The Study Centre will have to return the assignments to you after they are evaluated. Please insist on this. The Study Centre has to send the marks to the Student Evaluation Division at IGNOU, New Delhi.

We expect you to answer each question as per guidelines for each category as mentioned in the assignment. You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1) **Planning:** Read the assignments carefully, go through the Units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange them in a logical order.

2) **Organisation:** Be a little selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. Give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion.

   Make sure that your answer:
   a) is logical and coherent;
   b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs, and
   c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation.

3) **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answer, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. Make sure that the answer is within the stipulated word limit.

Wishing you all the best,
Faculty of History

BHIC 132: HISTORY OF INDIA FROM *C*. 300 C.E. TO 1206
(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Course code: BHIC-132
Assignment Code: BHIC-132/ASST/TMA/2026-2027
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1) Discuss the achievements of Gupta period in the field art and literature. 20

2) Explain the various theories for the origin of the Rajputs. 20

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3) Evaluate the main features of Pallavas art and temple architecture. 10

4) Describe the extent and administration of Harshvardhan Empire. 10

5) Examine the importance of the land in the early medival period. 10

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6) Local administration Ur and Nadu 6

7) The Pallava-Pandya conflicts 6

8) Painting 6

9) Some exceptional rule : women in polities or administration 6

10) Decline of Bhakti Movement 6

1) Discuss the achievements of Gupta period in the field art and literature. 20

Answer

The Gupta age, roughly from the fourth to the sixth century C.E., was an important phase in the cultural history of India. Political stability in much of northern India, the growth of prosperous towns and courts, and patronage by rulers, religious institutions and wealthy groups created favourable conditions for artistic and literary activity. The period is often called a classical age, although many achievements associated with it also came from regions and dynasties outside direct Gupta rule. Its importance lies in the way earlier traditions were refined and given forms that influenced later Indian culture.

Art and architecture

One major achievement was the development of structural temple architecture. Earlier sacred buildings had often used perishable materials or rock-cut forms, but Gupta-period temples increasingly employed brick and dressed stone. Temples at places such as Deogarh, Bhitargaon, Tigawa and Nachna show experiments with a square sanctum, a doorway framed with sculpture, a raised platform and, in some examples, an early tower above the shrine. The Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh is especially important for its carefully planned structure and relief panels showing Vaishnava themes. These forms helped prepare the ground for the later Nagara style of north Indian temples.

Rock-cut art also continued. The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha contain important Gupta-period religious images. The great relief of Vishnu as Varaha lifting the earth is both a devotional image and a powerful statement of royal order. Such works show how political authority and religious symbolism could be brought together without making the sculpture merely decorative.

Sculpture, painting and decorative arts

Gupta sculpture is known for balanced proportions, controlled movement and calm expression. Buddha images from Sarnath show a smooth treatment of the body, a transparent robe and a meditative face, while Mathura continued its own strong sculptural tradition. Images of Vishnu, Shiva, the Goddess and other deities also became more standardized. This was important because iconographic forms developed in this period were repeated, with regional variations, for centuries.