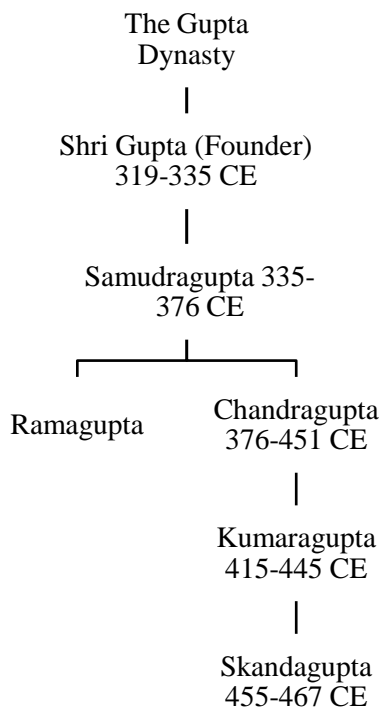


THE GUPTA DYNASTY (AD 320-550)

The Gupta Dynasty Era is often remembered as the Classical Age. Under the Gupta rulers, most of North India was reunited. The Gupta Empire extended from the Brahmaputra to the Yamuna and Chambal, from the Himalayas to the Narmada. Because of the relative peace, law and order, and extensive cultural achievements during this period, it has been described as a Golden Age that crystallised the elements of what is generally known as the Hindu culture,



with all its variety, contradiction and synthesis the golden Age was confined to the north, and the classical patterns began to spread south only after the Gupta Empire had vanished from the historical scene. The military exploits of the first three rulers—Chandragupta I (ad 320-335), Samudragupta (ad 335-376) and Chandragupta II (ad 376—415)—brought all of the North India under their leadership. From **Pataliputra** their capital, they sought to retain political pre-eminence as much by pragmatism and judicious marriage alliances as by military strength. Despite their self-conferred titles, their overlordship was threatened and by ad 500 ultimately ruined by the Hun as (a branch of the White Huns emanating from

central Asia), who were yet another group in the long succession of ethnically and culturally different outsiders drawn into India and then woven into the hybrid Indian fabric.

Coins of Kushana Dynasty

The Kushana ruler used their coinage to establish and highlight their own superiority. The idea of showing the ruler on the coins was not popular in India. All the previous dynasties minted coins depicting only symbols. The Kushana rulers popularised this idea which remained in use for the next 2,000 years. The coinage system developed by the Kushanas was copied by the later Indian dynasties such as Guptas, as well as by the neighbouring rulers such as Sassanians (of Persia). It is very unfortunate that very few evidences of the Kushana rule could be found today. Perhaps, the coins are only evidence we have of this illustrious dynasty. Kushana coins tell so much about the images of the kings. The coins tell us how the rulers wished to be seen by their subjects. The portraits on the Kushana coins of Vima Kadphises are surprisingly individualistic. He is often depicted as a full-bearded, big nosed, fierce looking warrior-chieftain, perhaps with a deformed skull, wearing high helmet, tunic, overcoat and boots.

Features of the Gupta dynasty

The Gupta Dynasty is called the Golden Age of the Sanskrit language and the Classical and the Classical age of ancient India because of the following:

- (a) There was political unity; foreign rule was completely removed and peace and prosperity prevailed.
- (b) Of the enlightened character of government, that is, taxes were light punishment mild, etc.
- (c) Of the revival of Hinduism, while, there was tolerance of all other religions.
- (d) Use of Sanskrit developed, and art and

literature flourished during the period.

- (e) Of the great personages who lived during this period include: Kalidasa, poet and dramatist known as the Shakespeare of India; Aryabhatta, Varahamihira and Brahmagupta, the great mathematicians and astronomers, Kumarila Bhatta and Shankaracharya, the great preachers of Hinduism and Dhanwantri, the great physician.
- (f) Fa-hien, a Chinese pilgrim who visited India (AD 399-414) during Vikramaditya's reign, gave an excellent account of the Gupta Dynasty and prosperity of the country.

