

Glossary

Aam:	Ordinary, Mango
Aanchal:	The Front end of Sari
Aarti:	Worshipping with lamp along with tinkling of bells in front of the God
Adhyapak:	Professor or Teacher
Almirah:	Cupboard
Alta:	Lac-dye, esp. as used by Hindu women to paint the borders of their feet.
Andolan:	Political Agitation or Movement
Anna:	One sixteenth of a Rupee in old monetary terminology of Reserve Bank of India which was prevalent till 1967.
Arthashastra:	Economics
Asana:	A postures of sitting
Asharh:	3 rd month of Bengali Calendar (from the middle of June to the middle of July)
Ashram:	A Hermitage
Ashtami:	8 th Day of Bengali's biggest festivals – Durga Puja
Babu:	The client or customer of a prostitute
Badhababu:	Fixed client or customer of Prostitute
Bagan:	A garden
Baiji:	A professional dancing-girl and songstress
Baishakh:	The first month of Bengali calendar (from the middle of April to the middle of May)
Baisnabs:	Worshippers of Vishnu.
Bandha Babu:	Fixed customer of prostitute
Bandha Khanki:	Fixed prostitute of the babu
Bandha:	Fixed
Banjaran:	The gypsy - who changes their location frequently
Bari:	House
Bariwallis:	Landlady
Bartoman:	The present time
Bazar:	Market
Beliphool:	The Arabian Jasmine
Beshya:	Prostitute
Bhadralok:	Genleman
Bhai:	Brother
Bhari –	11.6638gms

Bhasma:	Ash or ashes
Bhelpuri:	A type of Snack
Bherua:	A man as dastardly or as silly as a sheep
Bhojal:	Dagger
Bibis:	The prostitute
Bidesh:	Foreign
Bidhoba:	A widow
Bidi:	A kind of slender cigarette rolled in a tree-leaf
Bigha:	A measure of flat area (=6400sq. cubits = 1/3 or 0.33 acre approx)
Bigyan:	Science
Bijoya Dashami:	The last day of Durga Puja
Bikrita Kamana:	Perverted
Brahmo-Samaj:	Society founded by Raja Rammohan Roy
Buro:	Old man or aged man
Bustee:	Slums
Byabsa:	Business
Cha :	Tea
Chal-pora:	Burnt Rice
Chashma :	Spectacles
Chhagol:	He-goat
Chhata:	Umbrella
Chirag:	Lamp (usu. A small and cheap one)
Choda:	Act of intercourse
Chohtolok:	A rude or un-civil person; a person belonging to a socially depressed class (used as a slang)
Cholai:	Anything distilled or brewed
Cholai:	Illicit Liquor
Chotawallahs:	One kind of money lender
Chooto:	Occasional Customer
Crore:	Ten Million
Dada:	An elder brother
Dadon:	A loan or advance given as earnest money
Dahiwallah:	The curd seller
Dal:	Pulses
Dalal:	Pimp

Dashami:	The tenth day of Durga Puja
Dasi:	The kept woman
Desh:	Country
Dharma:	Religion
Dhatl:	An expression to represent frustration
Dhulis:	Drummer
Dida:	Grandmother
Didi:	Elder sister
Diwali:	The festival of lights
Dom:	A Hindu caste whose duty is to burn the dead and look after the crematorium
Fuchka:	A crisp ball made of puffed wheat filled with mashed potato and tamarind juice with spices
Gadiwalla:	The vehicle owner
Gaji:	A Muslim warrior fighting for the cause of religion
Gali:	An abusive word
Gamcha:	A thin cotton-made cloth which is used as a towel/ a napkin
Gangajal:	The holy water of the river Ganga
Garer Math:	The esplanade (a famous hang out place in Calcutta)
Garmi:	Heat, Summer, anger, syphilis
Ghazal:	A Persian musical mode (chiefly used in singing love-songs)
Ghee:	Clarified butter (of cow's or buffalo's milk)
Gherao:	Act of enclosing or shutting in or surrounding, encircling employers or authorities to coerce them to accept demands
Goonda:	A rogue, a hooligan, a rowdy, the hoodlums.
Gunin:	A man with an occult power, an exorciser, a sorcerer
Gutkha:	A kind of tobacco
Hapta:	Weekly bribe
Haram:	Any unholy or forbidden thing or creature according to Muslim scriptures, a boar, swine
Harami:	Illegal child
Hatath:	Suddenly or all of a sudden
Horibol:	A loud shouting of this word meaning, 'shout the name of Lord Hari'
Huccah:	A hookah
Jamaibabu:	Brother-in-law
Jatra:	An open-air opera or drama

