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Gupta Empire

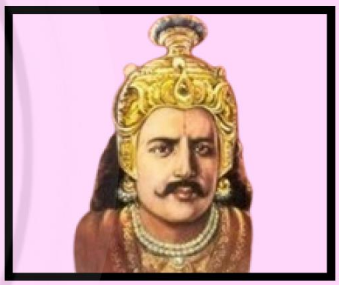


Gupta Dynasty



- **Time Period** : (320 AD-543 AD)
- **Founder**: Sri Gupta (Son: Ghatotkach)
- Guptas ruled over Madhyadesha (Uttar Pradesh + Madhya Pradesh + Bihar).
- They are considered to be feudatories of Kushans.
- The Gupta age in ancient India has been called the "**Golden Age of India**" because of the many achievements in the field of arts, science, and literature that Indians made under the Guptas.

Chandragupta I



- **Time period** :- (319 AD-335 AD)
- **Title** :- Maharajadhiraja
- **Married to**: Kumaradevi (Lichchavi Princess of Nepal)
- He started Gupta Era in 320 AD/319 AD.
- Gold Coin introduced by him were called **Dinars**.

Samudragupta

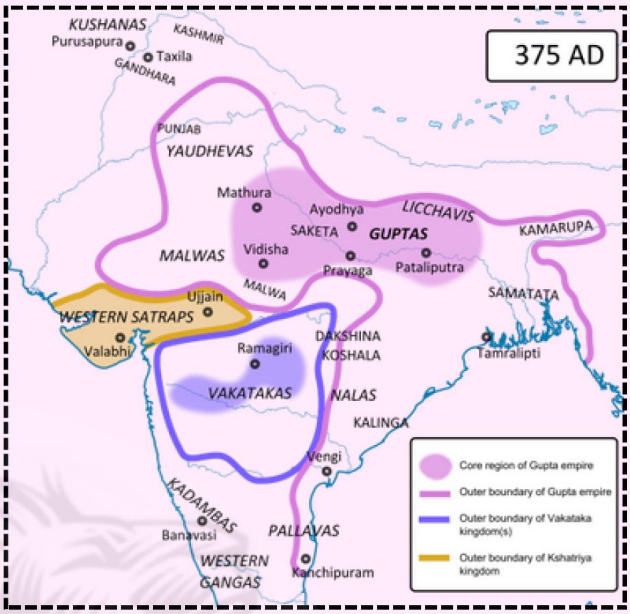




- **Time period** :- (335 AD-375 AD)
- He was the most powerful and greatest king of the dynasty.
- Record of his reign is mentioned in **Prayag Prasasti** (Allahabad Pillar Inscription → Composed by **Harisena** (his court poet)).
- Samudragupta is considered to have remained undefeated in battles.
- He is titled "**Napoleon of India**" by V. A. Smith.
- **Other titles taken:** Kaviraja, Param Bhagavat, Sarva-raj-ochchetta (uprooter of all king), Lichchavi dauhitra.
- He has been shown playing Veena on coins.
- He performed Ashwamedha Yagya.
- Samudragupta granted permission to Meghavarman, the Buddhist king of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to build a monastery in Bodh Gaya.
- Devotee of Vishnu.

Chandragupta II

- Time period :- (380 AD-415 AD)
- He achieved power by assassinating his brother Ramgupta and Saka invader.
- He married his brother's wife Dhruvadevi.
- He formed matrimonial alliance by marrying off his daughter Prabhavati Gupta with Vakataka Prince Rudrasena II.
- He was the first Gupta to introduce Silver coins after the victory over Sakas (this is mentioned in Mehrauli Iron Pillar in Delhi).
- Original location of Mehrauli Iron Pillar was at Vidisha, MP.
- He took the title **Vikramaditya** after defeating Sakas.



Indirectly ruled by Guptas after death of Rudrasena II (his wife ascended the throne)

Fa-Hein



Chandragupta II was visited by Fa-Hein, the first Chinese traveller during his reign.

Silver Coins



Chandragupta II was the first Gupta to introduce Silver coins after the victory over Sakas (this is mentioned in Mehrauli Iron Pillar in Delhi).

Navratna's in Vikramaditya's Court:

Amarsimha	Lexicographer
Dhanvantari	Physician
Harisena	Court poet
Kalidas	Shakespeare of India
Sanku	Architect
Varahamihira	Astronomer
Vararuchi	Grammarian, Sanskrit Scholar
Vatalbhatta	Magician
Kahapanaka	Astrologer

- Varahamihira wrote "Panch Sidhantaka"
- Vatalbhatta wrote "Niti-Pradipa"

Books by Kalidas

- Abhigyan Shakuntalam
- Malvikagnimitra
- Raghuvamsa
- Meghadutta
- Kumar Sambhavam
- Ritusamhara

Books by Sudraka

- Mrichchhakatika: It is a love story of Charudatta and Vasantasena written in 5th century AD.
- Also known as: The little clay art.

