

rise of the ruling dynasty consisting of Dharmāditya, Gopacandra and Samācāradeva in Central and South-West Bengal in the first half of the sixth Century A.D., possibly points to the extirpation of Gupta rule from Bengal excepting the bhukti (province) of Puṇḍravardhana (North Bengal).¹¹⁶

3. *Bhānugupta* (No. 19, L. 5) :

He is known only from No. 19. His no other coin or seal has yet come to light. As regards the position of Bhānugupta, several alternatives are possible. First, he may have been a successor of Vainyagupta and the dominions of both may have included parts of Eastern Malwa. Second, Vainyagupta may have been the lord of the eastern part of the Gupta Empire when its western part was being ruled by Bhānugupta. Third, Bhānugupta may have been a viceroy in the Malwa region like Govindagupta and Ghaṭotkacagupta. It is possible that he belonged to the Imperial Gupta line but whether he succeeded Vainyagupta, or the two ruled at the same time respectively over the western and eastern parts of the empire, is difficult to determine. The latter view seems more probable and this internal dissension perhaps paved the way for the downfall of the empire.¹¹⁷ Bhānugupta, in spite of the high encomiums paid to his bravery in Eraṇ Inscription, remains a shadowy figure, and we do not know what was his position in the Gupta Imperial family, or what part he played in the dark days of the Gupta empire.¹¹⁸

His name is based on the god Sun 'Bhānu'.

NAMES OF THE GUPTA QUEENS

Following are the names of the Gupta queens available in our inscriptions. They have been mentioned as Mahādevīs.

1. Kumāradevī
2. Dattadevī
3. (a) Dhruvadevī
(b) Dhruvasvāminī
4. Anantadevī
5. Candradevī
6. Śrīva (tsa) devī
7. Mitradevī

1. *Kumāradevī* : (No. 1, L. 29; No. 4, L. 8; No. 10, L. 4;