

PROF. DINESH CHANDRA SHASTRI

A BRIEF BIO-NOTE

Prof. Dinesh Chandra Shastri is currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, Haridwar which is dedicated to the conservation and proliferation of Ancient Indian Intellectual tradition. Prof. Shastri is a renowned name in the field of Vedic Studies. He has devoted his academic career in the research and propagation of the inherent wisdom of our Vedas. His dexterity as a scholar is evident in the enormity and variety of his research work that cuts across the ambiguities spread by western scholars in terms of ancient Indian knowledge tradition. He refuted F. Max Muller's theory of Aryan invasion and offered a rebuttal of so called imperfection of repetition (*punarukti-doṣa*) in Vedas as propounded by western scholars. He has performed the task of collecting more than 4000 similes used in Vedic saṁhitas and brought out their political, social and economical references. He performed the first ever research work in India on *Vaidika bhaktivād* of Dayānanda Saraswatī. He is supervising an ongoing translation and comparative study of western scholars' commentary in Hindi. He has the credit of collecting all examples of *Leṭ lakār* in the Ṛgveda and is currently pursuing the work on Vedic transposition. He accomplished the project entitled '*Vedic Yajña samagri Formulation characteristics and it's anti -microbial effects*'. He has delivered insightful radio talks on Ākāśavāṇī, Nazibabad (Uttarakhand) and his you tube channel 'Vedic Setu' also serves to disseminate insight into the readings of Veda. He is the founder and chief editor of an international and refereed and UGC-CARE listed research journal on Vedic Studies entitled 'Vedic Vāg Jyoti' and has successfully brought out its 21 volumes/issues so far. Prof. Shastri is aware of the responsibility of the Indian scholars to reinstate our ancient reservoirs of wisdom that have continued to be misconstrued by imperial scholars. That is why, the journal aims to rectify and clarify the illusionary thoughts expressed by critics on Vedas, by referring to the existing logical proof and arguments, in śāstras. He has published over 46 books, edited volumes etc. (Prācīn evam arvācīn vaidikā sāhitya meṁ bhaktitattva, Vaidika upamā - koṣa, Yajna Therapy, Ṛgveda meṁ upamā, Veda- Mīmāṁsā, Śruti-Panthā, Narayana Granthawali, Vedo mein Punarukti, Mīmāṁsā Śābarbhāṣya etc. are to name a few) and more than 170 research

papers/articles/reviews published in reputed research journals and magazines over a variety of subjects such as Medical Science in the Vedas, Nirukta ki atmasambandhi sankalpana, Sruti-Sudha, Ahimsa ka vedic swaroop, Plant Science: Medical Plant and R̥gveda, Bacteriology in the Vedas, Causal Genesis & Celestial Beings: A study in Vedas in 3 parts(in collaboration), Important features of Vedic Dharma, Dispelling Misconceptions about the Atharvaveda and Samveda, Covid-19 Pandemic: The Role of Vedas to manage Stress and Anxiety etc. He edited *Brahmi vak*: special issue of UGC CARE listed research journal on Indology. As a co-editor he published more than 40 issues of Gurukula Patrika, quarterly refereed and UGC care listed journal on Indology. As a research supervisor he has guided more than 30 research scholars and 08 are still working. He has participated in more than 134 seminars, workshops, conferences etc, where he has delivered informative and enlightening talks. He has played vital role in organizing conferences and seminars as well. The entire corpus of his research work aims to enrich, revive and strengthen the Vedic knowledge, tradition and culture. His work has provided enough food for thought and research in future. He happens to be the first scholar of Uttarakhand to have accomplished D.Litt. degree in the state of Uttarakhand. Recognizing his originality of thought and merit as a scholar DAV College Managing Committee Delhi and Arya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Sabha honored him as Vedic Scholar on 22nd April 2022. He also received “Bheemsena VedaVageesh Samman” from Shrimaddayanandarsh Gurukul Dehradun.

He has more than thirty years of teaching experience during which he has performed several academic as well as administrative tasks. Apart from chairing the department of Veda, he also served as Chief Proctor at Gurukula Kangri (Deemed to be University) He provided his expertise as liaison officer (SC,ST), Member of Academic Council, Convenor of RDC, Department of Veda and NSS Programme Coordinator at Gurukula Kangri (Deemed to be University). He has also served as Governor’s Nominee in the Executive Council of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University. He is a life member of All India Oriental Conference, Pune and also a member of Uttarakhand Bhasha Sansthan and Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy. He is also engaged as Chairman of NAAC Peer team.

He took charge as Vice Chancellor of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University, and since then he has devoted himself to the progress and well being of the University. He also paid a visit to honourable President of India, Draupadi Murmuji to acquaint her with the challenges and achievements of Uttarakhand Sanskrit University.