

## The Gupta Era: An Age of Tireless Creativity

### I. Tick (✓) the correct answer

1. (c) Harisena
2. (a) Chandragupta II
3. (c) Garuda
4. (b) Chandragupta II
5. (b) The Iron Pillar in Delhi refers to a king named “Chandra,” believed to be Chandragupta II.
6. (b) Formation of alliances (mitra)

### II. Fill in the blanks

1. Samudragupta’s aim was described as dharani-bandha, meaning “the one who bound the Earth.”
2. **Copper** material were used to record land grants during the Gupta period.
3. **Socotra** island was an important trading stop in the Indian Ocean trade network.
4. The Gupta rulers encouraged **innovation** and creativity, which led to the growth of art.
5. **Sarnath** was famous for its beautiful sculptures of the Buddha during the Gupta period.
6. The Ajanta caves are well known for their **Buddhist** caves and paintings.

### III. State whether True or False

1. Samudragupta directly ruled over the Pallava and Kamarupa regions. — False
2. The Gupta Empire was divided into provinces for better administration. — True
3. Gupta rulers supported only Vaishnavism and opposed other religions. — False
4. Indian traders had trade links with the Mediterranean region, Southeast Asia and China during the Gupta period. — True
5. Gupta art influenced Indian art for many centuries. — True
6. Udayagiri was mainly known for paintings of the Buddha. — False

### IV. Match the following

| Column A        | Correct match        |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Samudragupta | (e) Prayaga Prasasti |
| 2. Kalidasa     | (a) Meghadutam       |
| 3. Aryabhata    | (d) Aryabhatiya      |
| 4. Varahamihira | (b) Brihat Samhita   |

## 5. Chandragupta II (c) Vikramaditya

### V. Answer the following questions briefly

#### 1. Why is the Gupta period called the “Classical Age” of India?

The Gupta period is called the Classical Age because of its remarkable achievements in literature, science, art and architecture.

#### 2. What does the Iron Pillar inscription reveal about Chandragupta II?

It describes the achievements of a king named Chandra, who is believed to be Chandragupta II.

#### 3. How did Samudragupta expand the Gupta Empire?

Samudragupta expanded the empire through military conquests and made several defeated rulers accept his authority and pay tribute.

#### 4. What were the two major achievements of Aryabhata?

Aryabhata explained that the Earth rotates on its axis and made important contributions to mathematics, including the calculation of pi.

#### 5. Why did the Gupta Empire decline in the 6th century CE?

The Gupta Empire declined because of Huna invasions, weak rulers and the rise of regional kingdoms.

### VI. Answer the following questions in detail

#### 1. Discuss the contributions of Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) to the Gupta Empire.

1. He expanded the empire through conquests and marriage alliances.
2. He promoted trade, art and literature.
3. He supported scholars such as Kalidasa.
4. His reign strengthened the Gupta Empire.

#### 2. “The Gupta age was a period of scientific, cultural, and artistic brilliance.” Explain with examples.

1. Science: Aryabhata made important contributions to mathematics and astronomy.
2. Literature: Kalidasa wrote famous works such as Meghadutam.
3. Art: The Ajanta caves became famous for their paintings.
4. Sculpture: Gupta artists created beautiful images of the Buddha.

#### 3. Write a note on the administration of the Gupta rulers.

1. The king was the head of the administration.
2. The empire was divided into provinces for better governance.
3. Officials helped the king collect taxes and maintain law and order.
4. Local rulers in some conquered regions were allowed to govern by accepting Gupta authority and paying tribute.

4. Write a brief account of Faxian's observations of Indian society during the Gupta age.

1. Faxian was a Chinese traveller who visited India during the Gupta period.
2. He observed that people generally lived peacefully.
3. He visited Buddhist monasteries and religious centres.
4. His accounts provide information about Indian society and Buddhism during that period.

5. If the Gupta rulers had not used diplomacy and alliances, how might their empire have been different?

1. They might have faced more wars and resistance.
2. Expanding and maintaining the empire would have been more difficult.
3. Trade and political relations with neighbouring kingdoms might have weakened.

6. Write a short note on the Pallavas.

1. The Pallavas ruled parts of South India.
2. They built temples and rock-cut caves.
3. They supported art, education and architecture.
4. Their contributions influenced South Indian temple architecture.

## **VII. Assertion and Reason Based Questions**

1. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
2. (c) A is true, but R is false.
3. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
4. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
5. (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

## **VIII. Case/Source-Based Questions**

1. Samudragupta and the defeated kings

- (a) He allowed local kings to rule to maintain control without directly governing every region.
- (b) The Pallava and Kamarupa regions.
- (c) This policy reduced administrative burdens and helped the Gupta Empire receive tribute.

2. Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)

- (a) Kalidasa and Varahamihira.
- (b) Literature, science and astronomy.
- (c) The title refers to a king named Chandra, believed to be Chandragupta II.