

# Glossary of Vernacular Terms

<i>Abhyas gat</i>	Study circle
<i>Adhyaksha</i>	President
<i>Adivasi</i>	Tribal
<i>Agaria</i>	An iron-smelting community
<i>Ahar-pyne</i>	A system of irrigation used in South Bihar
<i>Alvan</i>	A salt-making community
<i>Amavasya</i>	New moon day
<i>Amba Bhavani</i>	A form of Durga, a Hindu goddess
<i>Andolan</i>	Social Movement
<i>Angarok</i>	A community which specializes in guard duties
<i>Angom</i>	A clan of the Meitei community of Manipur
<i>Araghatta</i>	Water wheel
<i>Arakere</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure found in Karnataka
<i>Arthashastra</i>	An ancient Indian text, written by Kautiliya, on theories and principles of government
<i>Atishbaz</i>	An explosive-manufacturing community
<i>Bachao</i>	To save, to protect
<i>Badhik</i>	A butcher community
<i>Bafand</i>	A community specialized in dressing cotton
<i>Bahurupi</i>	A community of actor-mimics
<i>Baidyakar</i>	A community manufacturing musical instruments
<i>Bajandar</i>	A community of professional singers
<i>Bakarwal</i>	A goat-herding community
<i>Bandukkar</i>	A gun-manufacturing community
<i>Bansphor</i>	A community which specializes in making baskets from bamboo
<i>Baranaja</i>	A system of mixed cropping practised in the Himalayas
<i>Barui</i>	A community which specializes in growing betel leaves
<i>Bawarchi</i>	A community of cooks
<i>Bazaar</i>	Market
<i>Beej</i>	Seed
<i>Beldar</i>	An earth-cutting community
<i>Bets</i>	Elevated islands found in the Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat
<i>Bhabar</i>	Steep gravel slopes found in the Shiwaliks
<i>Bhadawar</i>	A pastoral community.
<i>Bheri</i>	Fish ponds in Eastern Kolkata
<i>Bhu</i>	Earth
<i>Bhuinhar</i>	A landowning community
<i>Bhuiya</i>	A landowning community
<i>Bhuiyar</i>	A landowning community
<i>Bhumij</i>	Autochthonous or indigenous people
<i>Bhumikara</i>	A landowning community
<i>Birjia</i>	A tribal community in the Chhota Nagpur plateau, Bihar
<i>Bishnoi</i>	A community in Rajasthan noted for its conservation practices
<i>Buna</i>	A weaving community
<i>Charcha</i>	Discussion
<i>Chauk/Chabutra</i>	Village square
<i>Cheeno</i>	Snatch, grab

<i>Chipko</i>	To hug; also the name of a forest-protection movement in the Himalaya
<i>Chitrakar</i>	A community of painters
<i>Chunari</i>	A lime-making community
<i>Churihar</i>	A bangle-making community
<i>Dalit</i>	Person of low caste, untouchable
<i>Dasara</i>	Ten-day festival celebrated through much of India around September-October
<i>Dravya</i>	Natural substance
<i>Desi Ahar</i>	A brand of organic agro-produce (literally, "Indigenous food")
<i>Devikere</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure found in Karnataka
<i>Diwali</i>	A festival of lights celebrated over most of India around October-November
<i>Dhan</i>	Wealth
<i>Dhup</i>	Incense
<i>Erokka Punnami</i>	Name of a festival celebrated in the Andhra Deccan area
<i>Eri</i>	Ancient tanks found in Tamil Nadu
<i>Gaddis</i>	Pastoral nomads living in Himachal Pradesh
<i>Gatlu</i>	A germination ritual performed in the Andhra Deccan area
<i>Gauchara</i>	A system for community care of cows
<i>Gharat</i>	Traditional watermills
<i>Gaon</i>	Village
<i>Godown</i>	A place used for storing fodder
<i>Gomostha</i>	A clerk
<i>Gond</i>	A tribal community in Central India
<i>Gram sabha</i>	Village council
<i>Guna</i>	Distinct quality, virtue
<i>Guhis/kuhls</i>	Diversion channels found in the Western and Central Himalayas, built to draw water from hill streams or springs
<i>Haats</i>	Village markets
<i>Humara/Humare</i>	Ours
<i>Irula</i>	A tribal community in Tamil Nadu
<i>Jan</i>	People
<i>Janapadanivesa</i>	The programme of creating new settlements as described in the Arthashastra
<i>Janapadasampat</i>	Major source of wealth
<i>Jameen</i>	Land
<i>Jatra</i>	Fair
<i>Jetavana</i>	A pleasure garden in the ancient town of Sravasti
<i>Jhapto</i>	Grab
<i>Johad</i>	Simple mud and rubble structure built across a water channel to hold rainwater
<i>Kakmara</i>	A crow-hunting community
<i>Karma</i>	Definite role in life, fate
<i>Kato</i>	To cut
<i>Katte</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure in Karnataka
<i>Kheti</i>	Farming
<i>Khadins</i>	A system of water run-off farming developed by Paliwal Brahmins of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
<i>Kharif</i>	Crops grown between the months of July and October
<i>Khuman</i>	A clan of the Meetei community of Manipur
<i>Kola</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure found in Karnataka
<i>Krishi</i>	Agriculture
<i>Kunds</i>	Covered underground tanks with an artificially prepared catchment area to increase run-off, found in the Thar Desert, Rajasthan
<i>Kunte</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure in Karnataka