★ Art and Architecture of Sunga and Andhra Dynasties

The earliest extant stupas date from the Sunga Dynasty (second to first century BC) and early Andhra Dynasty (first century BC). These relic mounds are surrounded by railings and gateways covered with carved ornaments. One of the main stupas is at Bharhut. Relief medallions of Buddha's life or of the jatakas (tales of his previous lives) are shallow cut, with all the incidents of each story arranged within a single composition. The bodies of semi-divine beings including yakshis (female tree spirits) are flattened against the pillar of which they form part; prabhavali was still emphasised; The important stupa at Sanchi shows a similar style. Important carvings on the gateways of another stupa at Sanchi date from the early Andhra period. The yakshis have acquired full, graceful forms and high relief compositions are frequently conceived in a continuous method of narration. The carved railing from Bodhi Gaya, the place of Buddha's enlightenment and the earliest surviving wall paintings are also early Andhra; paintings in the rock-cut cave at Ajanta narrate

★ Origin of the Guptas

The origin of the Guptas is still not clear. I-tsing the Chinese traveller gives the first indication of the

Gupta kingdom in Magadha. He visited India in 672 AD and came to know about Maharaja **Sri Gupta** who had got constructed a temple for Chinese pilgrims near Mrigashikharvana. I-tsing provides the date for this occurrence just as 500 years ago. The date provided by him does not match with other sources. Therefore, it is thought that his calculation were not accurate but merely a guess. The most likely date for the reign of Sri Gupta is also 240 to 230. His successor **Ghatotkacha** ruled probably from circa AD 280 to 319. In contrast to his successor, he is also referred to in inscriptions as 'Maharaja'. At the beginning of the fourth century the Guptas ruled a few small kingdoms in a Magadha and Uttar Pradesh, Ghatotkacha had a son named Chandragupta. In a breakthrough deal **Chandragupta** was married to **Kumaradevi**, a Lichchhavi - the main power in Magadha. With a dowry of the kingdom of Magadha (capital Pataliputra) and an alliance with the Lichchhavis, Chandragupta set about expanding his power, conquering much of Magadha, Prayagraj and Saketa. He established a realm stretching from the Ganges basin, modern Allahabad to modern Ayodhya and Magadha by AD 320. Chandragupta is the first of the Guptas to be referred to as 'Maharajadhiraja' or the 'King of Kings'.

IMPORTANT GUPTA RULERS

Sri Gupta was the founder of the Gupta Dynasty. He ruled over parts of Bengal and at that time Gupta was a small kingdom. His son Ghatotkacha Gupta also finds a very small mention just like his father. But Chandragupta I, his son and grandson of Sri Gupta, was the first powerful Gupta emperor.

(a) **Chandragupta I** (ad 320-335) founded the empire around 320 in Magadha and ruled till AD 330. He was called 'the King of Kings'. He married Kumara Devi, the Lichhavi princess, and as there was no heir to the Lichhaviya throne, he merged it to his empire, which further strengthened his position. He died in AD 335 leaving his son Samudragupta a vast empire extending from Pataliputra to Prayagraj.

(b) **Samudragupta** (AD 335—375), the successor of Chandragupta I was known as **the Indian Napoleon**

as he never suffered defeat in the battlefield. His four main campaigns are mentioned in a pillar inscription. It was actually an Ashoka pillar and later Samudragupta added his inscription to it. **Harisena**, the commander-in-chief, of Samudragupta's army was the author of this edict.

The account of his campaigns is as follows:

Northern campaign He defeated Aryavarta (nine kings of the Ganga valley—King Achutha, King Chandravurman, King Nagasena, King Balavarman, King Ruilradeva, King Nandin, King Nagadatta, King Mathila and King Ganapathinaga).

Central campaign He defeated the forest kingdoms of Jabalpur, Rewa and Nagpur. He also defeated many kingdoms of the upper Vindhya region.

Conquest of tribal kingdoms He captured the Sunderban Kingdom, the Kamarupa and Haw-aka Kingdoms (near Assam main), the Kingdom of Nepal, the Karturpura Kingdom, the Yaudheyas Kingdom (in I Satluj valley), the Madrnka Kingdom (on the banks of the Ravi and Cncnab nvers. in Punjab) and the Arjunayan Kingdom (Rajasthan). He defeated the neighbouring kingdoms of Kabul (King Devaputra), Ceylon (King Meghavarma). **Southern conquest** He Conquered - King Mahindra of Bilajpur, King Matharaja of Kowrala (both in Madhya Pradesh); King Dhananjaya of Kustalapura (Karnataka); King of Mahakanthara, King Swamydatta of Kattura (both in Orissa region); King Mahendra of Pistapura, King Damana of Yarandapalli, King Hastivarman of Vcngi (all in Andhra); King Vishnugopa of Kanchi, King Neelaraj of Avamukta (both in Tamil Nadu region); King Kuvera in Devarastra (Devagiri region in Maharashtra) and King Ugrasena of Palakka (Palghat region of Kerala).

