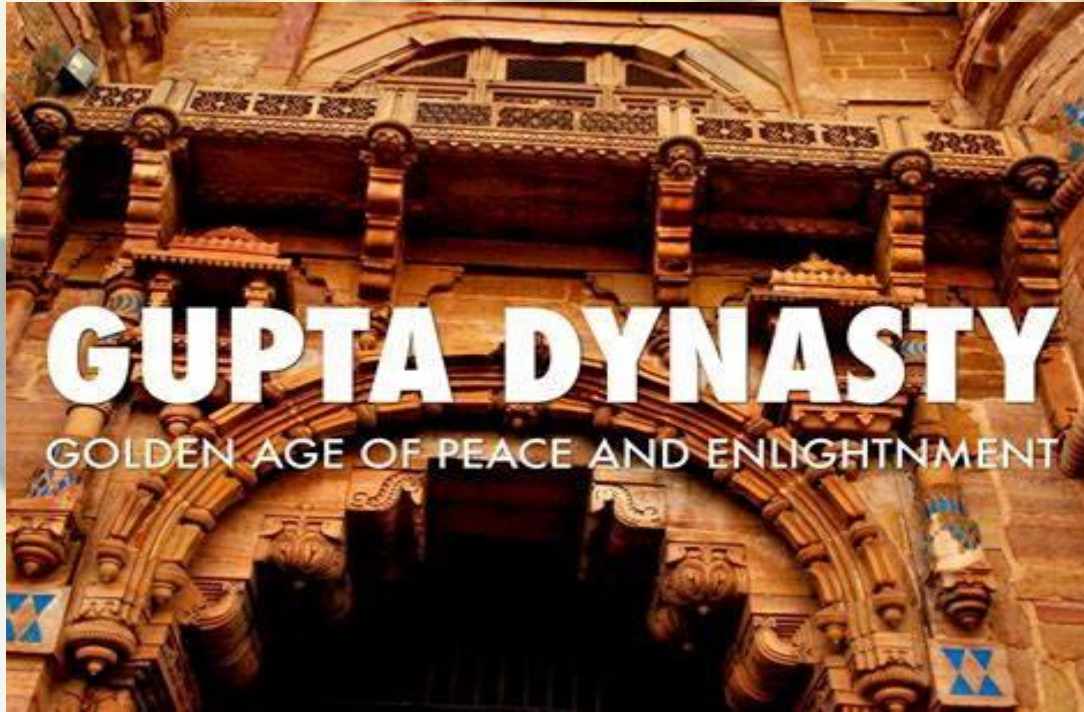
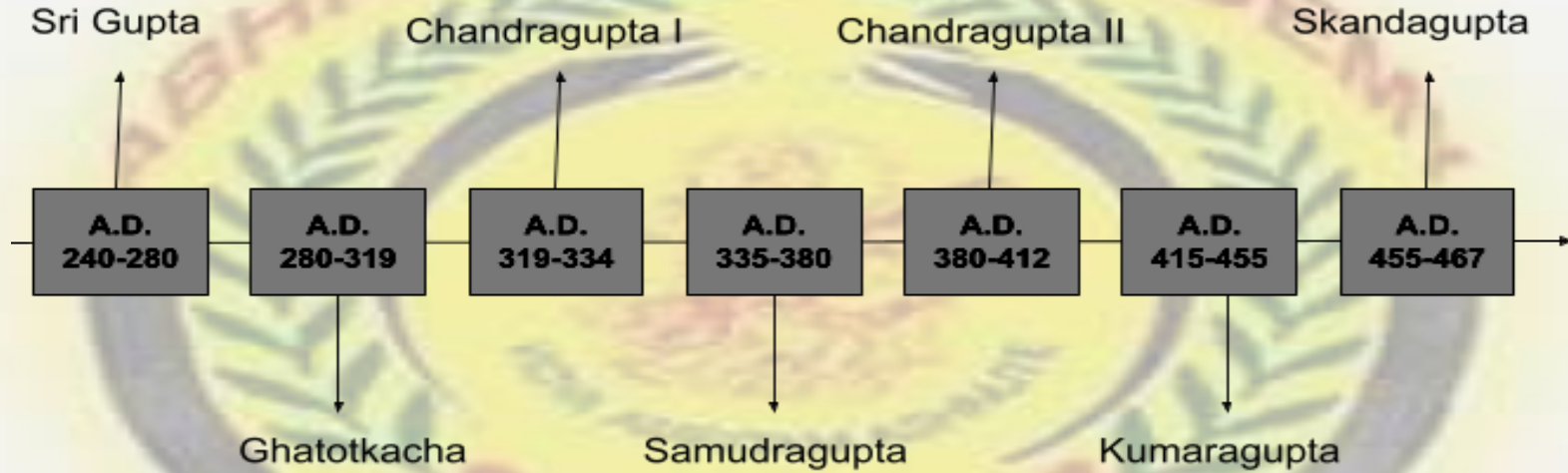


GUPTA EMPIRE



GUPTA DYNASTY

GOLDEN AGE OF PEACE AND ENLIGHTNMENT



Chandragupta I (320 – 335 CE)

