

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Why was there a rise in agricultural production?

Ans. The discovery of iron tools led to rapid rise in agricultural production. It even made it easier to bring more land under cultivation by clearing forests. Further, the same piece of land was used to produce more than one crop in a year. The use of iron ploughshare made it possible to dig deep in those areas where the soil was fertile.

Q.2. What do sources tell us about the existence of towns in the age of second urbanisation?

Ans. The literary sources of the period mention about many towns which existed during this period. These were Vaishali, Ujjayani, Hastinapur, Pataliputra, Mathura, Bodh Gaya, Arikamedu, Rajagriha and Kaveri Pattanam. Archaeological evidence reveals that a large number of towns existed during this period.

Q.3. What were the functions of towns? Give examples.

Ans. Each town was famous for some particular activity. Some towns were religious while others were administrative towns or capital cities. Several trading towns like Sopara, Bharuch and Tamralipti also emerged during this period. Some towns, however, were more important than others because they were famous for many activities.