

Glossary and Abbreviations

Abbreviations

BM	British Museum
CP	Central Provinces
CRNPB	Central Report of the Native Newspapers of Bengal
IOL	India Office Library
NAI	National Archives of India
NMML	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
Poll.	Political (Dept.)
RNNB	Report of the Native Newspapers of Bengal
Rs.	Rupee
UP	United Provinces
WBSA	West Bengal State Archives

Glossary of Words in Bengali and Hindi

aarti	worship
ahimsa	nonviolence
akannaborti	literally, "sharing the same food," euphemism for joint family
aphin ka satta	opium betting
arkati	labor recruiter
badmash	crook, bad guy
baksheesh	tip, bribe
bangla	Bengali language
baniya	intermediary trader, mercantile community
barsat ka satta	rain gambling
batpuria	thief
basa	charitable kitchen
bhadralok	English-educated professional

	Bengali middle-class
bhakti	personalized devotional worship
bhejal	adulterated, to mix with impure things
bindi	ornamental dot worn on forehead
Birla	name of prominent Marwari family
Burabazar	The Big Bazar
Burobazar	Old Lord Shiva's Bazar
bustee	slum
chabutra	shrine platform
chappan bhog	fifty-six course meal
chettiar	caste cluster of trading groups in South India
chowkidar	caretaker, guard
chunari	wedding veil
darshan	divine viewing, being in the presence of god
Dayabhaga	legal system in which property is divided equally among sons
dharmasala	charitable resthouse for pilgrim or traveler
dhoti	loose-fitting loincloth for men
gaddi	cushion, euphemism for office
garbagriha	main temple image
ghee	clarified butter
godown	warehouse, storage
haveli	Rajput or Marwari mansion and ancestral home
hundi	bill of credit
jaffrey	lattice work
Jagat Seth	Banker of the World
jati	origin, birth, caste, community
jhilmil	wooden blinds
johar	spontaneous immolation
jota sowda	gambling on the price of jute
kacca	unprepared food
kalash	earthenware or metal pitcher, symbolizing fertility
kambal	blanket
kapus ka	cotton and cloth gambling

satta	
korbani	sacrifice, cow killing
kothal	treasure
kul	lineage
kuldeepak	light of the lineage
kuldevi	lineage goddess
lota	water pot
mahatsov	great festival
mardana	men's quarters, male space
maru	desert
Marwar	mythical homeland of the Marwaris
Marwari	migrant trader from Rajasthan, or language spoken in Rajasthan
mel	circle of appropriate marriage partners
mela	fair, festival
Mitakshara	legal system of primogeniture found in Northern India
mofussil	countryside stations and outlying districts
mori	drain
pahar	three-hour period of time
pakka	fully cooked food
parda	veil, euphemism for seclusion of women
pardanashin	secluded women
parta	Marwari accounting system
pash balish	bolster pillow
pativrata	women's vow, fasting for the well-being of the husband
pinjrapole	literally, "caged courtyard" for cow keeping
puja	worship
rui	cotton
sahib	Englishman
sala	brother-in-law, son of a bitch
salwaar	long tunic worn over loose-fitting pants
kameez	
samaj	association
sari	a draped five-yard-long cloth for women's apparel
satta	commodity-figure gambling

sati	widow immolation
satimata	deification of sati
shaharwale	resident of or hailing from Murshidabad, Bengal
shakti	goddess of strength
shroff	traditional banker
tezimandi	"rise-fall," euphemism for numbers gambling
thali	flat plate made of steel or silver
tibba	sand dune
trishul	Shiva's trident
vahi	account books
Vaishya	a varna traditional trading castes
yagna	public fair organized around vedic sacrificial rituals
zenana	women's quarters, female space

[Community and Public Culture: The Marwaris in Calcutta 1897-1997](#)