

Glossary for *Sacred Games*

Updated July 6, 2007

Aai

Page 337
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Mother.

aaiyehavnaya, aaiyehavnayi

Page 132
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Motherfucker.

Aaj ka Kanoon

Page 923
Languages: Hindi
Translation: "The Law of our Times."

aaja 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."

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.

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..."

aatya

Page 615
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Aunt. Father's sister.

Abhi na jao chhod 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 kuch kaha nahin, abhi to kuch 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...

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.

Achcha

Page 406

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Okay. Yes.

ACP

Page 242

Languages: English

Translation: Assistant Commissioner of Police

addah

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

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

Adhyapika-ji

Page 176

Languages: Hindi

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

adrak

Page 342

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Ginger.

agarbatties

Page 118

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An agarbatti is an incense stick.

aish

Page 539

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Pleasure, fun.

akha

Page 539

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Full, absolute.

akharas

Page 548

Languages: Hindi

Translation:

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

almirah

Page 166

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cupboard.

Ambabai

Page 24

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A goddess especially popular in Maharashtra.

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.

anda

Page 443

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Egg.

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.

angula

Page 561

Languages: Sanskrit

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

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.

API

Page 0

Languages: English

Translation: Assistant Police Inspector.

appam

Page 526

Languages: Malayalam

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

apradhi

Page 76

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Criminal, convict.

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>.

arab

Page 782

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

arabpati

Page 761

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Someone who possesses one billion rupees.

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."

arthi

Page 214

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Funeral byre on which a person is carried to the burning grounds.

ashiana

Page 162

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Literally, "nest."

atman

Page 550

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Soul.

atta

Page 112
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Flour.

attar

Page 776
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Traditional fragrances or perfumes.

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.

Ay

Page 572
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: An exclamation to attract somebody's attention, "Hey."

baan

Page 554
Languages: Konkani
Translation: A very large vessel or pot, made out of metal, to store and heat water in.

baap

Page 34
Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Father.

baap re

Page 154
Languages: Hindi
Translation: An exclamation, "O my father."

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.")

babul tree

Page 853
Languages: Hindi
Translation: The Acacia nilotica tree. It can grow from 5 to 20 metres high.

bachcha

Page 56
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Child.

badams

Page 814
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Almonds.

badboo

Page 166
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Bad smell.

badmash

Page 491
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A shady character, a bad man.

badshah

Page 113
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Emperor.

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.”

baithak

Page 161

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sitting room.

baja

Page 117

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Musical instrument.

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.

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.

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.

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.

bambooning

Page 535

Languages: Bombay slang, English

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

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>.

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.

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.

bandobast

Page 502

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Practical arrangements, logistics.

bangda
Page 69
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Mackerel.

bania
Page 190
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Trader, shopkeeper.

banian
Page 24
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Undershirt.

baniyan
Page 307
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Undershirt.

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.

bar-balas
Page 203
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Bar-girls, women who work in bars.

barood
Page 650
Languages: Hindi

Translation: Gunpowder.

bas
Page 64
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Enough, stop.

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/>.

basta
Page 167
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Schoolbag.

basti
Page 10
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Literally “settlement” or “town.”
The term is often used for low-income areas or slums.

Bataa re. Kaad rela.
Page 440

Languages: Marathi
Translation: "Tell me. Spill it."

batasha

Page 92
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Drops of candied sugar.

batata-wada

Page 235
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A fried snack made from potatoes and chick-pea flour.

belan

Page 739
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A rolling pin, often used to make rotis.

besan

Page 175
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Chickpea flour.

beta

Page 47
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Son.

bevda

Page 258
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: A drunk.

Bhabhi

Page 18
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A respectful term for one's brother's wife.

bhadvaya

Page 716
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: A form of "bhadwa," pimp.

bhadwa, bhadwe

Page 32
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Pimp.

bhadwi

Page 159
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Feminine form of "bhadwa," pimp. Therefore, "Madam."

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.

bhaigiri

Page 237
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: The act of acting like a bhai.

bhajan

Page 107
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: A devotional song.

bhajiya

Page 103
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A fried snack.

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.

bhakt

Page 81

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Devotee, follower.

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.

bhangad

Page 236

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Problems, a mess, a mixup.

bhangi

Page 39

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sweeper.

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.

bharat-darshan

Page 772

Languages: Hindi

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

bhashan

Page 534

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lecture.

bhat

Page 341

Languages: Bengali

Translation: Rice.

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.

bheja

Page 591

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Brain.

bhelpuri

Page 119

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi

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

bhenchod

Page 13

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Sister-fucker.

bhenji

Page 165

Languages: Punjabi

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

bhidu

Page 52

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Buddy, pal.

bhindi

Page 163

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Okra. Lady's Finger.

bhundu

Page 527

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Fool.

bhoosa

Page 783

Languages: Hindi

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

bhoot

Page 215

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Ghost.

