

Glossary for *Sacred Games*

Updated July 6, 2007

API

Page 0

Languages: English

Translation: Assistant Police Inspector.

gaandu

Page 5

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: Ass-fucker. Often used as a synonym for “idiot.”

Sai Baba

Page 5

Languages:

Translation: Sai Baba is a famous guru famed for the miracles he performs in front of crowds of thousands. Even his pictures perform miracles: devotees find sacred ash and other things in front of their portraits.

See

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sathya_Sai_Baba.

Guru Gobind Singh

Page 5

Languages:

Translation: The last of the Sikh gurus.

See

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh.

mausi

Page 5

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Aunt, mother’s sister.

Saab, Sahib

Page 5

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu

Translation: Sir.

ji

Page 5

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A suffix denoting respect for the person being addressed.

Namaskar

Page 5

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Synonymous with “namaste” — a respectful greeting; the palms are folded in front of the chest as the person says this.

PSI

Page 5

Languages: English

Translation: Police Sub-Inspector.

lathi

Page 6

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Wooden baton carried and used by policemen, especially for crowd control.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lathi>.

DG

Page 8

Languages: English

Translation: Director General (of police).

Mamta

Page 8

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Literally, “mother’s love.” Often used as a proper name.

uttapam

Page 9

Languages: Tamil

Translation: A southern dish, similar to the dosa, that is made from rice and lentils.

Udipi

Page 9

Languages: Kannada

Translation: In this case, a particular cuisine from the state of Karnataka. This vegetarian cuisine has its origins in the town of Udipi in Karnataka.

biryani

Page 10

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A rice dish, sometimes with meat, and usually very rich. There are several kinds of biryanis.

lakh, lakhs

Page 10

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A unit in the traditional Indian numbering system, equivalent to a hundred thousand.

supari

Page 10

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A murder contract. The word actually refers to betel nuts, which are eaten to freshen the mouth. In the underworld, supari now refers to the proposal and acceptance of a hit.

paisa phenk, tamasha dekh

Page 10

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Throw money, watch the spectacle."

basti

Page 10

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Literally "settlement" or "town." The term is often used for low-income areas or slums.

jhanjhat

Page 11

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bother, nuisance.

faltu

Page 11

Languages: Bombay slang, Gujarati

Translation: Without use or purpose, extra, good for nothing.

bai

Page 11

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A respectful title for women, but in Bombay it is often used to refer to maid servants, as in "the cleaning woman" would be "the bai who sweeps the house."

tapori

Page 11

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Small time street hood, a punk.

pallu

Page 11

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: The loose end of a woman's sari, usually worn over the shoulder. Sometimes, for freedom in movement, women will tie the pallu around the waist. This is especially true of women engaged in hard labour.

dum

Page 12
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Force, strength.

ghori
Page 12
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Mare.

patta
Page 12
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Literally “strap,” but in Bombay police stations it refers to a long piece of thick canvas taken from the kind of belt that drives machinery. The strap is then fixed to a wooden handle, and is used to hit prisoners during interrogation. The advantage for the policeman is that the patta doesn’t leave as many marks as other implements.

bhenchod
Page 13
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Sister-fucker.

antra
Page 14
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A term from classical music for the introduction to the main body of the song. Note that this is different from the alap, which is not a part of the main body of the song. The antra may be repeated during the song itself.

Gata rahe mera dil...Tu hi meri manzil

Page 14
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Guide* (1965): “My heart sings, and you are my only destination...”

Maratha
Page 14
Languages: Marathi
Translation: A group of Marathi-speaking castes from Maharashtra. They have traditionally been warriors and cultivators.

Tu hi meri manzil
Page 14
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Guide* (1965): “You are my aim, my only destination.” *Guide* was based on R. K. Narayan’s novel, *The Guide*.

mehndi
Page 15
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Henna.

kshatriya
Page 15
Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit
Translation: One of the four varnas of the Hindu caste system. The kshatriyas were the warrior caste, and regarded as one of the higher castes.

shamiana
Page 15
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A large tent. Such tents are often used at weddings and other functions attended by sizable numbers of people.

OBC
Page 15
Languages: English
Translation: An abbreviation for “Other Backward Caste,” which is one of the classifications listed in the Indian constitution.

tapasya

Page 16

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Meditative practise, often involving very rigorous physical and spiritual austerity.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tapasya>.**Rakshak**

Page 16

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: The word literally means "Protector."

apsaras

Page 16

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Heavenly nymphs, often the cause of the downfall of ascetic yogis and masters.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apsara>.**rishi**

Page 16

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sage, a seer.

cholis

Page 17

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A choli is an Indian blouse, usually worn with a sari or a ghagra (skirt). Cholis are usually tight-fitting, and sometimes the backs are cut out, and the choli is held together by cords or threads. The length of cholis varies.

roti

Page 17

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Unleavened bread, eaten with other foods.

shosha

Page 17

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Gimmickry with no real substance. Perhaps from "show" — Indians like to repeat words or sounds for emphasis. So, "What is this show-sha?"

chutiya

Page 17

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Fucker. "Chut" is "cunt." "Chutiya" is often used as an epithet for somebody stupid. To say, "He is a real chutiya" is like saying, "He is a real moron."

panchnama

Page 18

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A first listing of the evidence and findings that a police officer makes at the scene of a crime. The document has to be signed by the investigating officer and two supposedly impartial witnesses.

See <http://www.mumbaipolice.org/citizens-charter/panchnama.htm>.**khima**

Page 18

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Ground meat dish, usually prepared with mutton. Can be quite spicy.

Godrej

Page 18

Languages:

Translation: A brand name for a steel cupboard. The company that manufactures these cupboards is part of the famous and very large Godrej Group.

Bhabhi

Page 18

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A respectful term for one's brother's wife.

ah

Page 19

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A small open waterway. Often, sewers empty into ahs.

maderchod

Page 19

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Motherfucker, motherfucking.

bigha

Page 19

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A unit used to measure land. The actual size of the land indicated by the unit varies from region to region, from about a third of an acre to an acre.

saala

Page 22

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Wife's brother. Also used as a form of mild abuse.

dabba-ispies

Page 22

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Children's game -- hide and seek, or "I spy." Hence "ispies."

tikkar-billa

Page 22

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Hopskotch.

khabari

Page 22

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Informer. "Khabar" is "news."

matka

Page 23

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: The illegal numbers game in Bombay, which is very big business.

kurta

Page 23

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi

Translation: Loose shirt worn by both men and women.

kholi

Page 23

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A room. So someone who lives in a kholi probably lives in a one-room house.

chatai

Page 23

Languages: English

Translation: A floor mat, made from fine bamboo or wicker. You can roll them up and store them easily, and they are often used for floor coverings, or to sit on, with pillows. Synthetic materials are now being used.

nada

Page 23

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Drawstring.

Ambabai

Page 24

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A goddess especially popular in Maharashtra.

Bhavani

Page 24

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A goddess. She is the fierce aspect of Shakti or Devi, but she is also the giver of life, and “Karunaswaroopini,” the very form of mercy. She was the isht-devi or personal goddess of Shivaji, and is still hugely popular in Maharashtra.

Sachin Tendulkar

Page 24

Languages:

Translation: A very famous cricketer.

banian

Page 24

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Undershirt.

pucca

Page 24

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Made of bricks and cement. “Pucca” is literally “solid” or “permanent,” as opposed to “kuchcha” or “soft” or “impermanent.” A “kuchcha” construction is made of mud or clay and other found materials, and therefore starts leaking or washes away at the first hard rain. Therefore you want a “pucca” house, which is hard to afford.

bhangra

Page 25

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: An energetic and lively dance native to Punjab, and also the music that accompanies this dance. Bhangra music has been modernized and cross-bred with many influences, and is now popular as dance music in clubs around the world.

gaand

Page 26

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Ass, as in posterior.

Sardar

Page 28

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A Sikh.

dhanda

Page 29

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Trade, work.

chikniya

Page 31

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: “Chikna” is “smooth,” like a girl’s skin. So, to call a grown man “chikna” or “chikniya” is to say that he too pretty to be a man.

lodu

Page 31

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A prick.

Shri

Page 31

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An honorific, similar to “Mr.” and used for men. The equivalent term for women is “Shrimati.”

neem

Page 32

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A native Indian tree (*Azadirachta indica*). The leaves and branches have numerous medicinal properties. Twigs from the neem are used as toothbrushes.

bhadwa, bhadwe

Page 32

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Pimp.

ekdum

Page 33

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Absolutely.

chutmaari

Page 33

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fucked-up. Somebody who is an absolute ass.

angadia

Page 33

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: Traditional Indian courier. Angadia companies are often used by diamond merchants, who send their shipments with trusted angadias. Like many traditional Indian services, the angadia system operates solely on trust.

See

http://www.ibef.org/artdisplay.aspx?cat_id=441&art_id=7636.

paan

Page 33

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet or savoury palate-cleanser made from various fillings folded within betel leaves. Paans are often offered to guests, or presented after meals. There are many varieties of paan, some of which involve the use of tobacco.

masala

Page 33

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Spice.

godown

Page 33

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A warehouse.

baap

Page 34

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Father.

lauda

Page 34

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi

Translation: Penis, cock.

lungi

Page 35

Languages: Tamil

Translation: A garment for men which consists of a single piece of cloth wrapped around the waist and legs, like a sarong.

dehati

Page 35

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Somebody from the rural areas, a country bumpkin.

khatara

Page 35

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A decrepit wreck.

chodu

Page 35

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Somebody who is fucked.

taveez

Page 36

Languages: Urdu

Translation: A talisman, often blessed by a holy man.

ghoda

Page 36

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally "horse." In the underworld, it is one of the terms for "pistol."

phat

Page 36

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An onomatopoeia; something like the sound a balloon makes when it's punctured. Sometimes used to describe something vanishing, imploding.

Bisleri, Bisleri pani

Page 38

Languages: English, Hindi

Translation: Bisleri is one of the companies that makes bottled water. The brand name is often used for any bottled water.

Kumbhkarana

Page 39

Languages:

Translation: One of the brothers of Ravana, the antagonist in the *Ramayana*. Kumbhkarana — through a boon granted by Brahma — slept for six months at a time, waking only to eat vast quantities of food.

bhangi

Page 39

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sweeper.

crores

Page 39

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A unit in the traditional Indian

numbering system, equivalent to ten million.

leela

Page 40

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Play, the universe as the divine play of the Lord.

See

http://www.sanatansociety.org/yoga_and_meditation/hinduism_philosophy_leela_lila_lilla.htm.

Bhai

Page 41

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "brother." In Bombay it also means "gangster," meaning a member of an organized crime "company." "Bhai" is roughly equivalent to the American "made guy." A Bhai is what a tapori wants to become.

sahib

Page 41

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A respectful term for a man: Usually equivalent to "Sir," but can also mean something like "Master" or "Lord."

yaar, yaara

Page 42

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Buddy, friend.

Jai

Page 43

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Victory to..."

tamasha

Page 45

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Spectacle, show.

randi

Page 46

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Whore.

CBI

Page 47

Languages: English

Translation: The Criminal Bureau of Investigation. An elite central investigation agency responsible for major criminal and national security matters. The agency often tackles cases which are deemed too important or sensitive for local enforcement agencies.

See <http://cbi.nic.in/>.

beta

Page 47

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Son.

SP

Page 47

Languages: English

Translation: Superintendent of Police.

desi

Page 47

Languages: Hindi

Translation: From the Sanskrit “des,” which means “home” or “nation.” Is used to describe anything that is Indian-made, traditional, home-made.

mere desh ki dharti sona ugle, ugle heere moti

Page 49

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Upkar* (“Good Works,” 1967): “The earth of my country gives forth gold, it gives pearls and jewels.” The song is sung in the film by a farmer, so he’s talking about the richness of his land.

tangdis

Page 51

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Chicken legs.

mangalsutra

Page 51

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A necklace of black beads, worn by married women.

See

<http://www.shaadi.com/wedding/rituals/customs/040906-mangalsutra.php>.

samaan

Page 51

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Your stuff, your luggage. But used in the Bombay underworld for a handgun.

shammi kebabs

Page 51

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Lamb kebabs known for their silky texture.

bhidu

Page 52

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Buddy, pal.

thela

Page 52

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A thela is a small cart. Street vendors typically sell their wares from thelas, which they push about.

UP

Page 53

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uttar Pradesh, a state in Northern

India.

vada-pau

Page 54

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A “vada” is a fried potato cutlet, more or less. “Pau” is Portuguese for bread. So the cutlet is put between slices of bread or in a sliced bread roll, and you get something like a vegetarian hamburger.

gur

Page 55

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Jaggery.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggery>.

saadi

Page 55

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, “ordinary.” Here, a category of cheap distilled liquor or tharra, often made and sold illegally.

satrangi

Page 55

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, “seven-coloured.” Here, a category of cheap distilled liquor or tharra, often made and sold illegally.

bachcha

Page 56

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Child.

chachu

Page 56

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uncle — father’s brother. This is an affectionate way of saying “Chacha.”

mamu

Page 56

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: An affectionate way of saying “Mama,” uncle (mother’s brother, that is).

muchchad

Page 58

Languages: Hindi

Translation: “Much” or “mooch” is a moustache. A “muchchad” is someone with an especially impressive moustache.

gadda

Page 58

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Mattress.

elaichi

Page 59

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cardamom.

peda

Page 61

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet dish.

thali

Page 61

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A plate, usually made from steel or brass.

prasad

Page 61

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Food that is offered to a deity, and then is consumed with the belief that the god or goddess has blessed the offering.

