

## For CMAT Exam

### INDIAN LITERATURE

#### Introduction

- Literature means any form of writing that has some literary merit
- Classifications:
  - Fiction & non-fiction
  - Poetry & prose
- Difference between didactic and narrative texts:

| Points of difference | Didactic  | Narrative   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Type of text         | Directive texts- try to influence reasoning, thinking & conduct of reader | Gives all essential information to the reader           |
| objectives           | Writer intends to persuade or compel                                      | Writer means to enhance and sustain the interest of the |
|                      |   | reader  |
| Commonly used for    | Political and moral issues are written about                              | Used in story writing and novels                        |

- In India, four speeches are followed: Austric, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan, Indo-European
- The Indo-European language includes Sanskrit too

#### Hindu literature in ancient India

- There is a lot of literature in Prakrit, which is full of realism and moral values without religious connotations attached to it
- Most popular work- Vedas; sacred texts used in religious rituals as well as daily situations

## Vedas

- The word signifies knowledge
- Written in highly stylized poetic form; full of symbols & myths
- Initially, they were handed down orally, compiled around 1500-1000 BC
- The vedas preach Vasudaiva Kutumbakam
- Four major vedas: Rig veda, Yajur veda, Atharva veda, Sama veda
- All vedas give prominence to yajna (sacrifice)
- The Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads accompany each veda
- **Rig veda**
  - Oldest existing veda
  - Focus is on worldly prosperity and natural beauty
  - Organized in 10 books, called Mandalas
  - Each mandala comprises of various sukta or hymns, meant for sacrifices
  - Themes: life, death, creation, sacrifice
  - Dedicated to several deities, chiefly Lord Indra
- **Yajur veda**
  - Yajus signifies sacrifice
  - Concentrates on rites & mantras of different types of sacrifices prevalent then
  - Two major recensions/ Samhitas:
    - Shukla- white/pure; also called Vajasaneyi samhita
    - Krishna- black/dark; also called Taittiriya samhita
  - Predominantly a ritual veda; acts like a guide book to rishis/ munis who conduct sacrificial rituals
- **Sama veda**
  - Named after Saman/ melody
  - Concentrates on melody or songs
  - Consists of hymns, detached verses, ragas & raginis
  - Also known as the book of chants
  - Shows us how Indian music developed in the Vedic period
- **Atharva veda**
  - Also known as Brahma veda
  - Attributed to two rishis: Atharvan, Angiras; therefore, known as, Atharvangirasa
  - Concerned with peace & prosperity of the human society
  - Specifically focuses on treatment of several ailments
  - Two major Sakhas:
    - Pippalada
    - Saunakiya
  - Most of the text deals with black and white magic, speculation on the changes in the universe

**Vedangas:** branches/ limbs of the vedas. They are a supplement to the original vedas. One of the most striking examples is Panini's Ashtadhyayi which is a text to define the rules of Sanskrit grammar.

## Brahamanas

- Part of the Hindu sruti literature
- Each veda has a Brahamana attached to it, a collection of commentaries on the particular veda
- Contain instructions on how to properly conduct rituals and enunciate the science of sacrifice
- Also explain the symbolic significance of the sacred words used in the rituals
- Each veda has an accompanying Brahamana

|              |                     |                      |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Rig veda     | Aitareya Brahamana  | Kaushitaki Brahamana |
| Yajur veda   | Tandya Brahamana    | Sadvimsha Brahamana  |
| Sama veda    | Taittriya Brahamana | Shatapatha Brahamana |
| Atharva veda | Gopatha Brahamana   |                      |

## Aranyakas

- Describe the philosophy behind the rituals and sacrifices involved
- Said to be compilations of ritualistic information on the cycle of rebirth and complexity of soul
- Munis, who preferred to dwell in the forests taught them

## Upanishads

- It means- to sit down near

- The oral handing over of the knowledge was a part of the guru-shishya parampara
- These treaties are written in Sanskrit
- Generally the last part of the veda- also known as Vedanta
- Said to contain the truth of life and show the way towards moksha/ salvation
- Out of 200 upanishads, 108 have been called the Muktika canon
- Upanishads vs Aranyakas:

| Upanishads                      | Aranyakas                              |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Jnana-kanda                     | Karma-kanda                            |
| Knowledge/ spirituality section | Ritualistic actions/ sacrifice section |

## The Mahabharata & Ramayana

These two great epics are also known as Mahakavya. Added and compiled through the ages, today it is an amalgamation of several transmissions.

