

# **GUPTA DYNASTY (AD 320-540)**

# Political History Of Guptas

- Srigupta- The first ruler and founder of Gupta dynasty was Srigupta. He ruled Pataliputra and other kingdoms. He was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha. But these two rulers made no significant contribution towards the extension of the empire.

# CHANDRA GUPTA I-( 320-340 AD)

- He was the third ruler of the Gupta dynasty. He marriage with a Lichchavi prince, Kumaradevi. Afterwards, Chandragupta conquered Kosala and Kausambi. In 340 AD he nominated his son, Samudragupta as his successor.

# SAMUDRAGUPTA-( 340-380AD)

- Samudragupta's claim was challenged by his brother, but he subdued the enemies.
- Campaigns and conquests of Sumudragupta:
- The victories of Samudragupta were described in the Allahabad inscription composed by Harisena.

According in this inscription the following heads are:

1. First Aryavarta Campaigning
2. Southern Expedition
3. Second Aryavarta Campaigning
4. Conquest of Forest Kingdom
5. Conquest of Frontier Kingdoms
6. Republican states ( Tribal People )
7. His relations with foreign states
8. Estimates

# RAMAGUPTA

- Reference in the Sanskrit play Devichandraguptam, by Visakhadatta inform us that Ramagupta, the elder son of Sumudragupta, succeeded him. He agreed to surrender his wife, Dhruvadevi to the Saka king. Chandragupta killed the Saka king and he married Dhruvadevi. He killed Ramagupta and became the emperor. But no conclusive evidence.

# CHANDRAGUPTA II (380-415 AD)

- Vikramaditya of Ujjain-He defeated Sakas and might have assumed the title. He have been adorned by nine gems (Navaratna). i.e. Kalidhasu, Sanku, Bethalabattu, Vararuchi, Ghatakarpu, Amarasimhudu, Kshapanukudu, Dhavantari, Varahamihirudu
- His conquest: His conquest of western Malwa and Saurashtra- He defeated and killed the Saka chief Rudrasimha III- His expeditions against Vanga and Kalinga regions.

- His matrimonial Alliances: He married a Naga prince. He gave his daughter Prabhavathi to the Vakataka prince. The daughter of Kadamba were married into the Gupa family.
- Fa Hien: A Chinese pilgrimin visited in his reign. He wrote Fo-kuo-ki in detailed account of India and her people.
- Estimate of Chandragupta II

# Successors of Chandragupta II

- Kumaragupta
- Skandagupta
- Purugupta and Budhagupta

# Causes for the downfall of Gupta Empire

- Weak successors of Skandagupta
- Internal revolt.
- Administrative defects.
- Huna invasions.
- Other causes