Samudragupta was not only a matchless conquerer but also an able administrator. He was also a very good poet and at many places he is referred to as Kaviraa. He had two sons, Ramagupta and Chandragupta II. As per the records, Ramagupta was made king after the death of Samudragupta, but he was a coward and afraid of the Saka king. He was too afraid of fighting with the Sakas when they challenged him to surrender Queen Dhruvadevi to the Saka king. It was his younger brother who saved the queen by

killing the Saka king. Later, Chandragupta II married the queen and also ascended the throne.

(c) **Chandragupta II or Vikramaditya** (ad 375-413) was the son of Samudragupta and is also referred to as the Vikrara of Ujjain. He removed foreign rule completely from India. He ruled close to 40 years. He is remembered as the best Gupta ruler as he completed many of the campaigns that were left incomplete by his predecessor. Many historians term him as tire hero of the Indian history. Pataliputra and Ujjain became the prominent cities in the world map during his reign. He made Ujjain the biggest commercial city in India as he gained control of the trade routes in the Arabian Sea. India started gaining heavily from Egyptian and European contacts. He gathered wealth that made India a prosperous country for many future centuries. Books mentioned that he once filled the Kailasnath temple at Kanchi with gold. he issued many gold and silver coins, which describe the political greatness and abundance of wealth of his empire. Nine great gems adorned his court.

Sl. No.	Name of the Person	Contribution in the Field of	Works that Made them Famous
1.	Kshapanaka	Astrology	Jyothisyashastra
2.	Dhanvuntri	Medicine	Ayurveda (Book of Medicine)
3.	Kalidasa	Drama and Poetry	Shakuntala, Meghaduta etc.
4.	Amarasimha	Lexicography	Amarakosha (Glossary)
5.	Varahmihira	Astrology	Brihadsamhita
6.	Vararuchi	Grammar	Vyakarana (Sanskrit)
7.	Sanku	Architecture	Shilpashastra
8.	Vetalabhata	Magic	Mantrashastra
9.	Harisen	Poet	

Fa-hien (AD 399-411), a Chinese traveller, has written about India during the reign of Chandragupta II. He came from China to study the original Buddhist texts. He was greatly influenced by the superior architecture

and political greatness Chandragupta II provided to India.

Rise of Chandragupta II

Chandragupta II ruled until AD 413. He married the daughter of the king of Deccan, Rudrasena, and gained a valuable ally. Only marginally less war-like than his father, he expanded his realm westwards, defeating the Saka Satraps of Malwa, Gujarat, and Saurashtra. In a campaign lasting until AD 409 but with his main opponent Rudrasimha III defeated by him in 395, and crushing the Bengal (Vanga) chiefdoms. This extended his control from coast to coast, established a second (trading) capital at Ujjain and was the high point of the empire. Despite the creation of the empire through war, the realm is remembered for the great growth in Hindu art, literature, culture, and science, especially during the reign of Chandragupta II.

LATER GUPTAS

Chandragupta II had two queens, Dhruvadevi and Kuberanaga. Govindagupta and Kumaragupta I were the two sons of Chandragupta II (I from the first queen and a daughter Vakataka was from his second queen). **Kumaragupta I** ascended the throne after his father Chandragupta II, in AD 414. Although not many details of his reign are available, he ruled close to 40 years during which he performed the Ashvamedha yajna, which indicates his military. Towards the end of his life the Gupta Empire was constant threat of invasion by the Hunas rulers. He died in AD 455. His son, **Skandagupta Vikramaditya** (AD 455-467) succeeded him. But Skandagupta had to face a political crisis, because of the threat from the other heirs to the

throne, during his 12 years of reign. The Gupta Empire became brittle from within because of the political unrest and this opportunity was utilised by the invading Hunas ruler. Skandagupta is reported to have repulsed with vigour and strength to save the empire. But this temporary set back for the Hunas who invaded again succeeded in the long run. The heavy

