

Indian Calligraphy

by Christopher Daniel

स्वरः (VOWELS)
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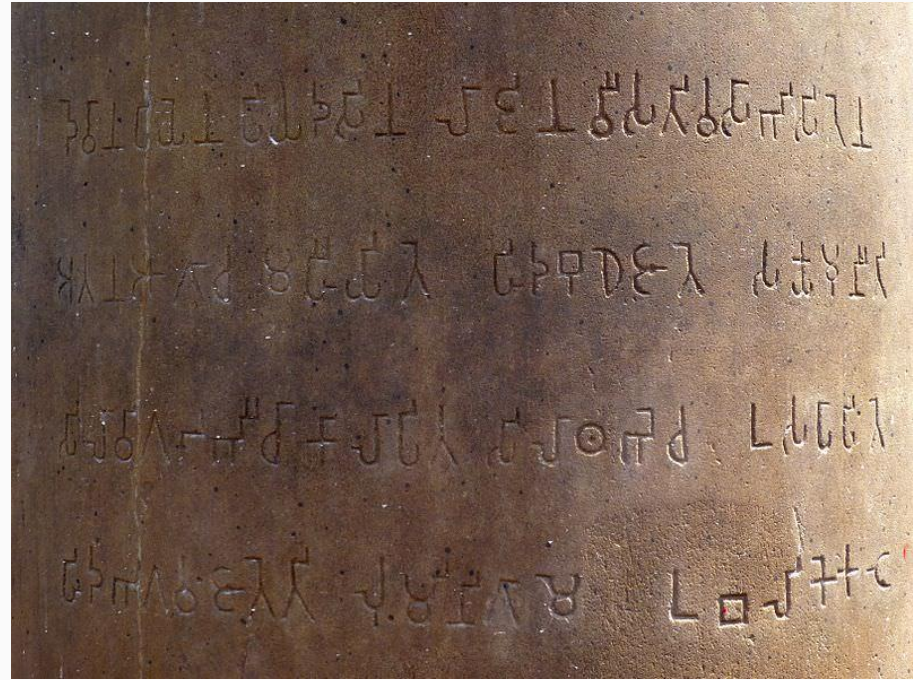
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सूचनाः प्रत्येक अक्षराचे बळण करणे आहे, त्याची सुरवात कोठे आहे, त्याचा क्रम कसा आहे, त्याचा मीट कोठे होतो हे आपल्या लक्षात आले असेल. मूळाने अशाच क्रमाने अक्षर काढण्याची सवय लागण्यासाठी आपण जागरूक असणे पाहिजे.

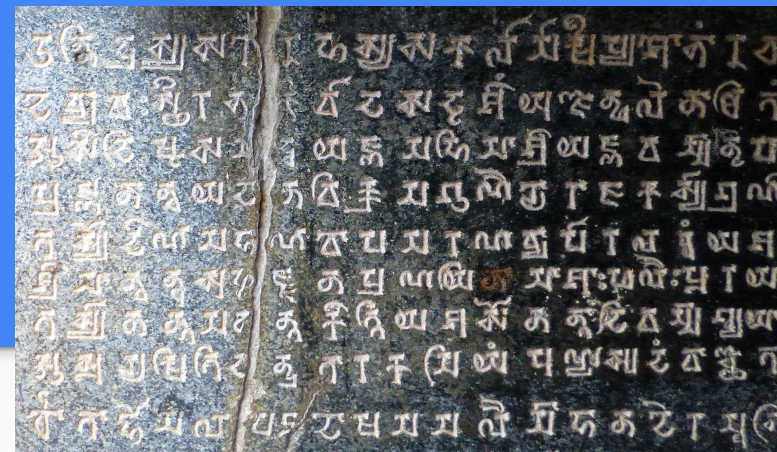
Origins

- The Brahmi script emerged somewhere in 1500-500 BC
 - One of the earliest writing systems in India
 - Simple and linear strokes
- Ashoka inscriptions
 - An early piece of Buddhist teachings
 - Inscribed on stone
- Different scripts emerged in different regions



