

## 7

## The Gupta Era: An Age of Tireless Creativity

## Section A: Fill in the blanks.

1. The primary source of revenue for the Gupta Empire was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Iron Pillar inscription in Delhi is associated with King \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was a famous mathematician and astronomer of the Gupta period.
4. The capital of the Pallavas was \_\_\_\_\_, known as the "city of a thousand temples."
5. \_\_\_\_\_, the daughter of Chandragupta II, became the regent of the Vakataka kingdom.
6. The famous caves of Ajanta are located in the present-day state of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ was the Chinese traveller who visited India during the Gupta period.
8. The Gupta emperor \_\_\_\_\_ is depicted playing the veena on a coin.
9. The ancient name of the Brahmaputra valley mentioned in the Mahabharata was \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The Gupta Empire began to decline in the \_\_\_\_\_ century CE.

## Section B: Match the following.

A	B	Ans.
a. Varahamihira	i. Unifier of Earth	a. _____
b. Gupta coins	ii. Regent	b. _____
c. "Dharani-bandha"	iii. Garuda	c. _____
d. Pallava capital	iv. Astronomy	d. _____
e. Prabhavati Gupta	v. Patronage of arts and culture	e. _____
f. Vishnu's mount	vi. Images of gods and rulers	f. _____
g. Chandragupta II	vii. Kanchipuram	g. _____

## Section C: Choose the correct option and tick (✓) the right answer.

1. Who wrote the Aryabhatiya?
 

a. Varahamihira	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Aryabhata	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Harisena	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Kalidasa	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The Pallavas ruled over which part of India?
 

a. Northern India	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Western India	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Southern India	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Eastern India	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Which centre became known for Buddhist education under Gupta rule?

a. Pataliputra

☐

b. Kanchipuram

☐

c. Nalanda

☐

d. Ujjain

☐

4. Kalidasa's famous work is:

a. Meghadutam

☐

b. Aryabhatiya

☐

c. Sushruta Samhita

☐

d. Brihat Samhita

☐

5. Which invading tribe led to the decline of the Gupta Empire?

a. Kushanas

☐

b. Greeks

☐

c. Huns

☐

d. Shakas

☐

6. Prabhavati Gupta was a devotee of:

a. Shiva

☐

b. Buddha

☐

c. Vishnu

☐

d. Ganesha

☐

7. The Gupta period is also known as:

a. Vedic Age

☐

b. Modern Age

☐

c. Classical Age

☐

d. Bronze Age

☐

8. What was the main script used in Gupta inscriptions?

a. Devanagari

☐

b. Brahmi

☐

c. Tamil

☐

d. Kharosthi

☐

9. Varahamihira lived in:

a. Patna

☐

b. Varanasi

☐

c. Ujjain

☐

d. Kashmir

☐

10. Which island served as a trading stop in the Indian Ocean network?

a. Socotra

☐

b. Maldives

☐

c. Lakshadweep

☐

d. Andaman

☐

11. Gupta rulers issued land grants inscribed on:

a. Stone tablets

☐

b. Palm leaves

☐

c. Copper plates

☐

d. Gold coins

☐

12. Meghadutam describes the message of a:

a. Human

☐

b. Bird

☐

c. Sage

☐

d. Cloud

☐

13. What is the main theme of Silappadikaram?

a. Makara

☐

b. Swan

☐

c. Bull

☐

d. Tortoise

☐

14. The Kamarupa kingdom was in:

a. Kerala

☐

b. Assam

☐

c. Kerala

☐

d. Gujarat

☐

15. Vishnu temples were often built by:

a. Aryabhata

☐

b. Samudragupta

☐

c. Prabhavati Gupta

☐

d. Kalidasa

☐

**Section D: Write T for True and F for False in the box.**

1. The Guptas had a completely centralized administration.
2. Kalidasa was a famous scientist of the Gupta period.
3. Nalanda was a major centre of Hindu worship.
4. The Gupta rulers supported only Vishnu worship.
5. The Brihat Samhita was written by Varahamihira.
6. The Pallavas were known for constructing rock-cut temples.
7. Faxian visited India to study Hindu scriptures.
8. The Gupta period is considered a Golden Age in Indian history.
9. Copper plate inscriptions were used for recording land grants.
10. The Huns helped expand the Gupta Empire.


**Section E: One Word Answer.**

1. The capital of the Gupta Empire :- \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name the king known as Vikramaditya: :- \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name the musical instrument shown on Samudragupta's coin: :- \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name of the ancient medical text written by Sushruta: :- \_\_\_\_\_

**Section F: Answer the following questions.**

1. Who was Faxian and what was the purpose of his visit to India?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the significance of the Iron Pillar at Mehrauli?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe two contributions of Aryabhata.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is meant by the term 'Classical Age' in the context of the Gupta period?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Mention two features of Gupta administration.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What role did Prabhavati Gupta play in strengthening Gupta-Vakataka relations?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Name two major exports from India during the Gupta period.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What was the significance of Socotra Island in Gupta trade?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. How did the Guptas promote art and architecture?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why is Kalidasa considered an important figure in Indian literature?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Section G: Give reason.

1. Give reasons why the Gupta period is called a Golden Age.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Give reasons for the decline of the Gupta Empire.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give reasons why the Guptas supported scholars and artists.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Give reasons why trade was essential for Gupta prosperity.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Give reasons for the rise of regional powers like the Pallavas and Kamarupa.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section H: Long Answer Questions.

1. Describe the achievements of the Gupta Empire in science and technology.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain the importance of art and architecture during the Gupta period with examples.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Discuss the administration system of the Gupta Empire.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did the Gupta Empire maintain diplomatic relations with other kingdoms?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Compare the contributions of Aryabhata, Varahamihira, and Kalidasa.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Section G: Assertion and Reasoning.