expenses incurred the wars and civil unrest depreciated the Gupta currency. This coupled with the repeated Hunan attacks became the prime reason for the Elapse of the Gupta Empire. The **later Guptas** were Puru Gupta, Narasimha Baladitya, Kumara Gupta II, Tathagata Gupta or Gupta, Kumara Gupta III and Vishnu Gupta. By the Hunan king **Toraman** and his son **Mihiragula** because powerful and controlled central India for some time. By then the descendants of the Gupta Dynasty ruled only apart at Pataliputra as several states that were merged with the Gupta Empire had become independent. After Vishnu Gupta the empire collapsed, its fragmented remnants existed here and there, till they too, finally disappeared from the historical map of India by the end of sixth century AD. After the decline of the Gupta Empire, another line of kings with names ending with 'Gupta' rose in the Magadh region. However, there is no evidence of their genealogical relationship with that of the Imperial Guptas. The **Vallabha** in Gujarat, the **Gowdapatras** in Bengal and the descendants of **Pushyabhuti** in **Sthaneshwar** became independent. Simultaneously, another line of **Mukhari** kings emerged in the northern Ganges plains of Kanauj. Out of the chaos emerged the powerful kingdom of **Sthaneshwar**. Towards the end of the century, the **Maukari** dynasty. **Mukharis** defeated the Guptas and captured the entire of the Magadh region. The Guptas then moved towards the east, where they came under the influence of **King Prabhakaravardhana** (Harsha's father) of **Thanesar** (Kanauj). The last king in the **Maukari** Dynasty, **Grahavarman**, died without heirs and Kanauj passed to his brother-in-law **Harsha** (whose reign is discussed later). When **Harsha's** Empire fell, the Guptas again emerged under **King Aditya** (AD 675). but they were finally defeated by another **Maukari** King of Kanauj, **Yasovarma**, in the eighth century.

Gupta Administration

Much light is thrown on the nature of Chandragupta Vikramaditya's administration by Fa-hien's narrative inscriptions that have hitherto been discovered. Vikramaditya himself was a devout Vaishnavite, but had appointed many people from other sects in high posts in his court. His counsellor (mantrin) **Shikaravamin** and his minister of peace **Saha-Virasena** were **Saivites**. His commander-in-chief,

Amarakarddava, was a Buddhist. However, regarding the machinery of administration we do not have many details. But various inscriptions detail the following facts: The king raja, was mostly nominated by his predecessor. The king was regarded as a divinity—Achintya Purusha (or Incomprehensible Being) and Dhanadaa- Varunendrantaka- sama, which means equal to Kuvera, Varuna. Indra and Yama as well as Loka dhama deva (meaning a God dwelling on earth). He is assisted by the Chief Minister. Sachiva or Mantri, who was the chief advisor to the king. The post of Sachiva was also determined by heredity. There was further a central council of ministers, also called Mantri Parishad, but the existence of local parishads has also been proved by a Barash seal discovered by 'Block'. The entire empire was divided, into a number of provinces called desas, bhuktis, etc. which were further sub-divided into districts called pradesas or vishayas. The desas were governed by officers called Goptris and the hukiis were usually governed by Uparikas or Uparika Maharaja. The heads of vishayas were called Vishyapatis. These districts were further divided into mandats, which were again sub-divided into khomas. The village panchayats, which were autonomous bodies, were pivotal in; handling the daily administrative affairs of the village. The Purupala or Nagaragakshaka looked after the administration of towns and cities. But Parishads, the municipal councils or, committees, were also an important element in the machinery of the local government.

Gupta Literature

The most significant achievements of this period, however, were in religion, education, mathematics' art and Sanskrit literature and drama. The religion that later developed into modern Hinduism witnessed acrySTALLISATION of its components: major sectarian denies, image worship, devotionism and the importance of the temple. Education included grammar, composition, logic, metaphysics, mathematics, medicine and astronomy. These subjects became highly specialised and reached an advanced level. The numeral system—sometimes erroneously attributed to the Arabs, who took it from India to Europe where it replaced the Roman system—and the decimal system are Indian inventions of this period.

Aryabhata's expositions on astronomy in ad 499. moreover, gave calculations of the solar year and the shape and movement of astral bodies with remarkable accuracy. In medicine Charaka and Sushruta wrote about a fully evolved system, resembling those of Hippocrates and Galen in Greece. Although progress in physiology and biology was hindered by religious injunctions against contact with dead bodies, which discouraged dissection and anatomy. Indian physicians excelled in pharmacopoeia, caesarean section, bone setting and skin grafting.

Sanskrit Literature Mahabharata and were given the last touch in this era as it saw the last phase of Smriti literature. Sanskrit was the official language. The Puranas were composed during this era containing information on Hindu sects, rites and customs in the classical Sanskrit language.

Buddhist literature Buddhist literature Was translated from Pali to Sanskrit. Notable writers include names like Arya Deva, Arya Asanga, **Vasubandhu** and Dignage. Vasubandhu is known for the first book on logic, a Buddhist work.



