
Mauryan Empire Free PDF By Governmentadda.com

After invasion by Alexander, the North western region in India faced various foreign attacks which caused unrest in these Indian States. Whereas, the Nandas who were ruling at that time were not popular due their severe taxation regimes imposed on agricultural by Dhanananda. The conditions like these gave opportunities to other authorities to take over the rule.

It was one of the greatest empires recorded in India history. The rule of Mauryas lasted from 322 – 185 B.C. where majority of India was united as a single state by the great founder emperor Chandragupta Maurya. With the help of Kautilya or Chanakya, Chandragupta Maurya laid the foundation of this vast empire.

After Chandragupta, his son Bindusara further extended the kingdom over entire sub-continent almost. It should be noted that the Mauryan Empire had the most powerful military in ancient India. After Bindusara, came the greatest emperor of the Maurya dynasty, Ashoka. He was a skillful warrior and an able administrator. After the Kalinga war, Ashoka became a follower of Buddhism and caused its spread across the Indian sub-continent by sending missionaries.

We will describe the details of rulers of the Mauryan Dynasty in another post, first let us look into another important topic about the Maurya Empire, their administration.

Mauryan administration:

Questions regarding the administration regime followed in the Mauryan empire, have been asked in various descriptive exams like IAS mains exam, State PSC exams, etc. The details about the administration under Mauryas are required to answer the MCQ type question about history. Let us look into the details now:

Chanakya or Kautilya's Arthashastra explains the kind of administration system followed in the Maurya Empire. The book has 15 sub-parts which contain 180 chapters. This book provides the most important literary source for study of the Mauryan administration.

The Central Government in Mauryan Empire:

- The King was supreme source of all power and authorities with judicial and administrative powers.
- Mauryan Administration was a very *centralized system*.
- The King had a Council of Ministers to assist him. These ministers were known as 'Mantri', and the council of Ministers was called 'Mantriparishad'. There was a 'mantriparishad-adhyakshya' to head the Council, this is similar to our present Prime-Minister.

Adhyakshya	High ranking officials next to Tirthas concerned mostly with economic func-tions and some military duties. They were twenty in number.
Amatyas	High ranking officers who acted as present day secretaries, who func-tioned in administrative and judicial capacity.
Mahamattas	Higher ranking officials irrespective of the duties assigned of them. These are references to them as a ministerial of advisory council as well. The Arthasastra uses this term in the sense of a minister.
Tirthas	Highest category of officials form the inner council apart form council of ministers. They were eighteen in number.

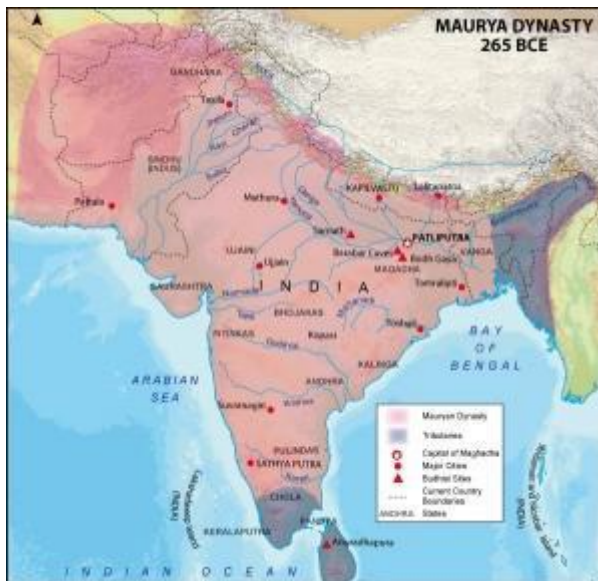
Kautilya's 'Arthashastra' mentions about the Duties of Government Superintendents (Adyakshas). These Adhyakshas formed a secretariat, which was divided into several departments. These departments and their superintendents are mentioned below:

Intelligence:

- The espionage system in the Mauryan administration was developed and well-spread.
- According to the Arthashastra, there are two types of spies, namely, 'Sansthana' (the stationary) and 'Sanchari' (the wandering one).
- These spies acted as eyes and ears for the King, these kept the king well-informed about the whereabouts of the bureaucracy of the state.
- The detectives in Mauryan administration were known as 'Gudhapurusha'.
- These agents included people from various segments of society, like, householders, merchants, ascetics, disciples, etc.
- There were special agents who acted as Poisonous girls called as 'Vishkanyas'.

