

### 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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