



## LESSON-16

### POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### **NOTES:**

- Around 320 AD, the Gupta dynasty was founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta.
- Maharaja Sri Gupta was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha.
- Ghatotkacha was succeeded by his son Chandragupta I.
- Chandragupta I, received the kingdom of Magadha as a dowry by marrying Kumaradevi, a Linchchavi princess.
- He got the title of Maharajadhiraja.
- Chandragupta I was succeeded by his son Samudragupta.
- Samudragupta was known as “Nepolean of India”.
- He was succeeded by his eldest son Ramagupta.
- But Ramagupta was removed by his younger brother Chandragupta II and became the new king.
- During the reign of Chandragupta II, the Gupta Empire extended from Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea.
- He was succeeded by his second son Kumargupta I.
- Again Kumar Gupta I was succeeded by his son Skandagupta.
- Skandagupta was considered to be the last ruler of the great dynasty.
- The Gupta had relations with the nearby kingdoms and regions in Burma, Sri-Lanka, Malay, Archipelago and Indo China.
- Fa-Hien was the first pilgrim of china who visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.
- There was a hierarchy of administrative divisions from top to bottom.
- The empire was divided in 26 provinces.
- The Gupta period was marked by extensive achievements in science, technology, engineering, art, dialectic, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy.
- The most notable rock caves of the Gupta period were the Ajanta and Ellora caves in Maharastra and Badami cave in Madhya Pradesh.
- Kalidasa, Amarashima and Vatsyayana were great scholars of the Gupta period.

- Aryabhata was one of the prominent scientist of the Gupta period.
- After the downfall of the Gupta Empire in the sixth century AD, Prabhakaravardhan, the ruler of Sthavisvara, extended his control over neighbouring states.
- Prabhakaravardhan had two sons- Rajayavardhana and Harshavardhana and a daughter Rajshree.
- Prabhakaravardhan died in 606, and his eldest son Rajayavardhana, ascended the throne,
- Sasanka, king of Gauda in Eastern Bengal treacherously murdered Rajayavardhana.
- After his death, his younger brother Harshvardhana ascended the throne at the age of 16.
- He defeated Sasanka.
- He planted trees and constructed rest house along the road side.
- Towards the end of his life, he became a Buddhist.
- During his reign, Hieun Tsang, a Chinese pilgrim visited India.
- He was famous for both fighting and literary skills.

### PALLAVAS

- The Pallavas became the powerful during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.
- Simhavishnu was one of the first important kings of the pallavas.
- The greatest king of the Pallavas was Narasimhavarman.
- The rock cut temple at Mahabalipuram and Kailashnath temple at Kanchi were built by the Pallavas.
- Kanchi, the capital of Pallavas was a great centre of Sanskrit learning.
- The Pallavas took a great role in the spread of Indian culture in South East Asia.

### CHALUKYAS

- Pukakeshin I was the founder of the Chalukyas Empire in 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- Badami was the capital of his empire.
- The greatest king of the Chalukya was Pulakeshin II, he stopped Harsha's military advancement to south India.
- The Chalukyas perfected the art of stone building.
- Their buildings made of stone was finely joined without mortar.