

THROUGH THE EYES OF TRAVELLERS

Key concept in nutshell:-

- Al- Biruni was born in khwarizam in present day UZBEKISTAN.
- SULTAN MAHMUD attacked khwarizm and took Al- Biruni to his capital Ghani.
- AL- BIRUNI wrote "KITAB-UL-HIND" also known as. TAHKIK- A- HIND."
- IBN- BATTUTA'S travelling account "Rihla" gives very interesting information of social and cultural life of India
- AL-BIRUNI discussed several "barriers"
- Whatever Bernier saw in India compared it with European condition.
- IBN- BATTUTA wrote that Indian agriculture was very productive .
- BERNIER critically wrote his account " Travels in the Mughal empire."
- Around 15% population in 17th century lived in towns in India .

AL- BIRUNI AND KITAB- UL- HIND :-

- In 1017, Sultan- Mahmud invaded khwarizm, he took several scholars and poets back to his capital, Ghazni , Al- BIRUNI was one of them .
- AL- BIRUNI'S KITAB - UL- HIND written in Arabic .
- It is simple, lucid and voluminous text , divided into 80 chapters on subjects such as religion and philosophy , festival astronomy, manners and customs , social life , weights and measures, laws , and metrology.
- AL- BIRUNI who wrote in Arabic , probably intended his work of peoples living along the frontiers of the subcontinent.

AL- BIRUNI AND THE SANSKRITIC TRADITION

- Overcoming barriers to understanding:- He discussed several " barriers " that he felt obstructed understanding .the first amongs there was language .
- He depend almost on the works of BRAMANAS , often citing passages from the vedas, the puranas, the BhagavatGita, the work of Patanjali the Manusmriti etc provided an understanding of Indian society.
- The second barrier was difference in religious beliefs practices.
- The self- absorption and consequent insularity of the local population according to him , constituted the third barriers.

THE END .