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- Before Gupta was known as Dark Age
- Began around 240 AD
- Founder was Sri-Gupta (240-280 AD)
- Zenith during rule of Chandru Gupta I (grandson of Sri-Gupta)
  - Succeeded by 2 rulers
- Named after Gupta Empire (320-550 CE)
  - Golden age of India
  - Caste system developed
  - Social standing decided by 4 main castes

| II. Gupta-Empire Society |

- Brahmanas: Trade/Architecture
- Vaishyas: Gupta Rulers
- Kshatriya: Industrial Vocation
- Sudras: Trade/Architecture

  - Man dominating, women secondary position
  - Education was important
    - Had universities
  - Women were able to obtain education
  - Food was strictly vegetarian
  - Entertainment included dances, concerts, animal fights, and gambling
  - Religion was Hinduism and Buddhism
  - Festivals often associated with religious beliefs

| III. Gupta-Empire Government |

- Gupta regime gave power to local leaders which were elected by merchants and artisans
- Gupta rulers gave salaries in land grants rather than cash
- Brahmins granted tax-free lands
- Gupta had a fairly good judicial system
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- Gupta system of urban and rural administration based on encoding local participation
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Gupta government shared a lot with the Mauryan government.