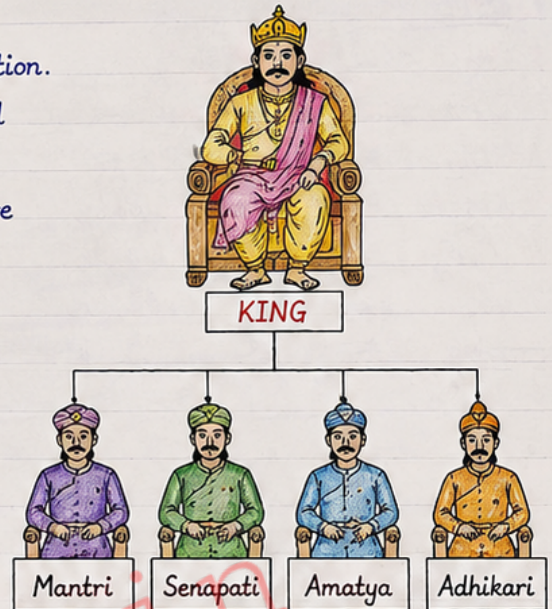


7.1 A New Power Emerges (Contd.)

7.1.4 Administration of the Gupta Empire

- The Gupta Empire had a well-organised system of administration.
- The king was at the top. He was helped by ministers and officials.
- The empire was divided into provinces. The provinces were further divided into districts.
- Some important officials were -
 1. Uparika - The governor of a province.
 2. Vishayapati - The head of a district.
 3. Mahadandanayaka - The commander of the army,
 4. Sandhivigrahika - The minister of foreign affairs.
 5. Mahakshapatalika - The minister in charge of keeping records.
 6. Kumaramatyā - The official in charge of royal princes.
- The Gupta administration was efficient and helped in the smooth functioning of the empire.



The administration of the Gupta Empire

7.1.5 Economy and Trade

- The Gupta Empire had a strong economy.
- Agriculture was the main occupation of people.
- Farmers grew crops like rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, etc.
- Artisans and traders also played an important role in the economy.
- Trade was carried on within the country as well as with other countries.
- The Gupta coins of gold, silver and copper show that trade was well developed.



A ship used for trade

In Short

The Gupta rulers rose to power in the 3rd century CE. They expanded their kingdom and built a strong empire. The administration was well organised. People were happy and prosperous. Trade and agriculture were well developed. The Gupta age is called the 'Golden Age' of India.

New Words

- Province - A large area of a country.
- District - A small part of a province.
- Efficient - Working well and successfully.
- Occupation - A person's regular work.
- Trade - Buying and selling of goods.

7.1 A New Power Emerges (Contd.)

7.1.6 Society in the Gupta Age

- The society in the Gupta age was mostly rural.
- People lived in villages and depended on agriculture.
- Villages had headmen called gramika.
- Craftsmen lived in towns. They formed groups called shrenis (guilds).
- People followed different religions. But they respected each other's beliefs.



A village in the Gupta age

New Words

Gramika - The headman of a village.

Shreni - A group or guild of craftsmen or traders.

Literature - Writings like poems, plays and stories.

Scholar - A learned person.

7.1.7 Literature and Learning

- This age was very important for literature and learning.
- Sanskrit was the main language of literature.
- Great books, poems, plays and scientific works were written.
- **Aryabhata** wrote about mathematics and astronomy.
- **Kalidasa** wrote famous plays like **Abhijnana Shakuntalam**.
- Schools and universities were centres of learning.
- Nalanda University was a very famous centre of learning.



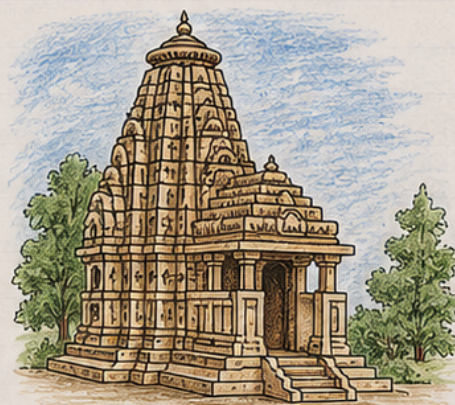
Aryabhata - a great scholar

Remember

The Gupta age is called the **Golden Age** of India.

