srisailem has eight of these temples located in each of the eight cardinal directions. The cities of Kolanupaka and Panagallu in Nalgonda, as well as Kandur, Kodur, and Vardhamana in Mahabubnagar, served as the capitals of the old Kanduri Chodas while they were vassals of the Kakatiyas and subsequently when they were independent states.

Giduguvenkata Sitapati was the motivation for the publication of the book 'History of Mukhalinga Temple-Sasanamulu,' which is a history book about the Mukhalinga Temple, which is a well-known Shaivite temple in Srikakulam. The book contains more than one hundred inscriptions about the history of the Mukhalinga Temple. At the temple of Durgamalleswaralaya in the Bejawada region, an additional more than 95 inscriptions were found, and they were made public for the first time. Text written in Telugu, as well as poetry and other forms of Telugu writing, are printed on the inscriptions throughout this book. When we think about Qutub Shahis, Golakonda comes to mind. Golakonda kingdom was one of the five separate kingdoms that emerged when the Bahmani kingdom disintegrated about the year 1600 AD. Despite the fact that the inscriptions from their period were written in Urdu, Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit and Andhra languages, they were uncovered and provided a fresh perspective on historical events. Publishing works that include inscriptions and images of sculptures, such as Cheraku Reddy Vamsa-Charitra-Sasanamulu with 17 inscriptions and Racherla Reddy Vamsa History-Sasanamulu with 27 inscriptions, both of these books have gained a great deal of notoriety. In 1991, a short history of the "Kayastha kings" who governed the territories around Panagallu with Vallur and Gandikota as their capitals was written. These "Kayastha kings" were responsible for establishing the Panagallu kingdom. It has been mentioned in 12 inscriptions by Mahathara Granth Sastri, 'Vemulawada Charitra-Sasanamulu,' that Vemulawada, a Saiva temple in Telangana, is known as Dakshina Kashi. This is the location where the Rajarajeswara Temple, Bhimeswara Temple, Baddigeswara Temple, and Nagareswara Temples meet. According to the annals of history, Bodhan served as the administrative centre of Karimnagar while it was under the control of the Chalukya dynasty and was known as Sabbisaira Mandal. Shastri has given the temples that were constructed during their period a more complex appearance, with inscriptions that represent their history and culture. He spoke into detail about the dispatches and Jinavallabhus that occurred during that time period. It was also reported that a book titled "Malyala Vamsa Charitra-Sasanamulu" would be published, and this book would explain the Malyala family's relationship to the Viriyala and Gona families. Assuming that this is the first stage,

the second would be to document every facet of districts. He began by writing and announcing the name "Nallagonda Mandal Sarvasvam," motivated by his deep affection for his neighbourhood. In addition, Adilabad, Mahabubnagar, Reddy Rajya, and Brahmin Rajya Sarvas have been published. These Sarvaswams feature information about shrines, dargahs, religions, poets, intellectuals, warriors, and people's struggles. Additionally, mandal prashasti and traditions have been included into the publication. Shastri, who assumed the responsibility of preparing not only the Telangana Legislative Sarvaswam but also the Warangal and Karimnagar Sarvaswams. In the direction of Suravaram, which is known as the "social history of the Andhras," as well as uncovering the history of 500 years after the Ikshvakuvamsa (which is based on the inscriptions of the Vishnukundins), Sastri baffled the leading historians of the time by writing the books "Andhra History and Culture." There is an abundance of evidence that points to Nannechodu being the rightful holder of the post of Adikavi. When he included this specific point in his PhD thesis titled "Development of Telugu Language through Inscriptions," the professors at the university at the time did not agree with him and could not accept his inclusion of the information. A degree will be awarded to him on the condition that he rework the theoretical material. That was not something that Shastri agreed with, Sastri renounced his Ph.D.

### **Conclusion:**

In 1980, Shastri established the newspaper known as "Moosi." Despite the fact that the publication has been defunct for some time, numerous authoritative and investigative Telugu articles are still being published today. The building of the Trishakti temples on the banks of the Moosi River in close proximity to Valigonda is evidence of Shastri's dedication to Hinduism as well as the ancient traditions of India. Throughout his life, B.N. Shastri showed little desire in receiving praises or acclaim, and he passed away on April 4, 2002. The historical publications, epigraphical investigations, and literary works that B.N.Sastri has created all offer significant contributions to our knowledge of historical events individually and collectively. The fundamental historical findings made by B.N. Sastri, as well as the epigraphical evidences and literary works he produced, are crucial to reconstructing the history of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, as well as the history and culture of India. In spite of the fact that Sastri is constantly involved in historical study, he has been successful in maintaining the creative and original features of his work. His contributions to the history of the Telugu people as well as to the history and culture of India had a significant influence on the academic world and on the study of history. Despite this, he performed a lot of work in the academic realm, but society didn't give him enough credit for it.

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