

# Gupta Empire

## Chandragupta I

- Founder of Gupta Empire

## Samudragupta

- Expanded Gupta Empire 10 times
- Gave Patronage to Buddhist Scholars like Vasubandhu and Asanga
- His court poet was Harishena
- Details About him in Allahabad Pillar Inscription

## Chandragupta II

- He married his daughter Prabhavati Gupta to Vakataka King Rudrasena II
- Conquered Western India Shakas
- Ports: Broach, Sopara, Cambay and other sea ports
- Fa Hien visited India during his reign
  - i. Fa Hien came to India through land route but went back through sea route.
  - ii. According to him, Buddhism was flourishing in North-West India and Gangetic Valley had become the land of Brahmanism

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## Chandragupta II

- He had **Nine Gems** in his court:
  - i. Kalidasa - Poet
  - ii. Shapanaka - Astrologist
  - iii. Amarnatha - Wrote Amarkosh (Sanskrit Grammar)
  - iv. Dhanvantri - Doctor
  - v. Varuchii - Grammar Expert
  - vi. Varahamihira - Astrologist | Wrote Brihatsamhita, Brihadjataka and Panch Siddhantika
  - vii. Ghatakpara - Architect
  - viii. Shanku - Geologist
  - ix. Vetalabhadra - Expert in Black Magic and Tantric Science | Also known as Mega Brahmin | Wrote 16 stanza poem Niti Pradipa (Lamp of Conduct)

## Kumargupta

- Founder of **Nalanda University**
- Threat of Hunas Invasion started during his time

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## Skandagupta

- Large scale Huna Invasion ultimately leading to weakening of Gupta Empire
- 2 Famous Huna Rulers - Toramana and Mihirakula

## Kingdom after the Fall of Gupta Empire

1. Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
2. Maukharies of Kannauj
3. Maitrakas of Vallabhi
4. Late Guptas
5. Yashodharma of Malwa

## Administration under Guptas

- Sabha : Council of Ministers
- Amatyas and Sachivas : Executive Officers
- Mahanandanayaka : Chief Justice
- Vinayasitishpataka : Morale and Social Discipline
- Dutakas : Espionage or Spies Network
- Sandhi Vighrahika : Minister of Peace and War
- Ranabhandagarika : Look after day to day needs of the army

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## Administration under Guptas

- Vishaya : Province
- Vishayapati : Head of Province
- Grama : Village
- Gramadhyaksha : Head of Village
- Nagara Sresthis : City Administration
- Vishti : Forced Labour (PYQ Question)
- Taxes : Uparikara, Udranga and Hiranya
- Dinaras : Gold Coins
- Atavirajyas : Forest Kingdoms
- Kulyavapa : 12 to 16 acres of land
- Dronavapa : 0.5 to 2 acres of land
- Adhavapa : 0.375 to 0.5 acres of land
- Important Ports: Ghantasala, Kadura, Chaul, Lothal, Muziris

