Sūtra Period in India

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Sūtra Style

alpākṣaram asandigdham sāravat viśvatomukham |
astobham anavadyam ca sūtram sūtravido viduḥ ||

- *alpākṣaram* – Minimum number of words
- *asamdigdham* – it should be unambiguous
- *sārvat* – it should contain the essence
- *viśvatomukham* – it should be general or should have universal validity
- *astobham* – it should not have any unmeaningful words
- *anavadyam* – it should be devoid of any fault

Sūtra Style

- In the context of literature, sūtra means a distilled collection of syllables and words, any form or manual of "aphorism, rule, direction" hanging together like threads with which the "teachings of ritual, philosophy, grammar or any field of knowledge" can be woven. – Monier Williams
- Moris Winternitz: a theorem condensed in few words

Sūtra Period

Max Muller: (The ancient) Indian pupil learnt these sutras of grammar, philosophy or theology by the same mechanical method which fixes in our (modern era) minds the alphabet and the multiplication table.

- Sūtra Period
- Chandas Period
- Mantra Period
- Brahmana period

Some sūtra texts from Vedic Period

- Kalpa sūtra
- Smārta sūtra
- Śrauṭa sūtra
- Dharma sūtra
- Gṛhya sūtra
- Śulba sūtra

Some sūtra texts in Post Vedic Period (Philosophical texts)

- Brahma sūtra
- Yoga sūtra
- Sāṁkhya sūtra
- Vaiśeṣika sūtra
- Nyāya sūtra
- mimāṁsā sūtra
- kāma sūtra
- Nārada Bhakti sūtra

From other traditions

- Buddhism: Canonical scriptures
  Chinese: Pinyin: Tripiṭaka (sutta pitaka), Lotus sutra, etc.
- Jainism
  Kalpa sutras etc.

- Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī : Grammar
- Piṅgala's Chandaśāstra: Meter