



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034**  
**Class XII – HISTORY**

**Theme -5:- THROUGH THE EYES OF THE TRAVELLER**

Dear Students

Welcome to the new academic session 2020-21!

Before you go through this e-lesson, ensure that you have read the lesson 'Bricks, Beads and Bones'. Mark the historical / technical words, find out their meanings and note them in your history register. The various You Tube links provided in the lesson will help in comprehending the concepts, and make it easier for you.

Happy Learning

**I. INTRODUCTION –**

- Women and men have **travelled** in search of work, to escape from natural disasters, as traders, merchants, soldiers, priests, pilgrims, or driven by a sense of adventure.
- Those who visit or come to stay in a new land invariably encounter a **world that is different**: in terms of the landscape or physical environment as well as customs, languages, beliefs and practices of people.
- Many of them try to adapt to these differences; others, somewhat exceptional, **note them carefully in accounts**, generally recording what they find unusual or remarkable.
- The **accounts** that survive **are often varied** in terms of their subject matter such as affairs of the court, religious issues, or architectural features and monuments. In this chapter we shall see how our knowledge of the past can be enriched through a consideration of descriptions of social life provided by travellers who visited the subcontinent,
- We will be focusing on the accounts of three men: Al-Biruni who came from Uzbekistan (eleventh century), Ibn Battuta who came from Morocco, in northwestern Africa (fourteenth century) and Frenchman François Bernier (seventeenth century).

**II. TOPICS –**

- Each topic has been converted into a mind map. It is a visual organization and representation of knowledge.

### III. FURTHER REFERENCE –

Kindly watch the following videos for a better understanding.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdOBbopxVME&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9EP1mAhcA&feature=youtu.be>

### IV. EXPLANATION – MIND MAPS

*Kindly see the attachment*

### V. ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS –

*[To be attempted in the History register.]*

*[Answer in 100-150 words]*

1. Write a note on the Kitab-ul-Hind.
2. Compare and contrast the perspectives from which Ibn Battuta and Bernier wrote their accounts of their travels in India.
3. Discuss the picture of urban centres that emerges from Bernier's account.
4. Analyse the evidence for slavery provided by Ibn Battuta.
5. What were the elements of the practice of sati that drew the attention of Bernier?

**[Answer in 500 words]**

6. Discuss Al-Biruni's understanding of the caste system.
7. Discuss the extent to which Bernier's account enables historians to reconstruct contemporary rural society.