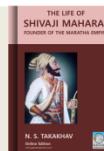




THE LIFE OF
SHIVAJI MAHARAJ
FOUNDER OF THE MARATHA EMPIRE
Homepage: <http://www.gathacognition.com/book/gcb20>
<http://dx.doi.org/10.21523/gcb4>



A Glossary of Indian Terms

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Published Online

17 March 2018

A Glossary of Indian Terms

Amatyā - A minister, the head of the finance department.

Amīr - A nobleman.

Aryavartā - India, so called because it was first settled in by the Aryas.

Ashta Pradhan - Eight ministers, or the cabinet of eight ministers.

Bakshi - A paymaster of the forces, also commander.

Bairagi - A recluse.

Bargir - A trooper that is mounted and equipped by the state that employs him, opp: to Shiledar.

Bhagwa Zenda - The red-ochre coloured ensign.

Chamar - A fly-whisk ensign of Indian royalty.

Champak tree - A kind of flower tree.

Chitnis - A secretary.

Chouth or Chauth - One quarter of the land revenue of a district.

Chowries - Ornamental hair-tassels.

Dabir - A foreign secretary, or envoy.

Daftār - A record, a register.

Dakshina - A present to Brahmans.

Daroga - A superintending officer, clerks, guards &c.

Dasara - A grand Hindu holiday in the early part of October.

Desai - A hereditary officer, the head of a district. He is the same as *deshmukh*.

Originally published in 'The Life of Shivaji Maharaj: Founder of the Maratha Empire', 1921. Adopted from the Marathi work by **K. A. Keluskar**.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.21523/gcb4.1837>

GATHA COGNITION®

Deshmukh - A hereditary officer, the head of a district (paragana). His duties in the district correspond with those of the patil in the village.

Deshpande - A hereditary officer of a mahal. He is under a deshmukh. His office nearly corresponds with that of kulkarni under a patil.

Devi - A goddess, usually the consort of the god Shiva, also called Gauri, *Bhavani* and by other names.

Dewan - A minister.

Dharmashala - A rest-house.

Divali - A great festive Hindu holiday in early November, the Feast of the Lamps.

Durbar - A royal court.

Durva - A kind of grass reckoned holy.

Fakir - A Mahomedan anchorite.

Firman - A mandate, a fiat.

Fouzdar - A garrison commander or police officer.

Gadkari - A garrison man in connection with a fort.

Gandha - A pigment for the forehead or body (of sandal wood, saffron, &c.).

Ghatmatha - A table-land on the Sahyadri mountains, or the Western Ghauts.

Ghorpad - Iguana.

Gosavi - An anchorite.

Guru - A spiritual preceptor.

Guraba - Galley with strong deck, and two or three masts, of 300 tons, a naval ship.

Haft-hazari - (Haft-hazary) A commander in charge of seven thousand soldiers.

Havaldar - A commander of live decries, a chief officer in charge of a fort.

Hazari - A commander of one thousand soldiers.

Inam - A grant in perpetuity without conditions.

Jahgir - An assignment by Government of lands &c.

Jamdar - Office curator, the officer in charge of the treasure and jewels.

Janjira - Maritime fortress.

Jari-patka - A cloth of gold banner.

Jumledar - A commander over two havaldars.

Kabulayats - Agreements.

Kalawant - A singer or musician.

Kamawisdar - A civil commissioner in charge of a town.

Karbhari - An administrator of a jahgir-estate etc.

Karkhana - Ware-house, an arsenal, commissariat etc.

Karkhannis - An officer in charge of departmental stores.

Karkun - A clerk or potty revenue officer.

Khan - Honorary suffix to Mahomedan names.

Kasba - A chief town of a mahal (district).

Khasnis - A special steward.

Killedar - An officer in charge of a fort.

Kirtan - A religious service in honour of a god with music and singing, and moral discourses.

Kos - A measure of distance, equal to about 2½ miles.

Kosha or Mahal - Treasury, mint, stables, parks etc.

Kotwal - A chief officer of police or constabulary of a town.

Kulkarni - An officer of a village under the patil. His business is to keep the accounts of the cultivators with government and all the public records.

Mahar - One of the depressed classes.

Mang - One of the depressed classes.

Mahalkari - A taluka officer.

