Glossary

*aab*  
do’ab  
The Doab

*ahl*  
ahl i kalam

*ahl i ilm*  
ahl i teg, ahl i shamshir

*a’in*  
akhur  
alai  
Allah  
alp  
amil  
Amin ul Millat,  
Yamin ud Daulah

*amir*  
amir i akhur  
amir i hajib,  
barbek  
amir i koh  
amir i shikar  
amir i tušık

Water, a river  
land between two rivers  
territories situated between the Jumna and the Ganges  
one who possesses, competent  
men of the pen, scholars and writers; civil bureaucracy of the sultanate  
men of knowledge, scholars, *ulama*  
men of the sword, nobility of the sultanate  
law, statute  
horse  
of Alauddin Khalji  
God  
first or the seniormost  
a revenue official  
Protector of the Muslims, The Righthand Man of the Empire’ (of the Caliph)  
commander, title borne by independent Muslim rulers of Central Asia; nobleman; an imperial officer of the third grade, after *khan* and *malik*, under the sultans  
the master of horse (royal stables)  
officer in charge of the royal court, lord chamberlain  
officer in charge of agriculture  
officer in charge of the royal hunt  
the master of ceremonies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amiran</td>
<td>pl. of <em>amir</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>amir ul momnin</em></td>
<td>‘commander of the faithful’, the Caliph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ariz</td>
<td>officer in charge of army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ariz i mamalik</td>
<td>chief of the army staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>auliya</td>
<td>saint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bakshi</td>
<td>paymaster, treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>banjara</td>
<td>grain carrier, corn merchant</td>
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<tr>
<td>baqqa'</td>
<td>a grocer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barid</td>
<td>intelligence official, spy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barid i mamalik</td>
<td>head of the royal intelligence service</td>
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<tr>
<td>beg, bek</td>
<td>an officer of high grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begum</td>
<td>a Muslim lady of rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhakti</td>
<td>worship of the Divine, the doctrine of personal devotion to God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhishiti</td>
<td>water carrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biswa</td>
<td>a unit of land measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burj</td>
<td>a tower</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>caravan, karwan</em></td>
<td>group of merchants travelling together who usually carried the merchandise on horsebacks, camels, ponies or carts</td>
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<tr>
<td>chadar, chaddar</td>
<td>a sheet of cloth, cloth worn over head and shoulders</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>chatr; chhatr</em></td>
<td>a parasol, royal canopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chaudhri</td>
<td>a Hindu landlord/chief of the village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chaukidar</td>
<td>night or village watchman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chungi</td>
<td>tax, octroi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crore</td>
<td>ten millions, a hundred lacs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dabir</td>
<td>secretary, clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dabir i mamalik</td>
<td>chief secretary, officer in charge of the royal secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dagh</td>
<td>mark, branding of the army horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dallal</td>
<td>broker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dargah</td>
<td>a Muslim shrine, mausoleum of a saint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>darogha</td>
<td>a subordinate police chief</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>dar ul adl</em></td>
<td>lit. place of justice; open market place of the metropolis of Delhi during the reign of Alauddin Khalji</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Read dar ul harab for dar ul haram as wrongly printed on page 1, line 8.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glossary Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>haq</em></td>
<td>truth, the Absolute</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>haram, harem</em></td>
<td>secluded; female apartments of a household; women of a Muslim family</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>hauz</em></td>
<td>a pond, water tank</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>hazar</em></td>
<td>one thousand</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hindustan</em></td>
<td>India, used for northern India particularly</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>hukm</em></td>
<td>command, royal order, control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>hukm i hasil</em></td>
<td>assessment of land revenue according to actual produce of the soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>ilm</em></td>
<td>knowledge, learning</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>imam</em></td>
<td>commander, leader; a title for the Caliph; a person leading congregational Muslim prayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>in'am</em></td>
<td>gift, reward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>insaf</em></td>
<td>justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>iqta</em></td>
<td>a piece of land, a political-cum-administrative division under the sultans</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>iqtadar, muqta</em></td>
<td>person in charge of an iqta, governor</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ismaili</em></td>
<td>a sect of the shia Muslims</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>jagir</em></td>
<td>a tract of land assigned by the state, assignment of land or land revenue held by an official in lieu of state service</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>jama'at</em></td>
<td>a party</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>jannat</em></td>
<td>paradise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>jauhar</em></td>
<td>jewel, precious stone; a virtue; a Rajput rite in which the ladies burnt themselves or were killed by their menfolk who sallied forth in saffron garments and laid down their lives in final charge against the enemy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>jaziya</em></td>
<td>a religious tax imposed on non-Muslims; any tax other than <em>khiraj</em> or land revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>jihad</em></td>
<td>holy war against infidels by Muslims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>jital, jittal</em></td>
<td>copper coins, fractional currency of the sultans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>kafir</em></td>
<td>unbeliever, infidel, a non-Muslim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>kahar</em></td>
<td>palanquin-bearer, porter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
karkhana  factory, assembly of artisans and crafts-
men who mechanically produced com-
modities needed by the royal household and
armies
karkun  worker, petty official
khaliṣa  Caliph; 'Commander of the Faithful'
khalq  crown lands
khalq  the masses
khan  Mongol or Turkish ruler of Central Asia; 
officer of the first rank under the sultans
khanqah  a house of mystics; residential quarters 
of the mystics
khassadar  a local levy
khil'at  a robe of honour
khilafat  Caliphate
khiraj  land revenue, also tribute paid by a
subordinate chief
khuda  God
khut  a village headman
khutba  sermon
khwaja  lord, merchant, a person of status and
standing
khwaja sera  eunuch
kos  a measure of distance or length, larger 
than a mile
kotla  a residential fortress, cantonment, a
permanent military station
kotwal  officer in charge of a city or fort, a police
chief
lakh  a hundred thousand, a lac
lakh baksh  giver of lacs in charity, generous
lashkar  army, army camp
lashkari  a soldier
madad i ma'ash  grant of land or pension to scholars and
saints by the sultans
madrassah, madrassa  an educational institution, a school espe-
cially one for higher education
mahaut  an elephant driver or keeper
majlis  meeting place or assembly
GLOSSARY

