



CHAPTER

1

HISTORY AND INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

ANCIENT INDIA

PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD

- **Pre - historic period** is divided into three sections- **Stone age**, **Bronze age** and **Iron age**.
- **Stone age** is divided into three periods, i.e. Palaeolithic Age, Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age.
- **Lower Palaeolithic Age** covers the greater part of the Ice Age.
- Its people used to eat fruits, birds and raw animal flesh, etc.
- The tools were usually made of hard rock.
- In **Middle Palaeolithic age** a bit change occurred in the shape of tools made of stones or bones.
- In **Upper Palaeolithic age**, human lived as nomadic hunter gatherers.
- **Mesolithic Age** was an intermediate stage in the stone age. It ended with the introduction of **agriculture**.
- **Neolithic age** was an age of polished tool culture.
- Tool making became an important profession and a variety of polished tools were manufactured.
- They learnt the art of pottery and their pots were well made and decorated with paintings.
- They discovered the art of producing fire by the friction of stones and the wheel was also an important discovery of this age.
- **Chalcolithic Age** is marked by the use of copper as **copper age**. The economy was based on subsistence agriculture, stock-raising, hunting and fishing.
- The Chalcolithic people slaughtered animals for food. Neither they milked animals for dairy products nor did they practise cultivation.
- It was the transitional stage when both bronze, copper and stone tools were used and humans started living settled life.
- The **Iron age** is usually associated with the **Painted Grey Wares (P.G.W.)**.
- The adoption of Iron brought various changes in society including agricultural practices, religious beliefs and attractive artistic styles.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- The **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)** was a unique Bronze Age civilization (2500–1700 B.C.) based on Carbon-14 dating.
- The Civilization flourished around the Indus river basin and its tributaries, consisting of modern Pakistan and northwestern India.

Town planning

- The **main streets** ran from north to south varied from 9 to 34 feet in width. **Roads**, especially in Mohenjo-Daro had a width of 10.5 meter. The Harappa had wide roads of width of 30 feet.

- There was an impressive building which was used as a **public bath**. The overall dimension of the Bath is 180 feet by 108 feet used for religious both.
- **Houses**, often two-storey and spacious, lined up on the streets; there was well drainage system resulting in the brick-lined sewers.
- In town planning, grid system, underground drainage and granaries were found.

Culture

- Lothal, Balakot, Suktagendor and Allahdin (Pakistan) in the cities of the Harappan civilization were the major ports.
- **Domesticated animals** included dogs and cats, humped and sea cattle, poultry, and possibly pigs, camels and Buffalo. Elephant, probably, too, was domesticated, and his bones and tusks were freely used.
- **Women** were given high honour in society. Family was regulated in the name of mother.
- The Indus Civilization had four different classes in which the society was divided, i.e. Scholars, warriors, businessmen and labourers.
- In the valley of the Indus people used irrigation-based agriculture.
- Harappan people had features of Hinduism, such as worship of the mother Goddess, Pashupati Shiva, Sacred animals, trees, etc.

Indus Valley Sites – Excavators

Harappa - 1921- Dayaram Sahni
Mohenjodaro- 1922- R.D.Banerjee
Sutkagendor- 1927- Aurel Stein, George
Dalesamri - 1929- M.G.Majumdar
Chanhudaro- 1931- M.G.Majumdar
Rangpur - 1931- M.S.Vats
Kot Diji- 1935- Fazal Khan
Dabarkot- 1935- Maichke
Kili Ghul Mohammad- 1950- Fairservis
Kalibangan- 1953- A. Ghosh
Ropar - 1953- Y.D.Sharma
Lothal - 1957- S.R.Rao
Surkotada- 1964- Jagatpati Ghosh
Dholvira- 1967- J.P. Joshi

Sites their Location

Mohenjodaro- Sindh, Pakistan
Harappa- Punjab Province, Pakistan
Dholavira- Rann of Kutch in Gujarat