Army:

- Commander-in-chief was the overall in-charge of the Mauryan army, his position was immediately junior to the king. This Commander-in-chief was known as 'Senapati'.
- The Senapati was appointed by the king.
- The salaries in Mauryan army were paid in cash.
- Their army included six lakh infantry, about 30,000 cavalry, nine thousand war elephants, eight thousand chariots.
- The Mauryans had a War Council divided into six sub-councils which formulated policy five sectors of the army – the infantry, the cavalry, the elephant forces, the chariots, the navy and the commiserate.
- The Mauryans made innvoations in field of Navy, Transport and Supply Wings.



Transport:

- Transport was handled by a separate Department of Road.
- The department decided the width of cattle tracks, chariots, and pedestrians, were prescribed differently.
- There were also trunk roads managed by the Department of Roads.
- Facilities for travellers were created along the roads, trees on both sides of the road were planted, Inns or restrooms for the travelling people were constructed near the roads, care was taken to provide drinking water to travelers by means of wells and canals.

Revenue Department:

- The chief of Revenue Department was known as 'Samharta', he was in-charge all revenue collection.
- The revenues was collected from land, irrigation, customs, shop tax, ferry tax, forests, mines and pastures,

license fee from craftsmen, and fines collected in the law courts.

- The value of land revenue demanded fixed at 'one-sixth' of the produce.
- Majority of this revenue went to expenditure related to the household of the king, army, the government servants, poor relief, public works, etc.

Agriculture:

- The chief of Agriculture department was known as 'Sitadhyaksha'.
- Then there was separate irrigation department as well which looked after a network of canals. These canals provided water for irrigation according to land requirements.

The Gupta Empire rose in Magadha around 4th century AD and covered greater part of the Northern India (though smaller than the Mauryan empire). It is worth noting, the Gupta Dynasty ruled for more than about 200 years.

The Gupta Period is popularly known as the '**Golden Age of India**'. The lifestyle and culture of the Gupta empire is known to us through the availability of various ancient scriptures, coins, inscriptions, and texts, etc. belonging to the Gupta era.



The Sources for study of Gupta Period:

There are typically three types of sources for reconstructing the history of the Gupta period.

I. Literary Sources:

- **Vishakadutta** had written *Devichandraguptam* and *Mudrarakshasam*, which provides details about rise of Guptas.
- Social, economic and religious accounts left by the Chinese traveller Fa-hien, who had visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.

II. Epigraphical Sources :

- Meherauli Iron Pillar Inscription – achievements of Chandragupta I.
- Allahabad Pillar inscription – About the reign of Samundragupta describing his personality and achievements. It is engraved on an Ashokan pillar, written in Sanskrit in Nagari script composed of 33 lines written by Harisena.

III. Numismatic Sources:

- The coins issued by Gupta kings contain legends and figures.
- These gold coins give insights about the titles and sacrifices that were performed by the Guptas.

The Gupta Dynasty :

The Gupta empire was founded by Sri Gupta. He was then succeeded by Ghatotkacha. Not much information is available about their rule of these two Maharajas. Thereafter, following significant rulers from Gupta dynasty ruled during this period.

Chandragupta I (320-330 A.D.)

- Chandragupta was a powerful Gupta ruler who had waged many battles to attain his title of 'Maharajadhiraja' (king of kings).
- He married a Licchavi princess Kumaradevi, which began the eminence of the Gupta empire.
- The Mehrauli iron pillar inscriptions has mention of his extensive conquests.
- He is considered as the founder of the Gupta era (began with his accession).

Samudragupta (330-380 A.D.)

