

Class-IX

History, Chapter-6

A. Answer the following questions briefly:-

1. Who founded the Gupta Empire? What was the capital city of the Guptas?

Ans.1 Srip Gupta founded the Gupta Empire. Patliputra was the Capital city of the Guptas.

2. How did Chandragupta I gain prominence?

Ans.2 Chandragupta 1st rise to power was more through a strategic alliance of marriage, than by conquest.

3. Name the greatest ruler of the Gupta dynasty. Mention some sources of his reign.

Ans.3 Chandragupta II Vikramaditya(335-375) was the most important Gupta ruler as empire reached its zenith; conquered western India; trade relations with Rome and Egypt.

4. How do we know that Samudragupta was a musician?

Ans.4 The Allahabad pillar inscription and coins issued by him show him playing *veena* give us information that the king Samudragupta was a noted musician.

5. Who was the last important Gupta king?

Ans.5 Skandagupta was the last important Gupta king and Vishnugupta was the last Gupta king.

6. What title did Chandragupta II adopt? Mention some sources of his reign.

Ans.6 Chandragupta II took the title of *Vikramaditya*. Mathura pillar inscriptions, Udaygiri pillar inscription and gold coins etc. are some sources of his reign.

7. Who attacked the northern boundaries of the Gupta Empire? What was the result?

Ans.7 The Huns attacked the northern boundaries of the Gupta Empire. The persistence of the Huns along the Northern borders meant a huge loss of money and distraction from the administrative functions of the empire. This weakened the empire.

8. Name two important universities that flourished during the Gupta period.

Ans.8 Universities of Nalanda and Taxila.

9. Name two important scientists of the Gupta Empire? What was the result?

10. Name two famous dramas written during the Gupta period by Kalidasa.

Ans.10 The dramatic works Kalidasa are Raghuvamsa, Ritusamhara, Kumarasambhava and Meghaduta.

11. Name the capital city during the reign of Harshvardhana.

Ans.11 Kanauj was the capital city during the reign of Harshvardhana.

12. Who wrote the biography *Harshcharita*?

Ans.12 Banbhata wrote the biography Harshcharita.

13. Name the Chinese scholar who visited India during Harshvardhana's reign.

Ans.13 Hiuen Tsang was the Chinese scholar who visited India during Harshvardhana's reign.

B. Answer the following structured question in detail:-

1. Samudragupta ruled with power and wisdom. In this context, discuss:

a. his conquests and alliances

Ans. This eulogy gives us the details of Samudragupta's conquests and alliances:-

- i. He annexed the kingdoms of the western Gangetic plain.
 - ii. The kings of Kamrupa (Assam), Bengal and Punjab were forced to pay homage.
 - iii. In the Deccan, he extended his power as far as Kanchipuram (modern Chennai). He made the kings of south India pay an annual tribute, instead of annexing their empires.
 - iv. He maintained friendly relations with the Saka and Kushana rulers.
 - v. He subjugated the tribes living in the forests of Central India.
- b. his administration

Ans. Some special qualities of administration of this time period were:-

- i. The village was the basic unit of administration and land revenue was the chief source of income.
- ii. The king was all-powerful. He took titles such as *Maharajadhiraja*. He was assisted by the princes, ministers and advisors.
- iii. The princes were appointed as Viceroys of provinces called *bhuktis*. They took the title of Uparika-Majharaja.

2. Under Chandragupta II, the Gupta Empire reached its zenith. Elaborate the glory of the Gupta Empire by focusing on:

a. the art and literature of that period

Ans. Art:-The Gupta period marked the beginning of elaborate Hindu temples and temple complexes. The beginnings of Nagara style of temple architecture can be traced back to the Gupta period. Temples with *Shikhara* (pointed roof) have been found at Deogarh and Bhitargaon. The Dashavtara Temple at Deogarh has beautiful carvings on the walls-Lord Vishnu in a sleeping posture on a Sheshnag, scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Bhitargaon Temple is built of bricks with beautiful designs.