Bali, Sugreev

Page 61

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Characters from the *Ramayana*. They are both monkeys, and are brothers. Bali has usurped the monkey kingdom from Sugreev and kidnapped Sugreev's wife. Rama befriends Sugreev and ambushes Bali and kills him. Sugreev, as ruler of the monkeys, then becomes an ally of Rama's in the great war against Ravana.

phataak

Page 62

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Explosive, hot. The sound of an explosion.

haan

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Yes."

charas

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hashish.

bidi

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Indian cigarette made out of tobacco rolled in a leaf. Bidis are very cheap, and are usually smoked by poor people, or those in rural areas.

cheez

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Thing.

malai

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cream.

Memsaab

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Madam.

bas

Page 64

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Enough, stop.

PA

Page 66

Languages: English

Translation: Personal Assistant.

Loksatta

Page 67

Languages: Marathi

Translation: *Loksatta* is a Marathi newspaper in Bombay, with branches in Nagpur, Pune, and Ahmednagar.

salwar-kameez

Page 69

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu

Translation: A traditional outfit worn by women in the Indian subcontinent — the kameez is a long shirt, and the salwar is a pair of loose trousers.

mohalla

Page 69

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A neighbourhood, a locality.

Lat pat lat pat tujha chalana mothia nakhriyacha

Page 69

Languages: Marathi

Translation: This is a line from an old Marathi Laavani or folk song, which has also been sung in a film. The sense is a bit hard to translate; it probably loses something in the change to English. The line is addressed to a woman. "Lat pat lat pat" is an onomatopoeia referring to how she walks, the swing of her hips. So the line is something like, "You walk with such airs, such style." The last word in the fragment, "nakhriyacha," is a form of "nakhra," usually translated as "feminine airs or blandishments; affectation; coquetry; flirting,"

paaplet

Page 69

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Pomfret.

bangda

Page 69

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Mackerel.

bombil

Page 69

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Bombay duck or bummalo, a kind of fish.

DCP

Page 70

Languages: English

Translation: Deputy Commissioner of Police.

RAW

Page 71

Languages: English

Translation: Research and Analysis Wing. India's foreign intelligence agency.

sarkari

Page 71

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Governmental.

sindoor

Page 71

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The red powder traditionally worn in the parting of the hair by married Hindu women.

shabash

Page 72

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Well done," or "Good job."

baba

Page 74

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An affectionate way to address somebody. (Note that the same word can be used, depending on context, to mean "young child" or "old man.")

keeda

Page 75

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "worm." Used colloquially to mean an inexplicable stubbornness about something, a deeply-held quirk tending toward obsession.

apradhi

Page 76

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Criminal, convict.

hera-pheri

Page 77

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Trickery, crafty deception.

raddi

Page 78

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "used" or "waste." For instance, people sell old newspapers and magazines to the raddi-wallah, who then recycles the paper. Old clothes, household implements, electronics, and so on can also be sold to the raddi-wallah and reused.

IB

Page 80

Languages: English

Translation: Intelligence Bureau — the domestic intelligence agency of the Indian government. It is said to be the world's oldest intelligence agency.

chela

Page 81

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Follower, student. A guru has chelas.

bhakt

Page 81

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Devotee, follower.

Vaheguru

Page 82

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: The term for God in Sikhism. Vaheguru is eternal, formless, and beyond all qualities and descriptions.

peri pauna

Page 84

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: "I touch your feet." This is something one says as one touches the feet of an elder, or someone who is immensely respected.

jite raho

Page 84

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Live long."

tau

Page 85

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Father's elder brother.

mithai

Page 85

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sweets, desserts.

chacha

Page 85

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uncle — father's brother.

banyan

Page 86

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) that has the ability to grow adventitious roots from its branches. Some of these trees can grow very large, up to several hectares. Because of the abundant shade banyans offer, there is often a banyan tree in village squares. But banyans are also said to be the abode of chudails (witches) and ghosts.

jhadoo-katka

Page 91

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Sweeping and mopping.

goda masala

Page 91

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A black masala powder especially popular in Maharashtra.

kaande

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Onions.

pohe

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Spicy snack made from rice flakes.

Gudi-Padwa

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

Translation: In Maharashtra, the day of the new year, which is a celebration of the coming of springtime and the harvest.

batasha

Page 92

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Drops of candied sugar.

puranpoli

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A sweet dessert made from wheat flour, oil, grated coconut, jaggery, and

sometimes white sugar.

chirote

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A fried sweet-dish made from white flour and sugar.

chawl

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Tenement building. Very often, these are built in a U-shape or in a hollow rectangle, with the tenements facing inward. There are from ten to twenty tenements on each floor, with the cheapest — and most common — consisting of one room. The inhabitants of each floor share common toilets and bathrooms. The inhabitants of a chawl aspire to live in modern flats, but often miss the deep friendships and mutual support they left behind in the chawl.

maidan

Page 94

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: An open field, park, or square.

kulfi

Page 94

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Indian ice cream made from boiled milk.

shamshan ghat

Page 94

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The place where dead bodies are burnt.

Marwari

Page 95

Languages: Hindi, Marwari
Translation: Someone from Marwar, a region in Rajasthan. Marwaris — stereotypically — are known as sharp traders.

musst

Page 96
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Fine, flashy.

khata-khat

Page 96
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Fast, efficient. This is perhaps an onomatopoeia for the sound a machine makes.

paya

Page 97
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Goat's Trotters curry.

chunni

Page 98
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A long scarf worn by women, usually with a salwar-kameez, or with a ghagra-choli.

Kya se kya ho gaya

Page 98
Languages: Hindi
Translation: The lyrics of a song from a fictional Hindi film: "Look what has happened as we watch. My heart has fallen in love with you as we watch."

kya

Page 98
Languages: Hindi
Translation: What

ghagra-choli

Page 99
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A loose skirt (ghagra) worn with a closely-cut blouse (choli).

PG

Page 100
Languages: English
Translation: Paying Guest. This abbreviation can be used to describe a person who lives in someone else's house (usually taking one room) and pays rent, or it can be used for the accommodations themselves. As in, "She just found a really good PG in Bandra."

rakshasa

Page 100
Languages: Hindi
Translation: In Hindu mythology, the rakshasas are a race of demons or goblins.

dada

Page 102
Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Tough guy, hoodlum.

It can also be used as a respectful term of address for an older man, "Elder brother."

raj

Page 103
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Kingdom, empire.

pir

Page 103
Languages: Urdu
Translation: A Sufi saint and teacher.

katchha

Page 103

Languages: Hindi

Translation: See “pucca.”

dhaba

Page 103

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A very inexpensive, unpretentious restaurant, often built on the side of a road or a highway and frequented by truck-drivers and travellers.

karhai

Page 103

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A cast-iron pan that is often used for frying. Looks something like a Chinese wok.

bhajiyas

Page 103

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A fried snack.

darshan

Page 107

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Literally, a sighting of something, to be able to see someone or something face-to-face. In a religious context, darshan signifies a “seeing” that is touched by the divine. Pilgrims will travel thousands of miles for a darshan of a goddess in a temple, or of a guru. It is in the seeing of the guru, and in being seen by the guru, that the blessing is conveyed.

mandvali

Page 107

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A negotiation, settlement, or compromise.

wallah

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A person who performs a specific job, or is related to some activity or thing. So, a “paan-wallah” is someone who sells paan, and a “soda-wallah” is someone who sells soda.

chowk

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A crossroads.

bhajan

Page 107

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A devotional song.

phuljadi

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sparkler.

diya, diyas

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A diya is a traditional lamp — usually, a cotton wick floats in ghee or oil. The body of the lamp is made of clay or metal.

teen-patti

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, “three-cards.” An Indian

card game also known as "Flush," similar to the British game Brag.

paplu

Page 108

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The card game of Rummy.

Diwali

Page 108

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The "festival of lights," with in North India is celebrated as the Hindu new year. All over India, the festival signifies the victory of good over evil. People wear new clothes, share sweets, decorate their homes with diyas or lamps, and set off firecrackers. Gambling — especially card-playing — is also part of the tradition.

jab tak hai jaan jaan-e jahaan

Page 108

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Part of a line from a song from the famous film *Sholay* ("Embers," 1975). "Until I have life, O life of the world..." The rest of the line is, "...I will dance."

narangi

Page 109

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, the orange fruit. Here, it is used as the name of a flavoured liquor.

gali

Page 110

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Lane, alley.

hafta

Page 110

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "week." Colloquially is used for the weekly protection money paid to gangsters or police.

maghai

Page 111

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A variety of leaf used in the making of sweet paan.

MLA

Page 112

Languages: English

Translation: A "Member of the Legislative Assembly" -- a representative elected by the voters of a district to a state legislature.

pujari

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Priest.

kanche, kanchas

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A kancha is a marble.

daane

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Literally, a daana is a grain or nodule. Bombay slang for bullets.

saman

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "luggage." In Bombay underworld slang, the word is used to refer to

pistols.

choklete

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Chocolate. Code used by the G-Company for dollars.

lalten

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lantern.

peetal

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Brass.

gulal

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Brightly coloured powder, used especially during the Holi festival. People smear gulal in various shades on each other, or throw it into the air. Gulal has traditionally been manufactured from herbs and natural substances; in recent years chemical dyes have been used.

Iftekar

Page 112

Languages:

Translation: A well-known character actor who often played a police officer in Hindi films.

nau-number

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "Number 9." Bombay slang term for policemen.

fachchad

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Messed up, screwed up.

churri

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Knife. Used as slang for a beautiful girl by the G-Company.

lassi

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A refreshing drink made from blended yogurt, water, and spices. Lassis can be either sweet or salty.

chabbis

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Literally, "twenty-six." Bombay slang for a beautiful girl.

ghanta

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: A big bell. A small bell would be "ghanti." In Gaitonde's gang, they use "ghanta" as synonymous with "screwed up" or "messed up" – instead of the usual "fachchad." In Bombay slang, "ghanta" also means "dick."

gullel

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A small hand-held catapult, of the sort used by young boys.

atta

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Flour.

chalo

Page 113

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Chalo" can be used in a couple of ways. One meaning is, "Let's go." The other is in the sense of "then" in the sentence, "Okay, then, I will see you in Bombay." So you could say, "All right, chalo, we'll meet tomorrow morning."

badshah

Page 113

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Emperor.

ladhi

Page 114

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This refers to firecrackers — a "ladhi" is a string of crackers, and can be very long.

bajao

Page 117

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: "To play," and often, "to thump," as with a drum. So "bajao" is used in the context of music, and it can often be used in the context of violence or sex. To "bajao" somebody (or something) can mean to hit them, or to have vigorous sex with them. It has a similar connotation as "to bang" in American slang.

carrom

Page 117

Languages: English

Translation: A board game, perhaps of subcontinental origin.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrom>.

baja

Page 117

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Musical instrument.

puja

Page 117

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Prayer.

agarbatties

Page 118

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An agarbatti is an incense stick.

giri (as in "hero-giri")

Page 118

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: To do something, to engage in some activity. So "hero-giri" would be "acting like a hero."

laddoo

Page 119

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet dish; laddoos can be made from various substances, but they are always round.

gana, ganas

Page 119

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A category of divine beings who serve Lord Shiva, and his son, Ganesha.

bhelpuri

Page 119

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A spicy snack typical of Bombay. Bhelpuri is often sold from carts on streets and beaches.

peti

Page 120
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Bombay slang for Rs. 100,000 (one lakh).

takli

Page 121
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Bald head.

saunf

Page 121
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Fennel seed.

jhpadpatti

Page 123
Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi
Translation: A settlement of huts, a slum.

nimbu pani

Page 126
Languages: Hindi
Translation: "Lemon water," similar to lemonade.

sabudane ki khichdi

Page 127
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Khichdi made with sabudana (sago) instead of rice.

KG

Page 128
Languages: English
Translation: Kindergarten.

chowkidar

Page 128
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Watchman.

TRP

Page 129
Languages: English
Translation: An abbreviation for "Television Rating Points." An industry system of evaluating the popularity of television programs.

aaijehavnaya, aaijehavnayi

Page 132
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Motherfucker.

jhav

Page 132
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Fuck.

PAN Card

Page 133
Languages: English
Translation: "PAN" stands for "Permanent Account Number," which all taxpayers are required to have by the Income Tax department.

ganwar

Page 138
Languages: Hindi
Translation: An uncouth person, a bumpkin.

dupatta

Page 140
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A long scarf worn by women with the salwar-kameez or kurta.

PT

Page 140

Languages: English

Translation: Physical Training.

MP

Page 144

Languages: English

Translation: A "Member of Parliament" -- an elected representative to the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, the two houses of the central Indian government.

topi

Page 146

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cap, hat.