Jaunakarmee:	Sex-workers
Jaunapalli:	Red-light area
Jaunata:	Sexuality
Jawan:	Young, a soldier, an army-man
Jharfuk:	Exorcising of evil spirit by uttering charms and incantations.
Jhumka:	The campanula, a bell shaped earring
Kaku:	Uncle
Kala:	Art
Kali Kuthis:	Black house
Kartik:	The name of the god who is commander-in-chief of heavenly forces
Kasar:	A dish of bell metal (alloy of copper and tin) used as a musical instrument
Katha:	In own word, narration
Kawali/Qawali:	An Indian light musical mode or measure
Kayestha:	A Caste
Keertan:	Act of singing in praise
Keoratala:	A famous burning ghat of Calcutta
Khabor:	News
Khanki:	A prostitute, a harlot, a whore, used as an abusive word
Khelapi:	Breach or infringement; failure to pay an installment or to meet pecuniary or other obligation
Khichri:	Food prepared by boiling rice and pigeon-pea together with spices and fat
Kholar Ghar:	A hut with a pantile shed
Kishtiwala:	A person who provides loan with an arrangement of payments in installments
Koibarts:	A caste amongst the Hindus (originally they were fishermen and peasants)
Kothi/Kotha:	A brick-built house, Brothel
Krirangan:	Playground
Krisnhachura:	A tree that blossoms red-coloured flower
Kuchcha:	Made of mud, not brick-built
Kulo-pora:	To bring disgrace upon one's (own) family, person who has been outcaste by his/her own family
Lakh:	One hundred thousand
Lal:	Red colour
Lathials:	A skilled fighter with sticks
Lok:	A person, human being
Lokganana:	Census

Lokrahashya: Secret

Ludo: Game of Snakes and ladder

Maal: Merchandise, wares, goods; also used colloquially to mention Semen, liquor, an abusive way to call good looking girl

Maduli: An amulet (usu. Shaped liked a tom-tom)

Magi: A woman, a prostitute

Mahanta: A head of monastery, convent, temple, honourable

Mahasava: Great meeting or association; a (representative) legislative assembly, a parliament, a congress

Mahila: A gentle-woman, a lady

Maidan: An open plain, an esplanade

Majar: A holy place where Muslims bury the dead

Makar-Baba/ Makar-Ma: these words may be unfamiliar to the outside world. But amongst residents of red-light area, these endearing calls were not uncommon. In red-light areas, if two girls become good friends, they try to make it permanent. They go through some rituals-- like going to the river Ganges together on the auspicious day in the month of Poush in winter, to take a holy dip and take a vow to remain friends forever. Those who have money, even go to the Gangasagar, the mouth of the river on the Bay of Bengal for this ritual. They utter the words, 'you are my Makar and I am yours' (Makar is some kind of a sea or river-god with a fishlike face). Moreover on festival times these friends exchange gifts of new clothes to make the bond stronger. In such a relationship, their children will call their mother's Makar as Makar-ma and Makar's husband or babus as Makar-baba.

Malkin: the landlady or the proprietress

Mama: A brother or cousin-brother of one's mother, Maternal Uncle; also use to denote police in red-light area

Mancha: A stage

Mantasha: To make-up one's mind, to resolve

Mantra: A portion of the Vedas containing sacred hymns

Marg: A way, a path, a road.

