

GYAN DARPAN

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- The empire of **Kanshika** was spread over a large area in the portion of five countries i.e. **Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and India.**

- His capital was **Peshawar**

- **Kanishka** was a great patron of **Mahayana Buddhism**. In his reign 4th Buddhist council was held in **Kashmir** where the doctrines of the Mahayana form of Buddhism were finalized.

- Large size headless statue of **Kanishka** is found at **Mathura**

- The last great **Kushan** ruler was **Vasudeva I.**

The age of the Guptas (A.D. 320-550)

- **Sri Gupta** (240-280 AD) was ruling a small Hindu kingdom called **Magadha** from **Vaishya community** near **Ganga river**, a **prayag based feudatory of Kushanas**.
- **He and his son 'Ghatotkach' (ruled probably from c. AD 280-319) was having hold over 'Patliputra' and nearby areas. Ghatotkacha (280 – 319 AD) became the successor of Sri Gupta.**



Ancient History



Chandragupta I (320 A.D.-335 A.D.):

He was the first Gupta ruler to assume the title of Maharajadhiraja.

- He started the Guptan era i.e. 320 A.D.
- **His marriage to Lichchhvi princess Kumaradevi, brought an enormous power, resources and prestige. He took advantage of the situation and occupied the whole of fertile Gangetic Valley**
- After the marriage he issued the special type of coins called—**Chandragupta I-kumaradevi**
- Chandragupta I was able to establish his authority over **Magadha, Prayaga & Saketa**

Samudragupta (335 A.D.-375 A.D.)

- **Samudragupta was the greatest king of Gupta dynasty**

He took the title **Lichchhvidhutra** as his mother was **Lichchhvi princess**

- The most detailed and authentic record of his reign is preserved in the **Prayaga /Allahabad pillar inscription**, composed by his court poet **Harisena**.
- He is also described as a monarch with sharp intellect and polished poetry skills, for this he is described as **Kaviraj**.
- In the Gangetic Valley & Central India, Samudragupta annexed the territories of the

defeated monarchs, but in **South India he remained content with victories alone- he did not annex the territories of the conquered rulers**

- **Samudragupta's military campaigns justify description of him as the 'Napoleon of India' by V.A. Smith'**

- Titles: **Kaviraja** i.e. king of poets, **Param Bhagavat** (Nalanda copper plate), **Ashvamedha-parakrama** i.e. whose might was demonstrated by the horse-sacrifice (coin), **Vikram** i.e. prowess (coin), **Sarva-raj-ochcheta** i.e. uprooter of all kings (coin) etc.

- Original types of Gold Coins (Dinars).

- **According to Chinese writer Wang-Hiuen-Tse, Meghavarna, king of Sri Lanka, sent an embassy to Samudragupta for his permission to build a monastery for Buddhist pilgrims at Bodh Gaya.**

Chandragupta II (380 A.D.-412 A.D.)

- According to **Devi Chandraguptam' (Vishakhadatta), Samudragupta was succeeded by Ram Gupta.**
- Ram Gupta ruled for a very short period. **He was 'the only Gupta ruler to issue copper coins'**
- **Ram Gupta**, a coward and impotent king, agreed to surrender his queen **Dhruvadevi** to Saka invader.
- But the prince **Chandragupta II**, the younger brother of the king, resolved to go to the enemy's camp in the guise of the queen with a view to kill the hated enemy. Chandragupta II succeeded in killing the **Saka ruler**
- **Chandragupta II** also succeeded in killing **Ram Gupta**, and not only seized his kingdom but also married his widow **Dhruvadevi**.
- He issued the **silver coins** in the memory of victory over **Sakas**.

