GLOSSARY

agnihotra, sacrificial rite performed for the individual well-being.
agrahāra, primarily a tax-free land gifted / granted to Brāhmaṇas / religious establishments for subsistence or settlement.
agrahārīna, large land-holders.
aṅga, part, portion.
aṅgula, an unit of land measurement; 12 aṅgulas = 1 cubit yielding an annual income of fifty purāṇas.
ajalāsu, waterless, dry-land.
ātavi-bhūkhanda, forest land.
adbhutasānti, sacrificial rite performed to avert evil consequences of any unusual event that threatens to bring calamity to the individual.
adhikarana, an administrative office / official.
adhipati, head or officer-in-charge of an administrative unit or division; head of a mandala in the Pāla period
adhyaśa, important official
antyaja, outcaste.
aprādaksayanīvī, principle of non-transferability of the donated land and the donee could use the income accruing from it eternally.
auśaka grove, indigenous flower plant.
asrama, hermitage.
asrama vihāra, monastery.
asvamedha, a horse-sacrifice performed in public by those desirous of achieving victory in a battle / war or of being accorded royal status.
astakuladhikarana, the head of a group of eight village.
asa, demon, non-Aryan.
arthasrotikāyā, water course
avatāra, incarnation.
ākh, sugarcane.
āguru, aloe wood.
ācārya, teacher.
āḍhavāpa, a unit of land measurement; 4 āḍhavāpas = 1 dronavāpa / 32 āḍhavāpas = 1 kulyavāpa.
ādi, ‘and the like’.
āmulaki / āmīca, a sour fruit
āmra, mango
āyuktaka, an executive official.
āli, embankment, boundary.
āvṛtī, administrative division.
ārya-Āvalokiteśvara, Budhā.
āśana, indigenous flower plant.
avindri-mahāsānti, sacrificial rite performed for attaining peace / peaceful living.
ošara, saline spots.
barayi, betel-vine growers.
bajra, diamond.
baila, brāhmana, good-born ksatriya.
baila, brāhmana, good-born brāhmana.
bārind, land made of older alluvium belonging to the Quarternary period of the Pleistocene age; name given to Pundravardhana by the Persian writers.
bāhak, name used in Pundravardhana for sailors.
beel, fan / lake.
burhīt, large boat generally used in the seas.
brhat-kottalisimā, a bank of earth forming a line of demarcation of a fort.
Bāul gān, a branch of the dīhācaryā-gūntak; associated with the life of the common people.
Brāhmanas, the first group (priests and teachers) in the four-fold caste system.
brahmādeya, land donated to the Brāhmanas who would receive the revenue accruing from it.
bhakti, devotion.
bhāga, portion of the produce to be paid as revenue or tax.
bhāgabhāgakara, grain-share or payment in kind.
bhūti, royal agent.
bīh̄ṣu, monk.
bhūktavuprik, provincial viceroy or governor.
bhūti, province.
bhūkhaḍi, a unit of land measurement.
bhūdra, a unit of land measurement.
bhūpatta, a unit of land measurement.
bhūmi, the Earth (also used in the context of the Gupta empire).
bhūmicchidra, land unfit for cultivation and exempt from tax demand and therefore donated.
bhūmicchidranaya, principle of donation of unused land for perpetuity for making it cultivable and exempted from payment of tax.
bhūga, periodical offerings.
bhūgapatī, sub-divisional officer.
caturaka, a village consisting of four villages.
caturvarna, catur-varna-dharma, four-fold social order, namely, Brāhmaṇa, Ksatriya, Vaiśya, Śūdra.
candāla, a section from the outcaste population of the society, also regarded as untouchable.
Candravamsa, the lunar lineage of royal families.
carana, branch, section.
Caryāpada, oral tradition.
‘Cānd Sadāgar’, popular folk ballad of Bengal.
cāṭa, royal agent.
Cinabhūmiṭṭa, the Cinapatta of the Cina country.
caurodharana, police tax.
chatravāsa, umbrella-bearer; official.
chātī, unit of land measurement approximately equivalent to eleven-sixteenth dronas.
daksinā, sacrificial fee.
dandaśakti, judicial officer.
dandapāśika, police officer
dandaḍaya, fine.
dasagronyma, the head of a unit of ten villages.
dasāparādha / dasāpāra, taxa issued after the commission of ten crimes.
dasyu, unclean or low-status people i.e. non-Aryans
Dāri-padas, a branch of the dohācaryā-gītika
dālimva-ksetra, pomegranate-orchard.
dāsa, servile groups / slave.
dāsi, female servant.
digvijaya, mission to establish dominance over the world.
digvijayin, the conquerer of the world.
dināra, gold coins attributed to the Gupta period, used for calculating land value and for making purchases
dirghiko-udrāṅga, long / deep dyke.
dīśāru, a term used in Pundravardhana to denote sailors.
dīp, light
dūr, door / pass / gate
dūkula, fine textile of Pundravardhana; also known as vangaka.
dūkula-patta-prabhavā ... paṇḍra vasābī, the garment made in Pundravardhana was popular throughout the sub-continent.
