



# Gupta Empire

## Quick Revision Notes for RRB Group D 2025

### Introduction

Feature	Details
Period	320 CE - 550 CE (approx.)
Founder	Sri Gupta
Greatest Ruler	Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
Last Ruler	Vishnugupta
Capital	Pataliputra (modern Patna)
Empire Spread	Northern and central India (Magadha, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat)
Other Name	Golden Age of India
Sources of Information	Coins, inscriptions (Allahabad Pillar, Junagadh Rock), Chinese traveler accounts (Fa Hien)
Achievements	Political stability, economic prosperity, cultural and scientific advancement

### Important Rulers and Contributions

Ruler	Period	Contribution
Sri Gupta	c. 240-280 CE	Founder of Gupta dynasty, limited territory, mostly Magadha region
Ghatotkacha	c. 280-319 CE	Consolidated kingdom, no major expansion
Chandragupta I	320-335 CE	Married Kumaradevi, expanded empire, coins with title Maharajadhiraja
Samudragupta	335-375 CE	Conquered most of India, called <i>Napoleon of India</i> , detailed in Allahabad Pillar inscription



Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)	375-415 CE	Golden Age, expansion via marriage (Western Satraps), patron of arts and science
Kumaragupta I	415-455 CE	Maintained stability, founded Nalanda University
Skandagupta	455-467 CE	Defended against Huns, empire began to decline
Later Guptas	467-550 CE	Weak rulers, eventually replaced by Harsha and regional kingdoms

## Administration, Economy and Society

Aspect	Details
Political System	Monarchy, decentralized administration in provinces (Bhuktis)
Provinces	Governed by <i>Uparikas</i> (provincial governors)
Revenue System	Land tax, trade tax, customs duties, tributes from conquered regions
Economy	Agriculture mainstay, trade (internal & foreign – Roman coins found), crafts, mining
Currency	Gold coins (dinara), silver, copper coins
Society	Varna system, caste hierarchy rigid but prosperous merchant class
Urban Centers	Pataliputra, Ujjain, Prayag, Mathura, Nalanda
Trade Routes	Silk Road connection, maritime trade via Gujarat ports

## Art, Architecture, Science, and Religion

Category	Features
Art & Architecture	Temples (Deogarh, Dashavatara), stupas, sculptural panels, cave temples
Science & Mathematics	Aryabhata (approx. 476 CE)- concept of zero, decimal system, heliocentric ideas
Astronomy	Accurate calculations of solar year, eclipses
Literature	Kalidasa (Abhigyan Shakuntalam, Meghaduta), Harshacharita (Banabhatta)



Religion	Hinduism major, Buddhism & Jainism also flourished, Bhakti movement beginnings
Coins & Inscriptions	Gold coins with images of rulers and deities, Allahabad Pillar inscriptions (Samudragupta)
Cultural Achievements	Sanskrit literature, painting, music, theatre

## Quick Facts and Exam Oriented Q&A

Question	Answer
Founder of Gupta Empire?	Sri Gupta
Which ruler is called Napoleon of India?	Samudragupta
Golden Age ruler?	Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)
Which university founded in Gupta period?	Nalanda University
Which Gupta ruler defended against Huns?	Skandagupta
Which famous Sanskrit poet lived in Gupta period?	Kalidasa
Which inscriptions describe Samudragupta's conquests?	Allahabad Pillar inscriptions
Capital of Gupta Empire?	Pataliputra
Which coins were used widely?	Gold dinaras, silver, copper coins
Religion during Gupta period?	Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism

## Expected Questions for Exams

Question	Answer
Who was the last ruler of the Gupta dynasty?	Vishnugupta
Which Gupta ruler was also known as Vikramaditya?	Chandragupta II
Which Chinese traveler visited the Gupta Empire?	Fa Hien
Which Gupta ruler founded Nalanda University?	Kumaragupta I



Which port cities were important during the Gupta period?	Ports in Gujarat such as Bharuch
Which Gupta king issued coins with the title Maharajadhiraja?	Chandragupta I
Which Gupta ruler defended India against Hunas?	Skandagupta
What was the main source of revenue in Gupta administration?	Land tax
Which inscription records the achievements of Samudragupta?	Allahabad Pillar inscription
Which language flourished the most during Gupta period?	Sanskrit

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