### • Ramayana

- The most revered recension is by sage Valmiki, also called Adikavi
- Therefore, Ramayana is also called Adikavya
- In the story, Rama is projected as an ideal man, and through him, Purushartha or mankind is given:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Dharma | Religion or righteousness                   |
| Artha  | Monetary achievements in the worldly sphere |
| Kama   | Fulfilling worldly desires                  |
| Moksha | Liberation from these desires               |

- Divided into seven books, called Khandas
- The success of Rama over Ravana over the latter kidnapping his wife, Sita; is considered to be the victory of good over evil

### Mahabharata

- Most popular version, by Ved Vyas
- The first version in Sanskrit was called Jaya/ victory
- When number of verses increased, it was renamed Bharata, after the earliest vedic tribes
- Current form has furthermore verses and is divided into 10 parvas/ chapters
- Story: conflict between Kauravas & Pandavas over the right to claim Hastinapur

- It also consists of an important didactical text- Bhagvad Gita
- Most of the text is a dialogue between Lord Krishna and Pandava Prince Arjuna about the duties of a man, warrior & prince
- It also talks of violence and non-violence, action versus non-action
- Talks about dharma and nishkama karma- perform one's duty to the family and the world in a selfless manner

## The Puranas

- These texts talk about that which renews the old
- Ancient Indian mythological texts, which consists of the narrative stories about the creation of the universe, and illustrates its history till destruction
- Focuses on the divine hindu trimurti: Brahma, Vishnum& Mahesh
- There are 18 major Mahapuranas, each one giving prominence to a particular deity
- Some well known Puranas include: Bhagvata, Brahma, Vayu, Agni, Garuda, Padma, Vishnu, Matsya
- Written in the form of stories, which combine myths, legends and sermons about the deities
- For the masses who did not understand the complex Veds, Puranas were translated and distributed in vernacular languages
- Puranas use parables & fables:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Parables</b> | Short stories illustrating a spiritual/ moral lesson, usually containing a human character                     |
| <b>Fables</b>   | Short stories illustrating a moral through a pithy maxim or clever story; features animals & inanimate objects |

## The Upa-Puranas

- Due to the extent of reach of Puranas, a new sub-genre called Upa-Puranas or minor Puranas came into being
- There are about 19 minor puranas and are based on 5 major subjects by Amarasimha (Sanskrit lexicographer of the Gupta period)

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sarga      | Creation of the universe                   |
| Pratisarga | Periodic cycle of creation and destruction |
| Manvantra  | Periods of Manu's lifetime                 |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Vansa (Chandra & Surya) | Genealogies of solar & lunar dynasties |
| Vanshanucharita         | Dynastic histories of kings            |

## Classical Sanskrit Literature

- Most of the work has been divided into- Vedic and Classical categories
- The two epics: Mahabharata & Ramayana are part of the Classical category
- Irrespective of their centrality to the Hindu religion, these epics can also be considered to be the precursors of Sanskrit kavya (poetry), nataka (drama), etc.
- Most of the Sanskrit literature was bound by the rules of grammar that have been explained brilliantly in Panini's Ashtadhyayi