Bhumro bhumro

Page 501

Languages: Kashmiri

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

bibi

Page 154

Languages: Urdu

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

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.

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.

biryani

Page 10

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

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.

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.

BMC

Page 247

Languages: English

Translation: Bombay Municipal Organization.

bola na

Page 355

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: "I told you..."

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."

Bole to voh edkum danger aadmi hai

Page 233

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: "He's an absolutely dangerous man."

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.

bombil

Page 69

Languages: Marathi

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

BSES

Page 403

Languages: English, Marathi

Translation: Brihanmumbai Suburban Electric Supply.

BSF

Page 677

Languages: English

Translation: Border Security Force.

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."

budhdha

Page 420

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Old man.

bund

Page 323

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Embankment.

bundal

Page 530

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Bad, substandard.

burfi

Page 205

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet dish made from thickened milk.

carrom

Page 117

Languages: English

Translation: A board game, perhaps of subcontinental origin.

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

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/>.

chaas

Page 407

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A refreshing drink made from buttermilk.

chaat

Page 215

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Various savoury snacks.

chaavi

Page 204

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Girlfriend.

chabbis

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

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

chabutra

Page 839

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A platform, patio.

chacha

Page 85

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uncle — father's brother.

chachu

Page 56

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uncle — father's brother. This is an affectionate way of saying "Chacha."

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..."

chakkar

Page 234

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Whirl.

chakravartin

Page 561

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

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

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..."

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."

cham-cham

Page 205

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet-dish made from cheese.

champa

Page 678

Languages: Hindi

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

champi

Page 444

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Head-rub.

channa

Page 269

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Chickpeas.

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.”

chappati

Page 438

Languages: Hindi

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

charas

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hashish.

charbi

Page 509

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fat.

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.

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).

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.”

chaska

Page 411

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An obsessive liking for something, a taste for it.

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.

chaunka

Page 166

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Kitchen.

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.

cheez

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Thing.

chela

Page 81

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Follower, student. A guru has chelas.

chhass

Page 830

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A refreshing drink made out of yoghurt.

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.

chillar

Page 214

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Loose change.

chimta

Page 162

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: A pair of tongs.

chingri macher

Page 341

Languages: Bengali

Translation: A Bengali preparation of prawns.

chini bananas

Page 825

Languages: Hindi, Maithili

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

Chinki

Page 538

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Chinese.

chirote

Page 92

Languages: Marathi

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

chodo

Page 156

Languages: Hindi

Translation: To fuck.

chodu

Page 35

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Somebody who is fucked.

choklete

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

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

chokra

Page 396

Languages: Hindi

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

chole-bature

Page 622

Languages: Punjabi

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

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.

choola

Page 191

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Stove.

chotta

Page 382

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Small, little.

chotti

Page 436

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Small, little.

chowk

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A crossroads.

chowki

Page 364

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Post, station.

chowkidar

Page 128

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Watchman.

chudails

Page 839

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Witches.

chulah

Page 785

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hearth.

chunni

Page 98

Languages: Hindi

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

chup

Page 581

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Quiet, be quiet.

churi

Page 587

Languages: Hindi

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

churri

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

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

chut-chattoing

Page 536

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Cunt-licking.

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."

chutmaari

Page 33

Languages: Bombay slang

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

chweet

Page 366

Languages: English

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

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.

crorepati

Page 761

Languages: Hindi

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

crores

Page 39

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A unit in the traditional Indian numbering system, equivalent to ten million.

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.

daana

Page 204

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

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

daane

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

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

dabba-ispies

Page 22

Languages: Bombay slang

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

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."

dada-pardada

Page 177

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

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

dak bungalow

Page 308

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A traveller's rest house.

dakoo

Page 241

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bandit.

dana

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

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.

daos

Page 299

Languages: Angami

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

darbar

Page 427

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Court.

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.

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.

Dayavan

Page 690

Languages: Hindi

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

DCP

Page 70

Languages: English

Translation: Deputy Commissioner of Police.

DDLJ

Page 392

Languages: Hindi

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

deewana

Page 703

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

dehat

Page 782

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The countryside, the rural areas.

dehati

Page 35

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

devaa

Page 219

Languages: Marathi

Translation: God, a god.

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.

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.

DG

Page 8

Languages: English

Translation: Director General (of police).

dhaansu

Page 455

Languages: Bombay slang

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

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.

dhad-dhad

Page 365

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An onomatopoeia for the sound of gun shots.

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.

dhamaka

Page 665

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Explosion.

dhandā

Page 29

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Trade, work.

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.

dharam

Page 542

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Colloquial pronunciation of "dharma."

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.

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."

Dharmatma

Page 690

Languages: Hindi

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

dhobi

Page 564

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Someone who washes clothes, a washerman.

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.

dhow

Page 253

Languages: Arabic

Translation: A traditional Arab sailing vessel.

dhurrie

Page 155

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An Indian rug.