Gupta Administration

King— Paramadvaita, Paramabhattachataka, Maharajadhiraj, Samrat; Chakravartin
 Chief Minister—Sachiva, Mantri
 King's Advisor
 Military Officers:
 Commander—Infantry—Bhatasvapati
 Commander—Elephant corps—Katuka
 Chief Treasury War Office—
 Ranabhandagaradhikorana
 Foreign Minister—Sandhivigrahika of
 Mahasandhivigrahika Superintendent of Central and
 Provincial Offices—Saravadyakshas
 Commercial Royal Officers— Dutaka (dutas)
 Chief of Police—Dandapasadhi karana
 Other Police Officers—Chauroddhoraniko (for
 thieves),
 Chatas, Bhatas, Dandaparika, etc.
 Provincial Administration Officers—
 Kumaramatyas and Ayukfas Governor of Province
 — Uparikas, who governed Bhukh's (provinces)
 Other Officers of Province—Bhogika Gcepta,
 Rojasthanicrs, Upanka-maharaja .

Districts of Province and its Mead Officer—
Vishayas headed by VishayapaHs
Headquarter of District—Adhishtana District
Magistrate—Samvyavahari and Ayuktakas Village
Elders—Moharattranas
Chief of Police - Dandopasadh i karana Other Police
Officers— Chauroddharanika (for thieves), Chatas,
Bhatos, Dandaparika etc.
Provincial Administration Officers —
Kumaramatyas and Ayuktas Governor of Province
— Upankas, who governed Bhukti's (provinces)
Other Officers of Province—Bhogika. Gopta,
Rajasthanias, Upanko-maharaja
Districts of Province and its Head Officer—
Vishayas headed by Vishayapatis
Headquarter of District—Adhishtana
District Magistrate—Samvyovahori and Ayuhakas
Village Elders—Maharattanas
Office In-charge of Families Asthakuladhi-
hKararikas in local area (minimum eight families)
Village Headman—Gramikot
Tax Collectors—Utkhetayita
forest and Forts In-charge— Gramika
Brahmin Settlements In-charge—Agriaharika
Land Revenue Head Officer— Dharuvadhikaranika
Treasurer-Bhandagaradbikrita
Village Accountant— Talavataka
Record Keeper and Notary Authority— Pustapata
Customs and Toll Collector— Saulvika
The Advisory District Council mainly constituted of
four members
Chief, the Guild President — Nagarasreshthi
The Head Merchant— Sarthavaha
The Head Artisan — Prathamakulika
The Head Scribe—Prathamakayastha
Mayor of the City— Purapala
Important Officers of the Royal Courts —
Parthiharas and Mahaparthiharas

Jain literature Jain works were mainly in Prakrit dialects. **Vimala** (who wrote the Jaina version of translated Ramayanan) and **Divatara** (author of a book on logic) are notable writers. Itihas and Puranas were also translated in jaina versions.

Other notable works and authors of the Gupta era are Kaviraja by Samudragupta;

Shakuntala, Malavikagnimitra, Meghaduta, Vikramorvaashi. Rutusamhara etc. by Kalidasa, Amamkasa by Amarsimha;
Ashtadhyayi, Sanskrit grammar based on Panini's work; Mahahhashya, Sanskrit grammar based on Patanjali's work;
Chandravyakaranam, book of grammar by a Bengali Buddhist scholar Chandragomia;
Surya Siddhanta by Aryabhata, dealing in the study of the solar system;
Aryabhattyarn by Aryabhata, a study of arithmetic, geometry and algebra;
Brahmasphuta Siddhanta and Khanda Khadyaka by Brahmagupta dealing with the principle of gravity;
Brihat Samhita, Pancha Siddhantika, and Brihat Jataka by Varahamihara, dealing in astronomy, physical geography, botany and natural history; (Navanitakam by Varahamihara is a manual of prescriptions for metallic preparations (using from and mercury) for medicinal purposes;
Hastayurveda by Palakapya deals with veterinary science and animal husbandry;
Ghokoki, a travelogue on India, by Fa-hein;
Parmanasamuchchya by Dignana;
Mahayanasampraigrah, Yogachara and Bhumashastra by Asaga;
Vasavadatta by Subandhu;
Uttaramacharita, Malathi Madhva and Mahaveeracharita by Bhavabhuti;
Mrichakatika by Shudraka, a drama on clay craft;
Mudraraksha by Vishakhadatta, a play dealing with the king Chandragupta Maurya.
Kiratharjuneeya by Bharavi;
Vishnupurana, Shivapurana and Bharthuharishataka by Bharthuhari;
Dhutavakya, Swapanavasavadata, Pratinayoungandarayana and Madhyamavyayoga by Bhasa;
Vedas Devanagri, compilation of four Vedas in Devanagari script on palm leaves in AD 500 by Vasukra (as chief editor);
Ravanavadha (Bhattikavya) by Bhatti;
Kamasutra, Nyayabhashya by Vatsayana; and
Kavyadarshna, Avanthisundarikata by Dandi