## Gupta Literature

### 1. Kalidasa

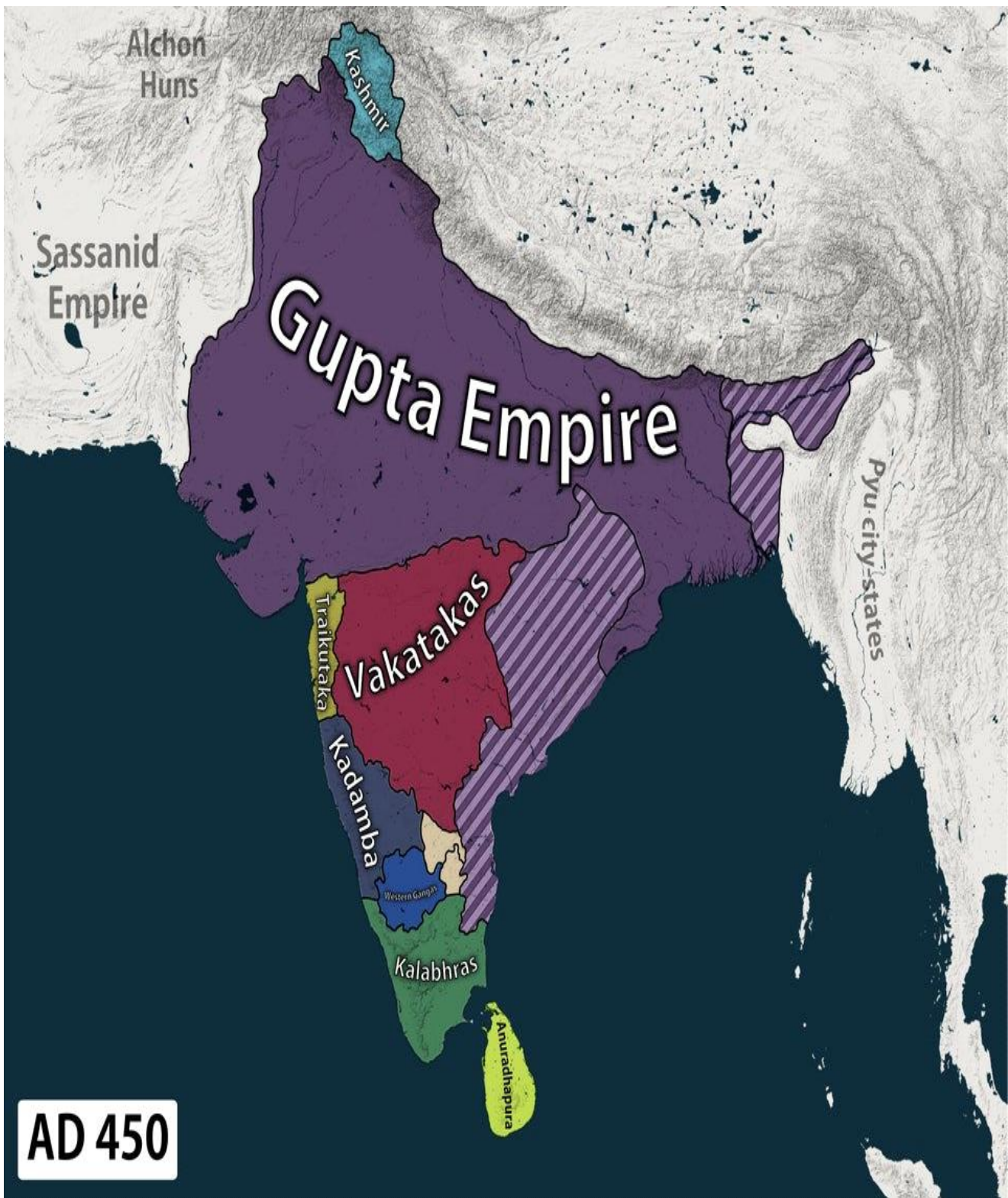
- a. Plays: Abhigyan Shakuntalam, Malvikagnimitra and Vikramorvasiya
- b. Epics: Raghuvamsa and Kumarsambhava
- c. Lyrics: Ritusamhara and Meghaduta

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## Gupta Literature

2. Vishakadutta - Mudrarakshasha and Devichandraguptam
3. Sudraka - Mrichhatkatika (Rich in Humour)
4. Bharvi - Kritarjuniya (Story of Conflict between Arjun and Shiva)
5. Dandin - Kavyadassa and Dasakumaracharita
6. Subandhu - Vasavadutta
7. Vishnu Sharma - Panchtantra stories
8. Amarsimha - Amarkosha
9. Aryabhatta - Aryabhatiya
10. Vagbhatta - Astangasamhita or Astanga Samagraha (Summary of 8 branches of medicine)
11. Kamandaka - Nitisara
12. Manjushri Mulakalpa (Mahayana Buddhist Text)
13. Harivamsha Purana (Jain Text)
14. Tiloya Pannati (Jain Text)
15. Kathasaritsgara (Storehouse of popular folklore)
16. Vatsayana - Kamasutra
17. Faxian - A record of Buddhist Kingdoms

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## Prelims PYQ

With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- (b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
- (c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- (d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

**Solution: Option C**

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## Prelims PYQ

With reference to the period of the Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were well known as

- (a) ports handling foreign trade
- (b) capitals of powerful kingdoms
- (c) places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- (d) important Buddhist pilgrimage centres

**Solution: Option A**



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## Prelims PYQ

With reference to the history of India, the terms “kulyavapa” and “dronavapa” denote

- (a) measurement of land
- (b) coins of different monetary value
- (c) classification of urban land
- (d) religious rituals

**Solution:** Option A

**Note:** This question is covered in our notes. If you are not able to recall, then you need to revise again. Do not just move pages unless you are sure that you know each and every word of the previous page.

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## Prelims PYQ

With reference to the Scholars/literatures of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra
2. Amarsimha is associated with Harshavardhana
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandragupta-II

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Solution:** Option C

**Note:** All are among the nine gems of Chandragupta II of Gupta Empire.