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**Ch11-The Gupta Empire**

## Origins

- The Gupta Empire rose to prominence in **320 AD** and spread to large parts of northern India, central and small parts of southern India.
- The **founder** of the Gupta dynasty is Sri Gupta.
- The original homeland of the Guptas is not known. But they might have originated from Bengal. Some scholars think they are from Prayaga (Allahabad in UP).
- They are thought to be either **Brahmins** or **Vaishyas**.
- Apart from political might and strength, the Gupta kings were also known for their great achievements in the field of **science, art, culture, and literature**.





- The Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta mentions Maharaja Srigupta and Maharaja Ghatotkacha as his ancestors.
- **I-tsing**, a Chinese traveler, came to India between A.D. 671 and 695. He mentioned Srigupta as the builder of a temple at Gaya for the Chinese pilgrims about 500 years before his time.
- The king, **Srigupta**, has been identified as the **first Gupta king** mentioned in the **Allahabad pillar** inscription.
- Puranas also mentioned that the early Guptas controlled the area along the Ganga (the middle Gangetic basin), Prayag (Allahabad and surrounding region), Saketa (Ayodhya region), and Magadha.
- **Ghatottokacha** succeeded his father Srigupta. He was also referred as the Maharaja in Gupta records.