- He is also known as "Indian Napoleon". He was the greatest of the rulers of Gupta dynasty.
- The Allahabad Pillar inscription contains details of his military conquest in stages:- Against rulers of North India, Samudragupta's Dakshinapatha expedition against South India, Another campaign against other rulers of North India.
- It is little ironical that these military achievements are engraved on the same pillar which contains the inscriptions of the peace-loving Ashoka.
- He also performed Ashwamedha sacrifices after his military victories. This is known by the coins issued by him commemorating him as the "restorer of ashwamedha".
- His greatest achievement was political unification of India as a formidable force.
- Also, a Chinese source tells that, the ruler of Sri Lanka, Meghvarman sought permission of Samudragupta to build a Buddhist temple at Bodhi Gaya.
- Samudragupta was called by different names, one of them was 'Kaviraja' because of his ability to compose verses. Certain coins show him with a Veena.
- He patronised poets and scholars like Harisena, and hence played a part in promoting Sanskrit literature (which is a characteristic feature of Gupta dynasty).
- Samudragupta was a follower of Vaishnavism. However, he also patronised the great Buddhist scholar Vasubandhu.

Chandragupta II Vikramaditya of Gupta Dynasty (380-415 A.D.)

- He is also known as Vikramaditya.
- Chandragupta II extended the limits of this empire by conquest and matrimonial alliances. His capital city was Pataliputra.
- He married his daughter Prabhavati to a Vakataka prince, who ruled the strategic lands of Deccan. This later was highly useful to him when he proceeded towards his campaign against the Saka rulers of western India.
- Chandragupta II conquered the western Malwa and Gujarat by defeating the Saka rulers who had ruled for about 4 centuries in the region. This earned him the title of 'Sakari' and 'Vikramaditya'.



Gold Coin showing Chandragupta II

- As a result the Gupta empire gained access to the Arabian sea and opened trade with the western countries. Ujjain became the commercial capital of the kingdom thereafter.
- In his reign, the Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien visited India. his accounts tell of a flourishing Buddhist religion in Chandragupta II's Reign. However, the Gangetic valley was a 'land of Brahmanism'.
- Chandragupta II also patronised art and literature. He has poets like Kalidasa in his court.
- He also issued silver coins, first Gupta ruler to do so.

Kumaragupta (415-455 A.D.)

- He succeeded Chandragupta II.
- Kumargupta I was a worshipper of Kartikeya.
- The coins of his time tell that he took titles like: Mahendraditya, Ashwamedha Mahendrah.



Nalanada University

- He laid the foundation of **Nalanda University** which later grew to become an international centre of learning.

Skandagupta (455-467 AD)

- He was last great ruler of Gupta dynasty.
- He saved the empire from Hun invasion coming from Central Asia. But these invasions weakened the empire.
- Details about him are mentioned on the Bhitari Pillar inscription, proclaiming him the title of 'Vikramaditya'.

The Later Guptas:

After the death of Skandagupta, there were other ruler of the Gupta dynasty like Purugupta, Narasimhagupta, Buddhagupta. They were not able to save the empire from Hun invasions. With the rise of Malwa and continuous Hun invasion, the Gupta dynasty totally disappeared.

We hope this short compilation about the rulers of Gupta Dynasty is useful for quick revision of the Gupta Period. If you want us to make any additions to the article, please mention your suggestion in the comment section below.

Developments in Administration during Gupta Period:

According to various inscriptions, the Gupta kings assumed titles such as – Paramabhattacharya, Maharajadhiraja, Parameswara, Samrat and Chakravartin.

- The king was assisted in carrying out the administration by a council consisting of a chief minister, a 'Senapati' /commander- in-chief of the army and other significant officials.
- A high official called 'Sandivigraha' is mentioned in the Gupta inscriptions, for 'foreign affairs'.
- The king maintained contact with the provincial administration through officials called 'Kumaramatyas' and 'Ayuktas'.
- The provinces in the Gupta Empire were called 'Bhuktis' and provincial governors were known as 'Uparikas'.
- These Governors were mostly chosen from the princes.
- Bhuktis were subdivided into 'Vishyas' or districts.
- The Vishyas were governed by 'Vishyapatis'.
- For city administration, there were officers known as 'Nagara Sreshtis'.
- Villages in the districts were controlled by 'Gramikas'.