dūta, messenger
dūtaka, messenger or ambassador.
desa, territory / country
deshānariya matha, religious-cum-educational establishments for the students / visitors belonging to places situated outside the region.
devakuli, small temple
devadāsī, temple girl / women dedicated to a temple for providing service to the deity.
‘Devapāla’, a legend depicted on a gold coin datable to the Pāla period which was possibly issued on a commemorative occasion.
deva-vāra-vaṇītā, a phrase mentioned in Sāndhyakaranandi’s Rāmacaritam referring to the devadāsī.
daiya, demon / non-Aryan
dosī, community of cloth merchants.
Dohā, couplets.
Dohākosa, collection of couplets (dohās).
dohācaryā-gītika, Āryapadus and Dohākosa translated into songs.
drāmmma, a monetary unit, possibly silver coins
drona, unit of land measurement; 8 dronas = 1 kulya
dronavāpa, a unit of land measurement; 8 dronavāpas = 1 kulyavāpa.
dvārikāda, a kind of toll possibly charged on imports.
dvīja, the twice-born, i.e. the three upper castes of the Hindu society.
dvīpa, small island.
dvīpikā, small island.
‘Dhanapati Sadāgar’, a popular folk ballad of Bengal.
dhārma, religion / rule.
dhūp, incense.
etā, cardamom.
gamagāmika, home couriers.
gāmi, a title / surname of a Brāhmaṇa derived from the name of the village endowed to the family by the king / a private donor.
Gaṅginikā, a small river.
gandakā, a coin of the value of four cowries.
Gaṇīgā, stream, water-channel.
gandha, perfume.
gart, pits.
guḍa, molasses.
guvāka, betel-nut palm.
go-cara, pasture ground.
gotra, clan or lineage.
godhāni / godhānikā, a border possibly meant for the protection of cattle.
gomārga, cattle-path.
gopatha, cattle-path.
go-kṣetra, pasture ground.
Gauḍa-bhūjanga, ‘the serpent of Gauḍa’.
Gauḍadhāmā, ‘the vile of Gauḍa’.
gaulma, police tax.
gaulmikā, the officer-in-charge of a gaulma (outpost); entrusted with the collection of gulmadeya (dues payable at the military or police station).
grāma, village. the smallest administrative unit.
grāmakutumbha, village authority.
grāmaruka, a variety of aguru (aloe) wood.
grāmaśthakuladhikarana, the local governing body of the village.
grāmika, village-head.
grāmika-kutumbinakṣa, village-head.
hāṭ, market.
hāṭa-pānakaih, a place consisting of markets and tanks.
hāṭi, market.
hāṭikā, market / market-due.
hāla, a unit of land measurement of land popularly used in Bengal.
Himavacchikharā, a place located at the summit of the Himalayas.
hiranya, tax in cash.
Hemāsvarathamahādānā. gift of a model of a horse and a chariot fabricated out of gold.
homa, sacrificial rite for well-being.
īksiu, sugarcane.
janaka-bhū, fatherland.
janapada, a territorial unit. whether a kingdom or an oligarchy.
janapadin, residents or citizens of a janapada.
jayaskandhavāra, victory-camp.
jala, water.
jeṣṭha-kāyaṣṭha, chief scribe / registrar.
jogaka, a variety of aloe (aguru) wood
jola, channel / stream.
jolakah, marshy land.
jolā, ditch.
kanaka, a native flower.
kanaka-tulāpurusa mahādana, the gift of gold equivalent to the weight of a person to Brāhmaṇas on auspicious occasions.
kankar, pebbles; nodular limestone deposits.
kanda, edible roots.
kāṁśīka, a variety of fibre produced by the saliva of certain kinds of worms.
kapardaka, unit of currency; cowrie shell.
kapardaka-purāṇa, unit of currency; cowrie shell equivalent to silver coins.
kara, periodical tax.
karna, a native flower.
karnadhōr, a term used in Puṇḍravardhana to denote sailors.
karmakara, artisan.
kalpa, an indigenous tree.
kākanīka, a coin of a small denomination or a small quantity of money equal to twenty kapardas or cowries or a part of a cubit or 2.25 grains of copper coin.
kākini, a coin of a small denomination or a small quantity of money equal to twenty kapardas or cowries or a part of a cubit or 2.25 grains of copper coin.
kākinīka, a coin of a small denomination or a small quantity of money equal to twenty kapardas or cowries or a part of a cubit or 2.25 grains of copper coin.
kāndī, cowrie shell used as a mode of currency.
Kānā dvīpika, a small island.
kāyaṣṭha, official scribe.
kārparśīka, cotton-textile of Puṇḍravardhana.
Kālādīghi, a tank situated near Gangārāmpur in Bāngarh associated with Kālirāni, the wife of the mythical king.
Kāvyā, a kind of poem.
kilaka, posts.
kutumin, householdet.
kumāramāya, official of the rank of a prince
Kulapahṣṭikā, genealogical account.
kulaputtraka, noble man.
kulavāra, local body formed to carry out rural work.
kulika, village-head.
kulya, the land area which can be sown with one kulva of seeds; a unit of land measurement.
kulyavāpa, a unit of land measurement; 1 kulyavāpa = 38 or 48 bīghās = 38 or 48 x (80x80 square cubits).

