

Glossary

adālata – a law court, superordinate to *ṭhānās* and *amālas*, functioning either at the district level (*jillā-adālata*) or in frontier areas (*gaūḍā-adālata*).

aḍḍā – a law court superordinated to *adālatas*, *ṭhānās* and *amālas*.

adhiyā – a system in the central hill region under which the crop yield was equally shared between the tenant and the state or landlord.

āge – lit. “henceforward”, it is especially used in administrative and legal documents to mark the beginning of a text or paragraph. In its function it is similar to *uprānta*.

Ain – law-code of Nepal, first promulgated in 1854 during the rule of Jaṅga Bahādura Rāṇā. The later emendations of this was named *Mulukī Ain* after 1927 or 1952 (Michaels 2005: 7). A printed edition of the *Ain* of 1854 incorporating the amendments prepared between 1865–67 was published by the Ministry of Law and Justice in Kathmandu in 1965 bore the title *Mulukī Ain*.

ajāputra – a freeman, a person who is not a slave.

amāla – a village level revenue collection office with judicial functions (cp. Adhikari 1984: 344).

amalekha – an act of slave emancipation.

amālī – also called *amālidāra*, chief of an *amāla* office, a revenue functionary of a regional administrative unit with judicial powers.

ambala – 1) territory, district. 2) a land from which the state has acquired right to collect revenue (cf. Michael 2012: 129).

ānā – 1) monetary unit worth one sixteenth of a rupee with four *ānās* constituting one *sukā*. 2) sixteenth part of land, property etc.

bādhā/bādhā – 1) a bondservant. 2) a substantial property, valueables or human chattel mortgaged by a debtor.

baikara – obligation of supplying provisions to the government officials without payment.

bāpata – a criminal offence.

begāra – a forced labourer either under individuals or public service (Wilson 1855, s.v. *begar*); labour for purposes such as portage,

- construction and digging (R. Shaha 1990/I: 207, Michael 2012: 130); requisition of labour for emergencies (cf. Regmi 1965: 53).
- bekha* – an inheritable *birtā* grant.
- beṭha/beṭhi* – usually written together with ‘*begāra*’; compulsory labour; unpaid labour esp. for farms (cf. R. Shaha 1990/I: 207); exaction of unpaid labour on a customary basis in the hill region, usually for agricultural work (cf. Regmi 1965: 53, Michael 2012: 130).
- bhārādāra/bhāradāra* – lit. “burden bearer”; a generic term for high-level functionaries and courtiers.
- bhoga bādhā* – 1) a bondservant who is in active service to the creditor.
2) an usufructuary mortgage; see also: *dr̥ṣṭi bādhā*.
- birtā* – a royal land grant with privileges in terms of tax-exemption, revenue collection and judicial authority.
- birtābitalapa* – an often tax-exempted type of *birtā* grant which obliges its beneficiary to work for the state when called upon to do so.
- birtāvāla* – holder of *birtā* land.
- cāka* – a low-caste man punished by enslavement for a sexual offence.
- cākara* – a servant attached to the master’s household. The *Ain* distinguishes between a *cākara* working for wages (*darmāhadāra cākara*), the one working only for their sustenance (*bhatuvā cākara*) and the one fully bound to servitude on a longterm basis (*kariyā cākara*).
- cakū* – a low-caste woman punished by enslavement for a sexual offence.
- cautarīyā* – 1) in the early Śāha period, a royal collateral appointed as principal officer of the state, often kings’ second and third sons.
2) later a title with no specific functions attached, granted to several male descendants of the Śāha kings at a time. Cautarīyās held different higher administrative posts, such as governors.
- chāpa* (land) – land granted by the state to individuals on a lifetime basis in return for their service.
- dāmala* – Replacement for execution for perpetrators from castes exempted from the death penalty; the offender is branded on his left cheek, his entire property is confiscated and he is imprisoned for life.
- daśanāmī* – an order of Śaiva ascetics said to be founded by Śaṅkarācharya.
- Dāsatvamocana Aḍḍā – the manumission office established by Candra Śamśera in 1925 (VS 1982).
- devadāsī* – a servant attached to a shrine.