Kumaragupta I ★

Also called **Mahendraditya**, Kumaragupta ruled the Gupta Empire during the period AD 414 to 455. The Bilsad inscription is the oldest record of his

reign and it carries to Gupta, 96 which corresponds to AD 415. The last known date his reign occurs on an inscription on one of his silver coins, corresponding to AD 445. Towards the end of his reign, a tribe in the Nerbudda valley, the Pushyamitras, rose in power to threaten the empire. Kumaragupta's successor Skandagupta defeated this threat but then was faced with invading Huns from the north-west. The expense of the wars drained the regime and Skandagupta is usually considered the last of the great rulers. He died in AD 480 and, was succeeded by his son Narasimhagupta. Much of the empire was over run by the Huns by AD 500. Narasimhagupta was followed by Budahagupta and Purugupta. The last recognised ruler was Vishnugupta, reigning from AD 540 to 550.

Gupta Arts

During the Gupta age, the Nagara and the Dravida styles of Architecture were prominent. **Rock-cut** caves, with novel ornamentation and designs, were also excavated during this period. The art of painting reached a high level during this era. Gupta artists mostly painted incidents from the life of "Buddha. Notable works are in the caves at Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra), Bagh (Madhya Pradesh) and Udayagiri (Orissa). The painting of Mother and Child at Ajanta demonstrates the art of the painters during this era. Originally, most of the 39 caves at Ajanta had paintings, but now only 6 caves with painting survive. The Ellora cave temples were started during the Gupta period. However, work on them continued during the reigns of the Vakatakas, Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas. Out of the 34 Ellora caves, only 12 caves are Buddhist, while three are Jain and 15 are Hindu. They built a large number of high stupas in Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh), Ratnagiri (Orissa) and Mirpur Khan (Sindh). Gupta architecture is also represented by many brick temples in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Bihar and Assam. The most famous is the temple at Bhitargaon (near Kanpur) with moulded and decorated bricks. Incidents from Hindu mythology are inscribed all over the walls and the pyramidal roof of this temple. Another important temple with 40 ft high towers is the Dashavatara temple near Deogarh. Many of the buildings of this era were demolished by the Muslim

invaders who came later. Notable stone sculptures of the Guptas include the Buddha at Samath and the great boar (Varaha) at the entrance of the Udayagiri caves; metal sculptures include the Nalanda Buddha, an 18 ft statue in Nalanda, Bihar and the Sultanganj Buddha, a 7 1/2 ft statue in Sultanganj.

★ Notable Facts About the Gupta Period

- (a) The reunification of North India under the Imperial Guptas in AD 320 and the reign of Harshavardhana of Kanauj comprised India's classical age.
- (b) The Guptas established their base of imperial power in Magadha, where controlled rich veins of iron from the Barabar Hills.
- (c) The Peak of Gupta power and cultural glory was attained during the reign of Chandragupta II.
- (d) Numismatic evidence attests to the final defeat of the Shakas by the Guptas after which the Gupta Empire had direct control over the parts of the Arabian Sea and the riches of Western trade.
- (e) Kalidasa's Abhijnana Sakuntalam was a major literary work of this period.
- (f) During the Gupta era, Hindu, Buddhist and Jain faiths received royal support.
- (g) The Gupta era also marked the apogee of cave art and sculpture.
- (h) Commerce and Buddhism stimulated India's intercourse with China and south-east Asia at this time.
- (i) The Gupta Empire was supported primarily by the land revenue 'share' (tax) provided by India's peasant villages from every harvest.
- (j) For half a century after the collapse of the Gupta Empire, North India reverted to the political fragmentation before the Guptas.
- (k) Yoga, one of the six schools of classical Hindu philosophy that emerged in this era, continues to be studied to this day.
- (l) The political system of South India should not be thought of as a group of competing, centrally developed bureaucratic states, as was the case in the North.

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