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.

dibba

Page 839

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "box."

Didi

Page 508

Languages: Hindi

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

DIG

Page 199

Languages: English

Translation: Deputy Inspector General (of police).

Dil Diya Dard Liya

Page 718

Languages: Hindi

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

Dil To Pagal Tai

Page 530

Languages: Hindi

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

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

Page 530

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

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.

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."

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.

dudh-ki-tanki

Page 215

Languages: Hindi

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

dum

Page 12

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Force, strength.

dupatta

Page 140

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

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

durbar

Page 517

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Court, a royal audience chamber.

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."

ekdum

Page 33

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Absolutely.

ekfasli

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

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

elaichi

Page 59

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cardamom.

eve-teasers

Page 200

Languages: English

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

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.)

fachhad

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Messed up, screwed up.

fajr

Page 886

Languages: Urdu

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

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."

faltu

Page 11

Languages: Bombay slang, Gujarati

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

faqir

Page 547

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

fauji

Page 719

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Soldier. From "fauj," or army.

fida

Page 539

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Crazy about, in love with.

Filmi Kaliyan

Page 202

Languages: Hindi

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

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 offense, 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.

firangi

Page 203

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

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.

fultu

Page 643

Languages: Bombay slang

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

fundoo

Page 878

Languages: English

Translation: Short for "fundamentalist."

gaadi

Page 441

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

Translation: Literally, "car" or "vehicle."

Therefore, something you ride.

gaali

Page 352

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Term of abuse, bad language.

gaand

Page 26

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Ass, as in posterior.

gaandu

Page 5

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

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

gadda

Page 58

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Mattress.

gadha

Page 544

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Donkey.

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.

gajras

Page 366

Languages: Hindi

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

gali

Page 110

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Lane, alley.

gallis

Page 223

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lanes.

gamcha

Page 855

Languages: Hindi

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

gana, ganas

Page 119

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

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

gandugiri

Page 531

Languages: Bombay slang

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

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/>.

Gangotiya

Page 843

Languages: Hindi

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

ganwar

Page 138

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An uncouth person, a bumpkin.

gaon

Page 716

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Village.

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.

garara

Page 457

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A loose divided skirt.

garba

Page 498

Languages: Gujarati

Translation: A traditional Gujarati dance.

Gata rahe mera dil

Page 621

Languages: Hindi

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

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..."

gazali

Page 811

Languages: Konkani

Translation: Gossip.

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/>.

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.

ghagra-choli

Page 99

Languages: Hindi

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

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."

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.

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.

ghavan

Page 383

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A spicy snack made from rice flour.

ghazal

Page 593

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

ghee

Page 163

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Clarified butter.

ghochi

Page 203

Languages: Bombay slang

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

ghoda

Page 36

Languages: Hindi

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

ghoonghat

Page 307

Languages: Hindi

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

ghori

Page 12

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Mare.

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."

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.

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.

ginti

Page 437

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Count.

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."

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.

goda masala

Page 91

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A black masala powder especially popular in Maharashtra.

godown

Page 33

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A warehouse.

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.

GOI

Page 609

Languages: English

Translation: "Government of India."

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.

goondas

Page 241

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Thugs, hoods.

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.

gosht

Page 146

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Meat.

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>.

grahastha

Page 250

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

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

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."

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.

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.

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.

gullel

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

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

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."

gur

Page 55

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Jaggery.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggery>.**Guru Gobind Singh**

Page 5

Languages:

Translation: The last of the Sikh gurus.

See

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

Page 196

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A Sikh place of worship.

haan

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Yes."

hadiths

Page 631

Languages: Arabic, Urdu

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

hafta

Page 110

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

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

hain

Page 784
Languages: Hindi
Translation: "Yes?"

haldi

Page 308
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Turmeric.

halwai

Page 165
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A vendor of sweets.

Hamari Dharti, Unki Dharti

Page 650
Languages: Hindi
Translation: "Our Earth, Their Earth."

handi

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

haraamkhor

Page 218
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Somebody who lives on illicit earnings; a thief; an embezzeler.

harami

Page 772
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Bastard.

haramkhori

Page 605
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Profiting by unfair or illegal means; thievery.

haramzadas

Page 206
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Bastards.

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/>.

hathiyar

Page 204
Languages: Hindi
Translation: weapon

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.

havalgars

Page 437
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Constables.

haveli

Page 485

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A large private residence, a mansion.

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."

hera-pheri

Page 77

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Trickery, crafty deception.

hijaab

Page 878

Languages: Arabic, Urdu

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

hijra

Page 364

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Eunuch.

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.

hool

Page 536

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A deception, a bluff.

hugging

Page 772

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Shitting.

hum

Page 636

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "We."

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.

humara pata

Page 636

Languages: Hindi

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

hungama

Page 757

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Commotion, noise.