kuśa, the sacred grass used at certain religious ceremonies.

Kūlajī, genealogical accounts.

Kūlina, classification of Brāhmaṇas into different grades of honour and distinction based on personal qualification.

Kūlinism, the practice of classifying Brāhmaṇas into different grades of honour and distinction based on personal qualification introduced by the Sena ruler Vallālasena in Bengal.

ketaka, flower of the plant Pandanus odoratissimus.

ketaki, an indigenous plant.

kedār sthala, cultivable land.

kesara, the flower of the plants Rotteria tinctoria, Mimusops Elengi, Mesua ferrea.

Kesavapana, a ceremony performed in connection with coronation.

Kaivartta, a fisherman.

Kokāmukhā, another name of Śiva.

koṭhoma, sacrificial rite for general well-being.

kośa, treasury.

khajura, date.

khandala, a revenue division.

kharga, sword.

khādika, a unit of land measurement; 1 khādika = 2 kulyavapas.

khātaka, channel.

khātika, ditch.

khālā, small channel, stream.

khilī, waste or unused land.

khetaka, peasants.

ksauṃā, silk textile of Pundravardhana.

ksatriya, the second group (warrior / aristocracy / landowners / royalty) in the four-fold caste system.

kṣetra, a child born of the union of one’s wife and another man with the consent of the husband.

lakuca, artocarpus lakooccha.

lavanga, a fruit.

likucha, artocarpus lakooccha.

maṭha, cloister / a monastery attached to a temple and often a centre of education.

mandala, an administrative or revenue division of a province or bhukti; in some cases a part of a visaya and was also called a khāndala.