- ḍiṭṭhā* – a civil servant ranking above a *mukhiyā* and lower than a *subbā*, serving in courts or account offices.
- dr̥ṣṭi bādhā* – 1) a bondservant who is not in active service to the creditor. 2) a non-usufructuary mortgage; see also: *bhoga bādhā*.
- dvāryā/dvāre* – a local revenue collection official with minor police and judicial powers (cf. Stiller 1981: 379)
- gaurāi/gaurāi/gaurānī* – an earnest payment, often used in the phrase *gaurāi bainā* (e.g., Ain-54 § 2.14–15).
- Guthī Bandobasta Aḍḍā – “Guthi Administration Office”, office responsible for the management of *guthīs*; established under Jaṅga Bahādura Rāṇā in 1852–1853 as replacement of the former Guthī Kacaharī.
- hākima* – chief of an administrative unit, government office or court.
- hulāka* – a system of transportation for official mail and civil and military supplies through relays of porters.
- hulākī* – a porter of the *hulāka* system. See also *kāgate-* and *thāple-hulākī*.
- ijārā* – a system under which the government granted an individual a contract to collect revenue from specified sources such as mines.
- ijārādāra* – a holder of an *ijārā* contract.
- jācakī* – an examiner, inspector.
- jāgira* – sources of revenue such as land, homesteads assigned to government employees as remuneration for their services.
- jamādāra/jmādāra* – a low ranking commissioned officer in the army, below *subedāra*, who could also be assigned to civil offices (see Edwards 1975: 108).
- jhārā* – unfree labour, unpaid work or assistance exacted from the people by the government or a landlord for the cause of the state or public welfare. For other forms of unfree labour, see *baikara*, *beṭha* and *begāra*.
- kāgatvā/kāgate hulākī* – *hulākī* porters assigned to transport mails and official papers.
- kājī* – an officer of ministerial rank superintending civil and military affairs (M.R. Pant 2002: 133; cp. Edwards 1975: 105).
- kamāro* (m.)/*kamārī* (f.) – a “full” slave who is treated as a commodity and can be transferred as property.
- kampu* – one of three categories of army units in the early nineteenth century, the other two being *palṭana* and *kampanī* or company. A *kampu* comprised different *palṭanas*.
- kapālī tamasuka* – a deed of loan transaction without security.

- kariyā* – a slave working in a household, a servant.
- keṭī* – a maidservant, often understood as a synonym for a female slave.
- keṭo* – a servant, often understood as a synonym for a male slave.
- khaḍga nisānā sanada* – executive order from Rāṇā prime minister bearing a seal with an image of a sword (*khaḍga nisānā*).
- Khavāsa – an umbrella term for current or former slaves of the nobility and the offspring born of unions of nobles and slave women.
- kheta* – a measure of land in the hill region equal to 25 *ropanīs* or 100 *murīs*.
- khuvā* – 1) non-irrigated land given as emolument for government employees (cf. Adhikari 1984: 352; Michael 2012: 132). 2) small division of country, district, province (TND, s.v. *khuvā*).
- kuta* – A system of tenancy under which a cultivator paid a fixed quantity of produce or a fixed amount of money as rent to the owner of the field.
- lālamohara* – a royal order or decree bearing the red seal.
- lihalagata/lihala* – legal currency, current money.
- mānā* – a volumetric unit equivalent to 0.568 litres, or 1/8 of a *pāthī*.
- marauṭa* – a governmental land grant endowed to the family of a person who gave his life for the welfare of the kingdom.
- mijhāryā/mijhāra* – headmen of certain castes such as Tamauta, Lohar, Mahar, Phalame, Kadera, Maji, and Sunuwar (see Regmi 1971: 228).
- mohara* – a royal document bearing the red seal, often an abbreviated reference to *lālamohara*.
- mohararupaiyā* – often abbreviated as *moru*, *moharu*; monetary unit equivalent to two eight-*anna* silver coins (*moharas*), four *sukās*, 16 *ānās* or 64 *paisās*.
- Mugalāna/Mogalāna – territories of the Moghul empire; In the hills the term is used especially to refer to North India (see Adhikari 1984: 353 and Michael 2012: 132).
- mukhiyā* – A designation for an administrative post used at the local, district and central level. At the local level *mukhiyās* functioned as village headmen and revenue functionaries. District headmen were also called *mukhiyās*. In the central administration, *mukhiyās* were writers who kept accounts or supervised officials of lower ranks.
- mukhtiyāra* – title of the chief minister in the pre-Rāṇā and the early Rāṇā period, and of the commander-in-chief in most of the Rāṇā period.

murī – 1) also called *khetamurī*; unit of land measurement in the hill region, comprising 1/4 *ropanīs* (with 100 *murīs* in 1 *khetā*). The area varied according to the grade: 1190 sq. ft. for lands of the best grade, and 1339 sq. ft., 1487 sq. ft., and 1785 sq. ft. for lands of inferior grades. 2) volumetric unit comprising 20 *pāthīs* (with 8 *mānas* to a *pāthī*), equivalent to 90.919 (M.R. Pant 2002: 134) or 87.23 (Pant and Pierce 1989: 93) liters.