Developments in Social Life during the Guptan Empire:

During the Gupta period, the caste system or varna system had become rigid and the Brahmins occupied the top position in the society. Rulers and other wealthy people gave enormous gifts to the Brahmins.

The practice of untouchability had begun during Gupta period. The Chinese traveller Fahien mentions that 'Chandalas' were segregated from the society. And the progress of Brahmanism led to the neglect of Buddhism and Jainism. The Religious literature like Puranas was composed during this period.

Position of Women: It became miserable during the Gupta period. Women were prohibited from studying the religious texts such as Puranas. The subjection of women to men was highly regularized. The practice of 'Swyamvara' was given up and Manusmriti suggested early marriage for girls.

Trade & Commerce: The International trade with Romans flourished during Gupta period. Ujjain had become a major commercial centre. The organisation of traders and artisans into 'Guilds' were formed. The presence of these guilds have been testified on various inscriptions like on Indore Copper plate inscription has mention of a guild of oilmen(teli). And Mandasor inscription has mentions of guild of silk weavers.

Literature Developments in Gupta Period:

During the reign of the Guptas, the Brahmi script evolved into Nagari script. Sanskrit as the language saw its golden age during the Gupta period. There were numerous works written in classical Sanskrit in the forms of epic, lyrics, drama and prose. Puranas, smritis and Dharmashastras were composed. The 18 Puranas (important ones are Bhagavatha, Vishnu, Vayu and Matsya Purana) in their present form were composed during this period. And the Mahabharata and the Ramayana were given final touches during this period.

Samudragupta, himself a great poet, patronized scholars including Harisena. While, Chandragupta II's court was adorned by the celebrated 'Navratnas' including Kalidasa.

- **Kalidasa** wrote Sanskrit dramas **Malvikagnimitra**, **Vikramovarshiyam** and **Abhijanana-Shakuntalam** (features among the 'hundred best books of the world'). His wrote two well-known epics **Raghuvamsa** and **Kumarasambhava** (Shiva Parvati union & birth of Kartikeya). **Ritusamhara** and **Meghaduta** are his two lyrics (Kavya).
- **Vishakadatta** was the author of two Sanskrit plays/dramas, **Mudrarakshasa** and **Devichandraguptam**.
- **Sudraka** was a renowned poet who wrote **Mrichchakatika** (little clay cart).
- **Bharavi – Kirtanjaliya** is story of conflict between Arjuna and Siva. It is known for its complexity of Sanskrit.
- **Dandin** wrote **Kavyadarsa** and **Dasakumaracharita**.
- **Subhandhu** wrote **Vasavadatta**.
- **Vishnusharma** composed the **Panchatantra** stories during the Gupta period.
- **Amarasimha** was a Buddhist author who compiled a lexicon, **Amarakosa**.

Science Developments in Gupta Period:

Aryabhatta, the great mathematician and astronomer who wrote the book **Aryabhatiya** in 499 A.D. The book explains the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses scientifically. He was the first to declare that the earth was spherical in shape and rotates on its own axis.

Varahamihira composed **Pancha Siddhantika**, on the five astronomical systems. His **Brihadjataka** is a standard work on astrology. His other work **Brihadsamhita** is considered a great work in Sanskrit literature dealing with various subjects like astronomy, astrology, geography, architecture, animals, weather, omens and marriage.

In the field of medicine, **Vagbhata** lived during Gupta period. He was the last of the *great medical trio* of ancient India after *Charaka* and *Susruta* who lived before the Gupta age. Vagbhata was the author **Ashtangasamgraha** (Summary of the eight branches of medicine).

Art and Culture Developments during Gupta Period:

The Gupta Coins: Samudragupta issued eight types of gold coins. Chandragupta II and his successors had also issued gold, silver and copper coins of different varieties. The general scheme on these coins was to exhibit the portrait of the king on one side of the coin and an appropriate goddess (Lakshmi or Saraswati) with her associated symbols on the other side of the coin.

Sculptures: Various images of Buddha from Sarnath are fine examples of Gupta sculpture. The school of art that thrived at Sarnath produced graceful images of the Buddha. There were several images of Hindu Gods and Goddesses created during this period.

Metallurgy: Besides stone, Gupta artists also used bronze for making sculptures.