IAS

Page 322

Languages: English

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

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.

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.

Iftekar

Page 112

Languages:

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

IG

Page 832

Languages: English

Translation: Inspector General (of Police).

IIIA

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.

ikka

Page 838

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Horse cart or carriage.

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).

IPO

Page 536

Languages: English

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

IPS

Page 832

Languages: English

Translation: Indian Police Service.

Ishq, pyaar, muhabbat

Page 703

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

ISI

Page 296

Languages: English

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

izzat

Page 206

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Honour, respect.

jaan

Page 353

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

jaat

Page 454

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Caste.

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."

Jai

Page 43

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Victory to..."

Jai Hind

Page 294

Languages: Hindi

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

JAK Light Infantry

Page 892

Languages: English

Translation: Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry.

jalebis

Page 196

Languages: Hindi

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

jaljira

Page 429

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A spicy drink made from mint leaves and ginger.

jamun

Page 181

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An astringent fruit, crimson-black

when it is ripe; jamuns grow on an evergreen tropical tree.

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.

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.

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.

jari

Page 497

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Embroidery with gold and silver threads.

jatas

Page 548

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Long matted hair, as in dreadlocks.

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."

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.

jhadoo

Page 388

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Broom.

jhadoo-katka

Page 91

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Sweeping and mopping.

jhakaas

Page 218

Languages: Bombay slang

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

jhakass

Page 488

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Excellent, great.

jhalla

Page 423

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Crazy person, madman.

jhalli

Page 165

Languages: Punjabi

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

jhamoora

Page 491

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Clown.

jhanjhat

Page 11

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bother, nuisance.

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.

jhav

Page 132

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Fuck.

jhinga

Page 752

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Prawns.

jholas

Page 824

Languages: Hindi

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

jhopadpatti

Page 123

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

ji

Page 5
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A suffix denoting respect for the person being addressed.

jite raho

Page 84
Languages: Hindi
Translation: "Live long."

JNU

Page 292
Languages: English
Translation: Jawaharlal Nehru University.

jooda

Page 696
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Hair worn in a bun.

juhi

Page 678
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A variety of jasmine.

junglees

Page 301
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Savages.

jyotishi

Page 552
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Astrologer.

kaande

Page 92
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Onions.

kachcha lanes

Page 637
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Unpaved lanes. "Kachcha" is unfinished, impermanent -- the opposite of "pucca."

kachchas

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

kachoris

Page 843
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A savoury snack made from flour, lentils, gram flour, and spices. Often sold on the streets.

kadi

Page 622
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Yoghurt curry.

kafila

Page 186
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Caravan, procession, group of travellers.

kafirs

Page 542
Languages: Arabic, Urdu
Translation: Infidels, unbelievers. "Kafir" is a derogatory term for non-Muslims.

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..."

kajus

Page 386

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cashewnuts.

kaka

Page 234

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

Kaku

Page 334

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

kanche, kanchas

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A kancha is a marble.

kanjoos

Page 164

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Miser.

kanpatti

Page 789

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

kanya

Page 507
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Young woman.

kapda

Page 241
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Cloth, clothing.

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.

karak

Page 819
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Strong, so "karak chai" is "strong tea."

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.

karhai

Page 103
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A cast-iron pan that is often used for frying. Looks something like a Chinese wok.

karo

Page 203
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A verb — to do something.

kartiya

Page 401
Languages: Marathi
Translation: An affectionate Marathi term for "crazy guy." You'd use it with a friend or a relative.

Kasam

Page 533
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A vow. Sometimes is used in the sense of, "I give you my word."

kasht karein

Page 636
Languages: Hindi
Translation: "Please take the trouble to..." A very formal way of asking someone to do something.

katchha

Page 103
Languages: Hindi
Translation: See "pucca."

katha

Page 256
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Story, the telling of a story.

kattha

Page 838
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A measure of land equivalent to 0.3 hectares.

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.

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/>.

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."

keeda

Page 75

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

kesar

Page 166

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Saffron.

KG

Page 128

Languages: English

Translation: Kindergarten.

khaala-jaan

Page 880

Languages: Urdu

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

khabari

Page 22

Languages: Hindi

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

khadda

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

khajoor

Page 838

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Dates.

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.

khari lassi

Page 168

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Salty lassi.

khata-khat

Page 96

Languages: Hindi

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

khatara

Page 35

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A decrepit wreck.

khattam shud

Page 756

Languages: Urdu

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

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."

kheer

Page 172

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

khiladi

Page 430

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Player.

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."

khima

Page 18

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

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."

khoka

Page 518

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: One crore (ten million) rupees.

kholi

Page 23

Languages: Marathi

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

khoon

Page 182

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Murder.

khuds

Page 399

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Holes, pits.

khwab

Page 215

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Dream.

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."

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."

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.

kirtan

Page 196

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A hymn.

kismet

Page 226

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Fate, luck.

koel

Page 468

Languages: Hindi

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

koi hai?