Bakr'id

Page 146

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A Muslim festival that commemorates the faith and sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (Abraham), who was asked by the Allah to sacrifice his son. The day is marked by the sacrifice of animals. Outside the subcontinent, the festival is known as Id-ul-Zuha or Id-ul-Azha.

gosht

Page 146

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Meat.

raita

Page 147

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A condiment made from yoghurt.

vilayat

Page 149

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: From the Arabic "vilayat," for "province." In India, the word refers to England, and in a more fuzzy sense, to Europe.

GTB Nagar

Page 150

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Guru Tej Bahadur Nagar, an area in Bombay populated by many Sikh and Punjabi immigrants. Sometimes called "Mini-Punjab."

khiskela

Page 150

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Crazy, off. Literally, "moved" or "shifted." So someone whose brain has shifted, is not in its right place, is "khiskela."

sadhu

Page 152

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: An ascetic or yogi (practitioner of yoga). A sadhu leaves home and wanders the world, seeking moksha or liberation from the cycle of death and rebirth.

PCO

Page 152

Languages: English

Translation: "Public Call Office." You can pay to make a local or long-distance phone call at a PCO.

Avadhi

Page 153

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Prior to British rule, Avadh (also known as Oude) was a kingdom at the centre of what is now the modern state of Uttar Pradesh. After the British occupation, the area was subsumed into the United Provinces.

reshmi kabab

Page 154

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Literally, "silken kabab." The meat used for these kababs is soft and succulent, hence the name.

kara

Page 154

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A steel bangle worn by Sikhs on the arm. The wearing of a kara is one of the five articles of faith enjoined upon all Sikhs.

VT

Page 154

Languages: English

Translation: Victoria Terminus -- a huge railway station where local and long-distance trains stop. The building was finished in 1888, and is an extraordinary example of Gothic architecture. The station has been renamed the "Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus," but the many thousands of commuters who pass through the station usually refer to it as "VT." The station is one of the busiest in India.

bibi

Page 154

Languages: Urdu

Translation: A respectful term of address for a woman. Something like "Miss."

rangroot

Page 154

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Recruit.

baap re

Page 154

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An exclamation, "O my father."

dhurrie

Page 155

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An Indian rug.

chodo

Page 156

Languages: Hindi

Translation: To fuck.

bhadwi

Page 159

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Feminine form of "bhadwa," pimp. Therefore, "Madam."

rajma-chawal

Page 159

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Red kidney beans served with rice.

tempo

Page 159

Languages: English

Translation: A vehicle similar to the autorickshaw, powered by a scooter or motorcycle engine. A tempo is usually larger than an autorickshaw, and is used for commercial purposes and transportation of goods, as opposed to autorickshaws, which are often used as taxis.

devar

Page 160

Languages: Hindi

Translation: One's husband's brother. Indian women traditionally have an affectionate relationship with their devars, especially ones who are younger than them.

Rin

Page 161

Languages: English

Translation: A laundry soap, usually available in

small blue cakes.

baithak

Page 161

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sitting room.

chimta

Page 162

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: A pair of tongs.

ashiana

Page 162

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Literally, "nest."

Nikki

Page 162

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Literally, "small." In the book, used as a term to address Prabhjot Kaur.

bhindi

Page 163

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Okra. Lady's Finger.

charpai

Page 163

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A traditional cot or bed. Sturdy cloth tape or rope is strung across a wooden frame to make the sleeping surface. Charpais are nowadays used by the poor, or in smaller towns and villages.

parauntha

Page 163

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Punjabi word for "paratha," which is a fried bread usually made from whole-wheat

flour. The dough is fried in ghee or oil, and the paratha is often stuffed with vegetables.

ghee

Page 163

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Clarified butter.

tava

Page 163

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A round griddle, usually made of iron, steel, or aluminium.

veerji

Page 163

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Respectful term for one's elder brother.

pocha

Page 164

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Mop.

sethani

Page 164

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: The wife of a seth, a rich man.

laat-saab

Page 164

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A very high sahib, a very important and imposing personage. "Laat" may be an Indian corruption of "Lord"; the phrase was most often used for Englishmen. In post-Independence India it was often used to describe very Anglicized Indians.

kanjoos

Page 164

Languages: Hindi
Translation: Miser.

FA

Page 165

Languages: English

Translation: "FA" stands for "First Arts."
Passing the First Arts examination used to allow candidates to enter a university. (This system and nomenclature are no longer used.)

jhalli

Page 165

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: "Crazy girl" — can be used affectionately.

halwai

Page 165

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A vendor of sweets.

bhenji

Page 165

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: A respectful way of addressing one's older sister: "Respected Sister."

PWD

Page 165

Languages: English

Translation: "Public Works Department."
Government organization which builds roads, bridges, and government buildings.

almirah

Page 166

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cupboard.

kameez

Page 166

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A loose upper garment, like a shirt or blouse, that is worn with the loose trousers known as salwars.

chaunka

Page 166

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Kitchen.

kesar

Page 166

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Saffron.

tanga

Page 166

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A horse-drawn carriage; tangas were often used as taxis, although this is now increasingly uncommon except in small towns and villages.

badboo

Page 166

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Bad smell.

basta

Page 167

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Schoolbag.

Mems

Page 167

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An abbreviations for "Mem-sahibs," or "ladies."

surahi

Page 167

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Pitcher.

leechies

Page 168

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A small red fruit -- the outer skin is inedible; the inner layer is translucent white and sweet.

mustandas

Page 168

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Louts.

khari lassi

Page 168

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Salty lassi.

kheer

Page 172

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet dish made from rice, milk, and sugar.

phulkas

Page 173

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A kind of unleavened bread that is very fluffy, and smaller and lighter than the chapati or roti.

masnad

Page 173

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Cushion.

Sheran-walli-Ma

Page 174

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: An epithet for the goddess Durga: "The Mother with the Tigers."

besan

Page 175

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Chickpea flour.

pakorras

Page 175

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A snack: vegetables or meats are dipped in gram flour and deep-fried.

Adhyapika-ji

Page 176

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A very formal way of addressing a teacher: "Respected teacher."

dada-pardada

Page 177

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Ancestral. Literally, "Grandfather-great-grandfather."

quintals

Page 177

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A measure of weight; in India a quintal is equivalent to 100 kg.

inter

Page 177

Languages: English

Translation: Short for "intermediate." Refers to the intermediate examination, which was taken after secondary and higher secondary education (eleven or twelve years).

kidi kada

Page 178

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: A game played by children; a stone

is used within a boundary drawn on the ground. Also known as "shatapoo."

jamun

Page 181

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An astringent fruit, crimson-black when it is ripe; jamuns grow on an evergreen tropical tree.

khoon

Page 182

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Murder.

patka

Page 183

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: A simple cloth used as a headcovering by Sikhs.

kafila

Page 186

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Caravan, procession, group of travellers.

kirpan

Page 188

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: A dagger or sword worn by all Sikhs. This is one of the five practises or observances enjoined upon Sikhs.

Japji Sahib

Page 189

Languages:

Translation: The Japji Sahib is a set of verses very holy to the Sikhs, and is recited every morning by the devout. "Jap" is "to chant," and so the collective name for these specific verses refers to their recital.

bania

Page 190

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Trader, shopkeeper.

choola

Page 191

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Stove.

gulmohar trees

Page 193

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Royal Poinciana trees (*Delonix regia*). Gulmohar trees have bright red or orange flowers. Also known as the "Flame of the Forest."

gurudwara

Page 196

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A Sikh place of worship.

kirtan

Page 196

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A hymn.

rogan josh

Page 196

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lamb curry.

jalebis

Page 196

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet made from syrup-soaked batter which is deep-fried. Very typical of north India.

Tarai gun maya mohi aayi

Page 196

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: This is a line from the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs. Here, it is sung as a "kirtan" or hymn: "Maya (illusion) with her three gunas — the three dispositions — has come to entice me; who can I tell of my pain?"

DIG

Page 199

Languages: English

Translation: Deputy Inspector General (of police).

eve-teasers

Page 200

Languages: English

Translation: An Indian euphemism: men who harass passing women, verbally and often physically.

Filmi Kaliyan

Page 202

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Filmi Buds" -- a Hindi film magazine.

bar-balas

Page 203

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bar-girls, women who work in bars.

ghochi

Page 203

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Literally, "trouble," getting into a mess. Kamble uses it to refer to sex.

firangi

Page 203

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Foreigner. From "Feringhee," Persian for "Frank" or "Frankish."

karo

Page 203

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A verb — to do something.

marad sala aisaich hota hai

Page 203

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: She's saying, in typical Bombay Hindi, "Bastard men are like this."

khadda

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "hole" or "pit." Used sometimes as vulgar slang for the vagina.

tope

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "cannon." Used sometimes as vulgar slang for the penis.

dana

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Grain, nodule. Used sometimes in a vulgar way for clitoris.

hathiyar

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

Translation: weapon

chaavi

Page 204

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Girlfriend.

maal

Page 204

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "stuff" or "material." Used in an objectifying manner about women.

daana

Page 204

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "nodule" or "grain." Here, a slang term for "clitoris."

cham-cham

Page 205

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet-dish made from cheese.

burfi

Page 205

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet dish made from thickened milk.

izzat

Page 206

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Honour, respect.

haramzadas

Page 206

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Bastards.

FIR

Page 207

Languages: English

Translation: "First Information Report" -- this is the written document that is prepared by the police when the news of a cognizable offence first reaches them. Generally, the victim or a person acting on the victim's behalf comes to the police with a complaint involving a cognizable offence, and the policeman on duty draws up the

FIR. The FIR can become a very important legal document; it sets the legal process in motion, and is the basis on which the rest of the investigation is conducted. Later, in court, much can depend on what is included (or not included) in the FIR.

Harmandir Sahib

Page 208

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: The Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of holies for the Sikh people. Guru Arjan installed the first copy of the Guru Granth Sahib here in 1604. Sikh pilgrims from all over the world travel to the Golden Temple to bathe in the lake that surrounds the temple and to listen to readings from the scriptures. The dip in the waters is known as "dukh bhanjan," and is believed to banish illness and sorrow.

See <http://www.harmandirsahib.com/>.

Mumbaikars

Page 209

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A resident of Mumbai.

pav

Page 210

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Bread, from the Portuguese word "pao."

nagar

Page 210

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Town, settlement.

pardah

Page 211

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Literally, 'curtain.' Here, refers to the prevention of men from seeing women. To achieve this, men and women are segregated from each other. Additionally, women are required to cover their bodies, especially their faces.

mala badol

Page 212
 Languages: Bengali
 Translation: Wedding.

nazrana

Page 214
 Languages: Hindi, Urdu
 Translation: Gift.

chillar

Page 214
 Languages: Bombay slang
 Translation: Loose change.

arthi

Page 214
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: Funeral byre on which a person is carried to the burning grounds.

Bas khwab itna sa hai

Page 215
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: These are lines from a song from the Hindi film *Yes, Boss* (1997):

*Bas khwab itna sa hai
 Bas itna sa khwab hai...
 shaan se rahoon sada...
 Bas itna sa khwab hai...
 Haseenayein bhi dil hon khotin,
 dil ka ye kamal khile...
 Sone ka mahal mile,
 barasne lagein heere moti*

Which translates into:

I have only this little dream
 That I forever live forever in luxury
 That beautiful women lose their hearts
 May this dream of mine flower.
 That I gain a palace of gold,
 that pearls and diamonds fall from the sky.
 See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0120540/>.

dudh-ki-tanki

Page 215
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: "Tank (or reservoir) of milk." Used as a descriptive term for large breasts.

khwab

Page 215
 Languages: Hindi, Urdu
 Translation: Dream.

bhoot

Page 215
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: Ghost.

chaat

Page 215
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: Various savoury snacks.

sev-puri

Page 216
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: A savoury snack or chaat very popular in Bombay. Crisp puris or papadis are topped with sev, crisp noodles made out of chickpea flour. Yogurt, tamarind sauce and other condiments are added.

Man ja ay khuda, itni si hai dua

Page 216
 Languages: Hindi
 Translation: These are lines from a song from the Hindi film *Yes, Boss* (1997): "Listen to me, God, grant me only this little wish..."
 See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0120540/>.

tambi

Page 217
 Languages: Bombay slang, Tamil
 Translation: Any boy working at a roadside stall or restaurant. From the Tamil for "boy."

narial-pani

Page 217

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "narial" is a coconut, so narial-pani is "coconut water," the liquid from inside a coconut. People often buy coconuts from sidewalk sellers, who chop off the tops to allow drinking.

seth

Page 217

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A rich man.

papri chaat

Page 218

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A snack: crispy flour wafers served with potatoes, yoghurt, and tamarind chutney.

pav-bhaji

Page 218

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A dish especially popular in Bombay. The "bhaji" is a spicy potato and vegetable curry, the "pav" is bread. The pav is baked on the same tava or pan on which the bhaji is prepared.

jhakaas

Page 218

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Excellent, fine, top-class, kick-ass.

haraamkhor

Page 218

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Somebody who lives on illicit earnings; a thief; an embezzeler.

gadhav

Page 218

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Gadhav is "donkey" — a fairly friendly term of abuse in Marathi. You might say this to your best friend if he does something stupid.

mantri

Page 219

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Minister.

devaa

Page 219

Languages: Marathi

Translation: God, a god.

taai

Page 219

Languages: Marathi

Translation: "Elder sister."

seva

Page 220

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Work, especially that performed without attachment or hope of reward. Selfless service.

