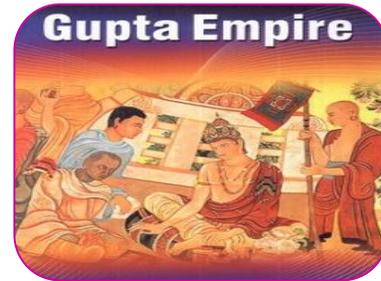




---

**LITERARY DEVELOPMENTS OF GUPTA EMPIRE**

**Dr. Rohini Sangappa Dalavay**  
Lecturer , Department of History ,  
Maharaja Degree College, Mysore , Karnataka, India.



---

**ABSTRACT**

*In this article I tried to show the important literary developments of Gupta Empire. Gupta Empire was an ancient empire which was set in north India. Pataliputra (Patna) is the capital City of Gupta Empire. Gupta kings contributed lot to the literature. Therefore, the period of the Gupta known as Golden Age of India. Here Kalidasa, Vishakadatta, Sudraka, Bhatti, Vatsayana etc. they were famous in their court.*

**KEYWORDS :** Literature, Poems, Poetry, Drama etc.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Gupta Empire was an ancient empire which was exiting from third century to fifth century. We can find that the period approximately 320 to 550 CE. The empire covered the north and south India. Some of the historians mentioned the period of the Gupta Empire called as Golden Age of India. It was founded by King Sri Gupta. Here we can find some of the very important kings namely, Chandragupta I, Samudragupta and Chandragupta II. We also found that the developments of literature in different languages. And also found many poets. Among the poets of Gupta empire Kalidasa one of the famous poet.

**Aims and Objectives of the Study**

1. To study the literary developments of Gupta Empire.
2. To study the important literary works and authors of the Gupta dynasty.

**Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is related to literary developments of Gupta Empire. Gupta kings had been supported to the development and progress of the literature.

---

### Importance of the Study

The literature of the Gupta Empire was a very famous. It helps us to understand the poetry and literature of dynasty. The basic theme of the literature of the period was poetry and romantic comedies. Those literary works related to the religious ideas.

### Some of the important literary developments of Gupta Empire

The Gupta period was known as the Golden period of India in cultural development. It is considered as the one of the supreme and most outstanding times. Gupta kings patronised the Sanskrit literature. They generously helped scholars and poets. Sanskrit language became the language of cultured and educated people.

#### 1. Kalidasa

He was a classical Sanskrit language writer. He considered as the greatest poet and dramatist of Gupta period. His six major works are: 'Abhijnana Shankutala', 'Vikramorvasi', 'Malavikagnimitra', these are the drama and 'Raghuvamsha', 'Kumarasambhava' and 'Meghaduta' are the epic poems.

#### 2. Vishakadatta

Vishakadatta wrote famous play was namely, 'Mudrarakshasa'. Mudrarakshasha means "Ring of the Demon". It also deals the ascent of Chandragupta Mourya to throne.

#### 3. Sudraka

Sudraka is a king and as well as a poet. He wrote three Sanskrit plays. Those are Mrichchhakatika (The little clay chart), Vinavasavadatta, A Bhana (Short one- act monologue).

#### 4. Harisena

He wrote 'Padmaprabharitaka'. And he was a panegyrist, Sanskrit poet and government minister. He wrote poems praising the bravery of Samudra Gupta, which is engraved on Allahabad pillar.

#### 5. Bhasa

He had written 13 plays which echo the lifestyle of the Gupta Empire along with its prevalent beliefs and culture.

#### 6. Bharavi

Bharavi had 'Kiratarjuniya' the works talks about the conversation of Shiva and Kiratarjuniya, and epic style Kavya is considered to be among the greatest works in Sanskrit.

#### 7. Bhatti

Bhatti wrote 'Bhattikavya' which is also known as Ravanavadha.

#### 8. Magha

He wrote Sisupala.

---

**9. Dandin**

He wrote 'Kavyadar shana' and 'Dasakumaracharita' were famous works. 'Dashakumarcharita' 'The Tale of the Ten Princes' which represents the adventures of 10 princes.

**10. Bhatihari**

He was beloved to be a King. He wrote 'Nitishataka' which has 100 verses on philosophy and Vakayapadiya, treatises on Sanskrit Grammar.

**11. Ishwar Krishna**

He wrote 'Sankyakarika'. It was an observation on Samkhya philosophy.

**12. Vyasa**

He wrote 'Vyasabhasya' the work on Yoga Philosophy.

**13. Vatsyayana**

He wrote 'Nyaya Sutra', 'Bhashya' and 'Kamasutra'. The 'Nyaya Sutra' and 'Bhashya' is regarded as the first commentary on Gautama's Nyaya Sutras.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In this research article I have used primary and secondary sources. Primary sources like, inscriptions, government gazetteers, news papers cuttings etc. And secondary sources like, published and unpublished books, journals, Xerox materials and websites etc.

**CONCLUSION:**

To conclude, that Gupta Empire was an ancient empire in India. Gupta Empire had given many contributions to the art, architecture and literature. They had concentrated more to literature. The Gupta kings supported to authors and poets to exhibit their talent in literature. Therefore, the Gupta period was become popular and it is known as Golden Era of India.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

1. Pratika Sharma: Art, literature and Science in Gupta.
2. Piuja Mondal: The Achievements of the Gupta Period in the field of Literature, science and Technology.
3. K.N.A.: Ancient Indian History.
4. Dr. K L Khurana: Ancient Indian History (From Earliest Times to 1026 A. D), Laxmi Narain Agrawal.
5. Internet Access.