


DR. ALAK KUMAR SAHA



# HARAPRASAD SHASTRI

A STUDY ON CREATIVE WORKS AND LITERARY CRITICISM

  
Principal  
Tura Govt. College, Tura.

A Study on the contribution of Mahamahopadhyay Haraprasad Shastri  
to Bengali Language and literature, and a special study  
on other selected essays : by *Dr. Alak Kumar Saha*.

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## Chapter-I

# LIFE AND WORKS OF HARAPRASAD SHASTRI

### 1.1 Birth and ancestry

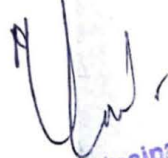
Mahamahopadhyay Haraprasad Shastri was born on 6th December, 1853 A.D. at Naihati in North 24 Parganas District in West Bengal.

Ancestors of this famous academician family used to live at Kumira village of Jessore (later Khulna) district of undivided Bengal. The seventh forefather of his family, Rajendra Vidyalkar was the royal pandit at the court of the king of Naldanga in the later part of seventeenth century. From that time the members of this family have been practicing Sanskrit at the *tol*. The grand grandfather of Mahamahopadhyay Haraprasad Shastri, Pandit Manikya Tarkabhushan (1707-1806) left Kumira forever and settled at Naihati permanently. At that time many of the well-off and talented people started to gather in this locality with the hope of rapid development both in culture and economy.

Pandit Manikya Tarkabhushan became famous even when he opened a *tol* and started teaching Sanskrit and logic. The zamindar of Hali Shahar, Sabarna Santosh Roy Choudhury and the Maharaja of Nadia, Krishnachandra gave him some land. Gradually the popularity of Manikya Pandit spreaded over Naihati and Bhatpara. The judges and the administration of East India Company used to take help of Pandit Manikya Tarkabhushan for explanation of Hindu Law and Acts. Sir William Jones, (the founder of the Asiatic Society



Dr. Alak Kumar Saha, a critic and essayist, hailed from Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, did his masters from North Bengal University in Bengali, and was awarded M. Phil and Ph. D from Gauhati University. His 'Titas Ekti Nadir Nam: Ekti Nibir Path,' written in Bengali, is already very popular to the students and researchers. Dr. Saha is serving as the Head of the Department of Bengali, in Tura Government College, Tura, Meghalaya. Besides, he acts as the Guest Lecturer in the Department of Bengali, IDOL, Gauhati University, as well as in the Department of Bengali, Distant Education, University of North Bengal. Ancient India, folk-lore, modern poems and fictions are the fields of his interest.

  
Principal  
Tura Govt. College, Tura.

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