nimyāka/nimeka – 1) value of the labour of a slave or a bondservant.
2) a compensation made to a master in case of a runaway slave or a bondservant (cf. Ain-54 § 80.9-10).

paīsā – monetary unit equal to one-fourth of an *ānā*.

paṭṭana – a regiment, battalion (TND, s.v. *paṭṭan*); an army unit smaller than a *kamṭu* (cf. Adhikari 1984: 158).

paṭṭī – a squad headed by a *subedāra*.

pañcamahāpātaka – five grave sins or offenses causing loss of caste, enumerated as: killing a Brahmin, drinking intoxicating liquor, theft, committing adultery with the wife of one's teacher or elder, and associating with anyone guilty of these crimes (Olivelle 2015: 315).

paramabhaṭṭā/paramabhaṭṭa – a deed, prepared by the seller, formalizing the sale of a slave.

pārapatra – a deed of emancipation, also called *pārapatrako nāmāpatra* (see K_0118_0032).

Pāre/Pāryā Gharī – caste group consisting of former slaves and their offsprings.

parjā/prajā – lit. “subject”; In the *Ain*, it is used as an umbrella term for Bhoṭe, Cepāṅga, Darai, Mājhi, Hāyu, Danuvāra, Kumāla and Paharī people, who are classified as enslavable.

pāthī – a volumetric unit equivalent to 4.546 litres comprising of 8 *mānas*.

pevā – private property of a married woman given to her by her parents, husband or others; self-earned property of a woman.

phikadāra – inheritable *birtā* grant made to persons of status below Brahmin castes, for which the *lālamohora* bore the mark of betel juice spat by the king.

pīra – heads of important *mathas*, esp. of the Nātha tradition (see Bouillier 2017: 60 *et passim*).

prahara/pahara – division of time equivalent to about 3 hours, eighth part of a day.

- purjī* – a formal letter written by a government institution or an official to another institution or to a person.
- raibandī* – a system of redistribution of paddy fields among local tenants in proportion to the size of their families (see M.C. Regmi 1978: 113–14).
- rājakhata* – a heinous crime such as killing of a Brahmin or incest which may be considered either as a crime against or punishable by the king.
- rājīnāmā* – deed of relinquishment of rights.
- ropanī* – unit of land measurement in the hill region, including the Kathmandu Valley, comprising four *murīs*. The area may vary according to the grade, but current standard area for a *ropanī* comprises 5,476 square feet.
- rukkā* – an executive order, short note, missive from the highest authority. The king, the crown prince, but also queens and the Rāṇā prime ministers issued *rukkās*.
- sāhu* – a money-lender, creditor.
- sanada* – a grant, charter, appointment or endorsement, often signed by a ruling authority.
- sardāra* – a top-ranking official next in hierarchy to a *kājī*.
- satī* – 1) widow, concubine or female slave who follows her deceased husband or master into death by immolating herself either on her husband's or master's fire, or on a separate funeral pyre. 2) the ritual of self-immolation.
- sāune-phāgu* – a homestead levy collected in the hill districts, including Kathmandu Valley, during the months of Śrāvaṇa and Phālguna every year (see Regmi 1971: 230; M.R. Pant 2002: 136). According to M.C. Regmi it originally served the supply of foodstuff to the royal household, and was converted into a cash payment in 1807 (Regmi 1995: 27-28).
- savāla* – Ordinances; a set of directives issued especially for administrative purposes.
- sermā* – an annual homestead tax collected in cash on unirrigated high or hillside land.
- sipāhī* – A soldier or a non-combatant person employed as a policeman or an office attendant.
- śrī 3 sarkāra* – lit. “three-times venerable ruler”; title used by the Rāṇā prime ministers.
- subbā* – governor or chief administrator of a province or district.
- subedāra* – a military official, incharge of a *ṭhānā*.

sukā – monetary unit worth one fourth of a rupee and comprising four *ānās*.

tamasuka – a deed of loan transaction.

ṭhānā – a police or military office with judicial functions.

thāpalyā/thāple hulākī – var. *thāple hulākī*; n. *hulākī* porters assigned to transport goods.

tharaghara – 1) members of the six clans (*cha thara*) including the Pāḍes, Pantas, Aryjālas, Khanālas, Rāṇās, and Boharā. 2) members of highest group of the Śreṣṭha castes among Newars as mentioned in the *Ain*.

thari – head of a clan (*thara*), elder, also functioning as a tax collector.

thekadāra – a contractor to whom right for revenue, tax collection or land usage have been granted by the government for a stipulated period.

uprānta – hereafter, after that, in addition to. In official documents, this word marked the beginning of a text or paragraph. In some documents, it takes the form of *yathocita uprānta*.