## Sanskrit drama

- Includes romantic tales whose sole purpose was to entertain the public
- Usually written in the form of stories
- The rules regarding the performance, direction, acting etc. have been illustrated in the Natyashastra by Bharata
- Major dramas of the ancient period:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Kalidasa                                | Malvikagnimitra- love story of the Queens' maiden, Malvika & Pushyamitra's son, Agnimitra |
|   | Vikramorvasiya- love story of Vikram & Urvashi  |
|   | Abhigyan Sakuntalam- Recognition of Sakuntala   |
| Sudraka                                 | Mricchakatika- love affair of young Brahmin Charudatta with a wealthy courtesan           |
| Visakhadutta                            | Mudrarakshasa- political drama, narrates the ascent of king Chandragupta Maurya to power  |
|   | Devi Chandraguptam  |
| Bhavabhuti                              | Uttara Ramacharitam- later life of Rama   |
| Bhasa                                   | Swapnavasavadatta, Panchatantra, Urubhanga  |
| Harshavardhana (wrote 3 Sanskrit plays) | Ratnavali- love story of Ratnavali & King Udayana   |
|   | Nagananda- in this drama, there is an invocation to Lord Buddha in the Nandi verse        |
|   | Priyadarsika- union of Udayana & Priyadarsika,  |

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
|  | daughter of King Dridhavarman |
|--|-------------------------------|

## Sanskrit poetry

- Also called *kavya*, here the main focus of the text is form, style, figure of speech
- Kalidasa wrote *Kumarasambhava*, *Raghuvamsa*, *Meghaduta*, *Ritusamhara*
- Harisena wrote during the Gupta period
- He wrote several poems in praise of valor of Samudragupta and it was so well appreciated that it was inscribed on the Allahabad pillar
- Jayadeva wrote *Gita Govinda*- concentrates on the life and escapades of Lord Krishna
- Other major poets:
  - Bharavi- *Kirartajuniya* (kirat, the hunter & arjun)
  - Magha- *Sishupalavadha* (killing of Sishupal)

## Other major Sanskrit texts

- *Dharmasutras*- books on law compiled alongside *smritis* known as *Dharmashastras*
- These are the basis of laws governing the subjects of most Hindu kingdoms
- *Manusmriti*- defines the role of man and woman in a society, their interaction and code of conduct
- *Kautilya's Arthashastra*- concentrates on the economic and social conditions, including the military strength, of the Mauryan empire
- While Sanskrit was the preferred language of the courts, it got an impetus in the Gupta period
- Some scientific texts of the ancient period include:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Pingala      | <i>Chandasastra</i> - Book on Mathematics                  |
| Charak       | <i>Charak Samhita</i> - Book on Medicine                   |
| Sushruta     | <i>Sushruta Samhita</i> - Book on Surgery                  |
| Madhava      | <i>Madhava Nidana</i> - Book on pathology                  |
| Varahamihira | <i>Pancha-Siddhantika</i> - Book on Mathematical Astronomy |
|              | <i>Brihat Samhita</i> - included a wide range of subjects  |
| Aryabhata    | <i>Aryabhataiya</i> - Book on Astronomy & Mathematics      |
| Lagadha      | <i>Vedanga Jyotisha</i>                                    |

- Two most notable Sanskrit works in medieval times, from Kashmir-
  - Kalhan's *Rajatarangini* (detailed account of King of Kashmir)

- Somadeva's Katha-sarit-sagar (poetic work)

