

Class VI

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 10

The Golden Age — Gupta Empire

In this chapter we will study about the Guptas who formed the second powerful empire in India in ancient times. The decline of the Mauryan Empire resulted in the formation of a number of independent kingdoms. Later on the Gupta empire rose to power in India.

We come to know about the Guptas from the following sources.

1. Literary — The Puranas, the Dharmasastros, Kamandaka Nitisara, Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasa are important sources of the Gupta period.
2. Inscriptions — The inscriptions like Allahabad Pillar Inscription, the Udaygiri cave inscription, etc provide information about the Gupta period.
3. Coins :- The Gupta period coins provide information about the rulers and economic condition of the empire.

Though the Gupta dynasty was founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta, Chandragupta I

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was the first powerful ruler of the dynasty who took the title of Maharajadhiraja. His son Samudragupta was the most powerful ruler of the dynasty. He is said to have defeated nine rulers in North India and twelve rulers in the Deccan. But the Deccan region was not annexed by Samudragupta as he was a far sighted ruler who knew that it would be difficult to control the region from his capital Pataliputra. The rulers of this region however surrendered and acknowledged his supremacy.

The next ruler was Chandragupta II who is known both for his conquests and matrimonial alliances. The Sakas of Gujarat were defeated by him for which he took the title Sakari. He entered in to matrimonial alliances with the Nagas. He married his own daughter to the Vakataka ruler.

Chandragupta II was succeeded by Kumaragupta and then Skandagupta. Their rule is famous for defeating the powerful tribe of the Hunas.