

Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Page No. 1
Date 20.1.25

Class VI

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 10

The Golden Age - Gupta Empire (Continued)

In this chapter we will now study about other aspects of the Gupta Empire. The Gupta rulers were great conquerors and good administrators. The Guptas organised a system of provincial and local administration.

The empire was divided into large territorial units called bhuktis which was placed under the charge of an uparika. The bhuktis were divided into districts (vishayas) which were placed under the charge of a vishayapati. The vishayas were further divided into villages. The head of the village was called the gramapati. All important decisions affecting each town or village were taken at the local level by allowing the officials to take their own decisions which was just the opposite of the centralised Mauryan system.

Society:- During the Gupta rule, people were prosperous and happy. Fathien writes that people did not lock their houses and crimes

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were rare. The caste system had become extremely rigid. The untouchables were treated badly. They were considered so impure that high caste people did not even look at them. The position of women declined further in this period. They were considered inferior to men. Their lives revolved around the male members of their family and restrictions were imposed on widows.

Education:- The Guptas encouraged education. Kumaragupta founded the Nalanda University. It attracted scholars from across India and abroad. Apart from Buddhism and Hinduism grammar, logic and medicines were also taught.

Religion:- Hinduism was the most popular religion. Most Gupta rulers were worshippers of Vishnu. They gave donations for constructing temples. They also performed religious sacrifices. The Gupta Kings were tolerant of all religions.

Economy:- Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Most of the revenue came from land. During the early period of the Gupta rule, both internal and external trade prospered. India traded with South-east Asia, West Asia, Africa and some Mediterranean countries.