<i>Lohar</i>	Blacksmith
<i>Mahila Samities</i>	Women's organisations
<i>Mahotsav</i>	A big celebration or festival
<i>Malakar</i>	Garland maker
<i>Malayalis</i>	A tribal community in Tamil Nadu
<i>Maldhari</i>	A cattle-herding community in Gujarat
<i>Manav</i>	Humankind
<i>Mandal</i>	Group/Association
<i>Manusamhita</i>	According to Indian mythology Manu was the first man and the legendary author of Manusamhita (code of law)
<i>Matha</i>	Religious establishments
<i>Meichal Purambokku</i>	Common term for community land in Tamil Nadu
<i>Meitei</i>	A community in Manipur
<i>Monpas</i>	Buddhist tribes living in Kameng and Tawang areas of Arunachal Pradesh
<i>Moirang</i>	A clan of the Meitei community of Manipur
<i>Munda</i>	A tribal community in the Chhota Nagpur plateau, Bihar
<i>Murukku</i>	A popular south Indian snack
<i>Muthuvan</i>	A tribal community in Tamil Nadu
<i>Nagula Panchami</i>	A day on which snakes are worshipped
<i>Navdhanya</i>	Collective term given to nine grains used to propitiate the nine planets in Hindu ritual
<i>Ningthouja</i>	A clan of the Meitei community of Manipur
<i>Nistar</i>	Forest produce rights
<i>Oraon</i>	A tribal community in the Chhota Nagpur plateau, Bihar
<i>Papad</i>	A popular Indian snack
<i>Paayasam</i>	Sweet pudding
<i>Panchayat</i>	Elected village council
<i>Parikrama</i>	Circumambular journey, often on a sacred pilgrimage route
<i>Paryavaran</i>	Environment
<i>Patel</i>	Village headman
<i>Patta</i>	Land ownership document
<i>Patra</i>	Leaf
<i>Ped</i>	Tree
<i>Pedda Panta</i>	Cropping season in the Andhra Deccan area
<i>Peddala amaasya</i>	The day of ancestors. In the Andhra Deccan, foxtail millet porridge is offered to departed ancestors on this particular day.
<i>Phats</i>	Shallow marshes found in the central valley of Manipur
<i>Phoomdi</i>	Floating islands of decaying vegetation in Loktak Lake, Manipur
<i>Phal</i>	Fruits
<i>Phool</i>	Flowers
<i>Plathi</i>	Name given to healers among the Kani tribes, Kerala
<i>Pooja</i>	Worship
<i>Polelu</i>	A sweet pancake
<i>Prakriti</i>	Nature
<i>Prasad</i>	Offering to the gods
<i>Rashtriya</i>	National
<i>Rebari</i>	Pastoral community in Rajasthan and Gujarat
<i>Samgha/Sangh</i>	Establishment/Association/Union
<i>Samiti</i>	Committee
<i>Samridhi</i>	Prosperity
<i>Sanskriti</i>	Culture
<i>Santhal</i>	A tribal community in central India

<i>Sapera</i>	Snake charmer
<i>Sarpanch</i>	Head of a Panchayat
<i>Sasi</i>	Seedling
<i>Shravan</i>	A month in the Hindu calendar, around July/August
<i>Shlokas</i>	Sacred verses or chants
<i>Shudra</i>	Lower castes, the lowest of the four strata according to the Hindu varna system
<i>Sindur/Kumkum</i>	Vermilion, applied on their foreheads by married women to signify their marital status
<i>Soligas</i>	A tribe in the BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka
<i>Soonyam Pandugu</i>	A festival celebrated around December in the Andhra Deccan
<i>Surangam</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure found in Kasaragod district, Kerala
<i>Terai</i>	The thickly forested foothills of the Himalayas, in the States of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh
<i>Thengapalli</i>	Voluntary patrolling by rotation
<i>Todas</i>	A tribe living in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
<i>Tulavina</i>	Cotton carder (A community whose name is derived from its occupation)
<i>Ugadi</i>	A festival to celebrate the beginning of the Telugu New Year
<i>Vahana</i>	Vehicle of a deity
<i>Paryavaran Vahini</i>	Environment group
<i>Van</i>	Forest
<i>Vanaspati Van</i>	Botanical gardens
<i>Vav</i>	Step well
<i>Viharas</i>	Religious establishments
<i>Volakere</i>	Traditional water harvesting structure found in Karnataka
<i>Warli</i>	A tribal community in Maharashtra
<i>Willu Pattu</i>	Song of the Bow (A traditional art form of Tamil Nadu)
<i>Yatra</i>	Journey
<i>Zabo</i>	A system of cultivation practiced in Kikrumba village, Nagaland.
<i>Zamindar</i>	Local feudal landlords who acquired the right to collect revenues or taxes from an area of land during British Rule. The system was abolished after Independence