## Literature in Pali and Prakrit

- Prakrit is a term which is loosely attached to any language from the standard one (Sanskrit)
- The Buddhist literature can be broadly classified into canonical & non-canonical ones. Canonical work consists of the Tripitakas:
  - Vinay Pitaka: rules and regulations to be followed by the Buddhist monks
  - Sutta Pitaka: dialogues and speeches of Buddha related to morality and dharma
  - Abhidhamma Pitaka: concentrates on philosophy and metaphysics
- Best example of non-canonical work: Jatakas. These are compilation of stories from the previous births of Buddha; includes stories of Bodhisattvas (available in both Sanskrit & Pali)
- The great epic Buddhacharita by Asvaghosha is another example of buddhist literature in Sanskrit
- Jainism produced texts in Prakrit, most important- Agamas
- Some Jain texts written in Sanskrit- Upamitibhava Prapancha Katha of Siddharasi
- Shantinatha Charita is an important Jain text of the 16th Tirthankara, Shantinatha, written in Sanskrit
- Prakrit texts have some elements of erotica through texts like the Gatha Saptasathi by Hala. A large number of female poets have contributed- Pahai, Roha, Sasippaha, etc.
- Other Buddhist literary texts:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Dipavamsa           | Composed in Sri Lanka, mentions about Buddha's visit to Sri Lanka and arrival of tooth relic of Buddha |
| Milinda Panho       | Dialogue between King Menander & Buddhist monk, Nagasena   |
| Mahavamsa           | Epic poem similar to Dipavamsa, in Pali; contains account of Buddha's visit to Sri Lanka               |
| Mahavastu           | Contains Jataka & Avadana tales; written in Sanskrit, Pali & Prakrit                                   |
| Lalitavistara Sutra | Important Mahayana text; contains various stories about Buddha till his first sermon at Sarnath        |
| Udana               | Oldest Theravada text; contains the famous story of Blind Men and the Elephant                         |
| Bodhi Vamsa         | Prose poem, written in Sanskritised Pali, by Upatissa  |
| Mahavibhasa Shastra | Contains discussion about other non-Buddhist philosophies; essentially a Mahayana text                 |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Visuddhimagga | Written by Buddhaghosha, a text of the Theravada doctrine; contains discussion on the teachings of Buddha |
|---------------|---|

## Jain Literature

- Apart from writing in Prakrit & Ardha Magadhi,
  - The Jains wrote in Tamil during the Sangam Age
  - Also wrote in Sanskrit, Shauraseni, Gujarati & Marathi
- Two major categories:
  - Canonical or religious texts, called Jain Agamas or Agams
  - Non-canonical literary works
- Jain Agamas:
  - Sacred texts said to be the teachings of Tirthankaras
  - Originally compiled by Ganadharas, Chief Disciples of Mahavira
  - Re-compiled by the Monks of Svetambara sect, after a council held in Vallabhi (Gujarat)
  - The Digambaras reject the originality of the recompilation
  - Agamas comprise of 46 texts- 12 angas, 12 upangas, 10 prakirnakasutras, 4 mulasutras, 6 chedasutras, 2 culikasutras
  - Written in Ardha-Magadhi Prakrit language
  - Digambaras gave sacred status to two works: Karmaprabhrita and Kashayaprabhrita
  - Other important works:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Bhadrabahu       | Teacher of Chandragupta Maurya, wrote Uvasaggaharam Stotra, Kalpa Sutra; a pioneer of the Digambara sect |
| Acharya Kundkund | Samayasara and Niyamasara  |
| Samanta Bhadra   | Ratna Karanda Sravakachara and Aptamimansa   |
| Ilango Adigal    | Silappadikaram, a moralistic discourse   |
| Tirutakkatevar   | Civaka Cintamani   |
| Umaswati         | Tattvartha-sutra, in Sanskrit, accepted by both Svetambaras and Digambaras                               |
| Jinasena         | Revered Digambara monk, wrote Mahapurana & Adipurana   |
| Haribhadra Suri  | Svetambara Jain author, who wrote in Sanskrit  |
| Hemachandra Suri | Wrote grammars of Sanskrit and Prakrit; awarded the title of Kalikalarvajna                              |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| - | Nalatiyar, ancient Tamil text composed by Jain monks |
|---|--|

- Important learning centres- Universities of Vallabhi & Kalinga

## Zoroastrian Literature

- It refers to the religion developed from the teachings of the Persian prophet Zoroaster
- It was the first religion to believe in angels, the day of judgement, demonic figures, and a battle between good and evil
- Most important text- Avesta; written in the (now extinct) Avestan language, similar to Sanskrit
- In the book, Yasna is the most important ceremony of faith
- Other important texts:
  - Denkard: Encyclopedia of Zoroastrians
  - Bundahishn: details about the theory of creation in the religion

