



MILESTONES

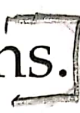

- [History is a record of the life of mankind.] E 1

mosques and tombs. [The
architecture bears the influences
of social, religious and cultural
life of the people of that era.] So,

Religious literature

Religious literature provides us with important information about the evolution of various religious beliefs and rituals in a society. The Indian culture is rich in religious literature which includes the *Vedas* and *Puranas*, epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* and the Buddhist texts. The *Rigveda*, one of the four *Vedas*, is believed to be the earliest literary work in Sanskrit. It dates back to 3500 years. Even today

secular works of ancient India are ^{E4} [Kautilya's Arthashastra,
King Harshvardhana's biography written by Banabhatta and
Megasthenes' *Indica*]. ^{E4} Megasthenes was the Greek ambassador in

copper tablets are called inscriptions. ^{D2}  ^{E5} Many of these inscriptions are messages of kings for their subjects. They provide us with the important details such as the names of kings, the periods of their reign, their achievements, the spread of their kingdom and the objectives of inscriptions.  ^{E5} The