7.1.8 Art, Architecture and Science

- The Guptas built many temples and monuments.
- The temples were strong and beautifully designed.
- Sculptures and paintings were very fine.
- Science also progressed. People studied mathematics, astronomy and medicine.
- **Iron pillar at Delhi** is a famous example of metal work.



A Gupta temple



Iron pillar at Delhi

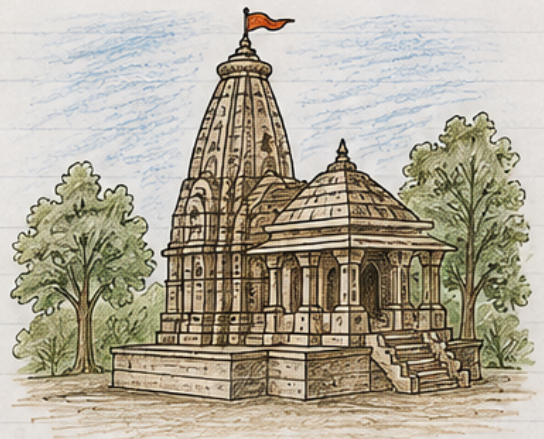
In Short

In the 3rd century CE, the Gupta dynasty rose to power in northern India. They had a strong administration, a rich economy and a peaceful society. This age saw great progress in literature, art, architecture and science. It is called the **Golden Age** of India.

7.1 A New Power Emerges (Contd.)

7.1.9 Religion in the Gupta Age

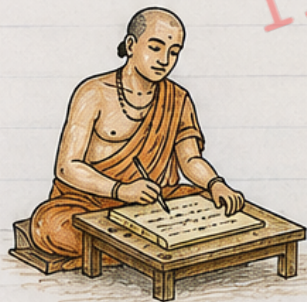
- People followed different religions in the Gupta age.
- Hinduism was the main religion.
- People also followed Buddhism, Jainism and other religions.
- The Gupta rulers were religious and kind.
- They gave land and money to Brahmanas and built many temples.
- The rulers also respected all religions.



A temple built in the Gupta age

7.1.10 The Gupta Age - A Golden Age

- The Gupta age is called the 'Golden Age' of India.
- During this time, India made great progress in many fields.
- The Gupta rulers were brave, wise and kind.
- People were happy and lived in peace.
- Art, literature, science, trade and education all grew during this time.
- The Gupta age is remembered as one of the best periods in Indian history.



Literature and learning



Art and culture



Science and astronomy



Trade and commerce

In Short

The Gupta dynasty rose to power in the 3rd century CE. They had a strong administration and a rich economy. People lived in peace and followed different religions. There was great progress in art, literature, science, trade and education. This period is called the 'Golden Age' of India.

New Words

- Hinduism - The main religion of the Guptas.
Brahmanas - Learned priests of Hindu religion.
Peace - A state of no war or fighting.
Prosperity - Success and wealth.
Progress - Moving forward and improving.

7.1 A New Power Emerges (Contd.)

7.1.11 Gupta Coins

- The Gupta rulers issued gold, silver and copper coins.
- The gold coins were thick and beautiful.
- Most of these gold coins had pictures of the king.
- Some gold coins had pictures of lions and goddesses.
- On the back of the coins, the name and titles of the king were written in the Brahmi script.
- These coins show that the Gupta rulers were rich and powerful.



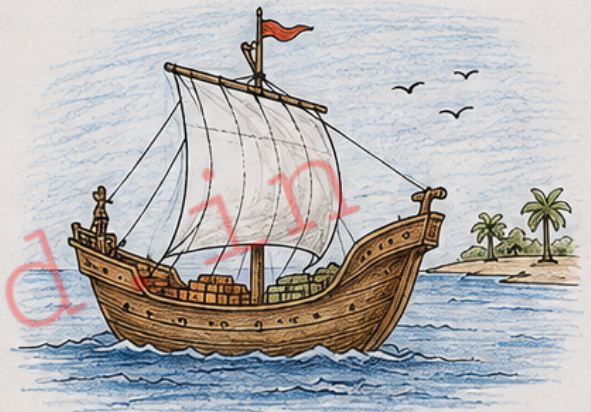
A gold coin of
Samudragupta



A gold coin showing
Goddess Lakshmi

7.1.12 Guilds and Trade

- Traders and craftsmen formed groups called **guilds**.
- These guilds looked after the interests of their members.
- They fixed rules for the quality of goods.
- They also helped in settling disputes among members.
- Trade increased during the Gupta period.
- Traders used land routes as well as sea routes to carry trade.



