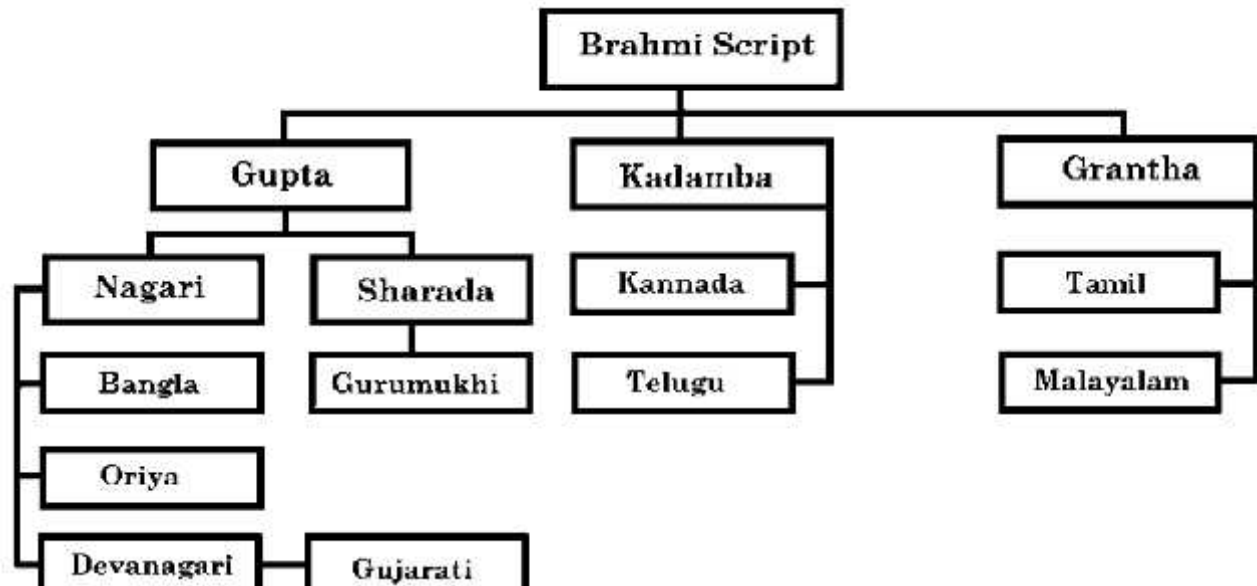




SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institution)
COIMBATORE-35
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



Evolution of script and languages in India



The evolution of scripts and languages in India is a complex and fascinating journey that spans thousands of years and reflects the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of the Indian subcontinent. Here's a broad overview of how scripts and languages have evolved in India:

1. **Ancient Indus Valley Civilization (3300–1300 BCE):** The Indus Valley Civilization is one of the earliest known civilizations in the Indian subcontinent. While its script remains undeciphered, evidence suggests that they had a form of writing. However, its connection to later scripts and languages is not clear.
2. **Vedic Period (1500–500 BCE):** The Vedic period marked the composition of the Rigveda and other Vedic texts in Sanskrit. These texts were originally transmitted orally and were eventually written down using the Brahmi script, which was one of the earliest scripts in India.
3. **Mauryan Period (322–185 BCE):** The Brahmi script, which originated during the Vedic period, became more standardized during the Mauryan dynasty. Ashoka's edicts, inscribed on pillars and rocks across the subcontinent, are written in Brahmi and other scripts, and they offer valuable insights into the languages and society of the time.
4. **Post-Mauryan to Gupta Period (200 BCE–600 CE):** The Brahmi script continued to evolve into various regional scripts, such as Kharosthi, Gupta script, and Siddham script. Sanskrit continued to be a dominant language for religious, philosophical, and literary texts.
5. **Medieval Period (600–1200 CE):** During this time, various regional languages and scripts gained prominence. Prakrit languages developed from Sanskrit and were used for vernacular literature and inscriptions. Scripts like Sharada, Devanagari, and Bengali script emerged to write these languages.
6. **Islamic Period (1200–1700 CE):** With the arrival of Islam, Persian and Arabic scripts gained importance, especially for administrative and literary purposes. Many Indo-Aryan languages also saw the influence of Persian and Arabic vocabulary.

7. **Colonial Period (1600–1947):** European colonial powers, particularly the British, had a significant impact on India's linguistic landscape. English became an important language for administration and education, alongside regional languages.
8. **Post-Independence (1947–present):** After gaining independence in 1947, India placed a strong emphasis on preserving and promoting its linguistic diversity. The Indian Constitution recognizes 22 officially recognized languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Urdu, and others. Each state has the freedom to determine its official language(s) for governance and education.
9. **Technological Era (late 20th century–present):** The digital age has brought new challenges and opportunities for Indian languages. Efforts have been made to digitize and adapt various scripts to technology, making online content accessible in different languages.

Throughout this evolution, scripts and languages in India have interacted, influenced, and shaped one another. The linguistic diversity and historical context of India have led to a rich tapestry of languages, scripts, and cultures that continue to thrive and evolve.