Sadrakshanaya Khalanighranaya

Page 220

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation: This is Sanskrit, and is the motto of the Bombay police: "Protect Truth, Destroy Evil."

rangoli

Page 222

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: Art made with finely ground powders, usually on the floor. Rangoli can be figurative, or consist of abstract patterns. It is often made by women near the entrance to homes. Rangoli has religious significance, and is especially associated with Diwali, when homes are cleaned and beautified.

gallis

Page 223

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lanes.

lurkao

Page 223

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "to tumble," or to "throw over." Therefore, to kill.

sala langda-lulla

Page 224

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: "Sala" is literally "brother-in-law," and can be used as a mild form of abuse. "Langda" is lame; "lulla" is dumb. So the entire phrase would mean something like "damn cripple."

langda-lulla

Page 225

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Crippled.

thoko

Page 225

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: "Thoko" is literally "to hit," or "to thump." It's also underworld slang for killing, in the same way that Americans mafiosi use "hit." Less often, it is used in the context of sex, to mean "to fuck."

kismet

Page 226

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Fate, luck.

mausambi

Page 229

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sweet lime.

khadi-kurta

Page 230

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A khadi kurta is a loose shirt made out of homespun khadi cloth. When Gaitonde refers to "khadi-kurta bastards," he is referring to politicians, who tend to wear such clothes as symbols of their commitment to simple living.

RPI

Page 231

Languages: English

Translation: "Republican Party of India." The roots of the RPI are in the Scheduled Castes Federation, originally led by Dr. Ambedkar.

landyas

Page 231

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A very derogatory term for Muslims.

samajwadi

Page 231

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Socialist.

nawab

Page 232

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A title for a Muslim noble.

raja

Page 232

Languages: Hindi

Translation: King.

Bole to voh edkum danger aadmi hai

Page 233

Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: "He's an absolutely dangerous man."

Yaar, abhi ek matter ko settle karma hai

Page 233

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Yaar, I have to settle a matter right now."

Us side se wire de, chutiya

Page 233

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Give me the wire from that side, chutiya."

bhakri

Page 234

Languages: Gujarati, Marathi

Translation: A flat round unleavened bread that has traditionally been eaten by farmers. Common in central and western India.

kaka

Page 234

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uncle, usually one's father's brother.

chakkar

Page 234

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Whirl.

dandia raas

Page 234

Languages: Gujarati

Translation: A traditional dance performed in Gujarat; the dancers use colourfully-decorated sticks as they whirl and spin about each other. The sticks ("dandia") are struck against each other.

Radha game ke game Mira

Page 235

Languages: Gujarati

Translation: A fragment from a song: "Do you like Radha or do you like Mira?"

batata-wada

Page 235

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A fried snack made from potatoes and chick-pea flour.

doshas

Page 236

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: According to Ayurvedic medicine, each body has three elemental forces within it: vata, pitta, and kapha. Any radical imbalance in these forces can lead to illness and other problems.

tola

Page 236

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A traditional Indian unit of weight equivalent to 11.6638038 grams.

bhangad

Page 236

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Problems, a mess, a mixup.

bhaigiri

Page 237

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: The act of acting like a bhai.

ras

Page 237

Languages: Gujarati

Translation: Literally "juice." In this case refers to mango juice; it's very thick, more like a puree than the liquid one drinks at breakfast. Gujaratis eat it with puris.

makaan

Page 241

Languages: Hindi

Translation: House, home.

kapda

Page 241

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cloth, clothing.

goondas

Page 241

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Thugs, hoods.

dakoo

Page 241

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bandit.

Ghatotkachas

Page 241

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Ghatotkacha is a character in the *Mahabharata*, the son of the Pandava hero Bhima and the Rakshasa maiden Hidimba. Because of his maternal ancestry, Ghatotkacha has many magical powers which he uses in the great war against the Kauravas, at the behest of his father Bhima. He is on the verge of annihilating the Kaurava army when the great hero Karna uses the divine weapon Shakti to injure him fatally. Even as he falls, Ghatotkacha magically makes his body gigantic, so that he crushes thousands of Kaurava soldiers under his torso.

phachak

Page 242

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An onomatopoeia: the sound of an explosion.

ACP

Page 242

Languages: English

Translation: Assistant Commissioner of Police

mashooq

Page 243

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Lover.

tika

Page 244

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A mark worn on the forehead by Hindus; the shape of the mark can signify which of the traditions within Hinduism the wearer follows.

mandap

Page 244

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A wedding canopy.

BMC

Page 247

Languages: English

Translation: Bombay Municipal Organization.

natevaik

Page 247

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Relatives, the community that one is a part of.

grahastha

Page 250

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A householder, someone who is engaged in the second stage of Hindu life, grahastha-ashrama.

ved-maharaj

Page 250

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An Ayurvedic physician.

Shani

Page 251

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Saturn.

pooja

Page 251

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Prayer.

janampatri

Page 251

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Birthchart, usually drawn up by an astrologer. The more traditional ones are long scrolls of paper covered with charts and symbols, and can be quite beautiful. Nowadays they are often produced on a computer.

gotra

Page 251

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Clan or lineage within the Hindu community. Gotras are generally exogamous, with some specific exceptions.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotras>.

phatakdi

Page 253

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Sexy as a firecracker. A "pataka" is a firecracker, so "phatakdi" refers to the explosion a firecracker can make.

dhow

Page 253

Languages: Arabic

Translation: A traditional Arab sailing vessel.

Satyanarayan Katha

Page 256

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: A Hindu religious ceremony which involves the telling of a story.

pandit

Page 256

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hindu priest.

katha

Page 256

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Story, the telling of a story.

dandi-swami

Page 256

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "danda" or "dandi" is a mendicant's staff, so a "dandi-swami" is a person who has taken up the staff and become an ascetic. They are not sanyasins or monks; these are ordinary people who enter the third stage of life, vanaprastha ashrama, and still live with other people and engage in prayer and ritual, and live by begging food and alms. Some of them go on to the last stage, sanyas ashrama, and become monks. Most of them die before that.

lata-pata

Page 256

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Grass and hay, what you feed animals.

Tathastu

Page 256

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation: "So be it."

saali

Page 257

Languages: Hindi

Translation: One's wife's sister. Can also be used as a mild form of abuse.

pudi

Page 257

Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi

Translation: A twist of paper, a small paper packet.

makhmali andhera

Page 257

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Part of a line from a song from the Hindi film *Sharmilee* ("The Shy One," 1971): "The darkness is velvet..."

See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0067742/>.

falooda

Page 258

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A sweet dessert drink made from milk, syrup (often rose or saffron), and cornflour vermicelli. Sometimes ice cream and various kinds of nuts are also put into the drink. "Falooda" -- because of the soft vermicelli -- is sometimes used colloquially to imply softness, limpness, as in, "My legs felt like falooda."

bevda

Page 258

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A drunk.

kattu

Page 259

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: A derogatory term for a Muslim man; means something like "a man who has been cut." The reference is to circumcision.

bandh

Page 260

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "closed." A closing down of a city or locality, a strike. Often called by a political party, and sometimes enforced with violence.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandh>.

golis

Page 263

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Goli" is derived from "gol," round. A goli is something small and round, so "golis" are testicles. The other word used for testicles is "gotis," as in marbles.

Dhanwantri

Page 263

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: The physician of the gods, and the creator of Ayurveda -- he teaches it to Susrutha, the father of Ayurvedic surgery.

FSI

Page 263

Languages: English

Translation: "Floor-Space Index." The ratio of the total floor area of a building to the size of the plot the building occupies. So, an FSI of 2.0 would mean that the total covered area of a building is twice the area of its plot.

Om

Page 264

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Sometimes transliterated as "Aum." A sacred syllable in Hinduism; is often placed at the beginning of sacred texts.

nagada

Page 264

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Indian kettle drums. They are played with sticks.

dhakkan

Page 267

Languages: Hindi
Translation: Literally, a lid, as in the lid to a box. But is used colloquially as synonymous with "idiot," a simple person.

channa
Page 269
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Chickpeas.

khichdi
Page 270
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A dish made with rice and lentils. Often, other ingredients are tossed in, and so the word has also come to denote a mish-mash or mixture. Khichri is thought of as a comfort food, and is often served to people recovering from illness.

tandoori
Page 275
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A "tandoor" is a clay oven, so a "tandoori" dish is anything that is cooked in a tandoor.

CM
Page 278
Languages: English
Translation: "Chief Minister." A chief minister is the highest elected official in a state in India. At the state level, the CM has a lot of power, and access to him/her is difficult to obtain.

Rimzim
Page 281
Languages: Hindi
Translation: The brand name of a soft drink that is no longer made.

nakhras
Page 283
Languages: Urdu

Translation: This is Urdu for "coquetry, blandishments, charm, delicacy." There's not a word or concept in English that's exactly appropriate for this very South Asian behaviour. The nearest one can come to it is to say that it consists of very delicate, very feminine flirtation that is understood by all sides to be partly artifice.

Majnoo
Page 283
Languages: Arabic, Urdu
Translation: This is a reference to an old folktale that is popular all over South Asia and the mid-East, the story of Laila and Majnoo. "Majnoo" means "mad" in Arabic. This is the name given to a well-born young man named Qais, who is separated from his beloved Laila by her father, who wants to marry her to someone else. Qais, in despair, leaves home and wanders in the desert, hungry and ragged, and for his frenzy and ecstatic love is called "Majnoo" by the people. He eventually dies of starvation, still bereft. Laila kills herself on the day of her wedding.

dhoti
Page 289
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A large rectangular piece of cloth worn by men; it is wrapped around the legs, and knotted at the waist.

JNU
Page 292
Languages: English
Translation: Jawaharlal Nehru University.

lance-naik
Page 292
Languages: English, Hindi
Translation: A rank in the Indian army, equivalent to lance-corporal in the British army. The next senior rank is naik.

LLB
Page 294

Languages: Latin

Translation: "Legum Baccalaureus," Latin for Bachelor of Laws. The principal academic degree in law.

Jai Hind

Page 294

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Victory to India." A patriotic slogan, often chanted at public gatherings.

kakori kabab

Page 295

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A particularly soft and delicious variety of kababs from Lucknow. This recipe was created in pre-Independence India by a cook from Kakori, a small village on the outskirts of Lucknow.

lathait

Page 296

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Someone who uses a lathi, a wooden staff. A lathait is usually a hired tough guy.

ISI

Page 296

Languages: English

Translation: Inter-Services Intelligence, the largest and most powerful of Pakistan's intelligence agencies.

NEFA

Page 296

Languages: English

Translation: "North East Frontier Agency." One of the pre-Independence agencies under the British administration. Now that area is divided between the states of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

muths

Page 298

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "muth" is a Hindu shrine, usually with a number of sadhus or swamis attached. Some muths are very rich because of the donations given by the devout.

subedar

Page 299

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A rank in the Indian army which stands between commissioned and non-commissioned officers. A subedar usually commands a platoon.

daos

Page 299

Languages: Angami

Translation: A dao is a flat-bladed knife traditionally used by the tribes of Nagaland.

jawans

Page 301

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "young man" or "youth," but used as synonymous with "soldier." "Jawan" is the Indian equivalent of the American "GI."

jungles

Page 301

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Savages.

Flush

Page 301

Languages: English

Translation: "Flush" is another name for the Indian card game of teen patti ("Three cards").

See

http://www.pagat.com/vying/teen_pathi.html.

dushman

Page 306

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "enemy." In the Indian

army, the word is often used among officers and men when they talk about the foe. "The dushman is positioned along that ridge."

Mishmi

Page 306

Languages:

Translation: An ethnic tribe native to the north east of India.

ghoonghat

Page 307

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Veil; very often, the end of the sari draped over the head and face.

baniyan

Page 307

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Undershirt.

haldi

Page 308

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Turmeric.

dak bungalow

Page 308

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A traveller's rest house.

shakha

Page 311

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A shakha is the smallest unit or cell of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). "Shakha" is literally "branch" in Sanskrit. Each shakha meets in the morning or evening to play games, learn tactics and the use of weapons, and to engage in rituals and debates. These meetings are usually held in playgrounds or open spaces, which allows numbers of people to gather for sports and exercise.

Naga

Page 315

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An ethnic group; the Nagas live in Nagaland and Manipur, in northeast India.

HMT

Page 317

Languages: English

Translation: Hindustan Machine Tools, a manufacturing company set up by the Indian government. HMT started with machine tools, and later diversified into various fields, including watches.

IAS

Page 322

Languages: English

Translation: Indian Administrative Service. The IAS is the key country-wide civil service.

bund

Page 323

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Embankment.

put-tru

Page 326

Languages: Bombay slang, English

Translation: "Put through" in an accent particular to Konkani Catholics.

paise

Page 329

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Plural of "paisa," a monetary unit. A hundred paise make up one rupee.