## Sikh Literature

- The beliefs and philosophies are written in the sacred scripture, Guru Granth Sahib
- Gurbani is the composition of hymns of Sikh Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib
- Other important works:
  - Adi Granth: compiled by Bhai Gurdas under the aegis of the 5th Guru Arjan Dev
  - Guru Granth Sahib: further expansion of Adi Granth under Guru Gobind Singh. Written in Gurmukhi script in a language called Sant Bhasha. It contains the teachings of bhakti saints, Bhagats
  - Dasam Granth: hymns written by Guru Gobind Singh; some of which are offered in the daily prayers called Nitnem
  - Janamsakhis: contain mythological and exaggerated stories of the first Guru Nanak
- Ardas: set of prayer performed as a daily ritual in the gurdwara

## Dravidian Literature

- **Tamil Sangam Literature**
  - Sangam means fraternity and this literature was very popular among the masses
  - Two major schools:
    - Aham/Agam: inner field, discusses abstract human aspects (love, sexual relations)
    - Puram: outer field, discusses human experiences (social life, ethics)
  - Name derived from the Assemblies, known as Sangamas; organized by the Pandyas, where poets, bards & writers joined from all across South India

| Sangam                  | Kingdom | Place organised | Chairman                                    | Books  |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------|---|--|
| First or head           | Pandya  | Madurai         | Agastya or Shiva                            | No book has survived. Used Agattiyam as grammar        |
| Second or Middle Sangam | Pandya  | Kapatapuram     | Initially, Agastya<br>Later,<br>Tolkappiyar | Tolkappiyam-<br>textbook on Tamil<br>grammar           |
| Third                   | Pandya  | Madurai         | Nakkirar                                    | Most of the existing<br>corpus of Sangam<br>Literature |

- Around 30,000 lines of poetry have been arranged in 8 anthologies, known as Ettuthogai
  - Saint Thiruvalluvar has contributed the Tirukkural to the Sangam literature
  - Another famous female saint- Avvaiyar
  - Two major texts: Silappadikarm by Ilango-Adigal, and Manimekalai by Sattanar. These texts focus on the Tamil society and the economic and political changes it was experiencing
  - Final turn came in with the Vaishnava Bhakti movements
    - 12 Alvars or saint poets who were immersed in devotion to Vishnu, wrote several texts. One female Alvar saint was named Andal
    - Another group was called Nayanars, who sang the praise of Shiva
  - In secular writings, there were two major poets called Periya Puranam and Kambaramayanam
- **Malayalam Literature**
    - Usually spoken in Kerala and surrounding areas
    - Two major works: Kokasandisan and Bhasa Kautilya (commentary on Arthashastra)
    - Ramacharitam: an epic poem written by Cheeraman
    - Ezhuthachan: a strong proponent of the Bhakti movement; also known as the Father of Malayalam Language
  - **Telugu Literature**
    - Linguists argue that Nannayya was the first Telugu poet
    - Reached its zenith during the Vijayanagara period, also known as the Golden Age of Telugu literature
    - Uttarharivamsan: composed by Nachana Somanatha; court poet of King Bukka I
    - Amuktamalyada: poetry composed by King Krishnadevaraya

- During his reign, 8 learned poets were attached to his court, known as Ashtadiggajas
- He patronised Kannada poets, the Tamil poet Haridasa; and himself, wrote treatises in Sanskrit and Kannada, too
- Out of these, the following deserve a special mention

| Poets                 | Work  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Allasani Peddana      | Manu Charitra   |
| Nandi Thimmana        | Parijatapaharanamu  |
| Tenali Ramakrishna    | Panduranga Mahatmayam   |
| Ramaraja Bhushanudu   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vasucharitam</li> <li>● Narasabhupaleeyamu</li> <li>● Harishchandra Nalopakhyanam</li> </ul> |
| Madayyagari Mallana   | Rajasekaracharitra  |
| Ayyalaraju Ramabhadru | Ramabhudayamu   |