Lothal- Gulf of Khambat in Gujarat
 Rakhigarhi- Haryana
 Ganweriwala- Punjab, Pakistan
 Banawali- Haryana
 Chanhudaro- Kutch in Gujarat
 Kalibangan- Rajasthan
 Kot Diji- Sind, Pakistan
 Ropar- Punjab (India)
 Surkotada- Kutch, Gujarat
 Suktagendor – Bank of Dast, Balochistan

THE VEDIC PERIOD

- The **Vedic Period** or the Vedic Age refers to the period when the Vedic Sanskrit texts were composed in India.
- Literally '**Aryans**' means - the 'best' or 'eminent'.
- The Aryans are supposed to have migrated from Central Asia into the Indian Subcontinent in Several stages during 2000 to 1500 B.C.
- In order to prove their supremacy the Aryans called themselves '**The Aryas**' and they called their opponents '**Anarya**', '**Dasyu**' or '**Das**'.
- **The Rigveda** (1500–1000 BC) consists of 1028 hymns. These hymns were sung in honour of various gods and were recited by Hotri.
- The **Gaytri Mantra** had been discovered from the Rig Veda.
- The Sindhu and its tributaries are called **Sapta Sindhu**.
- The **Yajur Veda** is a book of sacrificial prayers. It is written in both verse and prose.
- The **Sama Veda** consists of **1549** hymns.
- It is a book of **chants** for singing during sacrifices.
- The **Atharva Veda** is a book of magical formulae which reflects the popular conventions and rituals of that period.
- **The Brahmins** were composed after the Vedas. They are written in prose and ritualistic in nature.

Veda and their Brahmins

Rigveda	– Aitareya and Kaushitiki or Shankhyan.
Samveda	– Panchvisa (Tandya Mahabrahman), Shadvinsh Brahman, Jaiminiya Brahman.
Yajurveda	– Shatapath (the oldest and the largest Brahman) and Taittiriya.
Atharva Veda	– Gopath (A treatise on medical science , charms and magic).

- The **Aranyakas** were written mainly for the **hermits** and the jungle living students.
- The **Upanishadas** are **anti ritualistic** discussing about the relations between Brahma (God) and Jiva (Creature).
- Upanishadas are philosophical texts and are called **Vedanta** as they came towards the end of the Veda.
- **Vrihadaranyaka** is the oldest Upani-shadas among all the 108 Upanishadas.
- According to **Rigveda**, the famous Dasrajan Yuddha or the **battle of ten kings** was fought between **Sudas**, a Bharat King

of the Tritsu family, and the confederacy of ten well-known tribes - Puru, Yadu, Turvasa, Anu, Druhyu, Alina, Paktha, Bhalnas, Siva and Vishanin.

- In the bloody and decisive battle on the banks of river Parushni, the Bharatas emerged victorious.
- **Sabha** and **Samiti** (Popular Assemblies) controlled the affairs of Vedic states. These two assemblies were called the two daughters of Prajapati.

Important Terminologies

The Kula -the family
 The Gram -the village
 The Visha- the clan
 The Jana- the people
 The Rashtra -the nation

- The **Vedic Aryans** worshipped the forces of nature such as Earth, Fire, Wind, Rain and Thunder; their main occupation was cattle rearing.
- The King was responsible for the protection of the tribe.
- **Vedang** were composed during post-vedic period. Shiksha, Kalpa, Vyakaran, Nirukta, Chhanda and Jyotish are the six vedangas.

Vedang Dealt in

Shiksha -Phonetics
 Kalpa- Rituals
 Vyakarana -Grammar
 Nirukta -Etymology
 Chanda- Metrics
 Jyotish

- **Upvedas** were composed after Vedangas.

Four Upvedas are : Ayurveda (medicine); Gandharvaveda (Music); Dhanurveda (Archery) and Shilpaveda (Craft and Wealth).

- **Puranas** means 'the old' and they are 18 in number.
- **Ashtadhyayi** is the first grammar of the world written by **Panini**.
- The **Ramayana** and the **Mahabharata** are the two Indian epics.
- **Darshans** are the auxiliary treatise of the Vedas. The six schools of Indian philosophy are called **Shad Darshan**.