Tai

Page 329

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A respectful term: "elder sister."

stupas

Page 333

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A Buddhist monument in the shape of a mound. Stupas often contain relics.

kelvan

Page 333

Languages: Marathi

Translation: This is one of the wedding rituals in Maharashtra: the bride's last meal as a maiden in her parents' house. The parents and families of both bride and groom participate, as well as relatives and friends.

rani

Page 334

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Queen.

Kaku

Page 334

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: An affectionate form of "Kaka" or "Uncle," usually one's father's brother.

phatkari

Page 336

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Alum.

Aai

Page 337

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Mother.

GIA

Page 340

Languages: French

Translation: The *Groupe Islamique Armé*, or "Armed Islamic Group," an extremist Islamic

organization which wants to set up an Islamic state in Algeria.

bhat

Page 341

Languages: Bengali

Translation: Rice.

chingri macher

Page 341

Languages: Bengali

Translation: A Bengali preparation of prawns.

adrak

Page 342

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Ginger.

MEA

Page 342

Languages: English

Translation: Ministry of External Affairs (at the national level), which is responsible for all Indian affairs outside the country.

See <http://meaindia.nic.in/>.

Mantralaya

Page 347

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The state administrative headquarters or state ministry in Bombay ("mantri" is "minister").

See

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantralaya%2C_Mumbai.

Sabse Bada Paisa

Page 351

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "The Largest Money." This is the name of a made-up TV show; there've been a lot of these quiz shows after "Kaun Banega Crorepati?" found great success.

Kaun Banega Crorepati?

Page 351

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "Who Will Become a Multi-millionaire?" This is the hugely successful quiz show that millions watch all over India.

See <http://kbc2.indya.com/>.

gaali

Page 352

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Term of abuse, bad language.

na

Page 353

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "No." Often used as an interrogative at the end of a sentence: "You read the book, na?"

jaan

Page 353

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Literally, "life." Often used in the sense of "darling" or "dear," as in "my life."

mamoo

Page 354

Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi

Translation: Fool, idiot.

bola na

Page 355

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: "I told you..."

ragdo

Page 355

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: To rub, to scrape, to wear down. The word can also be used as a noun: "ragda" is "the rub," or "rubbing."

suhaag-raat

Page 360

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The first night a couple spends together after their wedding.

mela

Page 361

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A carnival or fair.

kutti

Page 361

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bitch.

masjid

Page 363

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Mosque.

chowki

Page 364

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Post, station.

hijra

Page 364

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Eunuch.

policiyas

Page 365

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Slang for policemen.

dhad-dhad

Page 365

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An onomatopoeia for the sound of

gun shots.

gajras

Page 366

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "gajra" is a garland of flowers, often jasmine.

vatan

Page 366

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Home, country. This is a tremendously emotive word that encompasses all the passionate feelings one has for one's birthplace, for the landscapes of one's native earth.

chweet

Page 366

Languages: English

Translation: Indianization of "sweet" -- an overly cute way of saying it.

motu

Page 369

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Fat.

mathadi workers

Page 370

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Loaders, as in dockyards. Workers who carry and move loads.

pichkari

Page 372

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A syringe-shaped squirter that is used by revellers during the Holi festival to spray coloured water on each other. Essentially, an Indian water pistol.

shaandaar

Page 376

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Magnificent.

chotta

Page 382

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Small, little.

ghavan

Page 383

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A spicy snack made from rice flour.

Ravana

Page 384

Languages:

Translation: The great Rakshasa king of Lanka who is the antagonist of the *Ramayana*. He is actually a deeply knowledgeable scholar and a great yogi.

Chala jaata hoon kisi ki

Page 384

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Mere Jeevan Sathi* ("My Lifelong Companion," 1972): "I walk to the rhythm of a certain person..."

RDX

Page 385

Languages: English

Translation: Cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine, which forms the basis of many military explosives. Also known as T4 and cyclonite.

paltu

Page 385

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Tame.

kajus

Page 386

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cashewnuts.

dharma

Page 387

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Often translated as "proper conduct" or "the right way of living." In a larger sense, the order underlying the universe and the attempt to be in harmony with that order. Religions that treat dharma as a central concern are sometimes referred to as dharmic religions; Hinduism is therefore "Sanatana Dharma," or "Eternal Dharma."

jhadoo

Page 388

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Broom.

ghotala

Page 388

Languages: Bombay slang, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A mess. In the newspapers, the word is also used as a term for "scandal."

DDLJ

Page 392

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An abbreviation for *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, a 1995 Hindi film that became a massive hit.

pani

Page 393

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Water.

jhatak-matak

Page 393

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fireworks and movement, flash and slinkiness. Often used to refer to a woman who is flashy and sexy.

chokra

Page 396

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "boy." Used often for street kids.

shaandaar

Page 396

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Magnificent, glorious. "Shandaar party" is a phrase often used in Hindi movies.

khuds

Page 399

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Holes, pits.

NGO

Page 400

Languages: English

Translation: "Non-Governmental Organization."

kartiya

Page 401

Languages: Marathi

Translation: An affectionate Marathi term for "crazy guy." You'd use it with a friend or a relative.

BSES

Page 403

Languages: English, Marathi

Translation: Brihanmumbai Suburban Electric Supply.

Achcha

Page 406

Languages: Hindi
Translation: Okay. Yes.

raand

Page 407
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Prostitute, like "randi."

chaas

Page 407
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A refreshing drink made from buttermilk.

kutiya

Page 407
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Bitch.

gharala paya rashtrala baya

Page 409
Languages: Marathi
Translation: This is a traditional Marathi saying: "As the foundation is to a house, women are to the nation." So the implication is that women should be firm, pure, virtuous.

Nirodh

Page 409
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A brand name for a condom introduced by the Government of India a few decades ago. These condoms are distributed free, and the advertisements for them were once ubiquitous.
See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nirodh>.

chaska

Page 411
Languages: Hindi
Translation: An obsessive liking for something, a taste for it.

namkeen

Page 411
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: "Savoury" -- salty or spicy. Often used to describe snacks.

budhdha

Page 420
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Old man.

aaaja gufaon mein aa

Page 420
Languages: Hindi
Translation: This is a line from a song from the 2001 Hindi film *Aks*: "Come, come into the cave." The next line is *Aaja gunaah kar le* — "Come, commit a sin."

sanyas, sanyasi

Page 421
Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit
Translation: Sanyas is the adoption of the life of the spirit; usually, it implies giving up the householder's life, the "things of the world." The sanyasi -- the practitioner of the spiritual life -- develops a detachment from the material world and spends his or her time in meditation and other spiritual or religious activities. The sanyasi searches for enlightenment, for union with the divine.

namoona

Page 423
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Specimen.

jhalla

Page 423
Languages: Punjabi
Translation: Crazy person, madman.

sat-sri-akal

Page 425

Languages: Punjabi
Translation: A Punjabi greeting addressed to Sikhs: "They be blessed who say truth is God."

darbar
Page 427
Languages: Urdu
Translation: Court.

maderpat
Page 427
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Motherfucker.

TADA
Page 427
Languages: English
Translation: "Terroist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act," which was instituted in 1985 and allowed to lapse in 1995 because of wide misuse.

sasural
Page 428
Languages: Hindi
Translation: The house of your in-laws. So, a house that is not yours but you are very familiar with, that you visit often. Career criminals therefore refer to jail as their "sasural."

jaljira
Page 429
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A spicy drink made from mint leaves and ginger.

podhina
Page 429
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Mint.

khiladi

Page 430
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Player.

kaliyug
Page 431
Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit
Translation: The "Age of Kali" or the "Age of Darkness." The fourth and last of the yugas that pass in the eternal cycle of existence. The Kaliyuga is the most degenerate and morally lacking of the four periods, and ends with pralaya, the great destruction.

bandicoot
Page 434
Languages: English, Hindi
Translation: The lesser Bandicoot rat (*Bandicota bengalensis*), which is a pest often found in India. They can be quite aggressive when cornered.

chotti
Page 436
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Small, little.

handi
Page 436
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A round pot-like vessel.

ginti
Page 437
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Count.

havalgars
Page 437
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Constables.

namaaz

Page 437

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: The namaaz or salat is the daily prayer practised by Muslims; usually refers to five daily prayers.

tari

Page 438

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A final garnish of spices which is put on dals and other foods after they are cooked.

Ludo

Page 438

Languages: English

Translation: A simple board game for two to four players.

chappati

Page 438

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Unleavened bread. A staple food in northern India.

Mere sapnon ki rani kab aaye gi tu, aayi rut mastaani kab aaye gi tu...

Page 438

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is a line from a song from the Hindi film *Aradhana* ("Worship," 1969). "Oh queen of my dreams, when will you come? The intoxicating season has come, when will you come?"

See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0065416/>.

bissi

Page 438

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Bissi is actually free food provided by the jail, and the term also applies to where it is prepared — the kitchen.

chaser-panni

Page 438

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A chaser-panni, or "kesar-panni," is a small packet or wrapper which contains some powder — in this case the powder is "brown sugar," heroin. On the streets, there are other phrases and words for chaser-panni: "Shakkar ki pudhi" (twist of sugar), "pudi" (twist), powder, packet, and "namak" (salt).

Kalias

Page 438

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Black people in general, either African or American African. "Kala" is Hindi for "black," so "kalia" (singular) is a derivation. This is slang, and it is quite derogatory.

Bataa re. Kaad rela.

Page 440

Languages: Marathi

Translation: "Tell me. Spill it."

gaadi

Page 441

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "car" or "vehicle." Therefore, something you ride.

lambi

Page 442

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: "Lambi" is literally "long." But in jail, a "lambi" is a knife or dagger, which is long in comparison to razor blades, the other weapon of choice. A lambi can be engineered from a door hinge or other such piece of metal.

The word is also used to refer to a sword.

anda

Page 443

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Egg.

tanki

Page 443

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A tank, reservoir.

champi

Page 444

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Head-rub.

peloed

Page 445

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: To "pelo" is to pound, to impact. Here it is a reference to sex.

tabla

Page 446

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A small drum played with the hands; tablas are used in pairs.

khwab ho tum ya koi haqiqat, kaun ho tum batalaao

Page 446

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Teen Deviyaan* ("Three Ladies," 1965): "Are you a dream or reality? Tell me who you are."**khilte hain gul yahaan, khilake bikharane ko, milte hain dil yahaan, milke bichhadne ko**

Page 446

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Sharmilee* ("The Shy One," 1971): "Flowers bloom here, only to fall. Hearts meet here, only to be sundered."**pag ghungru baandh Mira naachi thi**

Page 446

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi

film *Namak Halal* ("Faithful," 1982): "With anklets on, Mira danced..."See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0084385/>.**ye dil na hota bechaara**

Page 446

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Line from a song from the Hindi film *Jewel Thief* (1967). "If this heart weren't so destitute..."**langotiya yaar**

Page 452

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "langot" is traditional Indian underwear. Children often run around only wearing langots. So, a "langotiya yaar" is a friend from the days you both wore only langots. A more recent version of the same idea is "chaddi friend" -- "chaddis" are shorts.

rasgulla

Page 452

Languages: Hindi, Bengali

Translation: A dessert made from unripened or cottage cheese, which is soaked in a sugar syrup. Rasagullas are white.

jaat

Page 454

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Caste.

dhaansu

Page 455

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Good, excellent, with heft, "solid."

garara

Page 457

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A loose divided skirt.

Phoolon ki Raani

Page 457

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is the title of a fictional film, "Queen of Flowers."

thoku

Page 461

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: As above, to "thoko" is "to hit," or "to thump." So a "thoku" is someone who is thumped, hit; a lover who is a thoku is someone who is just banged, used for sex. It's a very belittling and vulgar thing to call someone.

pranayama

Page 467

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Various yogic exercises breathing exercises that help the practitioner to strengthen and control his or her "prana" or life force. "Prana" is life force; "yama" is control.

koel

Page 468

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A songbird (*Eudynamys scolopacea*) found on the subcontinent.

vediya

Page 470

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Crazy guy, nutcase.

budhau

Page 470

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An old man, an old coot -- the word "budhau" is a gently patronizing way to talk about someone. "Old timer."

Sakranti

Page 473

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A religious festival. In certain parts of the country, the festival is celebrated by flying kites. In the days leading up to the festival, the sky is crowded with colourful kites.

Jana Sanghi

Page 474

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Somebody who belonged to the Jana Sangha, a political party that in 1980 was succeeded by the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). The Jana Sangh's activists and leaders often came from the right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). A Jana Sanghi therefore usually had right-of-centre or conservative politics.

swami

Page 475

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally means "lord," and is used as a honorific title. Often used for the head of Hindu religious sect or ashram.

rashtra

Page 483

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Nation.

ram-raiya

Page 483

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "the rule of Rama." The reference is to the mythical rule of the god-king Rama, within which perfect justice, fair play, prosperity, and virtue existed. Currently, the phrase is often used to describe the utopia that India will supposedly become once it becomes a "Hindu Rashtra," or Hindu nation. Various right-wing groups use the phrase "ram-rajya" to push their agenda of religious nationalism.

haveli

Page 485

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A large private residence, a

mansion.

jhakass

Page 488

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Excellent, great.

bolo

Page 488

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Tell," or "talk." In this context, the black-marketeer is asking people who want tickets at his price to speak up.

