

Gupta Period

◦ Time Line

300 AD - 550 AD

• Founder

- Sri Gupta

- His successor was Ghatotkatch

◦ Chandragupta I

- Successor of Ghatotkatch

- He obtained title of 'Maharajadhiraj'

- Known as 'real founder'

- Married Vajji's princess Kumaradevi

- Did matrimonial alliances

- Started Gupta Samvat in 320 AD

- Died - 335 AD

- Gupta's issued largest number of gold coins.

◦ Samudragupta

- Successor of Chandragupta I

- Known as 'Napolean of India' (VA Smith)

- One of the Greatest King

- Conquered Ganga plain, Deccan, North India

- Military campaigns are mentioned in Prayag Prasthi by Harisen [court poet]

- Had most area for this empire

* Prayag Prasthi

- made by Ashoka in Kaushambi

- Jahangir transferred it to Allahabad

- Samudragupta had his influence over Java, Sumatra indicates presence of a strong navy.
- His Titles :
 - i- Kaviraja - Prayag Prashasti
 - ii- Param Bhagvata [Nalanda Copper Plate]
 - iii- Ashvamedha Parakram
 - iv- Sarvaraja Ocbheta
- He is depicted playing veena in Gold coins
- Chandragupta II
 - Successor of Samudragupta
 - ~~End of his dynasty~~
 - Married Kuberika of Naga dynasty.
 - daughter - Prabhavati Gupta [married to Rudrasen of Vaktaka]
 - He defeated Sakas in 390 AD and got title of Vikramaditya (14 kings)
 - He got title of Sakari
 - He is also called Param Bhagvat
 - He made Iron Pillar of Mehrauli, Delhi
 - Fa-Hien, a buddhist monk from China came to his court
 - He made his second capital Ujjaini
- Bhukti, Bhoga, Visaya, Vithi and Mandara were administrative divisions in Gupta period.

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• 9 Gems in Court of Chandragupta II

i- Kalidas

- Shakespeare of India

- Writings

i- Meghdoot

ii- Abhigyan Shakuntalam

iii- Malvika Aginimitram

iv- Vikramorvasiyam

v- Raghuvansha

vi- Kumar Sambhavam

ii- Dhanvantari

- Wrote , medical

i- Navanitkam

iii- Varhamihira

- Astronomer

- Writing

i- Panchsidhantak

ii- Brihadsamhita

iv- Amarasimha

- lexicographer - one who writes dictionary

- Wrote

i- Amarkosha

v- Vararuchi

viii- Vetal bhatta

vi- Kshapanaka

ix- Harisena

vii- Shanku

° Kumaragupta

- Successor of Chandragupta - II, got title of Mahendraditya
- Worshipper of God Kartikeya
- Built Nalanda University
- destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji
- Kalidasa flourished during this time
- Bilsad inscription, Peacock style

° Skandagupta

- During his rule, Huns invaded, Skandagupta defeated them
- Adopted the title of Vikramaditya (14)
- Bhitari Pillar - UP
- Huns weakened Guptas

- Last Gupta Ruler - Vishnugupta

- Golden Age - Gupta Empire

- i- Literature - Vishusharma, Ramayana, Mahabharat
- ii- Politics - removed foreign rulers
- iii- Economics - Gold coins → formula for cyclic quad.
- iv- Science - Varhamihir, Brahmagupta, Aryabhatta

- Bhavbhuti - Malti Madhav, Uttar Ramcharitara

- Ramayana - Valmiki

- Mahabharat - Vedvyasa (Jay Samhita)

↳ 1 Lakh shloka - Satasahashti

↳ 18 Parva (chapters)

↳ Bhishma Parva - Shri Krishna & Arjun

↳ Bhagvat Gita

Ramaya - Adikavya

↳ 24000 shloka - 7 kanda (chapters)

- First example of Sati appears in Gupta Empire. It was mentioned in Bhanugupta in Eran [Sagar, MP] 510 AD
- Word Untouchable - Katyayan Smriti.
- Brahmagupta - Brahmasiddhanta - Gravitation
- Khanda Khadyak

• Aryabhatta

- Mathematician, Astronomer
- Father of Algebra
- Calculated Value of π
- Told earth was round
- Calculated Solar year - 365.35 days
- "Earth rotates around ~~sun~~ axis"

* Maitrakas were tributary chiefs of Gupta dynasty. They established an independent kingdom in western India. Dhruvasena II was the most important ruler of this kingdom