VIDEO 16 • SECTION 2.6 • MODULE 2 — ANCIENT MP

The Gupta Age in MP

Attempt all 20 questions first, then check the answer key and read every explanation.

Questions

Q1. In Samudragupta's inscription, Eran (ancient Airikina) is described as his:

(a) Second capital
(b) Svabhoga-nagara (a city of his own)
(c) Mint town
(d) Military camp

Q2. Eran, an important Gupta-age site, is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

(a) Sagar
(b) Vidisha
(c) Raisen
(d) Ashoknagar

Q3. Using the Gupta era (beginning 319–320 CE), Gupta year 82 corresponds roughly to:

(a) 319 CE
(b) 376 CE
(c) 412 CE
(d) 401 CE

Q4. Virasena, whose inscription is found at Udayagiri, was Chandragupta II's:

(a) Court poet
(b) Governor of Eran
(c) Minister for peace and war
(d) Feudatory of the Sanakanika family

Q5. The Sanchi inscription of Chandragupta II (Gupta year 93 = 412 CE) records a donation by his officer:

(a) Matrivishnu
(b) Amrakardava
(c) Goparaja
(d) Surashmichandra

Q6. In the Sanchi inscription of Chandragupta II, Sanchi is called:

(a) Kakanadabota
(b) Airikina
(c) Tumbavana
(d) Dashapura

Q7. The Jain inscription of 425 CE (Gupta year 106) at Udayagiri is found in:

(a) Cave 1
(b) Cave 5
(c) Cave 13
(d) Cave 20

Q8. The Tumain inscription (Gupta year 116), which names Kumaragupta I and Ghatotkachagupta, is in which present district?

(a) Guna
(b) Vidisha
(c) Ashoknagar
(d) Shivpuri

Q9. The Supia pillar inscription of Skandagupta's time (460 CE), which gives the Gupta family line, is in:

(a) Rewa
(b) Satna
(c) Sagar
(d) Katni

Q10. The Eran Garuda pillar of Budhagupta's time (484–85 CE) was raised by:

(a) Goparaja and his wife
(b) Matrivishnu and Dhanyavishnu
(c) Virasena and Amrakardava
(d) Hastin and Sarvanatha

Q11. The earliest inscriptional evidence of sati (510 CE) has been found at:

(a) Udayagiri
(b) Sanchi
(c) Eran
(d) Mandsaur

Q12. Consider the following statements about the Eran inscription of 510 CE:

1. It belongs to the time of Bhanugupta.
2. Goparaja, who died in battle, was the Gupta emperor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q13. The Gwalior inscription of Mihirakula records the building of which temple by Matricheta?

(a) A Vishnu temple
(b) A Jain temple
(c) A Shiva temple
(d) A Sun temple

Q14. The Parivrajaka and Uchchakalpa Maharajas, who dated their copper-plate grants in the Gupta era, ruled in:

(a) Malwa and Nimar
(b) Chambal and Gird
(c) Mahakoshal and Chhattisgarh
(d) Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand

Q15. The famous rock-cut relief of Vishnu as Varaha lifting the Earth goddess is in which cave at Udayagiri (Vidisha)?

(a) Cave 1
(b) Cave 5
(c) Cave 13
(d) Cave 20

Q16. Match the Gupta-period temples with their districts:

A. Tigawa B. Bhumara C. Nachna

1. Panna 2. Katni 3. Satna

(a) A-3, B-2, C-1
(b) A-1, B-3, C-2
(c) A-2, B-3, C-1
(d) A-2, B-1, C-3

Q17. Which of the following is NOT one of the eight MP components of the 'Gupta Temples in North India' serial nomination (UNESCO tentative list, 2025)?

(a) Temple No. 17, Sanchi
(b) Vamana temple, Deori
(c) Brick temple, Pawaya
(d) Varaha temple, Eran

Q18. Most of the paintings of the Bagh caves (Dhar) are now preserved in:

(a) Indian Museum, Kolkata
(b) State Museum, Bhopal
(c) Gujari Mahal Museum, Gwalior
(d) National Museum, New Delhi

Q19. In September 2026, which two Gupta-age sites of MP were added to India's UNESCO tentative list as separate entries?