Sultanganj Buddha

The Sultanganj Buddha – a 2 metre high bronze image of Buddha that was discovered at Sultanganj (located near Bhagalpur in Bihar) is now in the Birmingham Museum. The craftsmen were efficient in the art of casting metal statues as well as pillars. The Delhi Iron pillar of the Gupta period still stands free from any rust even though it has been completely exposed to sun and rain for so many centuries.

Architecture Developments in Gupta Period:

During the Gupta period both the Nagara and Dravidian styles of architecture. However, most of the architecture of this period has been lost due to foreign invasions of Huns. Therefore, Archaeological evidence about Gupta architecture is however poor.



Dashavatara temple at Deogarh

The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is an example of Gupta architecture. It is mainly made of stone and bricks. The examples of shrines in Gupta period have been discovered in the jungles of Central India, particularly in the Bundelkhand region like the one at Bhitargaon in Kanpur district. There are also other temples located at –

- Shiva Temple of Bhumara
- Vishnu Temple of Tigawa Jabalpur
- Parvati Temple of Nachria Kathura
- Lakshaman Temple of Raipur
- Mukund Darra Temple of Kota
- Shiva Temple of Koh.
- Bhitari Temple at Ghazipur

Who was the founder of the Mauryan Empire?

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Bindusara
- d) Samudragupta

Solution: a) Chandragupta Maurya

The Mauryan Empire was founded in which century BCE?

- a) 5th century BCE
- b) 4th century BCE
- c) 3rd century BCE
- d) 2nd century BCE

Solution: c) 3rd century BCE

Chandragupta Maurya established his capital at:

- a) Pataliputra
- b) Ujjain
- c) Taxila
- d) Vaishali

Solution: a) Pataliputra

Who was the mentor and advisor of Chandragupta Maurya?

- a) Ashoka the Great
- b) Mahapadma Nanda
- c) Chanakya
- d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Chanakya

Which battle led to the conquest of the Nanda Empire by Chandragupta Maurya?

- a) Battle of Kalinga
- b) Battle of Panipat
- c) Battle of Hydaspes
- d) Battle of Plassey

Solution: b) Battle of Panipat

Ashoka the Great was the grandson of:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Bindusara
- c) Chanakya
- d) Samudragupta

Solution: b) Bindusara

Ashoka the Great embraced which religion during his reign?

- a) Hinduism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Jainism
- d) Zoroastrianism

Solution: b) Buddhism

The famous rock edicts of Ashoka were inscribed in which language?

- a) Sanskrit
- b) Pali
- c) Prakrit
- d) Greek

Solution: c) Prakrit

The capital of the Mauryan Empire, Pataliputra, is located in present-day:

- a) Bihar, India
- b) Uttar Pradesh, India
- c) Bengal, India

d) Odisha, India

Solution: a) Bihar, India

Ashoka the Great is known for his famous edict related to:

a) Dhamma (Righteousness)

b) Governance

c) Military conquests

d) Trade and commerce

Solution: a) Dhamma (Righteousness)

The Battle of Kalinga, fought by Ashoka, resulted in:

a) Ashoka's victory and the expansion of the Mauryan Empire

b) Ashoka's defeat and the loss of Kalinga's independence

c) A stalemate with no clear winner

d) The end of Ashoka's reign

Solution: b) Ashoka's defeat and the loss of Kalinga's independence

After embracing Buddhism, Ashoka propagated the religion through:

a) Missionaries sent to various regions

b) Construction of stupas and pillars with edicts

c) Patronage of Buddhist monastic institutions

d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The famous Ashoka Pillars were made of:

a) Marble

b) Granite

c) Sandstone

d) Limestone

Solution: c) Sandstone

Ashoka's policy of Dhamma promoted:

- a) Non-violence and moral conduct
- b) Religious tolerance and social welfare
- c) Peaceful coexistence and harmony
- d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The Mauryan Empire extended its control to which regions outside of the Indian subcontinent?