maktab an elementary school
malik owner, proprietor; second highest grade of officers in the administrative hierarchy of the sultans
malik naib regent of the sultanate, deputy sultan
malika i jahan lit. queen of the world, title of the chief queen of the sultans
mangul Islamic theology
mamalikat state, kingdom
mameluk slave officer
mann maund
maqbara tomb
masjid mosque, a Muslim house of prayer
masnavi a poetic composition, a narrative poem in Persian
maulana a Muslim scholar, man of learning
mlechcha unclean foreigner, an infidel from the point of view of Hindus
millat a religious community, Muslim brotherhood
minar a pillar
mir a leader, title of the independent chieftains of Sind
muhtasib public censor of morals
mulla, mullah a Muslim religious leader or divine
mulk country, dominion
mandi grain market
munhis an officer who enforced orders concerning things forbidden
munsif small causes judge
muqaddam lit. first or seniormost man, village headman
mushrif officer in charge of treasury and accounts
nabi prophet
naib deputy, a representative
naubat drum, beating of the drum
nasr amir ul momnin ‘deputy of the leader of the faithful’
nauroz Muslim new year’s day
padshah, padishah emperor
paibos  kissing of the feet
paik, piadeh  footman
palki  palanquin or a litter
pargana  a subdivision of the district for administrative and revenue purposes
patwari  a village official who kept land records
pir  spiritual guide
purdah  curtain, a Muslim practice of keeping women in seclusion

qahat  famine
qalandar  a Muslim mendicant or wandering faqir
qasba  a town
qasr  a palace
qazi  a Muslim judge
qazi ul qazzat  qazi of the qazis; the chief justice of the sultanate

qila  a fort
qub, qutub  pole star, the axis

raii, raja, rana  a Hindu chief
ra’iyyat  the subjects
rani  a Hindu queen or princess
risala  a cavalry unit
risaldar  a cavalry commander

sadah  lit. a hundred, officers who administered territorial units with about a hundred villages or had a hundred soldiers under their command

sadi  a century
sadr  justice of peace and head of the ecclesiastical establishment
sadr i jahan, sadr us  minister in charge of ecclesiastical affairs
sadur
sahib  chief
sanad  order of appointment
sani  second
sar i jandar  chief of the royal body guards
sar i lashkar  the chief huntsman
sarai, se rai  inn, rest house
saudagar  merchant prince
sawar    horseman
senapati a Hindu commander
saiyyid, sayyad a descendant of the Prophet
shaikh (Arabic) chief, a spiritual leader, Muslim mystic, a man of distinction
shamsi of Shamsuddin İlutmish
shashgani a fractional currency equivalent to six jitals
shahzada a prince
shiq    an administrative unit, roughly of district level
shiqdar officer in charge of a shiq
shahna a police chief, officer in charge of a town or market
shahna i mandi officer in charge of the grain market under Alaüddin Khalji
sifat appreciation, description, characteristic
sikka    coin
sipahsalar commander
sultanate kingdom, kingship, empire of the sultans of Delhi
tajir    a merchant
takhtgah capital
tanka    silver coin of the sultanate
thakur   a Hindu chief
tola     a measure of weight
tuman    a regiment of ten thousand soldiers
Tuti e Hind ‘The Parrot of India’, a title borne by Amir Khusrau
ulama, ulema pl. of alim, a Muslim scholar, theologian
umara    pl. of amir
vakil    agent, deputy, minister
varna, varuna colour, caste
vezir, wazir minister, prime minister of the sultans
walayat foreign country, alien land
wali     governor
wali’ahad heir apparent
wazifa

wazifa

zabita

zakat

zamindar

zalim

zar

zar kharid

zill

Zill i Ilahi

endowment

an occurrence, an event

stipend

law, statute (pl. zawubit)
a religious tax payable by the Muslims in an ‘Islamic state’
one who holds land under a zamindari system, a collector of land revenue

a tyrant

cash, gold and silver

purchased, a slave

shadow

‘shadow of God on earth’; a title borne by the absolute monarchs