Ancient History

- **He was the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins** and adopted the titles **Sakari & Vikramaditya**. **Ujjain** seems to have been made the second capital by **Chandragupta II**.
- Chinese pilgrim **Fa-Hien** visited India during his regime.
- **Navaratna (i.e. nine gems) of Chandragupta II were there**

Chandragupta II's Nine Gems		
Person	(Field)	Famous works
Amarsimha	Lexicography	Amarkosha
Dhanvantri	Medicine	Ayurveda
Harisena	Poetry	Allahabad Inscription
Kalidesa		Abhijanashaku nalam
Kahapanaka	Drama and Poetry	Jyothisyashastra
Sanku	Astrology	Shilpashastra
Varahamihira	Architecture	Brihadsamhita
Vararuchi	Grammer	Vyakarana
Vetalabhatta	Magic	Mantrashastra

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Kumargupta I (415-455 AD)

- Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumargupta I. Kumargupta took the titles like **Mahindraditya and Ashvamedha Mahendrah Kumargupta** was the worshipper of **god Kartikeya**.
- He founded the **Nalanda Mahavihara** which developed into a great centre of learning. **Towards the end of his reign, the Gupta Empire was threatened from the , which was temporarily checked by his son Skandagupta.**

Skandagupta (455-467 AD)

- **Skandagupta**, the last great ruler of the Gupta dynasty. **During his reign the Gupta Empire was invaded by the Huns**. He succeeded in defeating the Huns. The continuous attacks of the Huns weakened the empire and adversely affected its economy.

The gold coinage of Skandagupta bears testimony to this.

Administration

- In Gupta period the army was to be fed by the people whenever it passed through the countryside. This tax was called **Senabhakta**.

Important Gupta Officials At The Central Level	
Mahabaladhikrita	Commander in chief
Mahadandanayak	Chief Justice
Mahasandhivigrahak or Sandhivigrahak	And facial for post-war conciliation.
Dandapashika	Head of the police department
Bhandagaradhikreta	Head of the Royal Treasury
Mahapaksha-Patalik	Head of the account Department
Vinaysthisansathapak	Head of the education Department
Sarvadyaksha	Inspector for all the central departments
Mahashwapati	Controller of cavalry.
Vinaypura	Official to present different guests at Kings Court
Yuktapurusha	Office to keep account of wat booty.
Khadyatpakika	Inspector of Royal kitchen
Ranabhandagarika	Officer in charge of Army stores
Mahanarpati	Head of foot soldiers(infantry)

Contributions of Gupta Rulers

- Kings were called **Parameshwara /Maharajadhiraja / Paramabhataraka**.
- The most important officers were **Kumaramatyas**.
- They issued the largest number of gold coins in Ancient India, which were called Dinars. Silver coins were called **rupyakas**.
- Nalanda (a university) was established as a Buddhist monastery during the reign of Kumara Gupta.**

Gupta Religion

- Bhagavad-Gita was written during this time only.**
- Bhagavatism centered around worshipping Vishnu or Bhagvat.**
- Vishnu temple at Deogarh (near Jhansi), a small temple near Sanchi and a brick temple at**

Ancient History

Bhitragaon (near Kanpur) belong to the Gupta architecture.

Gupta Art

- Samudragupta is represented on his coins playing the lute (vina).**
- Ajanta Paintings and paintings at Bagh, near Gwalior in MP, are of this time. They belong to the Buddhist art.**

Gupta Literature in India

- Kalidas:- the great Sanskrit dramatist, belonged to this period. His books are: Abhigyanashakuntalam the Bhagavadgita, Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Malavikagnimitram, Raghuvansha, Vikramurvashi etc.**
- The Gupta period also saw the development of Sanskrit grammar based on Panini and Patanjali.**
- Ramayana & Mahabharata were almost completed by the 4th century AD.**

Science and Technology

- Aryabhatta, the great mathematician wrote Aryabhatiya and Suryasiddhanta. In Aryabhatiya, he described the place value of the first nine nos. & the use of zero. He also calculated the value of pie and invented Algebra.**
- In Suryasiddhanta, he proved that the earth revolves round the sun and rotates on its axis.**
- Varahamihira wrote Panchasi- dhantika and Brihatsamhita. He said that the moon moves round the earth and the earth, together with the moon, move round the sun.**
- Brahmagupta was a great mathematician. He wrote Brahma-sphutic Siddhanta in which he hinted at the Law of Gravitation.**
- Court language was Sanskrit.**