

**VIBRANT VENGI OF YORE
IN
KRISHNA – GODAVARI BASIN
OF
Andhra Pradesh**

A Cynosure of Pre-historic times to the beginning of
pre-modern polities

K S KAMESWARA RAO

Retd.Reader in History,
Ideal college of Arts and Sciences, Kakinada, A.P.

EMESCO

Contents

1. Prelude	9 - 23
2. General Profile of Vengi Refion	24 - 56
3. Vishnukundin Impact.	57 - 75
4. Vengi Region in the early medieval times.	76 - 104
5. Western Chalukyas of Kalyana - Chola Imperialism in Vengi Region	105 - 170
6. Review and Many miles to go	171 - 200
Appendix -I :	
Glimpses of Vengi in Contemporary Telugu Literary Poetic Genre.	201 - 210
Appendix-II:	
Vengi Kshetram	211 - 221
References and Bibliography	221 - 224

PRELUDE

The study and writing of history of India, in modern sense, is more than two centuries old while we have “Purana-Itihasa tradition” from times immemorial. The writing of Indian history began when British East India Company was ruling, in the year 1817 by J.S.Mill and study of various aspects on India began in India with the establishment of Asiatic Society of Bengal at Calcutta in 1784. The stimuli or trigger for a study of regional or linguistic history of Telugu Jati was largely on account of the winds of nationalism which blew and inculcated a strong sub-national feeling deeply in the hearts of the Andhras in the beginning of 20th century along with fervent nationalistic urge. In this endeavour, the role of Vijnana Chandrika Grantha Mandali and the role of Andhra Historical Society of Rajahmundry, located on the banks of river Godavari and the urge for a separate Andhra province from the then Combined Madras State, were the key factors. Along with these research bodies, the dedicated contribution of Komarraju Lakshmana Rao, Chilukuri Veerabhadra Rao, Chilukuri Narayana Rao, Bhavaraju Venkata Krishna Rao, Rallabandi Subba Rao and Mallampalli Somasekhara Sarmaremain remains not only memorable and very commendable but also deserves our grateful and collective salutations for instilling deep love for our regional culture and history, as part of our mother land, India.

The Vengi region located across the Krishna Godavari deltaic zone, played a very significant role as an area of attraction and a core area of the Andhra Pradesh, during the pre and proto and early historic and up to pre-modern times. It is no exaggeration to compare it with the Ganga-Yamuna plain, which played a very significant role in moulding and nurturing the civilization and

culture of India uninterruptedly since the known historical time-frame and still continues to do so. The main reason for this zone becoming an area of attraction and a core area was the presence of the rivers Krishna–Godavari and water bodies like the lakes and tributaries of Krishna-Godavari, which made the soil very fertile to grow different agricultural produces besides commercial produces necessary for internal consumption of different social groups that inhabited this region. Floods of these rivers and their rich deposits, made the land suitable for large scale agricultural operations and rulers of these areas also began to take keen interest in promoting agriculture through land grants to Brahmins, who were well versed in estimating precisely proper time for sowing and reaping of the agricultural produce. Thus the rulers of the yore, used to donate thousands of cattle and ploughs to Brahmins because of their expertise in Vedic Knowledge and astronomy by virtue of which they could predict the correct time of rainfall and other minute aspects of agriculture. Thus availability of plenty of perennial water and large deltaic area and plains with suitable soil for agriculture besides proximity to eastern seaboard of considerable length and hinterlands, made this region, a heaven on earth having all the necessary prerequisites for inhabitation of people on a large scale. Geographically advantageous stretch of land for sustaining huge population and cattle with vast forest resources to supplement the requirements like food and fodder for generations to come made this region all the more coveted for every social group having foresight and imagination for settling down and reaping the fruits of human labour. The location was also advantageous from infrastructural angle as it had access points on all the four sides with roads suitable for travel for all purposes like trade and pilgrimage towards north, south, east and west.

This strategic location with routes provided in all directions had added an advantage to this region by making it an area of attraction and a core area which in turn made it throb with life, throughout the history. All these features have made it a