- **Kannada Literature**

- Jain scholars made the first foray
- Best example is DHarmanathapurana, by Madhava on the life of the 15th Tirthankara
- One of the first recorded texts in Kannada is Kavirajamarga, by Amoghavarsha I; a very powerful Rashtrakuta king
- Three unparalleled gems:
  - Pampa: Father of Kannada, wrote Adipurana and Vikramarjuna Vijaya. He mastered the rasa, wrote poetry
  - Ponna: Shanti Purana
  - Ranna: Ajitha Purana
- Grammar of the language was written in Shabdamanidarpana by Keshiraja
- Religious texts: Narahari composed Torave Ramayana; Jaimini Bharata by Lakshmisha
- Sarvajna was given the title of People's Poet; he composed the tripadi (three-lined poems)
- The first poetess in Kannada called Honnamma wrote the Hadibadeya Dharma (duty of a devout wife)

## Medieval Literature

- **Persian**

- It came to India with the coming of Turks and Mongols in the 12th century

- One of the finest poets is Amir Khusrau Dehlavi- he wrote Nuh Siphr and Duval Rani-Khizr Khan
  - Ziauddin Birani is one of the top historians of the Delhi Sultanate period and he wrote Tarikh-e-Firoz Shahi
  - Minaj-e-Siraj was another famous historian
  - Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan traveller, wrote several accounts explaining the socio-political scenario of the period
  - Babur wrote Baburnama in Turkish which is his own biography
  - Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, from the period of Jahangir, gives various insights about the period
  - Humayun-nama was written by Humayun's half-sister, Gulbadan Begum
  - One of the greatest emperor was Akbar, and Ain-i-Akbari and Akbarnama written by his court historian Abul Fazl are the best examples of the literature of that period
  - One of the best examples of translations is the Mahabharata translate by Badauni into Razmnama
  - Hamzanama depicts the story of the mythical Persian hero, Amir Hamza
  - Malik Muhammad Jayasi composed his Padmavat in 1540
  - Faizi was among the Navratnas in Akbar's court
  - Shah Jahan- Shahjahannama of Inayat Khan, Padshahnama by Abdul Hamid Lahori
  - Aurangzeb- Jafar Zatailli wrote Kulliyat (collection of poetry). His eldest daughter Zeb-un-Nisa's poetry was compiled posthumously as 'Diwan-i-Makhfi'
- **Urdu**
    - The language mostly follows the grammar of Hindi and script of Persian
    - Initially, also called Dakkani (Southern)
    - Mirza Ghalib, one of the greatest poets composed Diwan (collection of poetry) in Urdu
    - Other poets- Sauda, Dard and Mir Taqi Mir
    - Iqbal wrote Bang-e-Dara. He is famous for writing Sare Jahan Se Achcha
    - Apart from the last emperors of the Mughal empire, like Bahadur Shah Zafar, who also wrote in Urdu, the Nawabs of Awadh patronised the language
    - In modern India, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan wrote several didactic and nationalist texts in Urdu
  - **Hindi and its dialects**
    - Evolved from Apabhramsa, which evolved from Prakrit
    - It got the biggest boost by the Bhakti movement which shunned the use of Sanskrit as it was the language of the Brahmins
    - Prithviraj Raso, probably, wrote the first hindi book and it documents his life and struggles
    - The bulk of the work is by bhakti writers like Kabir who is famous for his dohas (couplets)
    - Tulsidas produced couplets in Braj and was peppered by Persian

- He wrote Ramcharitamanas, a revered Hindu text
- Surdas wrote Sur Sagar about Krishna's infancy
- Rahim, Bhushan, Raskhan- wrote about devotion to Lord Krishna
- Mirabai- famous as the woman who renounced the world for Krishna and wrote Bhakti poetry
- Bihari's Satsai is also famous in this regard