Nyaya Darshana	–Akshpad Gautam
Vaisheshik Darshana	–Maharshi Kanad
Shankhay Darshana	–Kapil Muni
Yoga Darshana	–Patanjali
Purva Mimamsa	–Jamini
Uttar Mimamsa	–Badrayan Rishi

- Literally '**Smriti**' means 'remembrance'. All the Smritis were composed during Gupta's period

Rivers and Their Ancient Names

Ancient	Modern
Vitasta	Jhelum
Askini	Chenab
Parushini	Ravi
Vipasa	Beas





Sutudri	Sutlej
Gomati	Gomal
Kubha	Kabul
Sadanira	Gandak
Saraswati	Ghaggar

Asmaka	Potana	Godavari Valley
Vatsa	Kaushambi	Allahabad
Avanti	Ujjain	Malwa and a part of M.P.
Surasena	Mathura	Mathura in U.P.
Chedi	Shuktimati	Bundelkhand in M.P.
Malla	Kushinara, Pawa	Eastern U.P.
Kurus	Hastinapur/ Indraprastha	Delhi and Meerut
Matasya	Virat Nagari	Jaipur and Alwar
Vajjis	Vaishali	North Bihar
Anga	Champa	Bhagalpur and Monghyr in Bihar
Kashi	Banaras	Banaras
Kosala	Shravasti	Faizabad in U.P.
Magadha	Girivraja/ Rajgriha	Patna and Gaya in Bihar
Panchala	Ahichhatra/ Kampilya	Rohilkhand in U.P.

LATER VEDIC PERIOD (1000-500 BC)

- The **later Vedic** society came to be divided into four varnas called the Brahmanas, rajanyas or kshatriyas, vaisyas and shudras, each varna was assigned with its duty.
- All the three higher varnas shared one common feature, they were known as **Dvijas** (twice born).
- The fourth varna was deprived of the sacred thread ceremony, and with it began the imposition of disabilities on the shudras.
- The worst position is reserved for the shudra. He is called the servant of another.
- Women were generally given a lower position.
- Ashramas or the four stages of life were created in the post-Vedic time.
- The four ashramas were: **Brahmachari** or a student, **grihastha** or householder, **vanaprastha** or partial retirement and **sanyasa** or full withdrawal from the world.

- During the sixth and fourth centuries BC, Magadha (now Bihar), became the most powerful Mahajanapada.
- The earliest capital of Magadha was at Rajgir, which was called Girivraja at that time.

Chronology of Foreign Invasion

- 518–486 B.C.: King Darius or Darus invaded India.
- 326 B.C. : Alexander invaded India.
- 190 B.C. : India-Greeks or Bactrians invaded India.
- 90 B.C. : Sakas invaded India.
- A.D. 1st Century : Pahlavas invaded India.
- A.D. 45 : Kushanas or Yue-chis invaded India.

Kingdoms of the Later Vedic Period		
Kingdom	Location	
1. Panchal	Bareilly, Badayun & Farrukhabad in U.P.	
2. Kushinagar	Northern region of Uttar Pradesh	
3. Kashi	Modern Varanasi	
4. Koshal	Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh	
5. Southern Madra	Near Amritsar	
6. Uttara Madra	Kashmir	
7. Eastern Madra	Near Kangra	
8. Kekaya	On the bank of Beas river east of Gandhar kingdom	
9. Gandhar	Rawalpindi & Peshawar	

Summary of Alexander's Invasion

- Alexander marched to India through the **Khyber Pass** in 326 B.C.
- Ambi**, the ruler of Taxila, submitted to Alexander.
- He was bravely checked by the local chieftains despite the fact that they had no chance of success.
- He was resisted first strongest by **Porus** at **Jhelum**.
- His advance was checked on the bank of the Beas because of the mutiny of his soldiers.
- In **325 B.C.**, he began his homeward journey.
- In **324 B.C.**, he reached Susa in Persia and died the next year, i.e. 323 B.C.
- The Greek invasion of India opened the trade route between north-west India and Western Asia.

Different types of Marriages

Asura: Marriage by purchase.

Gandharva: Marriage by the consent of two parties, often clandestine. A special form of it was syamvara or self choice.

