

Through the Eyes of Travellers

- Al-Biruni was born in Khwarizm in present day Uzbekistan.
- Sultan Mahmud attacked Khawrizm and took Al-Biruni to his capital Ghazni.
- 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.
- Ibn-Battuta's attacked by bands of robbers several times.
- Whatever Bernier saw in India compared it with European condition.
- Al-Biruni discussed several "barriers".
- Ibn-Battuta wrote that Indian agriculture was very productive.
- Ibn-Battuta's was greatly amazed by looking at the postal system. Bernier compared India with contemporary Europe.
- Bernier critically wrote his account "Travels in the Mughal empire".
- Around 15% population in 17th century lived in towns in India.
- Bernier called Mughal cities as "camp town", which were dependent upon imperial protection for their survival.
- Bernier's description influenced western theorists like Montesquieu.