

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

1. Why was the post-Maurya era also known as the era of reorganisation?

Ans. After the death of the last Maurya ruler around **185 BCE**, central authority broke down, and the empire fragmented. Regional powers like the **Shunga, Satavahana, Kushana, Indo Greek, Shaka**, and southern Tamil kingdoms (Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas) emerged, reorganising political boundaries across the subcontinent. These new kingdoms competed for power, restructuring political and cultural landscapes. With foreign invasions in the northwest and the rise of smaller dynasties everywhere, India saw constant shifts in power, administration, religious practices, art, and trade. These widespread changes are why historians call this period the **Age of Reorganisation**.

2. Write a note on the Sangam literature in 150 words.

Ans. **Sangam literature**, also known historically as *Cāṇṛōr ceyyul* ("Poems of the Scholars"), is a collection of ancient Tamil poetry written between approximately 100 BCE and 250 CE. Compiled in poetic gatherings (Sangams) believed to have been held in Madurai, it includes the **Ettuttokai** (Eight Anthologies) like *Akaṇānūru* (love poems) and *Puraṇānūru* (heroic poetry), and the **Pattuppāṭṭu** (Ten Idylls). Together they cover themes of love (akam), war and public life (puram),

landscapes, ethics, and values. Sangam poetry was composed by over 400 poets—estimated 473—with at least 102 anonymous, including at least 27 women poets. These poems vividly depict the lives, emotions, and heroes of ancient Tamilakam, and even refer casually to epic stories like the Ramayana, suggesting their familiarity across regions. Sangam literature remains fundamental in understanding early South Indian culture, values, trade, and royal ideals.

3. Which rulers mentioned in this chapter included their mother's name in their title, and why did they do so?

Ans. Among post Maurya dynasties, **Gautamiputra Satakarni** of the Satavahana dynasty prominently included his mother's name—**Gautami Balāśrī**—in his title. He became known with the matronymic designation Gautamiputra, meaning "son of Gautami." Historical inscriptions attest this; his mother issued Nasik cave inscriptions referring to him and her welfare deeds. Scholars believe this practice served two purposes:

It honored his mother's royal lineage or influential status within the dynasty.

It acted as a political strategy to reinforce legitimacy by highlighting maternal connections, particularly during periods of dynastic expansion or internal consolidation.