Pyaar ka Diya

Page 488

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is the title of a made-up Hindi film: "The Lamp of Love."

pocket-maar

Page 489

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Maar" means something like "grab" or "grabber," or even "hitter." So a "pocket-maar" is someone who grabs or hits your pocket, a pickpocket.

toli

Page 489

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A gang, a pack.

jhamoora

Page 491

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Clown.

badmash

Page 491

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A shady character, a bad man.

jari

Page 497

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Embroidery with gold and silver threads.

Gujju behn

Page 497

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "Gujarati sister." Gujaratis often use "behn" – sister – as a respectful form of address, so "Gujju behn" has become a slightly mocking way to refer to someone who is typically Gujarati.

Pankhida tu uddi jaaje

Page 497

Languages: Gujarati

Translation: This is from a popular song heard during garba dances: "O bird, fly away..." The lines which follow are:

Pawagarh re

Kehje Ma Kali ne re

Garbo ramwa re

Which means:

O bird, fly away to Pawagarh

Tell Mother Kali

to dance the garba

garba

Page 498

Languages: Gujarati

Translation: A traditional Gujarati dance.

Chainya Chainya

Page 498

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Dil Se* ("From the Heart," 1998): "The shadow, in the shadow..."

Bhumro bhumro

Page 501

Languages: Kashmiri

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Mission Kashmir* (2000): "Bumblebee, o bumblebee..."

bandobast

Page 502

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Practical arrangements, logistics.

Dharamveer

Page 503

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A 1977 film directed by the famous Manmohan Desai. The film takes place in a mythical kingdom during some unspecified pre-modern age. The story is deliriously fantastic: it features a samurai, a preternaturally intelligent hawk, a cruel but beautiful princess, and combats in a Roman gladiatorial arena.

Maharaja

Page 503

Languages: Hindi

Translation: King.

Maharani

Page 503

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Queen.

chashmu

Page 504

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: "Chashma" is Hindi for "spectacles." So "chashmu" is a mocking term for someone who wears spectacles, something like "four eyes."

Main zindagi ka saath nibhaata chala gaya

Page 505

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is a line from the Hindi film *Hum Dono* ("The Two of Us," 1961): "I went along, keeping my faith with life..."

Devdas

Page 505

Languages: Hindi, Bengali

Translation: The reference is to a very famous fictional character, Devdas. In 1917, the Bengali novelist Sharat Chandra Chatterjee published a novel of the same name, about a man who -- heart-broken in love -- drinks himself to death. The novel has been made into a film several times, most recently in 2002.

Mai re

Page 506

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An exclamation, "O mother!"

kanya

Page 507

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Young woman.

Didi

Page 508

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Elder sister" -- a respectful way of addressing a woman, whether she is related to you or not.

charbi

Page 509

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fat.

panga

Page 510

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Quarrel, trouble.

Vahan kaun hai tera, musafir, jayega kahan?

Page 512

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from the Hindi film *Guide* (1965): "Traveller – who, there, is yours? Where will you go?"

Tehelka

Page 515

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "Sensation!" or "Scandal!" In this case, refers to an Indian newspaper and web site famous for uncovering corruption and malfeasance using sting operations and hidden cameras.

durbar

Page 517

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Court, a royal audience chamber.

shanne

Page 517

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: "Shanne" is what you call someone who is cunning, sneaky, or at least is trying to be. Depending on the intonation, a shanna can be someone who is trying to be overly smart.

khoka

Page 518

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: One crore (ten million) rupees.

mahurats

Page 519

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A mahurat is a time particularly auspicious for the beginning of a specific activity, or for a particular ritual or occasion. A pandit is consulted to obtain the time for a mahurat; the pandit examines the patron's horoscope and takes into account the positioning of the sun and planets, and also the intent and

nature of the planned activity.

shagun

Page 519

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Portent, augury.

qayamat

Page 520

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Apocalypse.

Pralay

Page 520

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: In Hindu mythology, the destruction of the world.

lallu

Page 522

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Weakling, a soft or ineffective person.

neer dosas

Page 525

Languages: Kannada

Translation: "Neer" is water. Neer dosas are made with a very watery batter.

sambhar

Page 525

Languages: Tamil

Translation: A dish made from lentils (usually red gram). Very common in South India.

appam

Page 526

Languages: Malayalam

Translation: A flat, pancake-like dish made from fermented rice. Native to Kerala.

paes

Page 526

Languages: Konkani

Translation: A rice dish (sometimes transliterated as "pej").

usal

Page 526

Languages: Konkani, Marathi

Translation: Colloquially, a collective term for the various pulses — moog, matki, masoor, waal, chavli, and others — that can be used to make the typically Maharashtrian dish "usal."

monai

Page 526

Languages: Konkani

Translation: A low stool.

mehbooba mehbooba

Page 527

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Part of a song from the famous Hindi film *Sholay* ("Embers," 1975). "Beloved, o my beloved..."

See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0073707/>.

bhondu

Page 527

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Fool.

dar-ul-harb

Page 528

Languages: Arabic

Translation: According to orthodox Islamic teaching, a land which is ruled by the laws of Shari'ah is "Dar-ul-Islam," an "Abode-of-Peace." A country or land which is not governed by the Shari'ah of Allah, and does not acknowledge the authority of Muslims through the payment of the Jizyah tax, is "Dar-ul-Harb," the "Abode-of-War." In this view, devout Muslims must attempt to convert Dar--ul-Harb into Dar-ul-Islam; there can be no compromise or co-existence.

Hum Apke Hain Kaun

Page 530

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Who am I to You?" -- a Hindi film released in 1994. It was a huge hit.

Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge

Page 530

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A 1995 Hindi film, "The Brave Will Take the Bride."

Dil To Pagal Tai

Page 530

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "The Heart is Crazy," a Hindi film released in 1997.

Nayakan

Page 530

Languages:

Translation: "Nayakan" means "The hero" or "The leader" in Tamil. In this case, the reference is to a very famous and very influential film (1987) directed by Mani Ratnam and starring Kamalahasan. Kamalahassan plays Velu Naicker, a boy who rises to become a powerful don in the Bombay underworld. Velu Naicker is based on the real-life Varadarajan Mudaliar, or "Varada," who rose from poverty and obscurity to become one of the most powerful men in Bombay. Varada was a Tamil who struggled against prejudice and discrimination in Maratha-dominated Bombay. For gangsters of Gaitonde's generation, Varada is a figure out of the past, a legendary figure to put aside Haji Mastan and Yusuf Patel.

Nayakan was the official Indian entry for the best foreign film category in the Oscars in 1987.

bundal

Page 530

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Bad, substandard.

gandugiri

Page 531

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Being a gaandu, doing something which constitutes gaandu-ness. That is, doing something idiotic.

vaid

Page 531

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An Ayurvedic doctor.

Vah

Page 531

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Very good, fine, excellent.

toota-phoota

Page 532

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Broken.

moksha

Page 532

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Liberation from the endless cycle of rebirth. Mokhsa is the fourth of the purusharthas or aims of life; the other three are dharma (duty), artha (material gain, sustenance), and kama (pleasure).

Kasam

Page 533

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A vow. Sometimes is used in the sense of, "I give you my word."

Qutub Minar

Page 534

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A brick minaret (237.8 feet high); construction began in 1193 and ended in 1368. Three emperors were responsible for the

construction of this monument: Qutb-ud-din Aybak, the first Muslim ruler of Delhi; his successor, Iltutmish; and Firuz Shah Tughluq.

bhashan

Page 534

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lecture.

bambooning

Page 535

Languages: Bombay slang, English

Translation: From "bamboo," as in the long, tubular plant. To penetrate, to fuck.

hool

Page 536

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A deception, a bluff.

IPO

Page 536

Languages: English

Translation: "Initial Public Offering," the first sale of a corporation's common shares.

chut-chattoing

Page 536

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Cunt-licking.

Chinki

Page 538

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Chinese.

chappan-churi

Page 538

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A wily prostitute. After a famous courtesan of Allahbad who survived 56 knife wounds inflicted by a lover. Literally, "56 knife-

marks.”

ghaatan

Page 538

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: The Western Ghats are a mountain range that run through Maharashtra. Many immigrants from this region have come to Bombay over the past decades, and have frequently taken jobs as labourers and servants. The term “ghaati” has thus come to denote, in a pejorative fashion, someone who is unsophisticated, uneducated, lower-class. “Ghaatan” is a feminine form of the word.

aish

Page 539

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Pleasure, fun.

fida

Page 539

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Crazy about, in love with.

poora

Page 539

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Full, complete.

akha

Page 539

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Full, absolute.

mauj-maja

Page 539

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Pleasure and fun.

sheikh

Page 540

Languages: Arabic

Translation: A tribal leader or noble in the Arabian peninsula.

dharam

Page 542

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Colloquial pronunciation of "dharma."

kafirs

Page 542

Languages: Arabic, Urdu

Translation: Infidels, unbelievers. "Kafir" is a derogatory term for non-Muslims.

jehadi

Page 542

Languages: Arabic, Urdu

Translation: Someone who participates in jihad, which literally means "striving in the way of Allah." Often, the word "jihad" is used to describe military conflict against the enemies of the faith, but that is only a limited and partial meaning of the word.

vilayati

Page 543

Languages: Hindi

Translation: English, British; sometimes used in the more general sense of "foreign."

London mein fielding lagao. Do team bhedzjo, Sachin aur Saurav dono. Ready rehna, instructions baad mein

Page 543

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Gaitonde is speaking in code here: "Set up fielding in London. Send two teams, Sachin and Saurav both. Stay ready, instructions will be sent later." So he wants his subordinates to get ready for action in London; fielding -- as in cricket -- refers to getting people in place. "Sachin" and "Saurav" are code names for two of his own men; he's using the names of two very famous cricketers, Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav

Ganguly.

gadha

Page 544

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Donkey.

mahatma

Page 547

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "great soul." A wise man, a great man.

faqir

Page 547

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A Sufi holy man, an itinerant. Often credited with supernatural or magical powers.

akharas

Page 548

Languages: Hindi

Translation:

Regiment. (Note that often the same word is also used for a traditional gymnasium.)

jatas

Page 548

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Long matted hair, as in dreadlocks.

naga

Page 548

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sect of sadhus or monks. The naga sadhus are Shaivites, and have existed as a sect for millenia. They carry tridents, swords, spears, and are the "warrior" sadhus; their sect is divided into "akharas" or "regiments." Many of them do not wear clothes.

manuvadi

Page 549

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Manu was the author of the text *Manusmriti*, from which orthodox Hinduism draws many of its laws and practises, including the persecution and exploitation of the lower castes. A "manuvadi" is follower of Manu, which is to say someone from the upper castes.

atman

Page 550

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Soul.

gyotishi

Page 552

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Astrologer.

pravachan

Page 553

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A spiritual talk, sermon.

pranaam

Page 553

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A respectful greeting. Can be used at both meeting and parting.

sattvic

Page 553

Languages: Hindi

Translation: In Hindu philosophy (particularly in the Samkhya system), everything in the world has three gunas or qualities: sattva, purity; rajas, heat, passion; and tamas, cold, inertia. A sattvic presence is pure, clear, and has the effect of purifying whatever comes into contact with it. A sattvic person is not selfish; he or she works for the general welfare; he or she is liberated from worldly desires.

baan

Page 554

Languages: Konkani

Translation: A very large vessel or pot, made out of metal, to store and heat water in.

shlokas

Page 555

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Verses.

tamasaic

Page 555

Languages: Hindi

Translation: See "sattvic."

yagna

Page 556

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A religious and spiritual ceremony, a sacrifice.

nakabandi

Page 557

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: An operation by the police wherein they stop vehicles on the road and check them.

idlis

Page 559

Languages: Tamil

Translation: An idli is made from steamed batter consisting of pulses and rice; it looks like a white, very light patty. Often eaten in the morning or as a snack.

yagna-sthal

Page 560

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The place where a religious ceremony or sacrifice takes place.

angula

Page 561

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation: Literally, a finger or a hand. Here, a measure of length.

purusha

Page 561

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation: Literally, "man." In the construction of Vedic altars, a purusha was an important measure of length. An "angula" was the distance between the lines marking the middle joint of the middle finger of the sacrificer. A hundred and twenty angulas made one purusha. The purusha then was used as the basis for several measurements used in the sizing and shape of the altar.

yajman

Page 561

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation: Patron, host. In this case, the yajman is the patron of the yagna or sacrifice.

chakravartin

Page 561

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A universal ruler who is also just; a great emperor.

slokas

Page 562

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A couplet from a holy text; in Hinduism, slokas are often from one of the Vedas or great epics.

sama (as in "sama hymns")

Page 562

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation: The reference is to hymns from the Samaveda, the third Veda. The metrical portion of the Samaveda consists mostly of hymns which are chanted by Udgatar priests during important sacrifices.

soma

Page 562

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A drink often used in rituals and religious ceremonies in Vedic culture. The Rigveda particularly contains many references to soma, praising its intoxication, which brings enlightenment and knowledge. Soma was made from a mountain plant, but specific knowledge of this plant has been lost over the centuries; guesses have included psychedelic mushrooms and cannabis.

munis

Page 563

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A sage or monk, particularly in the Hindu tradition. A wise man, often blessed with extraordinary powers.

paratha

Page 563

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A fried bread usually made from whole-wheat flour. The dough is fried in ghee or oil, and the paratha is often stuffed with vegetables.

dhobi

Page 564

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Someone who washes clothes, a washerman.

bhang

Page 565

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A derivative of cannabis, made from the leaf and flower of the female plant. Can be smoked, or is used in drinks.

samagri

Page 566

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The materials used during a sacrifice or prayer: rice, kumkum, flowers, fruits, sandalwood, etc.

pagdi

Page 566

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Turban.