A ship used in trade

7.1.13 The Gupta Empire - A Wide Empire

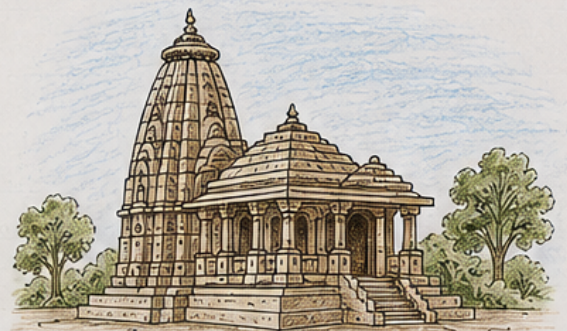
- The Gupta Empire was a large empire.
- It included most parts of northern India.
- It also included parts of central India.
- The empire was very well ruled.
- The people were happy and prosperous.

In Short

The Gupta age was a time of peace, progress and prosperity. The rulers were brave and wise. People lived a happy life. Art, literature, science, trade and education all grew. The Gupta age is called the 'Golden Age' of India.

New Words

- Guild** - An association of traders or craftsmen.
- Script** - A set of written letters.
- Route** - A path or road taken while travelling.



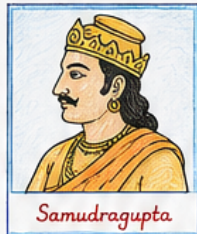
A beautiful temple of the Gupta period

7.1 A NEW POWER EMERGES

- In the 3rd century CE, the Kushana Empire began to weaken.
- Many new kingdoms emerged.
- The Gupta dynasty became an important power.
- This period saw great progress in art, architecture, literature and science.

7.1.1 THE WARRIOR KING

- Samudragupta was one of the most powerful Gupta rulers.
- His achievements are recorded in the Prayaga Prashasti.
- It is a pillar inscription at Prayagraj.
- It was composed by his court poet **Harisena**.
- Samudragupta defeated many rulers and expanded his empire.
- Some defeated kings were reinstated as tributaries.
- His coins show his interest in art, learning and trade.
- On one coin, Samudragupta is shown playing the veena.
- On the reverse side, the goddess Lakshmi is shown, symbolising wealth, prosperity and divine blessing.



Samudragupta



Playing the veena



Goddess Lakshmi

DID YOU KNOW?

Harisena praised Samudragupta as 'Kaviraja', meaning "the one among sovereigns".

- 1 -

7.1.2 A GOLDEN RULER : CHANDRAGUPTA II

- Chandragupta II was also known as **Vikramaditya**.
- He was the son of Samudragupta.
- His inscription is found on the Iron Pillar of Delhi.
- The Iron Pillar is famous for its rust-resistant metal.

WAIT... BUT HOW?

The rust-resistant Iron Pillar shows the metallurgical achievements of the Gupta period.



Iron Pillar of Delhi

7.2 ADMINISTRATION, TRADE AND REVENUE

- Gupta rulers used military power as well as diplomacy and alliances.
- They were given titles like Maharajadhiraja, Samrat and Chakravartin to show their supreme authority.
- The main source of revenue was land tax.
- Other sources - fines, taxes on artisans, irrigation, trade and crafts.
- Revenue was used for administration, army, temple-building, infrastructure and support to scholars and artists.
- India traded with the Mediterranean world, Southeast Asia and China.
- Exports included textiles, spices, ivory and gemstones.
- Socotra Island in the Arabian Sea was an important stop in the Indian Ocean trade network.