Brahma: Marriage of a duly dowered girl to a man of the same varna with Vedic rites and rituals.

Daiva: Father gives the daughter to the sacrificial priests as part of fee or **dakshina**.

Arsa: A token bride-price of a cow and a bull is given.

Prajapati: Marriage without dowry and bride-price.

Paisacha: It is seduction of a girl while asleep, mentally deranged or drunk, hence it can hardly be called a marriage.

Rakshasa: Marriage by Capture.

- Prajapati**, the Creator, came to occupy a Supreme position in the later Vedic Period.

Mahajanapadas	Capitals	Current location
Gandhara	Taxila	A part of Afghanistan
Kamboja	Rajpur	Part of Kashmir and Afghanistan

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS

- Came into existence around 600 B.C.
- The main cause being reaction against domination of Brahmins and spread of agricultural economy in North-East.

Jainism

- Founder – **Rishabhadeva** (First Tirthankara).
- Mahavira** was the last of the 24 tirthankaras.
- Jainism was divided into two sects: **Shwetambaras** and **Digambaras**.
- The **First Council** was held at **Pataliputra** by **Sthulabahu**.





- The Second Council was held at **Valabhi** under the leadership of **Devaradhi Kshamasramana**.

Teachings

- Jainism was based on 5 doctrines :
(i) Ahinsa, i.e. non-violence; (ii) do not speak a lie, (iii) do not steal. (iv) do not acquire property, and (v) observe **continnence (Brahmacharya)**.
- Only the fifth (v) doctrine was added by **Mahavir**.
- Jainism recognizes the existence of the Gods but regarded them lower than the **jina**.
- Jainism did not condemn the Varna system.

Three Gems of Jainism (Ratnatrya) these are :

- Right faith (Samyak Vishwas)
- Right knowledge (Samyak Gyan)
- Right conduct/action (Samyak Karma)

Five Categories of Siddhas

- Tirthankara** - who has attained salvation.
- Arhat** - who is about to attain Nirvana.
- Acharya** - The head of the ascetic group.
- Upadhyaya** - teacher or saint, and
- Sadhu** - an ordinary ascetic.

Buddhism

- Gautam Buddha was the founder of Buddhism.
- His real name was **Siddhartha**.
- His father was a king named **Suddodana Tharu** and Mother was **Mahamaya**.
- He was born at **Lumbini**.
- He discovered enlightenment under the peepal tree (**Bodhi Vriksha**) in Gaya, Bihar at the age of 35.
- He gave his first sermon at the **Deer Park in Sarnath**.
- It was divided into three main sects: Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana.
- There are three tripitak : **Vinay Pitak** (rules and regulations, which the Buddha promulgated), **Sutta Pitak** (discourses delivered by Buddha himself) and **Abhidhamma Pitak** (religions discourses of Buddha).
- Milindapanhs (dialogues between Menander and Buddhist saint Nagsen).
- Jatakas are the pre-birth stories of Buddha.
- He died at **Kushinagara** in U.P. the capital of mallas.
- **Buddha** means enlightened or the awakened or the wise one.
- **Nirvana** means to blow out or extinguish fires of greed, hatred and delusion.
- The followers of Hinayana believed in the original teaching of Buddha.
- Hinayanas did not believe in idol-worship.
- Hinayanas believed in the heavenliness of Buddha.
- Mahayanas sought solution through the grace of Buddha.
- Mahayanas believes in idol-worship.
- **Vajrayana** believes that salvation can be attained by magical power (i.e. Vajra)
- **Vajrayana** became popular in Bihar, Bengal, Tibet.

Buddhist Councils

- **First Council** at Rajgir where Vinaya Pitaka & Sutra Pitaka were compiled.
- **Second council** at Vaishali in 383 B.C.

- **Third Council** at Patliputra in 250 B.C. during Ashoka's reign.
- **Fourth Council** in Kashmir during Kanishka's reign.

Important Dynasties in Ancient India

The Haryanaka dynasty (544 – 412 B.C.)