Vallavh re nakhva ho, vallavh re Rama

Page 566

Languages: Marathi

Translation: This is a line from a traditional Marathi song: "Row, o boatman. Row, o Rama."

potli

Page 571

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A kind of cloth bag.

Kumbh

Page 572

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The Kumbh mela or festival takes place four times every twelve years; every three years it rotates between Prayag (Allahbad), Ujjain, Haridwar, and Nashik. Every twelve years the Maha Kumbh mela, the Great Kumbh, takes place at Prayag; millions of pilgrims come from all over India and beyond to the festival. The Great Kumbh melas are the largest human gatherings on the planet.

kumkum

Page 572

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A powder used to make the auspicious mark on one's forehead.

tilaks

Page 572

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A tilak is an auspicious mark worn on the forehead by Hindus (both men and women). The tilak can be made from dried turmeric powder, which is red; sandal past; or ashes.

naamam

Page 572

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: An iconic mark worn on the forehead; there are different shapes of the naamam depending on the religious proclivities of the person.

pandita

Page 572

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A familiar form of "pandit."

Ay

Page 572

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: An exclamation to attract somebody's attention, "Hey."

maike

Page 573

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A married woman's parental home.

kos

Page 574

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An indigenous measure of distance; the actual distance varies regionally. The usual estimate given is about two miles. But, according to Hobson-Jobson, "The kos as laid down in the Ain... was of 5000 gaz... The official decision of the British Government has assigned the length of Akbar's Ilahi gaz as 33 inches, and this would make Akbar's kos= 2 m. 4 f. 183 1/3 yards. Actual measurement of road distances between 5 pair of Akbar's kos-minars, near Delhi, gave a mean of 2 m. 4 f. 158 yards. In the greater part of the Bengal Presidency the estimated kos is about 2 miles, but it is much less as you approach the

N.W. In the upper part of the Doab, it is, with fair accuracy, 1 1/4 miles. In Bundelkhand again it is nearly 3 m. (Carnegy), or, according to Beames, even 4 m. In Madras it is 2 1/4 m., and in Mysore the Sultani kos is about 4 m."

chup

Page 581

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Quiet, be quiet.

vira

Page 582

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Warrior.

tantra

Page 585

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A heterogeneous body of esoteric religious practices and beliefs based in Hinduism. A common belief in tantric systems is that the universe is a physical emanation of divinity, and that humans are a part of this divinity; tantric rituals seek to allow humans to experience their own divine nature and oneness with the universe. "Left-handed tantra" refers to Kaula tantra, which uses acts that are usually forbidden -- including sex -- as a part of ritual practice.

bandhgalla

Page 585

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "closed neck." Used for any jacket or coat that has a round, closed collar, such as the Nehru jacket.

khalsa

Page 586

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: "Khalsa" refers to all Sikhs who have taken part in the Amrit Sanchar initiation ceremony. The Khalsa must carry the five symbols of the Sikh faith, and live his life according to the teachings of the Gurus.

churi

Page 587

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Knife. In this context, a sharp one.

taklu

Page 590

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Someone who is bald. "Baldie."

bheja

Page 591

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Brain.

yeda

Page 592

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Crazy person, madman.

ghazal

Page 593

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A poetic form which uses rhyming couplets and a refrain.

Tu kahan ye bataa, is nasheeli raat mein...

Page 594

Languages: Hindi

Translation: These, and the lines on the next page ("He, chand taaron ne suna...") are from the Hindi film *Tere Ghar ke Samne* ("In Front of your House," 1963): "Tell me, where are you, in this intoxicating night?"

He, chand taaron ne suna...

Page 595

Languages: Hindi

Translation: These, and the lines on the previous page ("Tu kahan yeh bataa...") are from the

Hindi film *Tere Ghar ke Saamne* ("In Front of your House," 1963): "Oh, the moon and stars heard it, these beautiful landscapes heard it, passersby heard the song of my pain."

parishad

Page 596

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Council.

poha

Page 600

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: A spicy snack made from rice flakes.

sabji

Page 603

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Vegetable.

haramkhori

Page 605

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Profiting by unfair or illegal means; thievery.

GOI

Page 609

Languages: English

Translation: "Government of India."

Gar ek baar pyaar kiya to baar baar karna...

Page 612

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Couplets like this are often painted on the back of trucks, taxis, and auto-rickshaws:

If you've loved me once, love me again and again.

If I am late, wait for me.

Yeh shaam mastani, madhosh kiye jaye

Page 614

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is a line from a song from the Hindi film *Kati Patang* ("Drifting Kite," 1970): "This beautiful evening intoxicates me..."

aatya

Page 615

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Aunt. Father's sister.

pugree

Page 619

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A turban. Also "pug."

Gata rahe mera dil

Page 621

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from the Hindi film *Guide* (1965): "My heart keeps singing..."

Kahin beetein na ye raatein, kahin beetein na ye din

Page 621

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Guide* (1965): "May these nights never pass, may these days never vanish..."

Kahin beetein na ye raatein...

Page 621

Languages: Hindi

Translation: These lines are from a song from the Hindi film *Guide* (1965): "May these nights never end, may these days never end..."

machchi

Page 622

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fish.

chole-bature

Page 622

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Spicy chickpeas and a bread made from white flour. A Punjabi dish.

kadi

Page 622

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Yoghurt curry.

paisa vasool

Page 627

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: "Worth the money spent."

paisa vasool

Page 627

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Getting one's money's worth.

maha

Page 629

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This prefix usually means "great" or "big."

djinns

Page 631

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Djinnns are -- in Arabic mythology -- a race of supernatural creatures with extraordinary powers; "djinn" is where English gets its "Genie."

surahs

Page 631

Languages: Arabic

Translation: A section or chapter of the holy Koran.

hadiths

Page 631

Languages: Arabic, Urdu

Translation: Traditions about the life, words, and deeds of the Prophet Muhammed.

tapas

Page 633

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Literally, "heat." Those who practise yoga or other spiritual or bodily disciplines accumulate tapas, a natural energy that allows them to "burn off" karma and also accomplish magical feats. In the legends, great yogis are said to accumulate so much tapas that they threaten to "burn the three worlds."

humara pata

Page 636

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Our address"-- this is a very formal way of speaking. The plural "our" is formal, not literal.

hum

Page 636

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "We."

kasht karein

Page 636

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Please take the trouble to..." A very formal way of asking someone to do something.

sarpanch

Page 637

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The elected head of a panchayat, a body that governs a village. Along with the other elected panches or members of the panchayat, the sarpanch provides local self-government.

kachcha lanes

Page 637

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Unpaved lanes. "Kachcha" is unfinished, impermanent -- the opposite of "pucca."

hatke

Page 643

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Different, not ordinary, not run-of-the-mill. In the Bombay film industry, people use this word to describe their film projects, implying that the films are quirky and non-formulaic and risk-taking. The use of "hatke" has become something of a cliché in its own right.

fultu

Page 643

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: All-out, extreme, over the top.

lauda lasoon

Page 647

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: "Lauda" is cock, "lasoon" is garlic. Usually the phrase is used dismissively as synonymous with "etcetera, etcetera" or something that is inconsequential. As in, "The government is doing lauda lasoon about traffic problems in Bombay." Gaitonde is being creative in his use of the slang; he speaks of someone getting his cock "etcetared," as in a blow-job. His men, as they often do, follow him in this usage.

lund

Page 647

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Cock, penis.

barood

Page 650

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Gunpowder.

Hamari Dharti, Unki Dharti

Page 650

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Our Earth, Their Earth."

goras

Page 652

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Gora" is literally "fair-complexioned," or "pale." So the word can also be used as a noun, for a white person.

Abhi na jao chhhod kar

Page 657

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is a song from the Hindi film *Hum Dono* ("The Two of Us," 1961).

The lyrics are:

*Abhi na jao chhod kar, ke dil abhi bhara nahin
Abhi abhi to aai ho, bahar ban kar chahi ho.
Hawa zara mahak to le, nazar zara bahak to le
Ye shaam dhal to le zara, ye dil sambhal to le zara...
Main thodi der jee to loon, nashe ke ghoont pee to loon
Abhi to kuchh kaha nahin, abhi to kuchh suna nahin
Abhi na jao...*

Which translates into:

Don't go, don't leave me, I haven't yet had my heart's fill.
You've just come, you've just settled in like the Spring.
Let the breeze become fragrant, let my eyes be dazzled,
let this evening sink into darkness, let my heart settle a little,
let me live a little, let me drink deep of this intoxication.
Nothing has been said yet, nothing has been heard.
Don't go, don't leave me...

Ke kitni muhabbat hai tumse, to paas aake to dekho

Page 657

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A line from a song from the Hindi film *Kasoor* ("Crime," 2001): "To know how much I love you, come close and look."

NRI

Page 662

Languages: English

Translation: "Non-Resident Indian."

dhamaka

Page 665

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Explosion.

Rehne do, yaaron, main door ja raha hoon

Page 667

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is from a song from *International Dhamaka*, the film that Gaitonde produces: "Leave me be, friends, I am going far away."

Rabb mehar kare

Page 675

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: "Lord have mercy."

lafangas

Page 675

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "lafanga" is an uncouth, ill-mannered person, usually a young man. Lafangas are to be found loafing on street corners or in bazaars, smoking, gossiping, eating paan; parents whose son spends too much time in these pursuits fear their young man is turning into a lafanga.

BSF

Page 677

Languages: English

Translation: Border Security Force.

champa

Page 678

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The Frangipani tree, which produces fragrant flowers. The flowers are often used in garlands and hair adornments.

juhi

Page 678

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A variety of jasmine.

suva

Page 678

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Dill.

tulsi

Page 680

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A plant -- the holy basil (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*). The tulsi is very sacred in Hinduism, and is also used in Ayurvedic medicine.

madrassa

Page 683

Languages: Arabic, Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A school. In English usage, usually refers to a Sunni religious school.

vizier

Page 683

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Also "wazir." Literally, "minister" or "counsellor." In chess in contemporary India, the piece that is called the "bishop" in the West.

pani-puri

Page 690

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A savoury snack. A light, crisp ball of dough is filled with spicy masala water and potato stuffing. Also known as "gol gappa" or "puchka."

Dharmatma

Page 690

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Great man," or "Spiritual Leader."

Dayavan

Page 690

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "The Merciful." This is a reference to a 1988 Hindi film, a remake of the Tamil *Nayakan*.

sants

Page 695

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Devotional poets who belong to the bhakti tradition in Hinduism; they are regarded as saints.

jooda

Page 696

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hair worn in a bun.

Ishq, pyaar, muhabbat

Page 703

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: "Love, love, love." The three words are synonymous.

deewana

Page 703

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Literally, "madman," a crazy person. Often used as synonymous with "lover."

prakriti

Page 706

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Nature.

cut-to-cut

Page 708

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: To the point, without any wastage or extra work. Probably taken from film and television editing, where "cut-to-cut" is a reference to the traditional AB roll method in which one VCR containing the master edit receives images from several linked machines.

III A

Page 714

Languages: English

Translation: A measure of the protection offered by body armour. Level IV protection is considered the highest. A IIIA vest should stop bullets from a 9mm submachinegun.

gaon

Page 716

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Village.

Om evam saraswatye namah

Page 716

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation:

An invocation from a classical Sanskrit text:

“Om! I honour the goddess Saraswati...”

bhadvaya

Page 716

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A form of “bhadwa,” pimp.

One, two, chal shuru hoja

Page 718

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is a line from a song from the Hindi film, *Humjoli* (“Friend,” 1970): “One, two, let’s start...”

Dil Diya Dard Liya

Page 718

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The title of a Hindi film (“Gave my Heart, Received Pain,” 1966).

fauji

Page 719

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Soldier. From “fauj,” or army.

bole to

Page 724

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Used variously to mean, “You know,” or “Kind of like.” Or just “Like,” in the American teenager sense: “Bole to, I just went to the mall and just everyone was there.”

rumali rotis

Page 726

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A very thin bread -- “rumal” is handkerchief. A rumali roti is fairly large, and is folded over and over (like a handkerchief) before being served.

soonti

Page 732

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A dish of finely ground mutton and onions, fried slowly in balls.

bajra

Page 732

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Pearl millet, a hardy grain. In India,

bajra is often used to make rotis, but it is cheaper than refined wheat flour, and so has traditionally been regarded as a lower-class food. In recent years it has been adopted by health-conscious urbanites as a source of non-fattening carbs.

pandhara rassa

Page 732

Languages: Marathi

Translation: "White gravy."

tikhat

Page 732

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Very hot, full of chillis.

