

GLOSSARY

aloo tikki	potato and meat marinated in spices and yogurt
bar (of a net)	example: a 2-inch bar gill net has square weave with a side of the square measuring 2 inches
chapatti	thin discs of unleavened whole-grain bread cooked on a griddle
chowkidar	guard, gatekeeper
dacoit	outlaw; member of a robber gang
dhoti	traditional loin-wrap of Hindu males
gulab jamun	deep-fried balls made of dried milk solids dipped in a rose-cardamom flavored sugar syrup
happa	cuboid of thin cotton gauze, approximately 2½ feet by 2½ feet by 4 feet with an open top. Staked in a pond with bamboo poles, it serves as a breeding and/or hatching container for Indian major carps.
Jemidar	a minor official
kit	a collection of personal effects or necessities, esp. as packed for traveling.
Kinnar	also known as hijra, are transgender or intersex persons, or eunuchs. In India the hijra community prefer to call themselves kinnar, referring to the mythological beings that excel in song and dance.
kurta	a loose shirt or tunic worn by Indian men.
lingam	the phallic symbol associated with Lord Shiva in his role of Divine Creator

Lee-Enfield	a type of bolt-action rifle formerly used by the British army
pakora	an Indian style fritter of potato, onion, cauliflower, spinach, or paneer, dipped in chickpea batter and deep-fried
paratha	a simple version is a chapati pan-fried in clarified butter (ghee)
puri subzi	puri is a crispy, golden deep-fried bread that puffs up and can be eaten with vegetables (subzi)
Rajput	a member of a Hindu military caste claiming descent from the four or five original Kshatriyas
Roti	a general term for Indian unleavened whole wheat bread, or for the same but much thicker than a chapati
samosa	a crisp, deep-fried triangular pastry stuffed with spiced vegetables or meat
talab	reservoir
thali	a complete meal on a tray with each curry, relish, and dessert in separate bowls plus bread or rice
thanka	a Tibetan Buddhist painting on cotton cloth, usually depicting a Buddhist deity, scene, or mandala
yak	The domestic yak is a long-haired domesticated cattle found throughout the Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent
yoní	the vulva, especially as a symbol of divine procreative energy conventionally represented by a circular stone