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Subject: - General & Environmental Studies (GES)

B.COM Part III (Group A)

Topic - Dynasties (Empire) in Indian History

Gupta Dynasty

Chandragupta I :- The origin of the Guptas is somewhat obscure. It is possible that the family was one of the wealthy landowners who gradually gained political control in the region of Magadha. It was Chandragupta I who made his kingdom more than a principality. He married a Licchavi princess and ascended the throne in about AD 320. He ruled over Saketa, Prayaga and Magadh. The kingdom was enlarged and made more powerful by his son, Samudragupta.

Samudragupta (AD 335-375) : The basic information about his reign is provided by an inscription composed by Harisena the poet at his court and engraved on an Ashokan pillar at Allahabad or Prayaga prasasti. Samudragupta defeated four kings of northern India and added the

region of the present Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh to his kingdom. He fought against a number of kings in the Deccan, south India and eastern India and also attacked the forest tribes in the Deccan. He received tributes from the kings of Assam, the Ganga delta, Nepal and northern India, from the nine tribal republics of Rajasthan from the Kushana kings the Shakas and the King of Ceylon and perhaps from other islands as far as in south-east Asia. But his direct political control, compared to the Mauryan kings was over a smaller area - the Ganges valley as those who paid tribute were not directly under the Gupta Government. The kings of the south soon broke away from Gupta rule. The Sakas on the west remained unconquered, the tribes of Rajasthan merely paid tribute and the Punjab as also not under its direct control.

Chandragupta II :- Chandragupta II succeeded his father to the throne in about 375 AD. He assumed the title of Vikramaditya. So he is known as Chandragupta Vikramaditya in history in order to distinguish him from Chandragupta

Maurya. He was the worthy son of worthy father. He not only maintained the vast empire inherited from his father. But also added to it new territories by conquests of his own. He therefore, was the Master of a vast empire. Almost the whole of North to the Narmada river in the south and from the Bengal in the east to the Punjab in the west. Most of the rulers of the Deccan had accepted his suzerainty and paid tributes to him.

Gupta period golden age of India :-

The period of the Gupta rulers extending from the beginning of the fourth century AD to the end of the fifth century AD is the most glorious age in the history of ancient India. This period comprised the reigns of Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, Chandragupta II, Kumargupta and Skandagupta. The basis of the splendour of this period was the establishment of political unity in India, the economic prosperity of the people and the development of India culture. So, the Gupta period is described as the "golden age of ancient India".