Masa - A measure equal to the 12th part of a tola.

Mansabdar - An officer holding a rank or command in the cavalry etc.

Mantri - (Waknis) one of the ministers whose duty was to keep the private records and correspondence.

Mirasdar - An hereditary officer usually holding some land in a village; petty landlord.

Mehur - A gold, coin worth from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20.

Mokasdar - A farmer of the revenue of villages given in inam.

Morchsel - A brush of peacock feathers. It is waved over idols, rajas etc.

Mouza - A village.

Mulukhgiri - Active service on hostile soil.

Mutaliq - A deputy.

Muzumdar - Accountant-general.

Nagarkhana - A bandroom.

Naik - Commander or captain or corporal of a company.

Nazar - A state present.

Navratra - The nine nights devoted to the worship of Devi, preceding Dasara.

Omrah - A nobleman.

Pagoda - The same as *Hon* or *Hun*, a gold coin worth about 3 to 4 rupees.

Paga - A body of horse under one commander, the state cavalry.

Padres - Christian missionaries.

Panch-hazari - A commander of five thousand soldiers.

Panchayat - An assembly of arbitrators (usually five).

Pandit - A learned man.

Pant - Honorary suffix to names of Brahmans.

Pant-Sachiv - One of the eight ministers keeper of government records.

Parasnus - Persian translator.

Patwari - An officer of a village, a land steward &c.

Pawada or powada - A ballad.

Peshwa - A prime minister.

Peshkhush - A premium by annual instalments.

Phadnis - An assistant to the Muzumdar.

Pir - A Mahomedan saint at whose shrine vows are made and offerings presented.

Potnis - A cashier.

Polygar - A revolted rayat setting himself up as a chieftain living in woods and fastnesses and employing himself in levying contributions and marauding.

Prabhawal - An ornamental silver plate.

Prant - district.

Puja - Worship of an idol, or priest.

Pujari - A priest.

Quilledar - An officer in charge of a fort.

Rao - Honorary suffix added to proper names among Deccani people.

Ramoshi - A hill tribe.

Rang-Panchami - The fifth day of festivities during the Holi holidays.

Riyasat - A regime.

Sabnis - A paymaster.

Sachiv - A minister, same as Surnis.

Salaam - A salute.

Sanad - A sealed paper of authority or patent.

Sannyasi - An ascetic.

Saranjam - Military grant for the maintenance of an army corps.

Sardar - A nobleman.

Sati - A woman who burns herself with the corpse of her deceased husband.

Senapati - A chief general, same as *Sirnobut*.

Shalas - Karkhanas.

Shaivism - A sect devoted to the worship of the god Shiva.

Shakas - An era which commences from the birth of Shalivahan i. e. about 78 A. D.

Shastras - Hindu scriptures which lay down duties in life.

Shiledar - A horse soldier who provides his own horse.

Shimga - A great Hindu holiday, the same as *Holi*.

Shirastedar - A head clerk.

Sirdeshmukhi - One tenth of the revenue.

Sir-Lashkar - Chief commander.

Sir-Naik - Chief commander.

Sir-Nobut - Commander-in-chief.

Subhedar - Military officer over five jumledars; a governor.

Sumant (Dabir) - A minister of foreign affairs.

Surnis - A record-keeper.

Swarajya - Self-rule.

Tat-sirnobut - Chief Commander of the ramparts.

Toran - A lintel from which leafy branches, garlands of flowers &c. are hanging; a festooned arch.

Turuldar-Talukdar - A revenue officer under the mamlatdar.

Vaishnavism - A sect devoted to the worship of the god Vishnu.

Vakil - (Bokil) an agent; an envoy.

Vatan - Grant of land.

Viziership - Premiership.

Waknis - Record-keeper; a home secretary.

Zemindary - The rights of a hereditary officer who collects land dues etc.

Zenana - Harem.

Notes: - The terms *Chitnis*, *Phadnis*, *Sabnis*, *Muzumdar* denote major or minor offices, according to the context. When attached to the whole realm or the *Ashta-pradhan* cabinet, the terms denote high ministerial or secretarial posts; when attached to a fort or regiment, they denote minor offices. *Sabnis* may be Paymaster of the Forces (a secretarial post) or paymaster to a regiment or company.