- **Bimbisara** was the first ruler and founder of Haryanka dynasty. The capital of the kingdom was **Rajagriha**.
- He strengthened his position by matrimonial alliances. He took three wives: daughter of the king Kosala, Chellana (Lichhavi Princess) and daughter of the chief of the Madra clan of Punjab.
- Bimbisara Sent Jivaka to Ujjain for the treatment of King Pradyota, the king of Avanti.
- Bimbisara was succeeded by his son **Ajatasatru** who killed his father and seized the throne for himself.
- He was contemporary to Lord Mahavira and Lord Buddha and a follower of Buddhism.
- Ajatasatru was succeeded by **Udayin**.
- He built the fort upon the confluence of the Ganga and Son at Patna.
- He shifted the capital from the Rajagriha to Pataliputra.
- Ajatasatru was killed by his son **Udayin**.

Shishunaga dynasty(412 - 344 B.C.)

- The last Haryanka ruler, Nagadasaka, was killed by his courtier Shishunaga in 430 B.C, who became the king and founded the Shishunaga dynasty.
- Shishunaga was succeeded by his son Kalashoka. The Second Buddhist Council was organised at Vaishali under the sponsorship of Kalashoka in 383 B.C.
- The last ruler of Shishunaga dynasty was Nandivardhan.

Nanda dynasty (344-321 B.C.)

- Mahapadmananda established the Nanda dynasty into a powerful empire.
- The Nanda dynasty had a huge army consisting 2,00,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, 2,000 war chariots and 3,000 war elephants.
- Last ruler of Nanda dynasty was Dhanananda. He was contemporary of Alexander.
- **Alexander** invasion of India took place in 326 B.C. during the reign of Dhanananda.

The Mauryan empire (322 – 185 B.C.)

- Founder— **Chandragupta Maurya**
- He defeated the king Dhanananda with the help of Chanakya .
- Its capital was **Pataliputra**.
- Greek and Latin name of Chandragupta was **Sandracottos**” or “**Andracottus**.
- Megasthene (Greek Ambassador) came to his court.
- **Chandragupta Maurya** embraced **Jainism**.
- He died at **Sravanbelagola** of Chandragiri hill.
- Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara.
- Greek sources refer to him as Amirochates or in Sanskrit amitraghata (“destroyer of foes”).
- The palace of Chandragupta was made of wood.
- Bindusara was followed by his son, **Ashoka** (273-232 B.C.).





- The war of Kalinga (BC 261) was the turning point of Ashoka's life. The mass death of the war changed his mind and he became a follower of **Buddhism**.
- **Ashok Stambh** of **Sarnath** was adopted as national emblem of India.
- **Sanchi Stupa** was built by Ashoka.
- Constructions carried out by Ashoka: Dhamek Stupa (Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh), Bharhut stupa (Madhya Pradesh), Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).
- **Ashoka's Dhamma** was a code of conduct (a set of principles like respect to elders) mercy to slaves & emphasis on truth, non-violence & tolerance.
- Last Mauryan King: Brihadratha (Killed by his general Pushyamitra).
- Pushyamitra founded Sunga Dynasty.
- Important Sources of History of Mauryan Empire: **Arthashastra** (Kautilya), **Indica** (Megasthenes), **Rajtarangini** (Kalhan), **Mahabhasya** (Patanjali)
- Other Sources: Puranas, Buddhist Texts, Asoka's Inscriptions, Rocks & Pillar Edicts of Mauryas.

Number	Name of Emperor	Reign
1	Chandragupta Maurya	322 BC-298 BC
2	Bindusara	298 BC-272 BC
3	Ashoka	274 BC-232 BC
4	Dasaratha	232 BC-224 BC
5	Samprati	224 BC-215 BC
6	Salisuka	215 BC-202 BC
7	Devavarman	202 BC-195 BC
8	Satadhanvan	195 BC-187 BC
9	Brihadatha	187 BC-185 BC

Categories of Ashoka's Inscription

- **Bhabru** – Conversion of Buddhism
- **Barabar Hills** – Enjoins toleration
- **Tarai Pillars** – Respect to Buddhism
- **14 Rock Edicts** – Administration and ethics.
- **Minor Rock Edicts** – Personal history of Ashoka & summary of Dhamma.
- **7 Pillar Rock Edicts** – Appendix to Rock Edicts.

