



GUPTAS GOLDEN ERA IN INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

Mr. Laxmikant Vaijanath

Research Scholar, Department of P.G Studies and Research in Social Work,
KuvempuUniversity, Jnana Sahyadri Shankaragatta, Shivamogga District, Karnataka.

Abstract

The period between the 4th and 6th centuries CE is known as the Golden Age of India because of the considerable achievements of Indians in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, science, religion and philosophy during the Gupta Empire. The Gupta Empire, which ruled the Indian subcontinent from 320 to 550 AD, ushered in a golden age of Indian civilization. It will forever be remembered as the period during which literature, science, and the arts flourished in India as never before. The paper intends to discuss the to know the Gupta golden era in India and to discussed decline of the Gupta Empire. The paper based on secondary source of information gathered from journal articles, books and relevant websites.

Keywords: Guptas Era, Golden Era, Service and Challenges

Introduction

During the Gupta period (c. 320 – 647 C.E., named for the Gupta dynasty) there were tremendous advances in poetry, prose, and drama as well as important discoveries in mathematics and astronomy. This was the age of some of the most celebrated creative's in Indian history, including the fifth century writer Kālidāsa whose works would influence generations of writers. This was also the period in which the fifth century astronomer Aryabhata theorized that the earth rotated on its own axis and calculated the solar year at 365.3586805 days.

The Puranas, a compendium of religious literature considered sacred to both the Hindu and Jain religious traditions and consisting of stories and the genealogies of the gods, folk tales, and traditional lore, grew in prominence during the Gupta years. While it is difficult to date the Puranas because they contain anonymous texts compiled over many centuries both before and after the Gupta period, we know that Puranic stories were a popular religious and cultural reference during the Gupta years from the depiction of Puranic episodes in art and architecture. Kālidāsa's poetry and plays also frequently engaged with episodes from the Puranas.

The Guptas were ambitious rulers and by the end of the fourth century claimed dominance over a vast swathe of northern India (see map above). They maintained a capital at Pataliputra, the same ancient center used by the formidable, and earlier, Mauryan empire (4th – 2nd century B.C.E.) and that of the emperor Ashoka Maurya (3rd century B.C.E.).

Objective of the study

1. To know the Gupta golden era in India
2. To discussed decline of the Gupta Empire

Paper Scheme

The paper based on secondary source of information gathered from various Journal Articles, Reviewed Journal, Books and Relevant Websites.

Analysis and interpretation

A democracy is a political system, or a system of decision-making within an institution or organization or a country, in which all members have an equal share of power. Modern democracies are characterized by two capabilities that differentiate them fundamentally from earlier forms of government: the capacity to intervene in their own societies and the recognition of their sovereignty by an international legalistic framework of similarly sovereign states. Democratic government is commonly juxtaposed with oligarchic and monarchic systems, which are ruled by a minority and a sole monarch respectively.

Democracy is generally associated with the efforts of the ancient Greeks who were themselves considered the founders of Western civilization by the 18th century intellectuals who attempted to leverage these early democratic experiments into a new template for post-monarchical political organization. The extent to which these 18th century democratic revivalists succeeded in turning the democratic ideals of the ancient Greeks into the dominant political institution of the next 300 years is hardly debatable, even if the moral justifications they often employed might be. Nevertheless, the critical historical juncture catalyzed by the resurrection of democratic ideals and institutions fundamentally transformed the ensuing centuries and has dominated the international landscape since the dismantling of the final vestige of empire following the end of the Second World War.¹

Modern representative democracies attempt to bridge the gulf between the Hobbesian 'State of Nature' and the grip of authoritarianism through 'Social Contracts' that enshrine the rights of the citizens, curtail the power of the state, and grant agency through the right to vote. While they engage populations with some -making, they are defined by the premise of distrust in the ability of human populations to make a direct level of decision judgement about candidates or decisions on issues.