SHO

Page 735

Languages: English

Translation: "Station House Officer."

belan

Page 739

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A rolling pin, often used to make rotis.

aampapad

Page 745

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Leaves" of dried mango pulp; these can be stored for a long time and are eaten as a snack.

MTNL

Page 748

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Maharashtra Telephone Nigam Limited" -- a government-owned telephone service provider.

jhinga

Page 752

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Prawns.

khattam shud

Page 756

Languages: Urdu

Translation: "Completely finished." Often used in the sense of "The End."

hungama

Page 757

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Commotion, noise.

maharathi

Page 759

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A great warrior.

crorepati

Page 761

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Someone who possesses one crore rupees (ten million in the Indian numbering system).

arabpati

Page 761

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Someone who possesses one billion rupees.

MCOCA

Page 764

Languages: English

Translation: "Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act." This is a very Draconian act which allows an accused to be arrested and kept in jail for six months without trial. The law requires as a condition of bail that the judge believe at the time of the arrest (before any trial) that the accused is not guilty; therefore the accused is presumed guilty until proven innocent. Many

human rights organizations have asked for the repeal of this law. MCOCA replaces TADA ("Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act"), which was allowed to lapse in 1995 after fierce protests.

masst

Page 764

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Fine, excellent, pleasure-giving.

sarson

Page 771

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Mustard.

bharat-darshan

Page 772

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "viewing of India," a journey across India that lets the traveller see all the sites.

hugging

Page 772

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Shitting.

harami

Page 772

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bastard.

viharas

Page 773

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Monasteries.

satyug

Page 774

Languages: Hindi

Translation: According to Hindu mythology and philosophy, time is cyclical. Creation passes

through a cycle of ages; as we pass through each age, morality continues to decline. There are four ages or yugas: satyug (the golden age); treta (the silver age); dwapar (the copper age); and kaliyug (the iron age). In satyug morality is intact and creation is at peace; through the ages of declining morality we've now reached the end of the kaliyug age, when materialism rules and suffering abounds.

samadhi

Page 774

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: In Hinduism and Buddhism, the achievement of a non-dualistic state of consciousness. Great masters and yogis who have achieved samadhi are sometimes understood to be in a state of suspended animation, with their metabolism radically reduced; they are able to survive long periods without food, drink, and even air.

mogra

Page 776

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A flower, a variety of Jasmine.

attar

Page 776

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Traditional fragrances or perfumes.

malang baba

Page 777

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A malang is a holy man thought to be touched by the hand of Allah. A "malang baba" is therefore an older malang monk or fakir. Some malangs describe themselves as belonging to the Sufi tradition, although this is not always the case. Malangs are sometimes recognizable by their clothing: a long robe; many beaded necklaces and chains; a wooden or metal bowl. Malangs often claim victory over supernatural beings, and are said to be able to control spirits or exorcize them.

yugas

Page 778

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "yuga" is an "epoch" or "era." The Hindu conception of time conceptualizes four yugas or ages which follow each other in an eternal cycle. A thousand cycles of four yugas make one kalpa, which is 4,320,000,000 years long. A kalpa is equivalent to a single day or night for Brahma, the creator of the universe. Brahma lives for a hundred years made up of such days and night days -- equivalent to 311 trillion and 40 billion earth years; he then dies, and then Shiva the destroyer brings about the great dissolution of the universe. Then, nothing exists for another hundred Brahma years, after which a new cosmos with its own Brahma is born.

PSEB

Page 781

Languages: English

Translation: Punjab State Electricity Board.

dehat

Page 782

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The countryside, the rural areas.

arab

Page 782

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: In the Indian numbering system, equivalent to one billion.

koi hai?

Page 783

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Is anybody there?"

takath

Page 783

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A traditional Indian couch without a back or arms. Depending on the context, the

word can also mean "throne."

bhoosa

Page 783

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Straw and husks of grain, which are broken up or chopped and used as feed for animals.

hain

Page 784

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Yes?"

malik

Page 784

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Master, owner.

chulah

Page 785

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hearth.

kanpatti

Page 789

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: The area on one's head just in front of the ears.

kokum

Page 811

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A sour spice often used in Maharashtrian dishes.

gazali

Page 811

Languages: Konkani

Translation: Gossip.

badams

Page 814

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Almonds.

karak

Page 819

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Strong, so "karak chai" is "strong tea."

jholas

Page 824

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A "jhola" is a bag, usually one with a strap that can be worn over the shoulder.

chini bananas

Page 825

Languages: Hindi, Maithili

Translation: "Chini" is sugar; the reference here is to a small and very sweet variety of banana.

papad

Page 829

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Also "papadam." A thin wafer-like snack, made from lentils, gram flour, or rice flour. Often served as an appetizer.

chhass

Page 830

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A refreshing drink made out of yoghurt.

tadipaar

Page 831

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Someone who has been prohibited from entering certain areas; for instance, a tadipaar can be forbidden from entering city limits.

ACB

Page 831

Languages: English

Translation: The Anti-Corruption Bureau of the Bombay police. Citizens can complain to the ACB about police corruption. The ACB often uses sting operations to snag corrupt officers.

IG

Page 832

Languages: English

Translation: Inspector General (of Police).

IPS

Page 832

Languages: English

Translation: Indian Police Service.

gobar

Page 834

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cow dung. It is widely used as fertilizer. Dried cow dung is burnt as fuel. It can also be used as insulation, to line the walls of houses.

khajoor

Page 838

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Dates.

kattha

Page 838

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A measure of land equivalent to 0.3 hectares.

ikka

Page 838

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Horse cart or carriage.

makkai

Page 838
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Corn.

chudails

Page 839
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Witches.

dibba

Page 839
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Literally, "box."

chabutra

Page 839
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A platform, patio.

padhaku

Page 839
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Studious.

pustakalaya

Page 840
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Library.

sarvajanik

Page 840
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Public, for everyone, for all people.

khattia

Page 841
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A "khattia" or "khat" is a simple

bed. The wooden frame is wound around with rope or flat ribbons, on which sometimes a mattress is laid. Khats are nowadays usually seen in rural areas.

The English word "cot" comes from "khat."

gilli-danda

Page 841
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: A street game played with a stick (the "danda") and a small puck (the "gilli"); the players strike the gilli with the danda.

maulvi

Page 841
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: A title given to Sunni religious scholars.

zamindar

Page 841
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A hereditary landlord, equivalent to the landed gentry of England. Some of the zamindars were descended from aristocracy, others were from families of military leaders and well-off revenue speculators; all had aristocratic pretensions. The havelis or mansions of the zamindars were large and well-kept, surrounded by huge estates, and staffed by many servants and attendants.

amirs

Page 841
Languages: Urdu
Translation: "Amir" was an aristocratic title given to commanders, governors, or rulers of provinces in pre-Independence India. The usage was especially common in the Mughal empire.

reham

Page 841
Languages: Urdu
Translation: Mercy.

namaazi

Page 841

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A devout Muslim, someone who reads the Namaaz or prayers.

Gangotiya

Page 843

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An ethnic group native to north India. Gangotiyas live, usually, on the banks of the Ganges.

kachoris

Page 843

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A savoury snack made from flour, lentils, gram flour, and spices. Often sold on the streets.

diara

Page 844

Languages: Hindi, Maithili

Translation: In the mid-course of the Ganga, the river loops and meanders in great curves. After floods, the area which is revealed by the retreating waters and where silt has been deposited is known as the "diara." The diara lands are very very fertile and are hugely prized by the local people. Since the river covers and uncovers tracts of land, title is often unclear. Often, people fight and even kill each other over this precious resource.

Mir Saab

Page 844

Languages: Urdu

Translation: An aristocratic title.

sadial

Page 849

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Sadna" is a verb: "to rot." A "sodial" is a person who is no fun, who rots in his or her own unhappiness, or who rots a good time being had by others.

sanskars

Page 850

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Traditions, rituals.

ekfasli

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "One-crop." That is, land that produces one crop per year.

addah

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The division between two farms, consisting of a low raised embankment of soil.

babul tree

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The Acacia nilotica tree. It can grow from 5 to 20 metres high.

patli

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Thin, sparse. In reference to soil, "not rich."

tola

Page 854

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hamlet, settlement.

thana

Page 854

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Police station.

karamchari

Page 854

Languages: Hindi

Translation: This is a general term for clerk or office worker. It's often used as a designation for workers in government offices — which means that the general public dreads dealing with karamcharis.

tadi

Page 855

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An alcoholic drink made from the sap of various kinds of palm tree. The sap is collected in cups attached to the trunk of the tree, and then fermented.

gamcha

Page 855

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A thin cotton cloth, used variously as a scarf, handkerchief, towel, or turban.

PRC

Page 857

Languages: English

Translation: "People's Revolutionary Council," a (fictional) Marxist organization. The PRC is a legitimate, above-ground organization; the People's Action Committee is the PRC's underground military arm.

SLR

Page 861

Languages: English

Translation: Self Loading Rifle.

kalazar

Page 864

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Visceral leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease also known as "Black fever" or "Dum-Dum fever." Only malaria kills more people.

kulhadi

Page 864

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Axe, hatchet.

patra

Page 870

Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi

Translation: Chopper.

fundoo

Page 878

Languages: English

Translation: Short for "fundamentalist."

hijaab

Page 878

Languages: Arabic, Urdu

Translation: The "modest covering of the body and head worn by Muslim women."

namaaz ka gatta

Page 879

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: The dark mark on the foreheads of devout Muslims, which comes from touching the forehead to the ground as they kneel in prayer five times each day.

khaala-jaan

Page 880

Languages: Urdu

Translation: "Dear Aunt." "Khaala" is usually one's maternal aunt.

zannat ki hoor

Page 882

Languages: Urdu

Translation: A fairy from heaven.

nanak dukhiya sab sansaar

Page 883

Languages: Punjabi
Translation: "Nanak, all the world is in pain."

fajr

Page 886
Languages: Urdu
Translation: The first or morning prayer for practising Muslims. "Fajr" is literally "dawn."

pashmina

Page 889
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: A high-quality cashmere made from the fleece of the Himalayan Mountain Goat.

parkarma

Page 891
Languages: Punjabi
Translation: The circular walkway around the sacred pool at the Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar.

palki

Page 891
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: A palanquin. At the Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, a gold and silver palki is used to carry the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book.

mausa-ji

Page 891
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: An uncle -- your mother's sister's husband.

shabad

Page 891
Languages: Punjabi
Translation: A hymn or part of one of the holy texts of the Sikhs, of which the Guru Granth Sahib is the most important.

Mere sahiba kaun jaane gun tere?

Page 891

Languages: Punjabi
Translation: This is from a "shabad." The literal meaning of "shabad" — in Punjabi — is "word." Here, in this context, "shabad" is the revealed word of Vaheguru, God; this is a line from a hymn or verse from the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs. It translates, roughly, into something like, "O Lord, who can know your qualities?"

sarovar

Page 892
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: Pool.

JAK Light Infantry

Page 892
Languages: English
Translation: Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry.

kachchas

Page 893
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: Underwear (resembling boxer shorts).

sher

Page 893
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: Tiger.

Ganga Jamuna

Page 893
Languages: Hindi
Translation: This is the title of a Hindi film released in 1961. The film is about two brothers; the older brother, Ganga, is framed for a crime by a zamindar (a hereditary landowner). He becomes a dacoit, but educates his younger brother Jamuna in the city. Jamuna becomes a police officer. At the end of the film, Ganga is killed by Jamuna.
The title is sometimes spelt as *Ganga Jumna*.
See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0054910/>.

aane wala pal

Page 894

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Part of a line from a song from the Hindi film *Gol Maal* ("Fraud," 1979): "The coming moment..." The full line is "The coming moment will also pass..."

Geet gaata hoon main

Page 894

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Line from a song from the Hindi film *Lal Paththar* ("Red Stones," 1971): "I sing songs..." The full line is, "I sing songs, I hum them..."

See <http://imdb.com/title/tt0237395/>.

Arre chetti kar, dooty par jaana hai

Page 896

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: This is a Punjabi phrase that would translate roughly into something like, "Hey, hurry up, I have to go to my duty." The "duty" in question is the speaker's police shift. In India, putting in a day of work is often referred to as "doing duty."

paranda

Page 896

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Colourful strings or tassels which women braid into their hair or tie into buns. Parandas can also have other decorative elements attached to them. Parandas for special occasions can be made of gold and silver.

multani mitti

Page 898

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Clay or Fuller's Earth, which has been used since antiquity as a face pack. In India, this lime-rich substance often comes from the northwestern part of the subcontinent, particularly Multan. The clay is mixed variously with milk, honey, lemons, rose water, almonds, and so on.

naka

Page 899

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Intersection, crossroads.

Aaj ka Kanoon

Page 923

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "The Law of our Times."

salaam alaikum

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Languages: Arabic, Urdu

Translation: This is a Muslim greeting: one person greets the other, "Salaam alaikum — peace be upon you." The other person replies, "Waleikum as salaam — and unto you also, peace." There are various spellings used for these greetings. The strict transliteration from the Arabic would be "As sala'amu alaikum" and "Walaikum as sala'am."