- a) Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Southeast Asia
- d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The Mauryan Empire declined after the death of Ashoka primarily due to:

- a) Weak successors and internal conflicts
- b) External invasions and revolts
- c) Economic decline and administrative issues
- d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The last Mauryan ruler was:

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great
- c) Bindusara
- d) Brihadratha

Solution: d) Brihadratha

Who overthrew the Mauryan Empire and established the Shunga dynasty?

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka the Great

c) Pushyamitra Shunga

d) Samudragupta

Solution: c) Pushyamitra Shunga

The Mauryan Empire is known for its significant contribution to which field?

a) Administration and governance

b) Art and architecture

c) Literature and philosophy

d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

The Mauryan Empire was the first centralized empire in ancient India. True or False?

a) True

b) False

Solution: a) True

The Arthashastra, a treatise on statecraft, was written by:

a) Chandragupta Maurya

b) Ashoka the Great

c) Chanakya

d) Bindusara

Solution: c) Chanakya

The Mauryan Empire maintained a vast network of roads known as:

a) Silk Road

b) Grand Trunk Road

c) Spice Route

d) Indus Valley Highway

Solution: b) Grand Trunk Road

The Mauryan Empire was known for its efficient system of governance and administration, which was organized into administrative units called:

- a) Janapadas
- b) Mahajanapadas
- c) Provinces
- d) Satrapies

Solution: c) Provinces

The Mauryan Empire had a highly developed system of taxation. Which tax was levied on the produce of the land?

- a) Sales tax
- b) Income tax
- c) Land tax
- d) Luxury tax

Solution: c) Land tax

The Mauryan Empire maintained a powerful standing army known as:

- a) Chola Navy
- b) Gupta Cavalry
- c) Kshatriya Warriors
- d) Nanda Infantry

Solution: d) Nanda Infantry

Which famous Greek ambassador visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya?

- a) Alexander the Great
- b) Seleucus I Nicator
- c) Ptolemy II Philadelphus
- d) Antiochus III

Solution: b) Seleucus I Nicator

Which dynasty succeeded the Mauryan Empire in northern India?

- a) Gupta dynasty

- b) Kushan dynasty
- c) Satavahana dynasty
- d) Harsha dynasty

Solution: a) Gupta dynasty

The Mauryan Empire played a crucial role in spreading Indian culture and ideas to other parts of the world. True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

Solution: a) True

The Ashokan Lion Capital, which is now the emblem of modern India, was originally erected at:

- a) Sanchi
- b) Bodh Gaya
- c) Vaishali
- d) Rampurva

Solution: d) Rampurva

Ashoka the Great renounced violence and embraced Buddhism after the brutal:

- a) Battle of Kalinga
- b) Battle of Panipat
- c) Battle of Hydaspes
- d) Battle of Plassey

Solution: a) Battle of Kalinga

Which dynasty ruled during the Gupta Period in ancient India?

- a) Maurya
- b) Gupta
- c) Chola
- d) Kushan

Solution: b) Gupta

The Gupta Empire was known for its advancements in which field?

- a) Literature and poetry
- b) Architecture and sculpture
- c) Science and mathematics
- d) All of the above

Solution: d) All of the above

Who was the most famous ruler of the Gupta Empire?

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Samudragupta
- c) Ashoka the Great
- d) Harsha Vardhana

Solution: b) Samudragupta

Which Gupta ruler is known as the "Napoleon of India"?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Kumaragupta I

Solution: c) Skandagupta

During the Gupta Period, which city emerged as the capital of the empire?

- a) Pataliputra
- b) Taxila
- c) Ujjain
- d) Varanasi

Solution: c) Ujjain

Who was the famous poet and playwright during the Gupta Period?

- a) Kalidasa

- b) Valmiki
- c) Tulsidas
- d) Ramanuja

Solution: a) Kalidasa

The Gupta Period is often referred to as the "Golden Age" of which branch of Indian literature?

- a) Vedas
- b) Ramayana
- c) Mahabharata
- d) Sanskrit literature

Solution: d) Sanskrit literature

The Gupta Empire witnessed significant developments in the field of mathematics, with the invention of which number system?

- a) Decimal system
- b) Binary system
- c) Roman numeral system
- d) Hieroglyphic system

Solution: a) Decimal system

Who among the following Gupta rulers issued the first gold coins in India?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Kumaragupta I

Solution: d) Kumaragupta I

The famous iron pillar, known for its rust-resistant properties, was erected during the Gupta Period. Where is it located?

