



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

N. S. Takakhav

Professor, Wilson College, Bombay.

Editor

Kiran Jadhav

Published Online

17 March 2018

A Glossary of Indian Terms

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

Amir - A nobleman.

Aryavarta - 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.

Daftar - A record, a register.

Dakshina - A present to Brahmins.

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.

Diwali - 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 Ghats.

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.

Havaladar - A commander of live decies, 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.
Morchel - 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.
Parasnis - 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.