The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian empire existing from the mid-to-late 3rd century CE to 543 CE. At its zenith, from approximately 319 to 467 CE, it covered much of the Indian

¹ <https://www.google.co.in/search?q=GUPTAS+GOLDEN+ERA+IN+INDIA>, Downloaded Date: 17-01-2021, Time: 12.30 pm.

subcontinent. This period is considered as the Golden Age of India by the historians. The ruling dynasty of the empire was founded by the king Sri Gupta; the most notable rulers of the dynasty were Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, and Chandragupta II alias Vikramaditya. The 5th-century CE Sanskrit poet Kalidasa credits the Guptas with having conquered about twenty-one kingdoms, both in and outside India, including the kingdoms of Parasikas, the Hunas, the Kambojas, tribes located in the west and east Oxus valleys, the Kinnaras, Kiratas, and others.

The high points of this period are the great cultural developments which took place primarily during the reigns of Samudragupta, Chandragupta II and Kumaragupta I. Many of the literary sources, such as Mahabharata and Ramayana, were canonised during this period. The Gupta period produced scholars such as Kalidasa, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, and Vatsyayana who made great advancements in many academic fields. Science and political administration reached new heights during the Gupta era. The period gave rise to achievements in architecture, sculpture, and painting that "set standards of form and taste determined the whole subsequent course of art, not only in India but far beyond her borders". Strong trade ties also made the region an important cultural centre and established the region as a base that would influence nearby kingdoms and regions in South Asia and Southeast Asia. The Puranas, earlier long poems on a variety of subjects, are also thought to have been committed to written texts around this period. Hinduism was followed by the rulers and the Brahmins flourished in the Gupta empire but the Guptas tolerated people of other faiths as well. Vedic sacrifices reduced in the Gupta period.

The empire eventually died out because of many factors such as substantial loss of territory and imperial authority caused by their own erstwhile feudatories, as well as the invasion by the Huna peoples (Kidarites and Alchon Huns) from Central Asia. After the collapse of the Gupta Empire in the 6th century, India was again ruled by numerous regional kingdoms.²

The Gupta Empire declined precipitously under Chandragupta II's successors. By the middle of the fifth century a new and dangerous enemy to the empire appeared: nomadic-pastoralist warriors from the Eurasian steppe. These invaders were called Huna or Huns by the Indians, and today are commonly called Hephthalites or White Huns (to distinguish them from the other Huns, who were attacking the Roman Empire around the same time). In the year 480 AD, the Huns launched a full-scale invasion of India. By the year 500 AD, the Huns had overrun the Gupta Empire.³

²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gupta_Empire#:~:text=The%20Gupta%20Empire%20was%20an,Age%20of%20India%20by%20historians. Downloaded Date: 23-02-2021, Time: 12.30 pm.

³ https://resources.saylor.org/wwwresources/archived/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/HIST101-7.2.1_GuptaDynasty-FINAL1.pdf, . Downloaded Date: 26-02-2021, Time: 12.30 pm.

Though the Huns were eventually driven out of India, the Gupta Empire would never recover. The Gupta Dynasty retained only its home territory of Magadha in the chaos, and it had permanently lost control of the rest of India. The subcontinent once again became a patchwork of independent states. However, the legacy of the Gupta Empire, and the cultural renaissance it presided over, has continued to be a source of inspiration for India up to the present day.⁴

Suggestions

The Gupta Period of India was not characterized by enormous material wealth or by elaborate trade activity. It was defined by creativity. Flourishing arts, fabulous literature, and stupendous scholars are just a few of the things that marked the period. But in future days the research will be effective because the every empery have its capacities to build the surrounding for the administration.

Conclusion

The Gupta Empire is generally held to have begun in 320 AD, when Chandragupta I ascended the throne. He expanded Gupta power from a local His son, Samudragupta the Great, conquered much of India for the Gupta royal family in the kingdom of Magadha to a powerful empire. Samudragupta's son and successor, Chandragupta II, presided over the zenith of Empire. He also sponsored art, music, and other cultural expressions. Some of the great artists and thinkers that flourished in the time of Chandragupta. The Gupta Empire, a golden age for India. II include Kalidasa, one of the greatest authors of Sanskrit poetry and drama, and. In the fifth century, the Gupta Empire was overrun by the Huns. Though the Aryabhata, a brilliant and influential mathematician and astronomer. Huns were eventually driven out of India; the Gupta Dynasty permanently lost control of India, which returned to a patchwork of independent states.

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