- A. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

1. Assertion (A): Gupta rulers promoted Sanskrit literature. Reason (R): Sanskrit was the only language known in ancient India.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Assertion (A): Aryabhata calculated the Earth's rotation. Reason (R): He believed the sun revolved around the Earth.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Assertion (A): Prabhavati Gupta was a regent queen. Reason (R): Her father was king of the Hunas.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Assertion (A): The Gupta period was known for internal peace and prosperity. Reason (R): Frequent wars created political instability.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Assertion (A): The Ajanta caves are famous for rock-cut architecture. Reason (R): They were built during the Mauryan Empire

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer****Section A: Fill in the blanks**

- |                    |                     |                 |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Land tax        | 5. Prabhavati Gupta | 9. Pragjyotisha |
| 2. Chandragupta II | 6. Maharashtra      | 10. 6th         |
| 3. Aryabhata       | 7. Faxian           |                 |
| 4. Kanchipuram     | 8. Samudragupta     |                 |

**Section B: Match the following**

- |            |           |          |            |           |
|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. a – iv  | 2. b – vi | 3. c – i | 4. d – vii | 5. e – ii |
| 6. f – iii | 7. g – v  |          |            |           |

**Section C: MCQs**

- |                      |                     |                         |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. b) Aryabhata      | 6. c) Vishnu        | 11. c) Copper plates    |
| 2. c) Southern India | 7. c) Classical Age | 12. d) Cloud            |
| 3. c) Nalanda        | 8. b) Brahmi        | 13. c) Bull             |
| 4. a) Meghadutam     | 9. c) Ujjain        | 14. b) Assam            |
| 5. c) Huns           | 10. a) Socotra      | 15. c) Prabhavati Gupta |

**Section D: True or False**

- |          |          |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. False | 2. False | 3. False | 4. False | 5. True   |
| 6. True  | 7. False | 8. True  | 9. True  | 10. False |

**Section E: One Word Answer**

- |                |                    |          |                     |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1. Pataliputra | 2. Chandragupta II | 3. Veena | 4. Sushruta Samhita |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|

**Section F: Short Answer Questions**

- Faxian was a Chinese Buddhist pilgrim who visited India to collect Buddhist texts and study sacred sites.
- It shows Gupta metallurgy skill and praises King Chandragupta II.
- Aryabhata proposed Earth's rotation and calculated the year length accurately.
- It refers to a time of cultural, scientific, and literary excellence in Indian history.
- Decentralised rule, land grants to officials and religious institutions.
- She ruled as regent, maintained ties between Guptas and Vakatakas.
- Textiles and spices.
- It was a major stop in Indian Ocean trade showing Indian cultural presence.
- They built temples, supported sculpture and paintings like at Ajanta.
- He enriched Sanskrit literature through works like Meghadutam.

**Section G: Give reason**

- Due to achievements in science, literature, art, and prosperity.
- Due to Huna invasions and rise of regional powers.
- To promote culture and earn prestige.
- It brought wealth and connected India to global markets.
- Gupta decline allowed local rulers like Pallavas and Kamarupa to grow.

**Section H: Long Answer Questions**

- Achievements of the Gupta Empire in Science and Technology

- Aryabhata proposed that the Earth rotates on its axis.
- He explained solar and lunar eclipses scientifically.
- He calculated the length of the solar year accurately (365 days, 6 hours, 12 minutes, 30 seconds).
- He wrote Aryabhatiya, a foundational text in astronomy and mathematics.
- Sushruta Samhita and Charaka Samhita were codified, covering surgery and holistic medicine.
- Gupta metallurgy was advanced, as shown by the rust-free Iron Pillar of Delhi.
- These achievements laid the foundation for future Indian science and technology.

## 2. Importance of Art and Architecture during the Gupta Period

- Gupta art focused on grace, realism, and spiritual expression.
- The Ajanta caves contain Buddhist frescoes with religious and cultural themes.
- Sarnath and Udayagiri are known for detailed rock-cut sculptures.
- Temples dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva were built with intricate carvings.
- Prabhavati Gupta built temples at Ramtek (Maharashtra).
- Gupta art influenced styles in Southeast Asia and later Indian dynasties.
- It marked a high point in classical Indian aesthetics.

## 3. Administration System of the Gupta Empire

- The empire was divided into provinces (bhakti) and districts (vishayas).
- Local governors and officials managed tax collection and justice.
- The system was semi-decentralised with local autonomy.
- Land grants were given to priests, officials, and chieftains.
- Copper plate inscriptions were used to record these grants.
- Kings remained supreme, but local governance was respected.
- This ensured efficient rule and administrative stability.

## 4. Diplomatic Relations of the Gupta Empire

- The Guptas used diplomacy along with military conquest.
- Matrimonial alliances strengthened ties, e.g., Prabhavati Gupta married a Vākāṭaka prince.
- Samudragupta allowed defeated kings to rule as vassals under tribute.
- This reduced conflict and promoted peaceful relations.
- Local rulers remained loyal without direct Gupta control.
- These strategies expanded the Gupta influence peacefully.
- Diplomacy ensured long-term regional stability and prosperity.

## 5. Contributions of Aryabhata, Varahamihira, and Kalidasa

- Aryabhata: Explained Earth's rotation, wrote Aryabhatiya, developed astronomy and math.
- Varahamihira: Wrote Brihat Samhita, contributed to astrology, weather, town planning.
- Kalidasa: Renowned poet and playwright, wrote Meghadutam, excelled in Sanskrit literature.
- Aryabhata and Varahamihira advanced science; Kalidasa enriched culture.
- All three represent the intellectual and artistic excellence of the Gupta era.

### Section G: Assertion and Reasoning

1. C                      2. C                      3. C                      4. C                      5. C