A ship used in trade

Key Words

Diplomacy - Friendly relations between kingdoms.

Revenue - Money collected by the state.

Tributary - A ruler who accepts the authority of a more powerful ruler.

- 2 -

7.3 NEW IDEAS AND WONDERS - CLASSICAL AGE

- The Gupta period is called the 'Classical Age' of India.
- Important developments included:
 1. Sanskrit literature
 2. Mathematics and astronomy
 3. Medicine
 4. Metallurgy
 5. Art and architecture



Aryabhata - a great scholar

7.3.1 GREAT LEARNERS

- * **Aryabhata** - lived around 500 CE in Kusumapura (near Patna).
 - Wrote *Aryabhatiya*.
 - Said the Earth rotates on its axis (day and night).
 - Calculated a year as 365 days, 6 hours, 12 minutes, 30 seconds.
 - Correctly explained solar and lunar eclipses.
- * **Varahamihira** - based in Ujjayini.
 - Famous work: *Brihat Samhita*.
 - Wrote on astronomy, astrology, architecture, town planning, weather forecasting, farming and natural sciences.
- * **Kalidasa** - one of the greatest Sanskrit poets and dramatists.
 - Famous work: *Meghadutam* (The Cloud Messenger).
 - A yaksha (minor deity) sends a message to his beloved through a cloud.
- * **Ayurveda** - traditional system of medicine, codified during Gupta period.
 - Important texts: *Charaka Samhita* and *Sushruta Samhita*.
 - Knowledge of cataract surgery, bone-setting and early forms of plastic surgery.
 - Focus on prevention as much as cure.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ayurveda takes a holistic approach, linking mind, body and nature for good health.



A Gupta period temple

- 3 -

7.4 GLIMPSES OF THE GUPTA EMPIRE

- Several kingdoms coexisted during the Gupta period.
- The Guptas used both military power and alliances.
- They also adopted impressive titles such as Maharajadhiraja and Samrat to show their authority.

7.5 ALLIANCES AND MATRIMONY

- Prabhavati Gupta was the daughter of Chandragupta II.
- She married into the neighbouring Vakataka kingdom.
- After her husband's early death, she became regent and ruled on behalf of her young sons.
- This strengthened ties between the Vakatakas and the Guptas.
- She was known as 'mother of two kings' because her sons later ascended the throne.



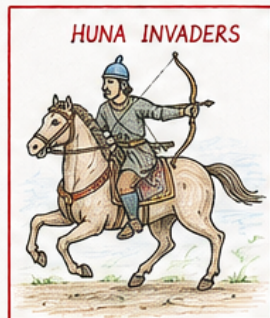
Prabhavati Gupta

DID YOU KNOW?

Marriages were used as a political tool. They helped dynasties strengthen their power without fighting.

7.6 DECLINE OF THE GUPTAS

- By the 6th century CE, the Gupta Empire began to weaken.
- Reasons for decline:
 1. Repeated invasions by the Hunas.
 2. Rise of powerful regional rulers.
 3. Internal conflicts.
 4. Weakening of central control.



7.7 SOUTH AND NORTHEAST

7.7.1 THE PALLAVAS

- The Pallavas rose in southern India.
- Their capital was Kanchipuram.
- It was known as the 'city of a thousand temples'.
- The Pallavas were great patrons of art and architecture.
- They established ghatikas, centres of education.



A Pallava temple

7.7.2 KAMARUPA

- Kamarupa flourished in the Brahmaputra valley.
- It covered present-day Assam and parts of Bengal and Bangladesh.
- It was ruled by the Varman dynasty.
- The region was called Pragjyotisha in the epics.
- It is mentioned in the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- King Bhagadatta of Pragjyotisha is named in the Mahabharata.



Kamarupa
(Brahmaputra valley)

7.8 GUPTA LEGACY

The Gupta period left a lasting legacy in :

1. Science & Knowledge	2. Art & Architecture	3. Literature & Language	4. Governance
• Mathematics • Astronomy • Medicine • Metallurgy	• Temples • Sculptures • Paintings • Cave art	• Sanskrit literature • Works of Kalidasa • Puranas	• Administration • Diplomacy • Alliances • Titles like Samrat



Buddha sculpture
(Sarnath)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Gupta period is often called the 'Golden Age of India' because of its achievements in many fields.