Madhu / Madhuka, a native flower; bassia latifolia.

madhukar, a country boat.

madhyadeśa, mid-India.

mantra, sounds, words and verses associated with religious connotations.

maryādā, limits.
mahattara, important / high official.
mahattara-agrahārāna, important or higher or large land-holders.
mahattaradaśṭakuladhiṅika, royal officials.
mahal, administrative division of the Mughal rule formed for revenue collection.
mahājanapada, large or great territorial unit or republic.
mahāpātaka, large settlement.
mahāpratihāra, commander of war forces.
mahāmahattāra, important / high official.
mahāmāndalika, commander of war forces
mahārāja, king.
mahārajadhirāja paramēśvara paramahattāraka, the greatest of the kings.
mahāsāmintādhipati, ruler or governor holding a position subordinate to an overlord.
‘mahipāla geet’, the popular Śāhajiya Buddhist songs composed in Bengali during the reign of the Pāla ruler Mahipāla.
mānjhi, boatman.
mālāti, a native flower
Mīmamsa, one of the six major schools of ancient Indian philosophy.
mūlābhiseka, a ceremony of consecration.
Meru, pole.
Mauza, a revenue division.
mleccha, the servile groups placed outside the pale of caste society associated with lowly (unclean) occupations and therefore considered to be impure.
nagara, urban centre
nagarāṣṭrā, chief merchant / guild president.
nādi, river.
nāgakesara, Mesua ferrea.
nāgarāṣṭrā, city-mayor.
nāgarenga, an indigenous tree.
nārikela, coconut.
nālā, canal / a length of reed or bamboo used as an instrument for measurement
nīṭipāṭhaka, reciter of moral texts.
nīvīdharma, the principle laying down the provision of non-transferability of donated land on condition of non-destruction of the principle.
naubandha, boat-station.
nyāya, rule / principle.
Pādma, lotus.
pañcamahāyajna, five great sacrifices recommended for the devout householders.
pandita, scholar.
pattā-kṣatriya, degraded or fallen kṣatriya.
pattamahādevi, the chief queen
patrona, silky textile of Pūrṇāravardhana
panasa, bread-fruit.
śarśapayānaka. mustard channel.
śarva-dharmaviśārada, adept in all dharmas or righteousness.
śākā, a indigenous plant.
Śākta hymns, a branch of the Dohacaryā-gītika and associated with Śaktism.
śākha, branch or school.
śāntivārika, priest-in-charge of propitiatory rites.
śāntyagārhikṛtāya / śāntyagārika, officer-in-charge of the room where
propitiatory rites are performed.
śārthavāha, merchant.
śāsana, administration.
śimāli, boundary wall.
śudra, the lowest / fourth (servile) group in the four-fold caste system.
śulka, a toll tax.
śaulkika, toll-collector / customs officer.
śrī phala, an indigenous fruit tree.
‘Śrimanta Sadāgar’, popular folk ballad of Bengal.
‘Śrī-vigra’, a legend depicted on a gold coin attributed to the Pāla rule.
Śruți-pāṭhaka, reciter of the Śruți texts.
śrutiya, learned / well-versed in the śrotas
Śrāuta rites, rites prescribed by the composers of the Śrāutasūtras.
śloka, verse.
Saḍvargika, a Buddhist sect.
saḍvarika, local administrator / governor.
saṭarthavāha, chief caravan-trader.
saṁgharāma, monastery.
samrāt, emperor / king.
Saṁvamgiya, followers of the Saḍvargika sect of Buddhism.
saṁvṛyāvahārin, chief officials.
sarvaprṣṭha, purificatory rite.
sāgara, sea.
sādhanika, officer-in-charge of elephants. horses, cows, buffaloes, goats and
sheeps, fleets, etc.
saṁrājya, empire / kingdom.
sāhājiya Buddhism, the degenerated form of Buddhism wherein rituals and
