

B.A- PART-1, PAPER-1

# THE GUPTAS-CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN CULTURE

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# CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN CULTURE

- **Gupta's Contribution to Indian Culture**

- ❖ The Gupta period was considered as one of the glorious chapters in the history of ancient India. It witnessed changes in the social structure, religion, learning and education, architecture, art, painting and also developments in pure sciences.
- ❖ The Gupta age witnessed remarkable development in the field of literature. Education and learning witnessed matchless development. Sanskrit language became prominent during the Gupta period. Nagari script had evolved from the Brahmi script. Numerous works in classical Sanskrit came to be written



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in the forms of epic, lyrics, drama, prose and poetry. Samudragupta himself was a great poet and patronized Harisena, scholar in Sanskrit. The court of Chandragupta II was adorned by the celebrated personalities, collectively known as Navaratnas. Kalidasa remained the foremost among them. His master piece *Abhijnanasakunthalam* [Sanskrit drama] is considered one among the 'hundred best books of the world'. His other works are *Malavikagnimitra* and *Vikramorvasiya* [plays], *Raghuvamsa* and *Kumarasambhava* [epics] *Ritusamhara* and *Megadhuta* [lyrics]. Amarasimha and Vatsayana wrote *Amarakosam* and *Ka Kamasutra* respectively. The *Mrichchakatika* of Sudraka was the product of this age.



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- ❖ The Puranas in their present form were composed during this period. The epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* were given *final touches*.
- ❖ There was a tremendous progress in the field of Mathematics, astronomy, astrology and Medicine. Mathematical Numerals and notations were known to the Indian since Pagan past.
- ❖ The decimal system was in vogue in India from the fifth century.



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- ❖ Aryabhata was a great Mathematician and first Astronomer to pose more fundamental problems of Astronomy in 499 C.E. He wrote the book *Aryabhatiya*. Aryabhata, who first held the view that the earth was a sphere and it rotated on its own axis and that the eclipses were not result of the Rahu, but were caused by the shadow of earth falling on the Moon.
- ❖ Varahamihira, a great Mathematician, Astronomer and Astrologer lived in this age. He wrote *Brihatsamhita*, *Yogasastra*, *Panchasiddhantika* etc. Of all this works the most important one is the *Panchasiddhantika* (five systems of astronomy) a concise account of the currently used schools, of architecture, weather, animals, marriage and omens.



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*which too reflect a close knowledge of Greek astronomy. His Brihatsamhita is a great work in Sanskrit literature that deals with a variety of subjects like astronomy, astrology, geography,*

- ❖ Brahamagupta was the other Mathematician and physicist of the age. He was the author of *Surya Siddhnanta*.
- ❖ In the field of medicine the great medical trio of ancient India; Vagbhata, Charaka and Susruta belonged to this period.
- ❖ The Nalanda University founded by Kumaragupta I became the most celebrated Buddhist educational centre in North India.



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The Gupta emperors followed the policy of religious toleration, though they strove hard for the Brahmanical revival. Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism flourished during this period. The advent of the Guptas heralded the classical phase in the history of art. The art of casting metal images reached its climax during this period. The art of painting reached its height of glory and splendor. The fresco paintings noticed in the caves at Bagh and the paintings found in the Ajanta caves are the products of the Gupta period. The Ajanta paintings are considered to be one of the best paintings in the World. The most important temples of the Gupta period are found at Tigwa,



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Sanchi, Bumra, Nachanakuthara, Deogarh and a group of rock cut caves at Udayagiri near Bhopal. Thus the Gupta age is a classical age or an age of efflorescence where there is an all-round development.