

→ Kushanas

eastern U.P and Bihar has glimpses of the Gupta's empires' beginning.

Up to AD 550.

Chandragupta I

(AD 319 - 334)

founder



Gupta era starts.

'maharajadhiraja'

(King of Kings)

→ married a Lichchavi princess (Kumara Devi).

→ gold coins were issued.

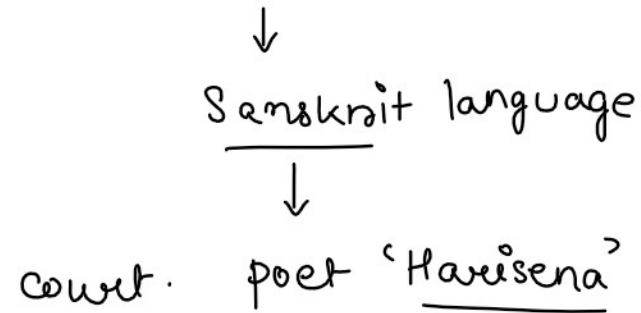
→ ruling over Magadha (Bihar), Saket (modern Ayodhya)

Prayaga (modern Allahabad),

capital city → Pataliputra (modern Bihar)

Samudragupta (AD. 335 - 375)

→ Samudragupta's long list of achievements are recorded in a long inscription (prashasti),



inscription is there on the Pillar at Allahabad.


In the Ganga Yamuna doab region, he followed a policy of annexation.

He defeated 9 Naga rulers.



forest kingdoms - atarisajyas

- defeated 12 kings on the eastern coast

 ... on the eastern coast
reached Kanchi near Chennai

- ashvamedha Yajna (horse sacrifice)
- ashvamedha type of coins.

→ Samudragupta was a poet, a musician, a patron of learning.

Coins had pictures of him playing vina.

Chandragupta II (AD 375 - 414)

↳ Vikramaditya

→ married Kuvera, the Naga princess
daughter - Prabhavati

→ Prabhavati was married to Rudrasena II
of the Vakataka dynasty

↓
Central India.

→ greatest victory of Chandragupta II was over the
Shaka kings (western India)
↑ 300 years

Iron pillar inscription at Mehrauli (Delhi)

↳ Bengal, North western India

Vikramaditya → powerful like the sun

→ great patron of art and literature

→ He kept nine luminaries (Navaratnas) in his court.

→ The best and the greatest Sanskrit poet and
playwright was Kalidasa.

→ Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Fa Hien (AD 404 - 411)
5th century AD

Decline

Kumaragupta (AD 415 - 455)

→ in the later part of his empire, he got threats from Hunas of Central Asia.

↙
Crossing Bactria, and Hindukush mountains, the Hunas entered India.

At that time Skandagupta was ruling.

Inscriptions made by the Hunas show that by AD 485 they had occupied the eastern Malwa and a huge part of central India. Punjab and Rajasthan went into their hands.

The most well-known of the Hunas in India was Toramana. He captured till Eran near Bhopal in Central India.

Mihirkula succeeded him in AD 515.
↳ tyrant

Yashodharman of Malwa
+
Narasimhagupta Baladitya } Gupta dynasty

→ Pushyabhutis of Thaneswar

→ Maukharies of Kanauj

→ Maitrakas of Valabhi