Page 783

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Is anybody there?"

kokum

Page 811

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A sour spice often used in Maharashtrian dishes.

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."

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.

kulfi

Page 94

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Indian ice cream made from boiled milk.

kulhadi

Page 864

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Axe, hatchet.

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.

Kumbhkaran

Page 39

Languages:

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

kumkum

Page 572

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

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

kurta

Page 23

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi

Translation: Loose shirt worn by both men and women.

kutiya

Page 407

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bitch.

kutti

Page 361

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Bitch.

kya

Page 98

Languages: Hindi

Translation: What

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."

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.

laddoo

Page 119

Languages: Hindi

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

ladhi

Page 114

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

lakh, lakhs

Page 10

Languages: Hindi

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

lallu

Page 522

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Weakling, a soft or ineffective person.

lalten

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lantern.

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.

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.

landyas

Page 231

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A very derogatory term for Muslims.

langda-lulla

Page 225

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Crippled.

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.

lassi

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

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

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,"

lata-pata

Page 256

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Grass and hay, what you feed animals.

lathait

Page 296

Languages: Hindi

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

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>.

lauda

Page 34

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi

Translation: Penis, cock.

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.

leechies

Page 168

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

LLB

Page 294

Languages: Latin

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

lodu

Page 31

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A prick.

Loksatta

Page 67

Languages: Marathi

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

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.

Ludo

Page 438

Languages: English

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

lund

Page 647

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Cock, penis.

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.

lurkao

Page 223

Languages: Hindi

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

maal

Page 204

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

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

machchi

Page 622

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fish.

maderchod

Page 19

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Motherfucker, motherfucking.

maderpat

Page 427

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Motherfucker.

madrassa

Page 683

Languages: Arabic, Hindi, Urdu

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

maghai

Page 111

Languages: Hindi

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

maha

Page 629

Languages: Hindi

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

Maharaja
Page 503
Languages: Hindi
Translation: King.

Maharani
Page 503
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Queen.

maharathi
Page 759
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A great warrior.

mahatma
Page 547
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Literally, "great soul." A wise man, a great man.

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.

Mai re
Page 506
Languages: Hindi
Translation: An exclamation, "O mother!"

maidan
Page 94
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: An open field, park, or square.

maike
Page 573
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A married woman's parental home.

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..."

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.

makaan
Page 241
Languages: Hindi
Translation: House, home.

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/>.

makkai
Page 838
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Corn.

mala badol

Page 212

Languages: Bengali

Translation: Wedding.

malai

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cream.

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.

malik

Page 784

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Master, owner.

mamoo

Page 354

Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi

Translation: Fool, idiot.

Mamta

Page 8

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Literally, "mother's love." Often used as a proper name.

mamu

Page 56

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

Translation: An affectionate way of saying "Mama," uncle (mother's brother, that is).

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/>.

mandap

Page 244

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A wedding canopy.

mandvali

Page 107

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: A negotiation, settlement, or compromise.

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>.

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.

mantri

Page 219
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Minister.

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.

marad sala aisaich hota hai

Page 203
Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi
Translation: She’s saying, in typical Bombay Hindi, “Bastard men are like this.”

Maratha

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

Marwari

Page 95
Languages: Hindi, Marwari
Translation: Someone from Marwar, a region in Rajasthan. Marwaris — stereotypically — are known as sharp traders.

masala

Page 33
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Spice.

mashooq

Page 243
Languages: Urdu
Translation: Lover.

masjid

Page 363
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Mosque.

masnad

Page 173
Languages: Hindi, Urdu
Translation: Cushion.

masst

Page 764
Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi
Translation: Fine, excellent, pleasure-giving.

mathadi workers

Page 370
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Loaders, as in dockyards. Workers who carry and move loads.

matka

Page 23
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: The illegal numbers game in Bombay, which is very big business.

mauj-maja

Page 539
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: Pleasure and fun.

maulvi

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

mausa-ji

Page 891

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: An uncle -- your mother's sister's husband.

mausambi

Page 229

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sweet lime.

mausi

Page 5

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Aunt, mother's sister.

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.

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/>.

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/>.

mehndi

Page 15

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Henna.

mela

Page 361

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A carnival or fair.

Mems

Page 167

Languages: Hindi

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

Memsaab

Page 62

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Madam.

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.

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?"

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/>.

Mir Saab

Page 844

Languages: Urdu

Translation: An aristocratic title.

Mishmi

Page 306

Languages:

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

mithai

Page 85

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sweets, desserts.

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.

mogra

Page 776

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A flower, a variety of Jasmine.

mohalla

Page 69

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A neighbourhood, a locality.

moksha

Page 532

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

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

monai

Page 526

Languages: Konkani

Translation: A low stool.

motu

Page 369

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Fat.

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.