Sunga Dynasty (185 to 73 B.C.)

- Pushyamitra Sunga was the senapati of last king of Mauryan empire Brihadratha. He killed Brihadratha and founded the Sunga dynasty in 187 B.C.
- It was a Magadha dynasty and its capital was Pataliputra but later Vidhisha was the capital of Sunga rulers.

Patanjali (grammarian of Sanskrit) was patronized by Pushyamitra Sunga.

Kanva Dynasty (73-28 B.C.)

- Founder- Vasudeva Kanva.
- **Vasudeva** was a Brahmin and follower of lord Vishnu.
- Other Sunga Rulers: Bhumimitra, Narayana, Susarman.
- Susarman was put to death by Satavahana ruler.

Satvahana Dynasty

- It ruled in the Deccan and Central India after Mauryans.

- Founder- Simuka
- **Andhra dynasty** was situated between the region of Krishna and Godavari River.
- Most powerful Satavahana king - Gautamiputra Satakarni (A.D. 106-130)
- He defeated the Sakas, Yavanas (Greeks) and Pahlavas (Parthians)

OTHER DYNASTIES

- **Kharavela** was the greatest king of Chedi Dynasty.
- Source of information: **Hatigumpha** Pillar inscription (Created by Kharavela)
- He opposed Demetrius of Bactria and defeated them.
- The **Indo-Greeks** were the first to issue gold coins in India, Which increased in number under the Kushans.
- The **Sakas** were a group of nomadic tribes of Iranian origin or Scythian tribes, who lived in Central Asia.
- The most famous Saka ruler in India was **Rudradaman-I** (A.D. 130-150).
- The Saka kingdom in north-western India was followed by that of the Parthians (Saka-Pahlavas in Sanskrit text).
- The most famous Parthian king was **Gondophernes**.
- They were defeated by the Kushans in the second half of the 1st century AD.
- **The Parthians** were succeeded by the Kushans who established a powerful empire in north India.
- The greatest of the **Kushana** rulers was **kanishka** and is known for his military prowess.
- Capital of Kushans: Purushpura (Peshawar).
- **Kanishka** is considered to have conflicted with the Pataliputra and had taken Asvaghosa, the Buddhist Monk to Purushpura.
- He was a patron of Buddhism and convened the 4th Buddhist Council in the Kundalvana of Kashmir (or may be in Jalandhar) in 78 AD.
- Scholars in the Court of Kanishka were Parsva, Vasumitra, Asvaghosa, Nagarjuna, Charaka and Mathara.
- Sushruta who wrote Sushruta Samhita has also been connected to Kanishka.
- Founder of **Pallava** Dynasty- **Simhavishnu**, Capital – **Kanchi**.
- Nrasimhavarman was the greatest king of Pallava Dynasty.

The Sangam Kingdom

The Tamil Sangam was an academy of poets and bards.

Sangam	Place of Organisation	Chairman	Kingdom
First	Thenmadurai	Agastya	Pandiya
Second	Kapatapuram	Earlier- Agastya Later- Tolkappiyar (a disciple of Agastaya)	Pandiya
Third	North Madurai	Nakkirar	Pandiya

- Founder of **Chera Dynasty**: Utiyan Cheralatan.
- Founder of **Chola Dynasty**: Vijayalaya Capital – **Kaveripattanam**.
- Most powerful kings of Chola Dynasty - Rajaraja (985-1014) and his son, Rajendra I.





- Rajendra I founded a new capital called Gangai Kondacholapuram.
- Rajendra I defeated the kings of Sumatra in a naval campaign and annexing a part of Sumarata kingdom to his kingdom.
- Rajendra Chola III was the last king of the dynasty.
- Pandya Dynasty: Madurai(Capital).
- The Pandya kings were constantly at war with Pallavas, Cholas and Ceylon.
- The three Sangam epics were Silappadikaram, Minimekalai and Sivaga Sidamanai.