elaborate ceremonies were prescribed.
sāhājiya gū, songs related to sāhājiya Buddhism.
siddha, holy.
sitā, crown land.
simā, boundary.
suʃāsta-ksatriya, good-born ksatriya.
sudhā, milk-hedge plant.
Sumha-rāja, king of Sumha.
suvarna, gold.
senapati, commander-in-chief.
sthala, land.
sthala dronavāpas, a unit of land measurement; 8 sthala dronavāpas = 1 kulyavāpa.
sthyayapāla, watchman.
stūpa, dome-shaped structure containing relics of the Buddha and worshipped by Buddhists.
srotah, stream.
Smṛti, a set of texts composed in the later Vedic period.
tatvabhāvat, Vāsudeva.
Tarkasāstra, one of the six major schools of ancient Indian philosophy.
tala, surface / base.
tala-bhāmi, lowland.
tala-pātaka, crown land.
tamāla, betel-nut.
tāmra, copper.
tārabid, a term used in Puṇḍravardhana to denote sailors.
tārika, officer-in-charge of rafts and boats.
tāla, an indigenous fruit tree.
tila, seaemum.
tulāpurusamahādāna, the gift of gold equivalent to the weight of a person to Brāhmaṇas on auspicious occasions.
trāṇa, grass.
tailaparnika, sandal wood.
taurupa, a type of aguru / aloe wood.
Triratna, three jewels (Buddha, Sangha and Dhamma) to whom a plot of land in Candrapura was dedicated (by Paścīmbhāg Copper-plate grant).
tri-visaya, three districts.
tadāyuktaka, supervisors.
uḍamāṇa, a unit of land measurement; 1 uḍamāṇa = 704 square cubits.
uḍāṇa, a unit of land measurement; 1 uḍāṇa = 704 square cubits.
udṛṅga, dyke / a tax levied on permanent tenants.
unmāṇa, 1 unmāṇa = 32 cubits = 704 square cubits.
upanayana, the investiture of the sacred thread on any member of the dvija (twice-born).
uparikara, rent levied on temporary tenants.
upaskara, tax to be paid by appurtenances.
vakula, mimusops elengi.
vata, ficus bengalensis.
vaṅgaka, textile of Vanga (Bengal); also known as dukūla
Varendra-Silpigosthi-Cudamani. Cudamani the head of the organization of artisans of Varendra.
varna, colour / caste
varnā śrama dharma. Brahmanical code of conduct.
vardhaki, carpenter
vāra / vāriyam. body / committee-in-charge of rural administration.
vāstu-bhūmi, homestead land.
viniyuktakādi, special officers and others depending on royal favours.
visaya, an administrative-revenue district; the bhuktis were subdivided into visayas corresponding to district.

visayadhikarana, district level office.

visayapati, head or officer-in-charge of a visaya / district officer.

visayavayavaharit, officer-in-charge of a visaya (district).

visayavahara, officer-in-charge of a visaya (district).

vīhāra, Buddhist monastery.

vīja, citron.

vīthī / vrthī / vrthī, an administrative division, sometimes higher and sometimes lower than a mandala; the relative administrative position of mandala and vīthī or vrthī was not always the same.

vīthi / vrthi-adhikarana, office at the level of a vrthī or vīthī.

vīthī-visaya, an administrative division, sometimes higher and sometimes lower than a mandala or a visaya.

dastī, labour service provided in lieu of tax.

vṛndaka, formation of groups

vṛṣabha-sankara-nala, the measuring rod introduced by the Sena ruler Vijayasena.

vaidya, medicinal practitioner.

Vaiśānapada, a branch of the Dohacaryā-gītika and associated with Vaiśṇavism.

vaiśya, the third group (producers) in the four-fold caste system.

voraka-grāma, village (land) fit for cultivation of ‘boro’ rice grown in swampy areas.

Vyākaraṇa, grammar

yuvarāja, crown prince.

zavali, a local fruit in Northern Bengal.