

RULE OF THE GUPTAS

The Gupta Kings were able administrators and great patrons of literature, art and architecture.

The Gupta age is known as 'golden age' in Indian history.

Administration

- The Guptas had a strong central government
- The king was at the head of the administrative system.
- The empire was divided into provinces.
- Provinces further subdivided into districts or vishayas headed by vishayapatis.
- Members of the royal family were appointed as governors of provinces and were assisted by officials called kumaramatyas.

Economy

- Agriculture continued to be the main occupation
- There was significant progress in industry and trade
- One of the most important industry was textile
- Silk, muslin, calico, linen, wool and cotton were produced in large quantities.
- Other important industries were pottery-making, ivory work, stone-cutting, carving and metal works, specially in gold, silver, copper and bronze

Education

- The Gupta founded and patronised several universities of higher learning
- Some of the universities were at Nalanda, Taxila, Vallabhi, Ujjain and Sarnath

Religion

- The Gupta kings were worshippers of Lord Vishnu
- The concept of ten avatars of Vishnu evolved

Science

- Aryabhata, a great mathematician and astronomer wrote the book Aryabhatya
- He calculated the value of "pi"
- He discussed the rotation and revolution of the Earth
- And he discussed the causes for lunar and solar eclipse
- The invention of the zero and decimal system gave the world a counting
- System

Development in Literature

- Sanskrit literature owes much to the Gupta rulers
- The greatest among the scholars was Kalidasa
- Panchatantra was compiled by Vishnu Sharma

Art and Architecture

- The Dasavatra Temple at Deogarh is fine example of Gupta architecture