



## Vital Villages, Thriving Towns

Q1. Mathura has been an important settlement for more than 2500 years. Give reasons.

Ans. Reasons

- i. It was important because it was located at the cross roads of two major routes of travel and trade — from the northwest to the east and from north to south.
- ii. There were fortifications around the city, and several shrines.
- iii. Farmers and herders from adjoining areas provided food for people in the city.
- iv. Mathura was also a centre where some extremely fine sculpture was produced.

Q2. Write a short note on Grama Bhojaka.

Ans. Grama Bhojaka

- i. In the northern part of the country, the village headman was known as the grama bhojaka.
- ii. Usually, men from the same family held the position for generations. In other words, the post was hereditary.
- iii. The grama bhojaka was often the largest landowner.
- iv. Generally, he had slaves and hired workers to cultivate the land.
- v. Besides, as he was powerful, the king often used him to collect taxes from the village.
- vi. He also functioned as a judge, and sometimes as a policeman.