## Modern Literature

### ● Hindi

- Bhartendu Harishchandra wrote his most famous drama Andher Nagari; major play on political satire
- His other famous work is Bharat Durdasha. He is known as the Father of Modern Hindu Literature
- Another major writer- Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi
- The movement to make Hindi the national language, which would link all regions, was spearheaded by Swami Dayanand
- His most famous work in Hindi- Satyarth Prakash
- Premchand wrote many anthologies in Hindi and Urdu and his famous works include Godan, Karmabhoomi etc.
- One of the most famous female writers- Mahadevi Verma
- Jaishankar Prasad's Kamayani is considered as the magnum opus of Chhayavaad genre

### ● Bengali, Odia and Assamese Literature

- It was the nationalist fervor reaching Bengal that literature took a definite turn
- Raja Rammohan Roy was among the first to write in Bengali and English
- His contemporary writers- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Akshay Kumar Dutt
- The zenith was achieved by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, who wrote Anandamath; from where our national song, Vande Mataram has been taken
- The first Indian to win a nobel prize was also a Bengali writer, Rabindranath Tagore; for Geetanjali
- Others- Sharat Chandra Chatterjee, Qazi Nazrul Islam, R C Dutt
- Assamese literature was dominated by the buranjis in the medieval period
- Sankardev composed devotional poetry in Assamese
- Modern era- Padmanath Gohain Baruah, Lakshminath Bezbaroa
- First work of Odia literature- by Sarala Das
- Medieval period- Upendra Bhanja
- Modern period- Radhanath Ray and Fakir Mohan Senapati

### ● Gujarati, Rajasthani and Sindhi Literature

- Narsinh Mehta combined devotional songs of Lord Krishna with local folk traditions

- Narmad wrote poetry, and Govardhan Ram wrote prose which includes Saraswati Chandra
  - Dr K M Munshi has written fiction and non-fiction; one of the finest being Prithvi Vallabh
  - Medieval Rajasthani literature- two main forms of fictional writing called Dingal and Pingal
  - Most famous text- Dhola Maru
  - The stories of rajasthani writers were usually oral in nature and were spread by bards who sang the virkavya
  - Literature in Sindhi is lyrical and meant to be sung
  - Two prominent names- Dewan Kauramal and Mirza Kalich Beg
- **Kashmiri Literature**
    - One of the earliest texts- Kalhana's Rajatarangini written in Sanskrit
    - Influenced from Persian and Hindi dialects
    - During Bhakti movement, Kashmiri language saw its first female poetess, Lal Ded, who was a Shaivite mystic
    - Noor Din, also known as Nund Rishi, was purported to bring the Hindi and Islamic elements together in his poetry
    - With the political power being passed to the Dogra family, Dogri language has eclipsed Kashmiri
- **Punjabi Literature**
    - There are two major scripts- Persian and Gurmukhi
    - One of the greatest religious text of the world is Adi Granth and majority of it is in Gurmukhi
    - It also comprises dohas of Kabir, Dadu and Nanak in Hindi and Braj
    - Guru Gobind Singh, had also written Savaiye in Punjabi
    - Love stories and epics- Sohni-Mahiwal, Sassi-Punnu, Heer-Ranjha (by Waris Shah)
    - Sufi poetry of Baba Farid and Bulley Shah became popular with the masses as well as the rulers
    - They composed many songs or classical compositions called Kafi(s)
    - Modern era- Bhagat Singh's 'Rang de Basanti Chola'
    - Bhai Vir Singh wrote Rana Surat Singh
- **Marathi Literature**
    - Oldest known work by Saint Jnaneshwar- he is credited to begin the kirtan and has written a detailed commentary on Bhagavad Gita in Marathi
    - Oldest known female writer- Janabai
    - Most famous saint- Eknath, wrote commentaries on Ramayana and Bhagavata Purana
    - Tukaram and Ramdas are other Bhakti poets

- One of the great nationalistic figures, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, started his newspaper, Kesari, in Marathi
- Contemporary poets include- M G Ranade, K T Telang, G T Madhokar