Gupta Empire

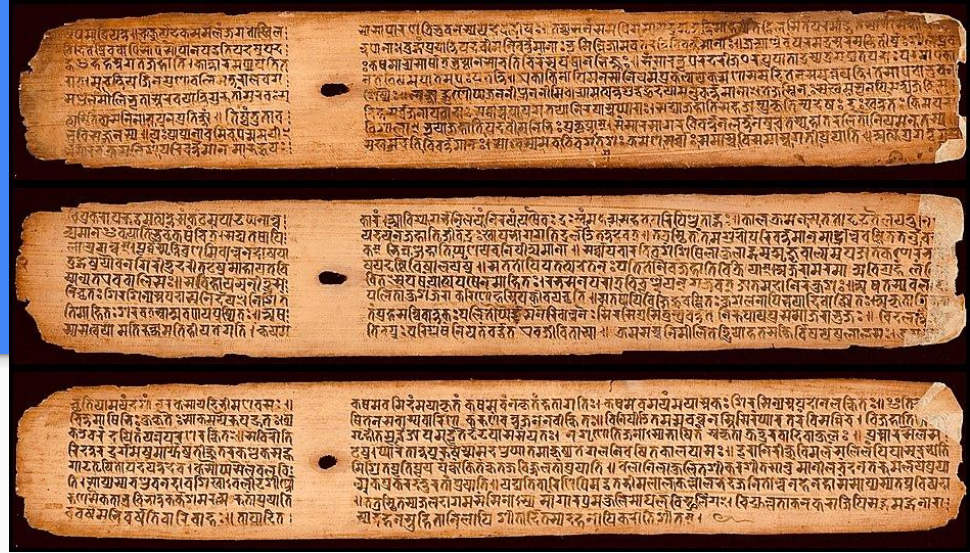
- 4th to 6th century AD
- Refined the Brahmi Script
- Many inscriptions of royal edicts and achievements by rulers
 - Iron pillar of Delhi: Describes how a king from the gupta period defeated his enemies with the help of Vishnu
- Gupta Script
 - An intermediate between Brahmi script and other script derivations in the later centuries
- Due to many writings being done on leaves and other organic matter, many writings were lost to time.



वेणाहमेवतः परीकणुमि मान् वात्र सुमि मारगामा नैरे
 इवाह्व च विनि विदिविवन क्के न्नी लेभुने । १
 नीनोसह सुवा विभिनसरो विभा विना विवा य
 यथा यथा विशासते अनविदिवीयो विनिदे विवा । २
 निरे वेव विवासा मान् फे गुणा विनस्यान् सुयो व
 मी विना य विभुन्यतः नीनो विपुत ए विनी । ३
 वात वेव नवाकने सतुं न दस ववा पोमरा वाधायु व
 वनी प्रगा मित विपा विनस्येपः विनी । ४
 प्रविनस्यजा विवा विनस्य विनस्य विवा विना व्वा
 विना सयप वनरायो व्वा विवा विना । ५
 वेणाह्व विवा विवा विनीना धुविन विनोमि वात्र
 वु विवा विवा विना विनीना विनीना विवा विवा । ६

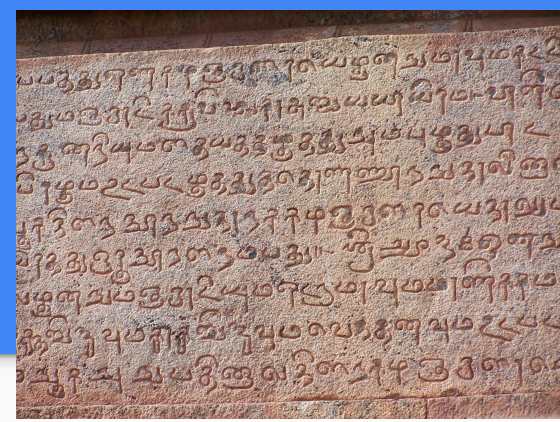
Devanagari Script

- Derived from Brahmi Script
- Emerged in the 7th century AD
 - Associated with religious texts
- Used in Sanskrit, Hindi, and Nepali
- Uses stiff brushes with slanted edge
- Technique more similar to lifting and pressing method
- Image at the top: Shisyalekha by Candragomin (1084 AD)



Pandya Dynasty and Tamil Calligraphy

- Ancient Tamil dynasty existing from the 4th century BC to the 14th century AD
- Known for patronage of the arts
 - Inscriptions on temple walls of edicts and dedications
- Palm leaf manuscripts written by scribes
- Calligraphy was also a method of artistic expression



Sangam Literature



- A collection of poems and music from throughout the Pandya Dynasty
 - Written by 473 poets with at least 27 of them being women
- Calligraphy used to write, copy, and preserve the writings
- Lost after the 11th century AD but rediscovered in Hindu monasteries
- Published and recirculated in the colonial 19th century
- Showed ancient culture and beliefs



Modern Indian Calligraphy

- Colonial rule and suppression of Indian culture caused calligraphy to decline in the 19th century
- Indian calligraphy had a revival in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
 - Used to preserve cultural identity and part of a nationalistic movement
- Modern styles of Indian Calligraphy use thicker strokes and more rounded curves
- Digital tools are often used
- Modern paper gives more freedom in writing