- a) Delhi
- b) Agra

- c) Jaipur
- d) Kolkata

Solution: a) Delhi

During the Gupta Period, which art form flourished and is characterized by cave paintings?

- a) Fresco painting
- b) Madhubani painting
- c) Mural painting
- d) Miniature painting

Solution: c) Mural painting

Who was the famous astronomer and mathematician who wrote the treatise "Aryabhatiya" during the Gupta Period?

- a) Aryabhata
- b) Varahamihira
- c) Brahmagupta
- d) Bhaskara II

Solution: a) Aryabhata

The Gupta Empire was known for its trade relations with which ancient civilization?

- a) Roman Empire
- b) Persian Empire
- c) Chinese Empire
- d) Egyptian Empire

Solution: a) Roman Empire

Which Gupta ruler defeated the Shakas and established Gupta dominance in Western India?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Kumaragupta I

Solution: a) Chandragupta I

Which temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, was built during the Gupta Period and is an architectural masterpiece?

- a) Kailashnath Temple
- b) Brihadeshwara Temple
- c) Dashavatara Temple
- d) Vishnu Temple at Deogarh

Solution: c) Dashavatara Temple

During the Gupta Period, the system of governance was primarily based on which text?

- a) Arthashastra
- b) Manusmriti
- c) Mahabharata
- d) Ramayana

Solution: a) Arthashastra

Which Gupta ruler issued the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, describing his conquests and achievements?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Samudragupta

Solution: d) Samudragupta

Which metal was widely used for coinage during the Gupta Period?

- a) Copper
- b) Silver
- c) Gold
- d) Iron

Solution: c) Gold

The Gupta Period is known for the development of the Gupta script, also known as:

- a) Brahmi script

- b) Kharosthi script
- c) Gupta-Brahmi script
- d) Devanagari script

Solution: c) Gupta-Brahmi script

Which ancient university flourished during the Gupta Period, attracting scholars from all over the world?

- a) Nalanda University
- b) Taxila University
- c) Vikramashila University
- d) Pushpagiri University

Solution: b) Taxila University

The Gupta Empire declined primarily due to invasions by which group of people?

- a) Huns
- b) Persians
- c) Greeks
- d) Mongols

Solution: a) Huns

During the Gupta Period, which dance form evolved and gained prominence?

- a) Kathak
- b) Bharatanatyam
- c) Odissi
- d) Kathakali

Solution: b) Bharatanatyam

Which Gupta ruler is known for his patronage of Buddhism and is considered the last great Gupta emperor?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Kumaragupta II

Solution: d) Kumaragupta II

The Gupta Empire was known for its tolerance towards which major religions?

- a) Hinduism and Buddhism
- b) Hinduism and Jainism
- c) Buddhism and Jainism
- d) Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism

Solution: d) Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism

The Gupta Empire is credited with the establishment of the Iron Age in India. Which metal is primarily associated with this age?

- a) Copper
- b) Iron
- c) Bronze
- d) Silver

Solution: b) Iron

Which Gupta ruler is known for his conquest of Malwa and expansion of the empire?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Kumaragupta I

Solution: b) Chandragupta II

During the Gupta Period, which science flourished with significant contributions in the field of medicine?

- a) Ayurveda
- b) Alchemy
- c) Astrology
- d) Astronomy

Solution: a) Ayurveda

The Gupta Empire was known for its excellent administrative system, inspired by the principles mentioned in which ancient text?

- a) Arthashastra
- b) Manusmriti
- c) Mahabharata
- d) Ramayana

Solution: a) Arthashastra

Which Gupta ruler is known for his military campaigns against the Shakas, Yaudheyas, and other tribes?

- a) Chandragupta I
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Skandagupta
- d) Kumaragupta I

Solution: d) Kumaragupta I

Which famous Chinese traveler visited India during the Gupta Period and wrote about the empire's prosperity?

- a) Fa Xian
- b) Xuanzang
- c) Marco Polo
- d) Ibn Battuta

Solution: b) Xuanzang