MTNL

Page 748

Languages: Hindi

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

muchchad

Page 58

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

Mumbaikars

Page 209

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A resident of Mumbai.

munis

Page 563

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

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

musst

Page 96

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Fine, flashy.

mustandas

Page 168

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Louts.

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.

na

Page 353

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Literally, "No." Often used as an

interrogative at the end of a sentence: "You read the book, na?"

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.

nada

Page 23

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Drawstring.

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.

Naga

Page 315

Languages: Hindi

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

nagada

Page 264

Languages: Hindi

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

nagar

Page 210

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Town, settlement.

naka

Page 899

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Intersection, crossroads.

nakabandi

Page 557

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

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

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.

namaaz

Page 437

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

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.

namaazi

Page 841

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

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.

namkeen

Page 411

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: "Savoury" -- salty or spicey. Often used to describe snacks.

namoona

Page 423

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Specimen.

nanak dukhiya sab sansaar

Page 883

Languages: Punjabi

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

narangi

Page 109

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

natevaik

Page 247

Languages: Marathi

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

nau-number

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

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

nawab

Page 232

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A title for a Muslim noble.

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. Kamalahasan 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.

nazrana

Page 214

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Gift.

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.

neer dosas

Page 525

Languages: Kannada

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

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.

NGO

Page 400

Languages: English

Translation: "Non-Governmental Organization."

Nikki

Page 162

Languages: Punjabi

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

nimbu pani

Page 126

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Lemon water," similar to lemonade.

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>.

NRI

Page 662

Languages: English

Translation: "Non-Resident Indian."

ah

Page 19

Languages: Hindi

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

OBC

Page 15

Languages: English

Translation: An abbreviation for "Other Backward Caste," which is one of the classifications listed in the Indian constitution.

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.

Om evam saraswatye namah

Page 716

Languages: Sanskrit

Translation:

An invocation from a classical Sanskrit text:

"Om! I honour the goddess Saraswati..."

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..."

PA

Page 66

Languages: English

Translation: Personal Assistant.

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.

paaplet

Page 69

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Pomfret.

padhaku

Page 839

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Studios.

paes

Page 526

Languages: Konkani

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

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/>.

pagdi

Page 566

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Turban.

paisa phenk, tamasha dekh

Page 10

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Throw money, watch the spectacle."

paisa vasool

Page 627

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Getting one's money's worth.

paisa vasool

Page 627

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: "Worth the money spent."

paise

Page 329

Languages: Hindi

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

pakorras

Page 175

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

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.

paltu

Page 385

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Tame.

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.

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>.

pandhara rassa

Page 732

Languages: Marathi

Translation: "White gravy."

pandit

Page 256

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hindu priest.

pandita

Page 572

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A familiar form of "pandit."

panga

Page 510

Languages: Hindi
Translation: Quarrel, trouble.

pani

Page 393
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Water.

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."

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

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.

paplu

Page 108
Languages: Hindi
Translation: The card game of Rummy.

papri chaat

Page 218
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A snack: crispy flour wafers served with potatoes, yoghurt, and tamarind chutney.

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.

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.

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.

parishad

Page 596
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Council.

parkarma

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

pashmina

Page 889

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: A high-quality cashmere made from the fleece of the Himalayan Mountain Goat.

patka

Page 183

Languages: Punjabi

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

patli

Page 853

Languages: Hindi

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

patra

Page 870

Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi

Translation: Chopper.

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.

pav

Page 210

Languages: Marathi

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

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.

paya

Page 97

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Goat's Trotters curry.

PCO

Page 152

Languages: English

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

peda

Page 61

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sweet dish.

peetal

Page 112

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Brass.

peloed

Page 445

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

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

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.

peti

Page 120

Languages: Bombay slang

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

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."

phachak

Page 242

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An onomatopoeia: the sound of an explosion.

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.

phataak

Page 62

Languages: Bombay slang

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

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.

phatkari

Page 336

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Alum.

Phoolon ki Raani

Page 457

Languages: Hindi

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

phuljadi

Page 107

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Sparkler.

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.

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.

pir

Page 103

Languages: Urdu

Translation: A Sufi saint and teacher.

pocha

Page 164
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: Mop.

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.

podhina
Page 429
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Mint.

poha
Page 600
Languages: Hindi, Marathi
Translation: A spicy snack made from rice flakes.

pohe
Page 92
Languages: Marathi
Translation: Spicy snack made from rice flakes.

policiyas
Page 365
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Slang for policemen.

pooja
Page 251
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Prayer.

poora
Page 539
Languages: Hindi

Translation: Full, complete.

potli
Page 571
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A kind of cloth bag.

prakriti
Page 706
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Nature.

Pralay
Page 520
Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit
Translation: In Hindu mythology, the destruction of the world.

pranaam
Page 553
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A respectful greeting. Can be used at both meeting and parting.

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.