Temples & their location

The Kailash Temple	Ellora
The Hoysala temple	Belur and Halebid
The Chennakesava temple	Belur
The Hoysaleswara temple	Halebid
The Ratha and Shore temple	Mahabalipuram
The Brihadeshwara temple	Tanjavur
The Vithala temple	Harmpi
The Meenakshi Temple	Madurai

The Gupta Empire (AD 320-467)

- Founder - Sri Gupta
- **Nalanda University** was built by Kumargupt.
- The great Mathematician **Aryabhata** lived during this age. He discovered the number "0" and value of Pi. He wrote "Aryabhatiya" and "Suryasiddhanta".
- **Kalidas** the great poet also belonged to this period.
- The great Physician **Dhanvantari** was also born in this era.
- During this age Sanskrit language and literature were at its peak. Poets Kalidasa, Dandi, Visakhadatta, Shudraka, and Bharavi — all belonged to the Gupta Age.
- **Chandragupta (320-335 AD)** was the son of Ghatotkacha and grandson of Sri Gupta.
- He married to Kumaradevi, the Lichhavi princess of the rich ruling family in Magadha which helped the Gupta Empire to become a powerful empire.
- **Sumudragupta (AD 335-375)** Harisena described him as the "Hero of a Hundred Battles."
- He was the greatest ruler of Gupta dynasty. He is called "Indian Napoleon".
- **Prayag Prashasti** (Written by **Harisen**) is the main source of information on his reign.
- **Samundragupta** was succeeded by his son Chandragupta Vikramaditya (or II).
- **Chandragupta II** married his daughter Prabhavati with a Vakataka prince who belonged to the Brahmana caste and ruled in central India.
- His court had **Navaratna (Nine Jewels)**. Kalidasa was one of the jewels among this Navaratna.
- He conquered western Malwa and Gujarat, which had been under the rule of the Saka Kshatrapas for about four centuries by that time.

Nine Gems in the Court of Chandragupta-II

S.No.	Name	Field	Work
1.	Kshapanaka	Astrology	Jyothisyashastra
2.	Dhanvantri	Medicine	Ayurveda (Book of Medicine)
3.	Kalidasa	Drama & Poetry	Abhijnana Shakuntalam, Meghadutta
4.	Amarasimha	Lexicography	Amarakosha (Glossary)
5.	Varahamihira	Astrology	Brihadshamhita
6.	Vararuchi	Grammar	Vyakarna (Sanskrit)
7.	Sanku	Architecture	Shilpashastra
8.	Vetalabhata	Magic	Mantrashastra
9.	Harisen	Poet	—

- **Kumaragupta (AD 415-455)** is the son of Chandragupta II.
- Kumaragupta's dominion suffered severely from the invasion of Huna Hordes, all over North India.
- Skandagupta is the son of Kumaragupta.
- He defeated the Pushyamitra who had become powerful during the period of Kumaragupta. He also defeated the White Hunas.

Ruler of Gupta Dynasty

Srigupta I	270 AD - 290 AD
Ghatotkacha	290 AD - 319 AD
Chandragupta I	319 AD - 335 AD
Samudragupta	335 AD - 375 AD
Chandragupta II	375 AD - 414 AD
Kumaragupta I	415 AD - 455 AD
Skandagupta	455 AD - 467 AD

- Tamralipti, a port in Bengal was an important trade centre during Gupta period.
- The most important officers in the Gupta empire were the kumaramatyas.
- The empire was divided into divisions : bhuktis (under the charge of an uparika) and vishayas (Districts) under the charge of vishyapati.
- Gupta Period is also known as the 'Golden Age of Ancient India'.

Important Literary works during the Gupta period

Epics		
Raghuwansa, Ritusamhara, Meghaduta	–	Kalidasa
Ravanabodha	–	Batsabhatti
Kavyadarshana and Dasakumarcharita	–	Dandin
Kiraarjunyam	–	Bharavi
Nitishataka	–	Bhartahari
Dramas		
Vikramovarshiya, Malvikagnimitra and Abhijnana Shakuntalam	–	Kalidasa
Mrichchakatika	–	Sudaraka
Swapnavasavadatta, Charudatta and Pratignayaugandharayana	–	Bhasa



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