(a) Bagh Cave Paintings and Udaigiri Caves
(b) Eran and Tigawa
(c) Sanchi Temple 17 and Nachna
(d) Bhumara and Supia

Q20. Consider the following statements:

1. The Udayagiri caves of Vidisha are a World Heritage Site.
2. Kalidasa's Meghaduta describes Ujjayini and Vidisha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer Key

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(b)	(a)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(b)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(c)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(b)

Explanations

Q1. Answer (b) Svabhoga-nagara (a city of his own)
Samudragupta's Eran inscription calls Eran his svabhoga-nagara. The inscription is now in the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Q2. Answer (a) Sagar
Eran lies on the south bank of the Bina river in Sagar district.

Q3. Answer (d) 401 CE
Gupta year + 319 = CE. 82 + 319 = 401 CE — the date of the Udayagiri Cave 6 inscription of Chandragupta II's time.

Q4. Answer (c) Minister for peace and war
Virasena, minister for peace and war from Pataliputra, came to Udayagiri with the king and had a cave made for Shiva.

Q5. Answer (b) Amrakardava
Amrakardava's donation; the inscription calls the king 'Devaraja' and names Sanchi as Kakanadabota.

Q6. Answer (a) Kakanadabota
Kakanadabota is Sanchi; Airikina = Eran, Tumbavana = Tumain, Dashapura = Mandsaur.

Q7. Answer (d) Cave 20
Cave 20 is the Jain cave; its inscription records an image of Parshvanatha. It does not name the king, but its date falls in Kumaragupta I's reign.

Q8. Answer (c) Ashoknagar
Tumain (ancient Tumbavana) is in Ashoknagar district; it was earlier part of Guna district.

Q9. Answer (a) Rewa
Supia is a village in Rewa district; Gupta year 141 + 319 = 460 CE.

Q10. Answer (b) Matrivishnu and Dhanyavishnu
The two brothers raised it as a flagstaff of Janardana (Vishnu); it names governor Surashmichandra, who ruled between the Kalindi (Yamuna) and the Narmada.

Q11. Answer (c) Eran
Bhanugupta's Eran pillar inscription (Gupta year 191) records that chief Goparaja died in battle and his wife followed him onto the pyre.

Q12. Answer (a) 1 only
Only statement 1 is correct. Goparaja was a chief of Bhanugupta's time, not the ruler.

Q13. Answer (d) A Sun temple
A Sun temple on Gopa hill (Gwalior Fort) in Mihirakula's 15th year; the inscription is now in the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Q14. Answer (d) Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand
Using the Gupta era showed that they accepted Gupta overlordship; the Bhumara pillar inscription shows Hastin and Sarvanatha were contemporaries.

Q15. Answer (b) Cave 5
Cave 5 has the colossal Varaha relief; Cave 13 has the reclining Vishnu (Anantashayana). The free-standing giant Varaha is at Eran.

Q16. Answer (c) A-2, B-3, C-1
Tigawa (Kankali Devi) – Katni, Bhumara (Shiva temple) – Satna, Nachna (Parvati temple) – Panna.

Q17. Answer (d) Varaha temple, Eran
The eight MP components: Sanchi Temple 17, Udayagiri Cave 1, Nachna, Tigawa, Bhumara, Sakor, Deori and the Pawaya brick temple. Eran is not on the list.

Q18. Answer (c) Gujari Mahal Museum, Gwalior
They were removed in 1982 to save them; some are in the site museum at Bagh. Cave 4 (Rang Mahal) had the finest murals.

Q19. Answer (a) Bagh Cave Paintings and Udaigiri Caves
Bagh Cave Paintings and Udaigiri Caves were added; with four MP additions, MP's tentative sites rose to 19.

Q20. Answer (b) 2 only
Only statement 2 is correct. Udayagiri is only on India's tentative list, not a World Heritage Site.

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