KEY WORDS

Regent - A person who rules on behalf of a king.

Ghatika - An ancient centre of higher education.

- Who was the famous Chinese traveller who visited India in the early 5th century CE? - **Faxian (Fa-shi-anne)**.
- Why did Faxian come to India? - To visit sacred Buddhist sites, study under renowned scholars and collect Buddhist manuscripts.
- What did Faxian record during his travels? - His impressions of India's culture, governance and society.
- What does Faxian's travelogue provide? - A rare glimpse of Gupta India through foreign eyes.
- According to Faxian, how were the people? - They were numerous and happy.
- Who established houses for charity and medicines? - Heads of **Vaishya families** (merchants or traders).
- Who received food and medicines in these charitable houses? - The poor, orphans and sick.
- Who provided treatment to the needy? - **Doctors**.
- Which families were described by Faxian as rich, prosperous and practising kindness and righteousness? - **Vaishya families**.

PRAYAGA PRASHASTI AND SAMUDRAGUPTA

- Who wrote the Prayaga Prashasti? - Court poet **Harisena**.
- Whose achievements are recorded in the Prayaga Prashasti? - **Samudragupta's**.
- Who was the father of Chandragupta II? - **Samudragupta**.
- What is the Prayaga Prashasti? - A pillar inscription at Prayagraj.
- What does the Prayaga Prashasti praise Samudragupta as? - **Kaviraja**, 'the one among sovereigns'.
- What did Samudragupta do to unify the empire? - He fought many wars, defeated numerous rulers and expanded his empire.
- What happened to some defeated kings? - They were reinstated as tributaries.
- What did Samudragupta's coins show besides his military power? - His interest in art, learning and trade.
- Which musical instrument is Samudragupta shown playing on a coin? - The **veena**.
- Which goddess appears on the reverse side of a Samudragupta coin? - **Lakshmi**.
- What did the goddess Lakshmi on the coin symbolise? - Wealth, prosperity and divine blessing.

-1-

- Who was also known as **Vikramaditya**? - **Chandragupta II**.
- Whose inscription is found on the Iron Pillar of Delhi? - A king named **Chandra**, identified with **Chandragupta II**.
- Which famous monument shows the metallurgical achievement of the Gupta period? - **The rust-resistant Iron Pillar of Delhi**.
- What strategy did Gupta rulers use besides military power? - **Diplomacy and alliances**.
- Which titles were adopted by Gupta rulers to show supreme authority? - **Maharajadhiraja, Samrat and Chakravartin**.
- What was the main source of Gupta revenue? - **Land tax**.
- What were the other sources of Gupta revenue? - **Fines, taxes on artisans, irrigation, trade and crafts**.
- What did Gupta revenue support? - **Administration, army, temple-building, infrastructure and patronage of scholars and artists**.
- With which regions did India trade during the Gupta period? - **The Mediterranean world, Southeast Asia and China**.
- What did India export during the Gupta period? - **Textiles, spices, ivory and gemstones**.
- Which island was an important stop in the Indian Ocean trade network? - **Socotra Island in the Arabian Sea**.

ALLIANCES AND MATRIMONY

- Who was **Prabhavati Gupta**? - The daughter of **Chandragupta II**.
- Into which kingdom did **Prabhavati Gupta** marry? - The neighbouring **Vakataka kingdom**.
- What did **Prabhavati Gupta** become after her husband's early death? - **Regent**.
- On whose behalf did **Prabhavati Gupta** rule? - Her young sons.
- What did **Prabhavati Gupta's** marriage strengthen? - Ties between the **Vakatakas** and the **Auptas**.
- What does 'mother of two kings' refer to? - **Prabhavati Gupta's sons who later ascended the throne**.