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.

pravachan
Page 553

Languages: Hindi
Translation: A spiritual talk, sermon.

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.

PSEB

Page 781
Languages: English
Translation: Punjab State Electricity Board.

PSI

Page 5
Languages: English
Translation: Police Sub-Inspector.

PT

Page 140
Languages: English
Translation: Physical Training.

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.

pudi

Page 257
Languages: Bombay slang, Marathi
Translation: A twist of paper, a small paper

packet.

pugree

Page 619
Languages: Hindi, Punjabi
Translation: A turban. Also "pug."

puja

Page 117
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Prayer.

pujari

Page 112
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Priest.

puranpoli

Page 92
Languages: Marathi
Translation: A sweet dessert made from wheat flour, oil, grated coconut, jaggery, and sometimes white sugar.

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.

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.

pustakalaya

Page 840
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Library.

put-tru

Page 326
Languages: Bombay slang, English
Translation: "Put through" in an accent particular to Konkani Catholics.

PWD

Page 165
Languages: English
Translation: "Public Works Department." Government organization which builds roads, bridges, and government buildings.

Pyaar ka Diya

Page 488
Languages: Hindi
Translation: This is the title of a made-up Hindi film: "The Lamp of Love."

qayamat

Page 520
Languages: Urdu
Translation: Apocalypse.

quintals

Page 177
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A measure of weight; in India a quintal is equivalent to 100 kg.

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.

raand

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

Rabb mehar kare

Page 675
Languages: Punjabi
Translation: "Lord have mercy."

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.

Radha game ke game Mira

Page 235
Languages: Gujarati
Translation: A fragment from a song: "Do you like Radha or do you like Mira?"

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."

raita

Page 147
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A condiment made from yoghurt.

raj

Page 103

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Kingdom, empire.

raja

Page 232

Languages: Hindi

Translation: King.

rajma-chawal

Page 159

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Red kidney beans served with rice.

Rakshak

Page 16

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: The word literally means "Protector."

rakshasa

Page 100

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

randi

Page 46

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Whore.

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.

rangroot

Page 154

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Recruit.

rani

Page 334

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Queen.

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.

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.

rashtra

Page 483

Languages: Hindi
Translation: Nation.

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.

RAW

Page 71

Languages: English

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

RDX

Page 385

Languages: English

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

reham

Page 841

Languages: Urdu

Translation: Mercy.

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."

reshmi kabab

Page 154

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

Rimzim

Page 281

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The brand name of a soft drink that is no longer made.

Rin

Page 161

Languages: English

Translation: A laundry soap, usually available in small blue cakes.

rishi

Page 16

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A sage, a seer.

rogan josh

Page 196

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Lamb curry.

roti

Page 17

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Unleavened bread, eaten with other foods.

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.

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.

Saab, Sahib

Page 5

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu

Translation: Sir.

saadi

Page 55

Languages: Hindi

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

saala

Page 22

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

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

saali

Page 257

Languages: Hindi

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

sabji

Page 603

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Vegetable.

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.

sabudane ki khichdi

Page 127

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Khichdi made with sabudana (sago) instead of rice.

Sachin Tendulkar

Page 24

Languages:

Translation: A very famous cricketer.

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.

sadial

Page 849

Languages: Hindi

Translation: "Sadna" is a verb: "to rot." A "sadial" 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.

Sadrakshanaya Khalanighranaya

Page 220

Languages: Sanskrit

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

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."

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 thei portraits.

See

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

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.

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."

salaam alaikum

Page 925

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."

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.

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.

samaan

Page 51

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

samagri

Page 566

Languages: Hindi

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

samajwadi

Page 231

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Socialist.

saman

Page 112

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi

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

sambhar

Page 525

Languages: Tamil

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

sanskars

Page 850

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Traditions, rituals.

sants

Page 695

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

Sardar

Page 28

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: A Sikh.

sarkari

Page 71

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Governmental.

sarovar

Page 892

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Pool.

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.

sarson

Page 771

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Mustard.

sarvajanik

Page 840

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Public, for everyone, for all people.

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."

satrangi

Page 55

Languages: Hindi

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

sat-sri-akal

Page 425

Languages: Punjabi

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

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.

Satyanarayan Katha

Page 256

Languages: Gujarati, Hindi

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

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.

saunf

Page 121

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Fennel seed.

seth

Page 217

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A rich man.

sethani

Page 164

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

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

seva

Page 220

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

shaandaar

Page 376

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Magnificent.

shaandaar

Page 396

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

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

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.

shabash

Page 72

Languages: Hindi

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

shagun

Page 519

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Portent, augury.

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.

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.

shammi kebabs

Page 51

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Lamb kebabs known for their silky texture.

shamshan ghat

Page 94

Languages: Hindi

Translation: The place where dead bodies are burnt.

Shani

Page 251

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Saturn.

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.

sheikh

Page 540

Languages: Arabic

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

sher

Page 893

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi

Translation: Tiger.