- Amarsimha wrote "**Amarkosh**".
- Vetala Bhatta wrote "**Mantra Shastra**".

Kumaragupta I

- He was the son of Chandragupta II.
- His empire was attacked by Huns.
- He founded Nalanda University, which was later destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji.
- Mehrauli Iron Pillar

Skandagupta I

- He successfully resisted the attack of Huns.
- **Title taken**: Vikramaditya (source: Bhitari Pillar Inscription, Ghazipur, UP.)
- He also repaired Sudarshan lake.
- He moved his capital to Saketa and renamed it Ayodhya after the legendary city in the Ramayana.

Division of Districts

1. **Vishayas** : Under the charge of Vishaya Patis.
2. **Vithis** : Under the charge of Nagarpati.
3. **Villages** : Under the charge of Gramika.

- **Administration** : Decentralised
- Provinces are called Bhuktis.
- Empire Bhuktis (under the charge of Uparika means Provincial Governors)

- Adhisthana Adhikarana was an administrative / Judicial division mentioned in Gupta - Period inscriptions, especially the Damodarpur copper plates from Bengal (5^{th} - 6^{th} century CE).
- It acted as :
  - Local Court
  - Revenue Office
  - Administrative Supervisory Body

Officers in Adhisthana Adhikarana

1. Vishayapati : Head of District
2. Kumaramatya : High Ranking Officer
3. Rajasthaniya : Royal Representatives
4. Ayukta : General Administrative officers.
5. Sresthin : Representative of Merchants guild.
6. Sarthava : Caravan Leader
7. Prathama Kulika : Chief Artisan
8. Lekhaka : Record keeping official, also known as "Pustapala"
9. Dutaka : Messanger
10. Kayastha : Scribe

Important Officers

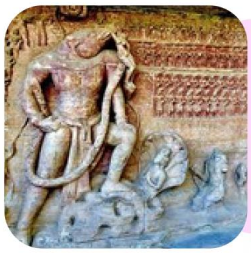
Kumaramatyas	:	Provincial Officer (most important Officer)
Mahadanda Nayaka	:	Officer responsible for punishment (Minister of Justice)
Sandhivigrahika	:	The officer of war and peace
Nagara Shresthi	:	Chief Banker of the city

Harisena held all these posts except Nagara Shresthi

Taxes

1. **Bhaga** : 1/6th of the produce to be paid by cultivators
2. **Bhoga** : Periodic supplies of fruit, flowers to the King
3. **Bali** : Oppressive tax
4. **Uparikara** : Extra tax
5. **Vishti** : Form of forced labour
6. **Halivarika** : To be paid by one who owned a plough
7. **Udakabhaga** : Tax on water
8. **Hirayana** : Tax for special purpose
9. Chikara : Emergency tax

Culture



Idol of Varah

- **Built by**: Chandragupta II
- Avatar of Lord Vishnu
- **Place**: Udaygiri, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh

Dasavatara Temple

Place: Deogarh, Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh



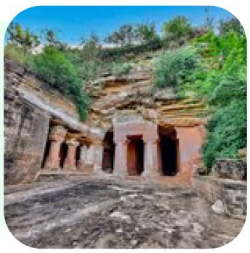


Bhitargaon Temple (UP)

Dedicated to Lord Krishna
It is also known as Brick Temple (one of the oldest)

Bagh Cave, Madhya Pradesh

Famous for ancient mural paintings





Eran Pillar Inscription

The first known inscriptional evidence of the practice of Sati is the Eran Pillar Inscription (MP) of Bhanugupta, which dates back to the 5th Century CE

Vakataka Dynasty

- **Founder**: Vindhyashakti
- Capital : Nandivardhana and Pravarapura
- They were feudatories of Satavahanas.
- They were the contemporaries of Guptas.
- They followed Brahamanism but also patronised Buddhism.
- They ruled in the Central and Southern part of India.
- In Puranas, they have been mentioned as Vindhyakas.
- The rock-cut Buddhist Viharas and Chaityas of Ajanta Caves were built under the patronage of Vakataka king, Harishena.
- Pravarsena was one of the greatest ruler of Vakataka Dynasty who adorned the title of "Samrat".

Reason of Decline of Guptas

- Yashodharman of Malwa killed Huns and then Gupta's Rulers.
- Provincial Governors declared their independence.

Puranas

- Total Puranas: 18
- Written by: Sage Vyasa
- Compiled by: 3rd-10th Century AD