

Introduction

- 1) son and successor of Chandragupta I
- 2) Greatest Warrior, Great diplomat, farsighted king,
- 3) has been called by several names- 'kaviraj', 'hero of hundred battles', 'Napoleon of India'

Sources

- 1) coins
- 2) Literary dramas of Kalidas
- 3) Foreign Traveler's accounts- Fa hein
- 4) Inscriptions- Allahbad Pillar Inscription written by Harisena (biography)
- 5) It is written in two forms- words and prose
- 6) First 8 stanzas- education and military training; he wasn't a crown prince but was nominated by his dad
- 7) Information about military campaigns in the later part of the inscription

Military Campaigns

- 1) there were 9 powerful kings in northern india- Naga kings : Ganapati Naga, Nagsena and Nandini
he wanted to control northern india and was successful in his first campaign
estb. supremacy in north india; defeated and killed some of the kings.
- 2) South India- Samudra was attracted to this territory due to the immense wealth due to trade ease present in this region
Defeated not less than 12 kings; however he did not annex the deccan and the peninsular region; he was happy that the kings submitted to his authority
- 3) Forest Tribes of central and western India- they submitted to the authority to samudragupta and paid him tributes (info from Eran inscription)
- 4) Frontier Kingdoms- The rulers of Nepal, Assam and Bengal submitted to the military might of the gupta empire and agreed to pay taxes and tributes to samudragupta

Relations with Ceylon

The king of Ceylon sent 2 buddhist monks to Bodhgaya- faced inconvenience- lack of accommodation
Samudragupta agreed to build a buddhist monastery in Bodhgaya upon the request of King of Ceylon

Personality/estimate

showcased many qualities of head and heart
he was cultured, surrounded himself with learned people
endowed with poetic and musical talent of high order
coins depicting him playing a vina; Kaviraj- king of poets
patron of letters, appointed buddhist scholar Vasubandhu as a minister
harisena describes his as a kind and charitable king
RC Majumdar and Vincent Smith



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