The walls of the Buddhist caves (in Ajanta) were painted with the most beautiful frescoes depicting the life of the Buddha and the Bodhisattvas.

Literature:-Kalidasa wrote several plays and poems in Sanskrit, such as *Meghadutam*, *kumarsambhava*, *raghuvamsa* and *Abhijanshakuntalam*. Varahamihira wrote Brihat Samhita (Encyclopaedia of Science). The dramatist Vishakhadatta wrote a play, *Mudrarakshasa*, which describes how Chandragupta Maurya came to the throne. Dandin and Subandhu were other prominent poets of this period.

b. the scientific progress that was made

Ans. Aruyabhata, Vaharahmihira were noted astronomers and mathematicians. Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga-hridaya, Aryabhattiyam, Brahmarshutika Siddhanta, Brihat Samhita.

3. Buddhism flourished during this period. In this context, write about:

a. the universities that were set up and foreign scholars who visited them

Ans. The famous university at Nalanda flourished during Guptas period. Another well established university was situated at Taxila, Rawalpindi (in modern Pakistan). Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang were the Chinese Scholars those came here during this period.

b. the monasteries that the Guptas built and their art and architecture

Ans. Great advancements were made in the field of sculpture during the Gupta period. While the Buddha was the dominant subject for the sculptors, subjects from Puranic mythology were also used due to the revival of Hinduism. Fa-Hein refers to a 25-m high copper statue of the Buddha. A beautiful bronze image of the Buddha has been found from Sulatanganj, Bihar. Seated statues of Buddha from Sarnath and the standing Buddha from Mathura are equally impressive.

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4. What was life in the 'Golden Age' like?

Ans.4 The pace of growth during the Gupta and post-Gupta period has been often glorified as the Golden Age, but something that often gets lost is that thrust of these great cultural achievements were possible because of the booming economy and huge turnover of trade. India or Hind as it was known to the Arabs, was the greatest place to trade in as it brought maximum profit to traders. In short we can say people were enjoying a peaceful and happy life.

5. Why did a decline set in after the reign of Skandagupta? Discuss this in the context of:

a. Economy:-The persistence of the Huns along the northern borders meant a huge loss of money and distraction from the administrative functions of the empire. This weakened the empire. Though Skandgupta successfully defeated the Huns, the Gupta Empire declined. The Hun invasion of 458 CE gave the final blow to the stability and prosperity of the Empire.

b. Religion and society:-The power of Brahmins increased as did the exploitation of the lower castes. Unfortunately, religions such as Buddhism that had started as a caste-free, simple religions for common people, began to get Sanskritised with increased scholarly interest in religion. So, by the end of 6th century, the Golden Age had waned giving way to a more decadent and regressive culture.

c. Creative arts and sciences:-Great advancement were made in the field of science and technology in this period. Distinguished works on medicine, such as Charka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita were compiled in this this period, who wrote the treatise Ashtanga-hridaya. Dhanvantari was another famous physician. It is said that Dhanvantari was another famous physician. Aryabhata, Varahmitra and Brahamagupta were the greatest mathematicians and astronomers of the period.

Excellent metallurgical skills of the craftsmen of the Gupta period can be ascertained from the Iron Pillar at the Qutb minar complex, Delhi. The pillar has not corroded even after being exposed to extremes of weather for centuries.

C. Photo study questions:-



1. What is shown in the picture? Which event is commemorated here?

Ans.1 Coins of Samudragupta.

2. What can we learn about the economic and social conditions in this period?

Ans.2 As these are gold coins so we can understand that economic and social conditions were flourished in this period.

3. What was this period of history called? Do you think it is an apt term? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans.3 This period of history called 'The Golden Age'. Yes! It is an apt term because during this period economy was booming and trade was flourishing, culture and education of India reached great heights.