Marwari: A native of Marwar

Mashi: A sister or cousin sister of one's mother;

Math: A playground, open-ended ground

Minar: A tower, a minar, a turret

Monishi: A man of sharp intellect, a man of genius, a sagacious man, a sage

Mujra: A professional demonstration of singing or dancing

Mukh: The Face, the mouth, countenance, appearances

Musalmans: A Muslim or The Mohamedans

Mustan: A rowdy acting officially as the leader of a locality

Namaskar:	A bow, an obeisance; a salute, genuflection
Napit:	The barber
Navami:	The ninth day of the Durga Puja
Nayeb:	An administrator and rent collector of a rent –collecting unit of a landlord's estate
Nishidhhapally:	A prohibited area, the red-light area
Nokh-Darpan:	The esoteric power of reflecting unknown or distant things on the face of the nail
Noksha:	A rough sketch, a plan or design in outlines
Paan:	Betel-leaf
Paisa:	A pice (=1/100 rupee, formerly 1/64 of rupee)
Pakora:	A chop of onion fried usu. in oil
Pala:	A Turn
Palatak:	A fugitive, fleeing, absconding
Pancha:	To rot, to putrefy, to decompose
Panchayat:	The village council (origin Consisting of five members)
Pandit:	The learned, erudite, or Brahmin who does the rituals
Pashra:	Merchandise
Patita:	The woman who has gone astray from the path of righteousness and chastity or a fallen woman
Pawbhaji:	A kind of snacks made with a loaf of bread and fried vegetable
Phool:	Flower
Pragati:	Progress, advancement
Protidin:	Everyday or Daily
Puja:	Worship, adoration, devotion or offerings
Pukka:	A brick-built house
Rakhee:	A piece of thread which one ties round the wrist of another in order to safeguard the latter from all evils
Raksha-bandhan:	The act or festival of Rakhee
Rakshita:	Kept woman
Rani:	A queen
Rendi:	A prostitute, a concubine, a widow
Roja:	Indigenous method of getting rid of the ghosts, Holy fasting Muslims from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramjan
Sadgopes:	A Hindu caste (origin. The milkman class)
Sadhoba:	A married woman whose husband is alive
Saheb:	An appellation affixed to names of gentlemen. An Englishman or a European

Samaj:	caste/religion-based community
Samannaya:	Consistency, agreement, combination, unification
Sammelan:	A Meeting, Conference
Sanatan:	Eternal, Catholic, in vogue for a pretty long time
Sangha:	An association of persons, a body
Sanskriti:	Purified; one who has received a sacrament; a language
Sanstha:	A society, an association, an establishment
Saptami:	The seventh day of the Durga Puja
Sari-pallu:	An expanse of a part or an end of a loin-cloth (esp. the one worn by women)
Sattu:	Flour made of barley, pigeon-pea, maize etc.
Sehnai:	A kind of wooden wind-instrument
Seth:	An upcountry merchant
Shahid:	A martyr
Shasthi:	The sixth day of Durga Puja
Shikar:	Hunting
Shiv:	Lord Shiva
Shramjeevi:	Earning one's livelihood by manual labour
Shutikagar:	A lying-in room for the mother of new born baby
Siddhi:	Leaves and shoots of hemp, bhang
Sindoor:	Vermillion
Sitahar:	A kind or design of necklace named after Sita, wife of Rama
Subarnabanik:	Jewelers
Swaraswati:	The Hindu goddess of speech, learning, fine arts and wisdom
Tabij:	an amulet usually worn on the arm
Tabla:	A kind of tabour played as musical accompaniment
Taka:	A Rupee, money
Tali:	Act of clapping
Tarun:	Young man or lad
Tatkalin:	Contemporary
Thana:	A Police Station
Tola:	To collect subscription
Uddhar:	Rescue
UdJapan:	Observance (of a rite, ceremony, etc.)
Vakil:	Lawyers
Vidya/Bidya:	Learning; erudition; skill;

Yagna:	A Vedic sacrifice, a religious sacrifice, a burnt offering
Yubak:	Youth or young lad
Yuva:	One who has attained youth
Zamindar:	A zemindar, a landowner
Zarda:	A preparation of tobacco to be taken or chewed with betel-leaves
Zilla:	A District