- First to be called Maharajadhiraja
- Married Licchavis princess Kumaradevi
- Considered to be the founder of Gupta Era
- Mehrauli iron pillar inscriptions mention his extensive conquests
- He was the first Gupta king to issue gold coins
- He started a new calendar - 'Gupta Era', it is having 241 years gap from Shaka samvat

Samudragupta (335 – 375 CE)

- **Ruler:** Samudragupta, greatest Gupta ruler
- **Inscription:** Allahabad pillar provides details of his reign
- **Sacrifice:** Performed Ashvamedha sacrifice
- **Coins:** Issued gold and silver coins as 'restorer of the Ashvamedha,' including eight types of gold coins
- **Title:** Dubbed 'Napoleon of India' by V.A. Smith
- **Campaigns:** Mentioned in Eran inscription (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Victories:** Described in 'PrayagaPrashasti' by Harishen
- **Intellect:** Known for sharp intellect and polished poetry skills
- **Image:** Depicted with Veena on his coins
- **Diplomacy:** Meghavanna, king of Sri Lanka, sought his permission for a Buddhist monastery at Bodhgaya
- **Religious Affiliation:** Ardent follower of Vaishnavism
- **Patronage:** Supported the Buddhist scholar Vasubandu

Chandragupta II (376 – 413/415 CE)

- He married Kuberanaga, a Naga princess of central India
- After this victory he performed the horse sacrifice and assumed the title Sakari, meaning, destroyer of Sakas'
- Udayagiri cave edict tells about his victories
- He was only Gupta ruler issued copper coins
- His exploits as Chandra has been mentioned on Qutub iron pillar Delhi
- Ujjain was his second capital
- The famous Chinese pilgrim, Fahien visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II
- He patronized great literary figures like Kalidasa
- Chandragupta II had nine gems called as 'Navaratna'
- Rock inscription found in Hunza Afghanistan
- Kashmir inscription
- Mathura inscription

Chandragupta II had nine gems called as 'Navaratna'

- **Kalidasa** – His masterpiece Shakuntala, one of the best hundred literary works in the world, His two well-known epics are Raghuvamsa and Kumarasambhava. Ritusamhara and Meghaduta are his two lyrics.
- **Amarasimha** – His work Amarakosha is a vocabulary of Sanskrit roots, homonyms and synonyms.
- **Varahamihira** – He wrote three important books .
- **Dhanvantri** – He is the father of Ayurveda.
- **Ghatakarapara** - An expert in sculpture and architecture.
- **Shanku** – An architect who wrote the Shilpa Shastra.
- **Kahapanaka** – An astrologer who wrote Jyotishya Shastra
- **Vararuchi** – Author of Prakrit Prakasha, the first grammar of the Prakrit language.
- **Vetala Bhatta** - Author of Mantrashashtra and was a magician

Kumargupta I (415 – 455 CE)

- He founded the Nalanda University
- Kumargupta was worshipper of Kartikeya
- He was also called as Shakraditya and Mahendraaditya
- Rhino slayer type coin was issued by him
- Bilsad inscription

Skandgupta (455 – 467 CE)

- The last powerful ruler of Gupta dynasty
- He transferred his capital to Ayodhya
- Junagarh Rock Inscription

Important points of Gupta Empire

- **Literature:** Ramayana and Mahabharata compiled during Gupta period
- **Language:** Sanskrit became primary language
- **Golden Age:** Gupta age termed as golden age in art, science, and literature
- **Art Styles:** Nagara style evolved
- **Gupta Art Examples:**
 - Delhi iron pillar
 - 7 ½ feet Buddha statue
 - Deogarh temple
- **Paintings:** Gupta period paintings at Bagh caves near Gwalior
- **Military Victories:** Samudragupta's South Indian Expedition mentioned in Allahabad Pillar inscription
- **Commercial Hub:** Ujjain became important commercial city and alternative capital
- **Fahien's Stay:** Chinese traveler Fahien spent six years in Gupta Empire, three in Pataliputra

Temples

- Nagar style of temple
- Hindu devi and devtas were worshipped (to keep them temple architecture was established)
- It had a garbagirha on the shire
- They were mostly monolithic
- They were small in size with very less carving on them
- They were flat roofed

