

Explanation of some important terms

1. **Tarikh/Tawarikh:** These are Arabic terms which stand for 'history/histories'. The collections of *Hadis* (Hadith) are said to be the earliest such history (Tarikh). Subsequently, chronological accounts of rulers, states, regions etc. also came to be included in the *Tarikh*. Under the Delhi Sultans the writers of *Tawarikh* were learned men and lived in cities. They also held positions as secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers. Their main job was to recount events and advise the ruler on matters of governance emphasizing the importance of 'just' rule. The *Tawarikh* that were written during this period are in Persian.
2. **Muqti:** During the period of the Delhi sultanate, the term was used to refer to the commanders of military and administrative tracts called iqtas. The powers, which the muqtis exercised, depended on specific circumstances. Initially the muqtis were almost independent although with the central authority becoming stronger, the muqtis' powers became much less. Since Balban's time the muqtis were obliged to send the surplus income from the iqtas to the centre after meeting their own expenditures including the expenditure they had to incur in maintaining the armies and law and order. During Alauddin's time the muqtis had also to follow the system of land revenue assessment that had been introduced by the sultan in the doab region. The control of the sultans over the muqtis also grew on account of the appointment of revenue administrators (naib diwans or khwaja) and intelligence officers (barids) from the centre in the iqtas.

Source: NCERT (2017) *Dictionary of History for School Children (Trilingual)*, National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi.