

CHANDRAGUPTA II

The conquest of the Sakas was his major campaign. He defeated Rudrasimha III. He was perhaps helped in his campaign by the Vakatakas. The crucial clue to this victory was found from his coins. With this conquest the Gupta territorial expansion reached the westernmost part of the subcontinent and included the prosperous area of Gujarat noted for maritime trade.

Mehrauli Pillar inscription records the military achievements of a king Chandra. He is said to have raided Vahlika (Balkh in Afghanistan) and also conquered a confederacy of enemies in Vanga (central deltaic Bengal). Scholars are sharply divided on the question of identity of the King Chandra. Most historians, however, tend to identify him with Chandragupta II, in view of the great prowess and military success. The inscription palaeographically belongs to the fourth century which fits with the reign period of Chandragupta II.

Matrimonial alliances held a prominent place in his imperial policy. He married Kuvera Naga of the Naga family, who were a powerful ruling clan. He married his daughter to the Vakataka family. He is also credited with entering marriage alliance with the Kadambas of Kuntala.

He is often identified with legendary Vikramaditya. Like Vikramaditya he had defeated the Sakas. His capital was Ujjaini and he initiated Gupta era. But some of the Gupta rulers also took the title Vikramaditya. Even if Chandragupta II did not happen to be the legendary Vikramaditya he was associated with the Vikramaditya legends.

See

Read R.C. Majumdar and A.S. Altekar (ed.) *The Vakataka-Gupta Age*, S. R. Goyal, *History of the Imperial Guptas*, R. C. Majumdar, *Classical Age* to have an idea of the imperial Guptas.