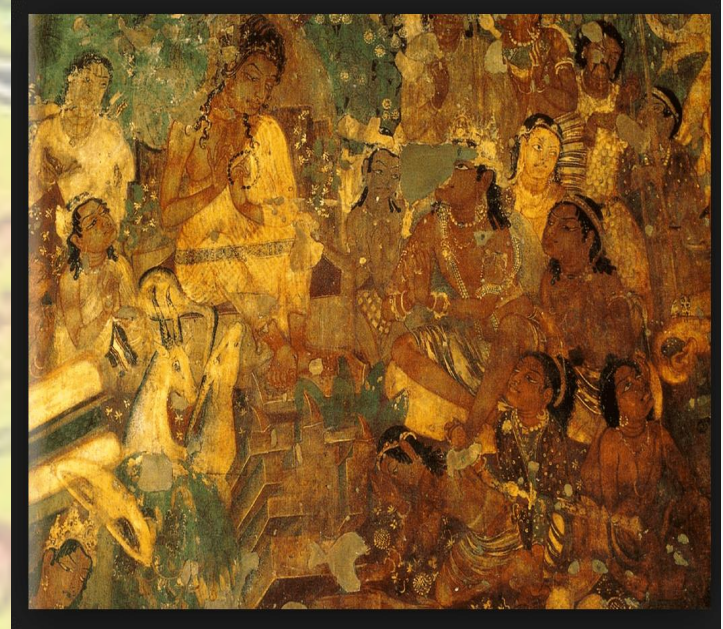


Caves

- Ajanta was built between satavahnas and vakatakas
- Built on steep slope
- Water recharging system
- Famous for mural painting

Bagh cave

- Built during Gupta age
- Rock cut caves
- Mural painting is found
- Situated in dhar MP



- **Cultural Culmination:** Gupta period witnessed the culmination of Indian intellectual activities
- **Language Evolution:** Sanskrit prominence, Nagari script evolved from Brahmi
- **Puranas:** Eighteen Puranas; important ones include Bhagavatha, Vishnu, Vayu, and Matsya
- **Governance:** Junagarh/Girnar inscription mentions repair of Sudarshan Lake by governor Parnadatta
- **Social Practices:** Erana inscription describes Sati System in 510 A.D (first time)
- **Scientific Contributions:**
 - Aryabhatta in Suryasiddhanta: Earth revolves around the sun and rotates on its axis
 - Brahmagupta: Great mathematician
- **Medical Contributions:** Vagbhatta distinguished physician in Ayurvedic system of medicine

Important Literary sources:

Author	Literary Works
Visakadatta	Mudrarakshasa, Devi-Chandraguptam
Vishnu Sharma	Panchatantra, Hitopdesh
Shudraka	Mrichchakatikam, Vinavasavadatta, Padmaprabhritaka
Kalidasa	Abhigyanashakuntalam, Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Kumarambhava, Malavikamitram, Raghuvansha
Harisena	Allahabad Prasasti
Varahamihira	Pancha Siddhantika, Brihatsamhita, Brihat Jataka
Aryabhata	Surya Siddhanta, Aryabhatiya
Bharavi	Kiratarjuniya
Dandin	Kavyadarshna, Dasakumaracharita – 'The Tale of the Ten Princes'
Somdev	Kathasaritsagara
Vyasa	Vyasabhasya (Work on Yoga philosophy)
Kamandaki	Nitisara
Bhasa	Svapnavasavadatta
Bhatrighari	Nitishatak (100 verses on philosophy)
Amarsimha	Amarkosha (Lexicon in Sanskrit)
Vagbhata	Astangahridaya (Heart of Medicine), AstangaSamgraha (Tome on Medicine)
Subhandhu	Vasavadatta
Kashyapa	Compiled Ayurvedic knowledge on women and children
Sushruta	Sushruta Samhita (Deals with surgery)

Sushruta	Sushruta Samhita (Deals with surgery)
Bhaskara II	Lilavati (Major ideas of calculus)
Brahmagupta	Significant contributions to geometry
Dhanvantri	Famous for Ayurvedic contributions



Important Tax Terms

Term	Description
Bedakbhog	Irrigation Tax
Sarvarishti	Forced Tax
Udakabhag	Water Tax
Charasana	Grazing Tax
Chat	Security Tax
Bhatta	Police Tax
Bhog	King's share of produce
Prataya	Toll Tax
Kalpita/Upkilpta	Sales Tax and Purchase Tax

Kings and Titles

Kings	Titles
Sri Gupta	Maharaja
Ghatotkach	Maharaja
Chandragupta I	Maharajadhiraja
Samudragupta	Kaviraj – King of Poets, Ashvamedha parakrama, Vikram, Sarvaraj – Ochchetta, Dharma Prachar Bandu
Chandragupta II	Vikramaditya, Sakari, Narendra Chandra Sinh Vikram, Param Bhagavata
Kumargupta I	Shakraditya, Mahendraditya'.Maharajadhiraja, Mehendra Simha, Ashvamedha Mahendrah
Shandagupta	Vikramaditya, Kramaditya, Shakropama

Important Archaeological Sources:

Inscriptions	Person
Meherauli Iron Pillar Inscription	Chandragupta I
Allahabad Pillar Inscription	Samudragupta
Details about Allahabad Pillar Inscription:	
- Engraved on an Ashokan Pillar	
- Describes personality and achievements	
- Written in classical Sanskrit, Nagari script	
Nalanda Copper Plate	Samudragupta
Paharpur Copper Plates	Budhagupta
Poona Copper Plate	Prabhavatigupta
Bhitari Pillar Inscription	Shandagupta
Damodar Copper Plate Inscription	
Bilsad Inscription	Kumargupta
Coins Inscriptions:	
- Vikram – prowess	
- Ashvamedha parakrama	
- Sarvaraj – Ochchetta	Samudragupta