

10. Miscellaneous Topics

▪ Different type of towns in Medieval India

1. Administrative town

2. Temple towns: Temple developed along a temple.

▪ Role of king and temple authority in promoting urbanization

- King used to provide land grant to temples
- Temple authority used their wealth to finance trade and banking.
- Pilgrims provided donation and supported trade.
- Example of such towns- **Kanchipuram, Somnath** etc.

3. A network of small town developed along **Mandpikas (mandi in later times), hatta (haat in later times)**. Usually Jamindar or Samanta built a fortified palace near these towns.

- Major chronicle of medieval era and their writer.
- **Ain-I-Akbari**: Abul Fazal Ilami
- **Akbarnama**: Abul Fazal
- **Badshahnama**: Abdul Hamid Lahori (official history of reign of Shahjahan)
- **Alamgirnama**: Mirza Muhammad Qazim was the author of book "Alamgir-Nama". The book gives the chronicle of the contemporary events covering the first

decade of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's reign.

- **Kitab-ul-Hind**: Al Biruni(written in Arabic gives information late 10th and mid-11th AD India).
- **Francois Bernier**: he was in India during 1656-68 AD he was mainly associated with Dara Shikoh. He wrote extensively about India. Theory of oriental despotism is based on his writing. He wrote mainly in French language.
- **Tabaqat-Nasiri**: Minhaj-ul-shiraz

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