-2-

GREAT LEARNERS, ART-ARCHITECTURE, DECLINE AND LEGACY

GREAT LEARNERS

- Which Gupta-era scholar lived in Kusumapura near present-day Patna? - **Aryabhata**.
- Around when did **Aryabhata** live? - Around 500 CE.
- Which famous work was authored by **Aryabhata**? - **Aryabhatiya**.
- What did **Aryabhata** propose about the Earth? - **The Earth rotates on its axis**, explaining day and night.
- What length of a year did **Aryabhata** calculate? - **365 days, 6 hours, 12 minutes and 30 seconds**.
- What did **Aryabhata** correctly explain? - **Solar and lunar eclipses**.
- Who was the famous mathematician, astronomer and astrologer based in **Ujjayini**? - **Varahamihira**.
- What was **Varahamihira's** famous encyclopedic work? - **Brihat Samhita**.
- What subjects did **Brihat Samhita** cover? - **Astronomy and astrology, architecture and town planning, weather forecasting, farming and natural sciences**.
- Who was one of the greatest Sanskrit poets and dramatists of this period? - **Kalidasa**.
- Which famous poem was written by **Kalidasa**? - **Meghadutam** (The Cloud Messenger).
- Who is the main figure in **Meghadutam**? - A **yaksha** (minor deity).
- Through what does the **yaksha** send a message to his beloved? - **A passing cloud**.
- Which traditional system of medicine was codified during the Gupta period? - **Ayurveda**.
- Which two medical texts are mentioned in the book? - **Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita**.
- Which surgical techniques are mentioned? - **Cataract surgery, bone-setting and early forms of plastic surgery**.
- What approach did **Ayurveda** follow? - A holistic approach, linking mind, body and nature.

- What four major areas form the Gupta legacy according to the book? - **Science & Knowledge, Art & Architecture, Literature & Language, and Governance**.

-3-

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Which place became famous for exquisite sculptures of the Buddha? - **Sarnath**.
- Which caves contain some of India's oldest surviving murals? - **Ajanta Caves**.
- Which natural pigments are mentioned for **Ajanta paintings**? - **Red ochre, lapis lazuli and charcoal**.
- Which famous **Bodhisattva** mural is shown in the book? - **Bodhisattva Padmapani**.
- Which caves in **Madhya Pradesh** contain striking carvings of deities and epic stories? - **Udayagiri Caves**.
- Which Gupta-period temple is mentioned at **Deogarh**? - **Dashavatara Temple**.
- Where is the **Dashavatara Temple** located? - **Deogarh, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Which two sacred rivers are represented by terracotta sculptures? - **Ganga and Yamuna**.
- What is **Ganga** shown standing on? - **A makara**.
- What is **Yamuna** shown upon? - **A tortoise**.

DECLINE OF THE GUPTAS AND OTHER KINGDOMS

- By which century did the Gupta Empire begin to weaken? - By the 6th century CE.
- Who repeatedly invaded the Gupta Empire? - The **Hunas**, a Central Asian tribe.
- What was another major cause of Gupta decline? - The rise of powerful regional rulers and internal conflicts.
- Which dynasty became powerful in southern India? - **Pallavas**.
- What was the capital of the **Pallavas**? - **Kanchipuram**.
- What was **Kanchipuram** known as? - The 'city of a thousand temples'.
- What educational centres were established by the **Pallavas**? - **Ghatikas**.
- Which kingdom flourished in the **Brahmaputra valley**? - **Kamarupa**.
- Which dynasty ruled **Kamarupa**? - **Varmas** dynasty.
- What was the ancient name of the **Kamarupa** region in the epics? - **Pragjyotisha**.
- Which two epics mention **Pragjyotisha**? - **Ramayana and Mahabharata**.
- Which king of **Pragjyotisha** is named in the **Mahabharata**? - **King Bhagadatta**.

MUST-LEARN NAMES

Faxian → Chinese traveller
Samudragupta → Prayaga Prashasti
Harisena → Court poet
Chandragupta II → Vikramaditya
Prabhavati Gupta → Regent of Vakataka kingdom
Aryabhata → Aryabhatiya
Varahamihira → Brihat Samhita
Kalidasa → Meghadutam
Pallavas → Kanchipuram
Kamarupa → Brahmaputra valley

CHAPTER 7 : THE GUPTA ERA

ONE - LINER FACTS (Page - 2)

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Iron Pillar
of Delhi

ALLIANCES AND MATRIMONY

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Prabhavati
Gupta

ONE - LINER FACTS (Page - 3)

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64. Q. What is Yamuna shown upon? → A tortoise.



