

Tracing Changes through A thousand Years

Q1. Write a short note on foreign travellers who visited India during Medieval Period.

Ans. Foreign travellers who visited India during Medieval Period

- i. Ibn Batuta- He came from Morocco in the 14th century AD wrote about the reign on Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq.
- ii. Nicole Conti – He came from Venice and gave an account of the kingdom of Vijaynagar and its war with Bahmani kings.
- iii. Abdur Razzaq – He came from Persia and visited the kingdom of Vijaynagar.
- iv. William Hawkins – He came from England and visited the court of Jahangir. His narrative describes the magnificence of the Mughal court.
- v. Al-Beruni – He came from Central Asia in the 11th century AD and wrote Tahqiq-i-Hind giving a wealth of information on the culture and economy of medieval India.

Q2. How were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Ans. Affairs of jatis were regulated in the following ways:

- i. As society became more differentiated, people were grouped into jatis or sub-castes and ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and their occupations.
- ii. Ranks were not fixed permanently, and varied according to the power, influence and resources controlled by members of the jati. The status of the same jati could vary from area to area.
- iii. Jatis framed their own rules and regulations to manage the conduct of their members. These regulations were enforced by an assembly of elders, described in some areas as the jati panchayat. But jatis were also required to follow the rules of their villages.
- iv. Several villages were governed by a chieftain. Together they were only one small unit of a state.