Indian Political Structure

India’s first civilization was centered around the **BLANK** River. Historians call this the **BLANK** civilization.

This civilization began around 2300 BC and by the early **BLANK**.

A new group of people called the **BLANK** began to invade the Indus Valley and by **BLANK** they controlled the entire valley and had moved east to the **BLANK**. Most of what we know of the Aryans comes from religious writings known as the **BLANK**.

Aryans had no **BLANK** government. Instead, large family groups were ruled by **BLANK**.

In the **BLANK** a military leader named Chandragupta Maurya took control of the entire **BLANK** part of India. This was the beginning of the **BLANK** Empire. The government of the Mauryan Empire included a network of **BLANK** and a huge army of **BLANK** soldiers. In return for protection from the military, farmers paid a **BLANK** to the government. In 301 BC Chandragupta decided to give up his **BLANK** and become a monk. In 270 BC Chandragupta’s grandson Asoka became **BLANK**. He was the **BLANK** of all the Mauryan Emperors. Asoka’s armies conquered most of the rest of India. Asoka later became a **BLANK** and spent the rest of his reign **BLANK** the lives of his people. Asoka died in 233 BC and by 184 BC the Mauryan empire ended and India was **BLANK** into smaller states and was divided for another **BLANK** years.

The Gupta **BLANK** took over India around **BLANK** and united it once again. The Gupta rulers were **BLANK** but they supported both **BLANK** and Jainism in India. The Gupta emperors used the **BLANK** to strengthen their rule. **BLANK** and in particular **BLANK** had their rights severely reduced under Gupta rule. The Gupta Empire ruled India until the 400’s AD when the **BLANK** from **BLANK** Asia invaded India.