Sheran-walli-Ma

Page 174

Languages: Punjabi

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

shlokas

Page 555

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Verses.

SHO

Page 735

Languages: English

Translation: "Station House Officer."

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?"

Shri

Page 31

Languages: Hindi

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

sindoor

Page 71

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

SLR

Page 861

Languages: English

Translation: Self Loading Rifle.

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.

soonti

Page 732

Languages: Marathi

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

SP

Page 47

Languages: English

Translation: Superintendent of Police.

stupas

Page 333

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

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

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.

suhaag-raat

Page 360

Languages: Hindi

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

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.

surahi

Page 167

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Pitcher.

surahs

Page 631

Languages: Arabic

Translation: A section or chapter of the holy Koran.

suva

Page 678

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Dill.

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.

taai

Page 219

Languages: Marathi

Translation: "Elder sister."

tabla

Page 446

Languages: Hindi

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

TADA

Page 427

Languages: English

Translation: "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act," which was instituted in 1985 and allowed to lapse in 1995 because of wide misuse.

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.

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.

Tai

Page 329

Languages: Marathi

Translation: A respectful term: "elder sister."

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."

takli

Page 121

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Bald head.

taklu

Page 590

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Someone who is bald. "Baldie."

tamasaic

Page 555

Languages: Hindi

Translation: See "sattvic."

tamasha

Page 45

Languages: Hindi
Translation: Spectacle, show.

tambi

Page 217

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

tandoori

Page 275

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

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.

tangdis

Page 51

Languages: Bombay slang, Hindi
Translation: Chicken legs.

tanki

Page 443

Languages: Hindi
Translation: A tank, reservoir.

tantra

Page 585

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit
Translation: A heterogenous body of esoteric religious practises 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 practise.

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."

tapasya

Page 16

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit
Translation: Meditative practise, often involving very rigorous physical and spiritual austerity.
See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tapasya>.

tapori

Page 11

Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: Small time street hood, a punk.

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?"

tari

Page 438

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

Tathastu

Page 256
Languages: Sanskrit
Translation: "So be it."

tau
Page 85
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Father's elder brother.

tava
Page 163
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A round griddle, usually made of iron, steel, or aluminium.

taveez
Page 36
Languages: Urdu
Translation: A talisman, often blessed by a holy man.

teen-patti
Page 107
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Literally, "three-cards." An Indian card game also known as "Flush," similar to the British game Brag.

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.

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.

thali
Page 61
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A plate, usually made from steel or brass.

thana
Page 854
Languages: Hindi
Translation: Police station.

thela
Page 52
Languages: Hindi
Translation: A thela is a small cart. Street vendors typically sell their wares from thelas, which they push about.

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."

thoku
Page 461
Languages: Bombay slang
Translation: As above, "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.

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.

tikhat

Page 732

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Very hot, full of chillis.

tikkar-billa

Page 22

Languages: Hindi, Marathi

Translation: Hopskotch.

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.

tola

Page 854

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Hamlet, settlement.

tola

Page 236

Languages: Hindi

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

toli

Page 489

Languages: Hindi

Translation: A gang, a pack.

toota-phoota

Page 532

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Broken.

tope

Page 204

Languages: Hindi

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

topi

Page 146

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Cap, hat.

TRP

Page 129

Languages: English

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

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*.

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?"

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.

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.

UP

Page 53

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Uttar Pradesh, a state in Northern India.

Us side se wire de, chutiya

Page 233

Languages: Hindi

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

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."

uttapam

Page 9

Languages: Tamil

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

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.

Vah

Page 531

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Very good, fine, excellent.

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?"

Vaheguru

Page 82

Languages: Punjabi

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

vaid

Page 531

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An Ayurvedic doctor.

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."

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.

vediya

Page 470

Languages: Marathi

Translation: Crazy guy, nutcase.

ved-maharaj

Page 250

Languages: Hindi

Translation: An Ayurvedic physician.

veerji

Page 163

Languages: Punjabi

Translation: Respectful term for one's elder brother.

viharas

Page 773

Languages: Hindi

Translation: Monasteries.

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.

vilayati

Page 543

Languages: Hindi

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

vira

Page 582

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: Warrior.

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.

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.

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.

Yaar, abhi ek matter ko settle karna hai

Page 233

Languages: Hindi

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

yaar, yaara

Page 42

Languages: Hindi, Urdu

Translation: Buddy, friend.

yagna

Page 556

Languages: Hindi, Sanskrit

Translation: A religious and spiritual ceremony, a sacrifice.

yagna-sthal

Page 560

Languages: Hindi

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

yajman

Page 561

Languages: Sanskrit

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

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..."

yeda

Page 592

Languages: Bombay slang

Translation: Crazy person, madman.

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..."

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.

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.

zannat ki hoor

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Languages: Urdu

Translation: A fairy from heaven.