

5. Punch – marked coins were used to facilitate trade and commerce.

### **Brahmanical literature**

It consisted of the 'Vedangas' or the limbs of the Vedas whose study was necessary to understand the Vedas properly. The Vedangas were written in the form of 'Sutras' i.e. condensed prose style intended for memorization there are six vedangas : (a) Shiksha (Phonetics), (b) Kalpa (rituals), (c) Vyakarana (grammar), (d) Nirukta (etymology), (e) Chandas (metrics) (f) Jyotisha (astronomy, not astrology). The Vedangas in contrast to the Vedic literature proper are called 'Smriti' or literature handed down by tradition because they are of human origin.

The Kalpa sutras are divided into three classes:

1. **Srautasutras** – concerned with rituals of great sacrifices of Agni, soma, animals. The sulvasutras, which are the oldest books on Indian geometry are part of the Srautasutras.
2. **Grihyasutras** – concerned with the domestic ceremonies and sacrifices to be performed by the householder.
3. **Dharmasutras** – concerned with the legal aspects of life and are foundation for the Dharmasastras such as the laws of Manu.

Four minor Vedas called 'Upavedas' came to be written on the basis of the Vedic literature. They are:

1. Ayurveda – concerned with medicine
2. Silpa Veda – concerned with sculpture
3. Gandharva Veda – concerned with music
4. Dhanur Veda – concerned with warfare

**Buddhist literature:** It consists of the Pali canon in the form of three pitakas – Suttapitaka, Vinayapitaka, Abhidhammapitaka.

**Suttapitaka** – It consists of the speeches and messages of the Buddha. It was composed by Ananda in the first Buddhist council at Rajagriha in 483 BC.

**Vinayapitaka** – It consists of the monastic code with rules of behaviour for the monks and nuns of the Sangha. It was composed by Upali in the 1st Buddhist council at Rajagriha in 483 BC.

**Abhidhammapitaka** – It is a compilation of philosophical sayings. It was composed by Mogaliputta Tissa (Upagupta) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Buddhist council at Pataliputra in 250 BC.

**Jain Literature:** It was written in Prakrit. Earlier Jain literature was a set of 14 books called Purvas. They are now lost. 12 Angas were written, on the basis of 14 Purvas.

### **Foreign Authors**

- (1) Herodotus wrote 'Historica'. It talks about trade relations of India with Persia.
- (2) Aristobolus wrote 'History of the war'. He came to India along with Alexander.

### **C. MAURYAN PERIOD (321-184 BC)**

#### **Archaeological remains:**

1. Use of Iron was on a more extensive scale
2. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) use continued with increase in variety, number and area.
3. Burnt bricks were used for the first time in the Mauryan period.
4. Ring wells were also identified for the first time in the Mauryan Period.