

SEM 2, CC-3

SAMUDRAGUPTA (conquests)

Sources : 1. Allahabad pillar inscription by Harisena

2. Eran inscription of Madhya Pradesh

Allahabad pillar inscription gives a detail account of Samudragupta's conquest. Here the names are divided into 4 categories with whom Samudragupta instituted different relations :

Category 1 – 12 kings and kingdoms of Dakshinapatha

1. Mahendra of Kosala
2. Vyagaraja of Mahakantara
3. Mantaraja of Kaurala
4. Mahendragiri of Pistapura
5. Svamidatta of Kottura
6. Damana of Erandapalla
7. Vishnugopa of Kanchi
8. Nilaraja of Avamukta
9. Hastivarman of Vengi
10. Ugrasena of Palakka
11. Kuvera of Devarashtra
12. Dhananjaya of Kusthalapura

His South Indian conquest had 3 distinctive features :

- Grahana – forcibly capturing the enemy
- Moksha – liberating the enemy
- Anugraha – restoring the conquered territory to the vanquished enemy

Reasons : Difficulties of administering the south from a great distance.
Economical reasons

Category 2 : 10 kings of Aryavartta

1. Rudradeva
2. Matila
3. Nagadatta
4. Ganapatinaga
5. Nagasena
6. Chandravarman
7. Achyuta
8. Nandi
9. Balavarman
10. A petty king of the Kota family

They were uprooted by Samudragupta

Category 3 : The Atavikarajas, 5 pratyantanripati or frontier chiefs and 9 non-monarchical groups

He reduced the Atavikarajas to his servants.

5 frontier chiefs and 9 non-monarchical groups pay him tributes, obey his orders, attended his court and pay him obsequence.

5 frontier areas are :

1. Samatata
2. Davaka
3. Nepal
4. Kamrupa
5. Kartripura

9. Non-monarchical groups are :

1. Malavas
2. Arjunayas
3. Yaudheyas
4. Madrakas
5. Abhiras
6. Prabhiras
7. Kakapuras
8. Sanakanikas
9. Kharaparikas

The frontier chiefs and non-monarchical groups stood as tributary powers to Samudragupta who spread his political superiority over an extensive outlying zone from south –eastern Bangladesh to Rajasthan and from the Himalayan foothills to the western fringes of the Deccan.

Category 4 : Daivaputra-shahi-shahanushahi, Saka –murunda, and all island dwellers including Sri Lanka

They maintained friendly relations with Samudragupta by presenting themselves at the Gupta court, offering him gifts of maidens and by seeking Gupta royal seal as a guarantee for the rule over their territories.