

## UNIT: 3 THE AGE OF EMPIRES: GUPTAS AND VARDHANAS

CLASS: VI

SUBJECT: SOCIAL (HISTORY)

### I. Choose the correct answer

- \_\_\_\_\_ was the founder of Gupta dynasty.  
(a) Chandragupta I (b) **Sri Gupta** (c) Vishnu Gopa (d) Vishnugupta
- Prayog Prashasti was composed by \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Kalidasa (b) Amarasimha (c) **Harisena** (d) Dhanvantri
- The monolithic iron pillar of Chandragupta is at \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) **Mehrauli** (b) Bhitari (c) Gadhva (d) Mathura
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the first Indian to explain the process of surgery.  
(a) Charaka (b) **Sushruta** (c) Dhanvantri (d) Agnivasa
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the Gauda ruler of Bengal.  
(a) **Sasanka** (b) Maitraka (c) Rajavardhana (d) Pulikesin II

### II. Match the statement with the reason and tick the appropriate answer

1. Assertion (A): Chandragupta I crowned himself as a monarch of a large kingdom

after eliminating various small states in Northern India.

Reason (R): Chandragupta I married Kumaradevi of Lichchavi family.

(a) **Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.**

(b) Both A and R are correct but R is not correct explanation of A.

(c) A is correct but R is not correct.

(d) A is not correct but R is correct.

2. Statement I: Chandragupta II did not have cordial relationship with the rulers of South India.

Statement II: The divine theory of kingship was practised by the Gupta rulers.

(a) **Statement I is wrong but statement II is correct.**

(b) Statement II is wrong but statement I is correct.

(c) Both the statements are correct.

(d) Both the statements are wrong.

3. Which of the following is arranged in chronological order?

(a) **Srigupta - Chandragupta I - Samudragupta - Vikramaditya**

(b) Chandragupta I - Vikramaditya - Srigupta - Samudragupta

(c) Srigupta - Samudragupta - Vikramaditya - Chandragupta I

(d) Vikramaditya - Srigupta - Samudragupta - Chandragupta I

4. Consider the following statements and find out which of the following statement(s) is / are correct

1. Lending money at high rate of interest was practised.
2. Pottery and mining were the most flourishing industries.

- (a) 1. is correct (b) 2 is correct  
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct (d) Both 1 and 2 are wrong

5. Circle the odd one

1. Kalidasa, Harisena, Samudragupta, Charaka.

Reason : Samudragupta was a king. Others were not.

2. Ratnavali, Harshacharita, Nagananda, Priyadharshika.

Reason: Harshacharita was written by Banabhadatta. Other three were written by Harsha.

III. Fill in the blanks

1. Sri Meghavarman the king of Ceylon, was a contemporary of Samudragupta.
2. Buddhist monk from China Fahine visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.
3. Hun invasion led to the downfall of Gupta Empire.
4. Land Tax was the main revenue to the Government.
5. The official language of the Guptas was Sanskrit.
6. Vishnugopal the Pallava king was defeated by Samudragupta.
7. Harsha was the popular king of Vardhana dynasty.
8. Harsha shifted his capital from Thaneswar to Kanauj.

IV. State whether True or False

1. Dhanvantri was a famous scholar in the field of medicine. **True**
2. The structural temples built during the Gupta period resemble the Indo-Aryan style. **False**
3. Sati was not in practice in the Gupta Empire. **False**
4. Harsha belonged to Hinayana school of thought. **False**
5. Harsha was noted for his religious intolerance. **False**

V. Match the following

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A a. Mihirakula | 1 Astronomy   |
| b. Aryabhatta   | 2 Kumaragupta |
| c. Painting     | 3 Skandagupta |

- d. Nalanda University                      4 Caravan trader  
e. Sartavaga                                      5 Bagh  
(a) 1, 2, 4, 3, 5      (b) 2, 4, 1, 3, 5      (c) 3, 1, 5, 2, 4      (d) 3, 2, 1, 4, 5

## B

- a) Bana 1 10,000 students  
b) Harsha 2 Prayag  
c) Nalanda University 3 Harshacharita  
d) Hiuen - Tsang 4 Ratnavali  
e) Buddhist Assembly 5 Si-Yu-Ki  
(a) 4, 3, 2, 1, 5      (b) 3, 4, 1, 5, 2      (c) 3, 5, 1, 2, 4      (d) 2, 1, 3, 4, 5

## VI. Answer in one or two sentences

### 1. Who was given the title Kaviraja? Why?

- The title Kaviraja was given to Samudragupta.
- He was a great lover of poetry and music.
- In one of the gold coins, he is portrayed playing harp (Veenai)

### 2. What were the subjects taught at Nalanda University?

- Buddhism
- Yoga
- Vedic literature
- Medicine

### 3. Explain the Divine Theory of Kingship.

- The divine theory of Kingship meant that king is the representative of God on earth.
- He is answerable only to God and not to any one else.

### 4. Highlight the achievement of Guptas in metallurgy.

- The achievement of Guptas in metallurgy was the Mehrauli Iron pillar. King Chandragupta installed it in Delhi.
- This pillar has lasted through the centuries without rusting.