Meghadutam - A yaksha sends message to his beloved through a cloud.

KEY WORDS

Regent - A person who rules on behalf of a king.

Ghatika - An ancient centre of higher education.



Ganga
(Makara)

Yamuna
(Tortoise)

DECLINE OF THE GUPTAS AND OTHER KINGDOMS

65. Q. By which century did the Gupta Empire begin to weaken? → By the 6th century CE.
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67. Q. What was another major cause of Gupta decline? → The rise of powerful regional rulers and internal conflicts.
68. Q. Which dynasty became powerful in southern India? → Pallavas.
69. Q. What was the capital of the Pallavas? → Kanchipuram.
70. Q. What was Kanchipuram known as? → The "city of thousand temples."
71. Q. What educational centres were established by the Pallavas? → Ghatikas.
72. Q. Which kingdom flourished in the Brahmaputra valley? → Kamarupa.
73. Q. Which dynasty ruled Kamarupa? → Varman dynasty.
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76. Q. Which king of Pragjyotisha is named in the Mahabharata? → King Bhagadatta.

77. Q. What four major areas form the Gupta legacy according to the book? → Science & Knowledge, Art & Architecture, Literature & Language, and Governance.

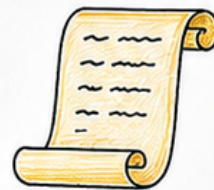
MUST-LEARN NAMES

- Faxian → Chinese traveller
- Samudragupta → Prayaga Prashasti
- Harisena → Court poet
- Chandragupta II → Vikramaditya
- Prabhavati Gupta → Regent of Vakataka kingdom
- Aryabhata → Aryabhatiya
- Varahamihira → Brihat Samhita
- Kalidasa → Meghadutam
- Pallavas → Kanchipuram
- Kamarupa → Brahmaputra valley

CHAPTER 7 : THE GUPTA ERA

ONE - LINER FACTS (1 to 20)

1. Q. Who was the famous Chinese traveller who visited India in the early 5th century CE? → Faxian (Fa-shi-anne).
2. Q. Why did Faxian come to India? → To visit sacred Buddhist sites, study under renowned scholars and collect Buddhist manuscripts.
3. Q. What did Faxian record during his travels? → His impressions of India's culture, governance and society.
4. Q. What does Faxian's travelogue provide? → A rare glimpse of Gupta India through foreign eyes.
5. Q. According to Faxian, how were the people? → They were numerous and happy.
6. Q. Who established houses for charity and medicines? → Heads of Vaishya families (merchants or traders).
7. Q. Who received food and medicines in these charitable houses? → The poor, orphans and sick.
8. Q. Who provided treatment to the needy? → Doctors.
9. Q. Which families were described by Faxian as rich, prosperous and practising kindness and righteousness? → Vaishya families.
10. Q. Who wrote the Prayaga Prashasti? → Court poet Harisena.
11. Q. Whose achievements are recorded in the Prayaga Prashasti? → Samudragupta's.
12. Q. Who was the father of Chandragupta II? → Samudragupta.
13. Q. What is the Prayaga Prashasti? → A pillar inscription at Prayagraj.
14. Q. What does the Prayaga Prashasti praise Samudragupta as? → Kaviraja, "the one among sovereigns".
15. Q. What did Samudragupta do to unify the empire? → He fought many wars, defeated numerous rulers and expanded his empire.
16. Q. What happened to some defeated kings? → They were reinstated as tributaries.
17. Q. What did Samudragupta's coins show besides his military power? → His interest in art, learning and trade.
18. Q. Which musical instrument is Samudragupta shown playing on a coin? → The veena.
19. Q. Which goddess appears on the reverse side of a Samudragupta coin shown in the book? → Lakshmi.
20. Q. What did the goddess Lakshmi on the coin symbolise? → Wealth, prosperity and divine blessing.



Faxian's
travelogue



Prayaga
Prashasti
(Pillar)



Samudragupta
playing veena
on a coin