### 5. Who were the Huns?

- Huns were the nomadic tribe, who under their great Attila were terrorising Rome and Constantinople .
- They came to India through Central Asia, defeated Skandagupta and spread across central India.
- Their chief Toromana crowned himself as king.
- After him, his son Mihirakula ruled and got finally defeated by Yasodharman, ruler of Malwa.

**6. Name the three kinds of tax collected during the Harsha's reign.**

- Bhaga
- Hiranya
- Bali

**7. Name the books authored by Harsha.**

The books authored by Harsha were Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadharshika.

**VII. Answer the following briefly**

**1. Write a note on Prashasti.**

- ❖ Prashasti is a Sanskrit word, meaning commendation or 'in praise of'.
- ❖ Court poets flattered their kings listing out their achievements.
- ❖ These accounts were later engraved on pillars so that the people could read them.
- ❖ The Prayag Prashasti, composed by Samudragupta's court poet Harisena was engraved on Allahabad Pillar.
- ❖ This Allahabad Pillar inscription is the main source of information for Samudragupta's reign.

**2. Give an account of Samudragupta's military conquests.**

- ❖ Samudragupta was a great general and he carried on a vigorous campaign all over the country.
- ❖ He defeated the Pallava king Vishnugopa.
- ❖ He conquered nine kingdoms in northern India.
- ❖ He reduced 12 rulers of southern India to the status of feudatories and to pay tribute.
- ❖ He received homage from the rulers of East Bengal, Assam, Nepal, the eastern part of Punjab and various tribes of Rajasthan.

**3. Describe the land classification during the Gupta period.**

(i) Classification of land during Gupta period.

- |                  |   |                       |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| a. Kshetra       | - | Cultivable land       |
| b. Khila         | - | Waste land            |
| c. Aprahata      | - | Jungle or forest land |
| d. Vasti         | - | Habitable land        |
| e. Gapata Saraha | - | Pastoral land         |

(ii) Land Tax was the main revenue to the government.

(iii) The condition of the peasants was pathetic. They were required to pay various taxes. They were reduced to the position of serfs.

#### 4. Write about Sresthi and Sarthavaha traders.

- ❖ Sresthi : Sresthi traders were usually settled at a standard place.
- ❖ Sarthavaha : Sarthavaha traders caravan traders who carried their goods to different places.

#### 5. Highlight the contribution of Guptas to architecture.

- ❖ The Guptas were the first to construct temples, which evolved from the earlier tradition of rock-cut shrines.
- ❖ Adorned with towers and elaborate carvings, these temples were dedicated to all Hindu deities.
- ❖ The most notable rock-cut caves are found at Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra), Bagh (Madhya Pradesh) and
- ❖ Udaygiri (Odisha).
- ❖ The structural temples built during this period resemble the characteristic features of the Dravidian style.
- ❖ Two remarkable examples of Gupta metal sculpture are
- ❖ A copper image of Buddha about 18 feet high at Nalanda.
- ❖ Sultanganj Buddha seven-and-a-half feet in height.
- ❖ Gupta paintings are found on the Fresco of the Ajanta caves and the Bagh cave in Gwalior.

#### 6. Name the works of Kalidasa.

- Kalidasa's famous dramas were Sakunthala, Malavikagnimitra and Vikramoornavashyam.
- Other significant works were Meghaduta, Raghuvamsa, Kumarasambhava and Ritusamhara

#### 7. Estimate Harshvardhana as a poet and a dramatist.

- ❖ Harsha, himself a poet and dramatist, gathered around him best of poets and artists.
- ❖ Harsha's popular works are Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadharshika.
- ❖ His royal court was adorned by Banabhatta, Mayura, Hardatta and Jayasena.

### VIII. HOTS

1. The gold coins issued by Gupta kings indicate \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) the availability of gold mines in the kingdom  
(b) the ability of the people to work with gold  
**(c) the prosperity of the kingdom**  
(d) the extravagant nature of kings
2. The famous ancient paintings at Ajanta were painted on \_\_\_\_\_.  
**(a) walls of caves** (b) ceilings of temples (c) rocks (d) papyrus
3. Gupta period is remembered for \_\_\_\_\_.  
**a. renaissance in literature and art**      b. expeditions to southern India.  
c. invasion of Huns                                      d. religious toleranc

### 4. What did Indian scientists achieve in astronomy and mathematics during the Gupta period?

- ❖ Invention of Zero and the cosequent evolution of the decimal system to the modern world.
- ❖ Aryabhata explained the true causes of solar and lunar eclipses. He was the , first Indian astronomer to
- ❖ declare that the earth revolves around its own axis.

### XI. Answer Grid

Who was Toromana? <b>Ans: Chief of the Huns</b>	Name the high ranking officials of Gupta Empire. <b>Ans: Dandanayakas and Mahadanayakas</b>
Name the Gupta kings who performed Asvamedha yagna. <b>Ans: Samudra Gupta Kumaragupta I</b>	Name the book which explained the causes for the lunar and solar eclipses. <b>Ans: Surya Siddhanta</b>
Name the first Gupta king to find a place on coins. <b>Ans: Samudra Guptha</b>	Which was the main source of information to know about the Samudragupta's reign? <b>Ans: Allahabad Pillar Inscription</b>
Harsha was the worshipper of _____ in the beginning. <b>Ans: Lord Shiva</b>	_____ University reached its fame during Harsha period. <b>Ans: Nalanda</b>