GLOSSARY

Agrahāra: the grant of revenue-free land to a learned brahman in perpetuity as a recognition of his learning or religious achievement.

Akali: also called nihang: the militant followers of Guru Gobind Singh who regarded themselves to be the guardians of the faith; singhān-i-akālia: the akāli or nihang Sikhs employed in the army of Ranjit Singh and receiving jagirs from the state.

Amil: a revenue collector, interchangeable with kardar as the administrator of ta’alluqa.

Arain: a caste mostly engaged in growing and selling green vegetables.

Ardās: the sikh prayer; ardasia: literally, the Sikh priest who offered ardas.

Ayyam: in accordance with the old practise.

Azqarar-i-qadim: according to the arrangements made in olden times.

Bad farosh: a musician attached to the camp.

Bairagi: a member of the Vaishnava order of ascetics.

Baisakhi: the first day of the month of Baisakh, celebrated as a festival.

Banjar: the barren or wasteland; zamin-i-banjaraftadah: land fallen out of cultivation; banjar-shigafan: those who brought the barren land under cultivation.

Bannuwanias: descendants of Bhai Bannu.

Baoli: a large well with steps.

Begar: a cess in lieu of unpaid labour; kar-o-begar: forced labour.

Bhais: a Sikh formally connected with religious affairs, who also looks after Sikh institutions like dharamsalas and Gurdwaras.

Bhar: weight, and in assessing the land, is used either as a standard for the quantity of grain produced on a particular field or represents the supposed quantity of Seed required to sow each
holding or field as case may be. The quantity of Seed contained in a Bhar is not the same for each kind of grain.

Bhattas: bards or panegyrists who recited poetry lauding the grandeur of a ruler or the gallantry of a warrior, also used as an epithet for a learned brāhmān.

Bhet: an offering to a deity; land given in charity.

Bhet ardas: revenue-free grant given in charity pray for the prosperity of the granter.

Bigha: a measure of land generally considered equal to twenty biswas or four kanals; also \( \frac{1}{2} \) of a ghumaon; the actual size varying from region to region.

Bishnuprit: land dedicated for the maintenance of temple of Vishnu.

Biswa: a unit area of land consisting of 20 biswas, and equal to \( \frac{1}{20} \) unit of a bigha.

Brahmadeya: see agrahara.

Brahmotar: grants to brahmans during the medieval times.

Bunga: derived from the Persian bungah meaning a hospice, or a dwelling place. In the Sikh tradition, the word specifically refers to the dwelling places and mansions around the Harimandar at Amritsar, built by the rulers and officials during the late eighteenth and nineteenth century, for the stay for pilgrimage.

Chabutra: a raised platform; used for octroi post.

Chattak: a measure of weight, consisting of 5 tolas and equal to \( \frac{1}{16} \) of a ser.

Chaudahri an interesting zamindar, a local hereditary official authorised to collect land revenue from five to seven villages on behalf of the government; the hereditary leader of a clan; the leader of a caste.

Chishti: a silsila of Sufis.

Chobdar-i-kotwali: a cess for the gate-keepers (chobdar) of the police station (kotwali).
Dadupanthi: followers of Dadu who was a disciple of Kabir, his chief monastery, named Dadudwara, is in village Narayan in Jaipur state.

Daftari: a record keeper; a person working is an office, clerk.

Daftar-i-mu‘alla: the central office.

Dal Khalsa: an ad hoc combination of the forces of more than one sardar for a specific purpose.

Dāl: pulses.

Dam: originally a copper coin; a money of account for stating revenue under the Mughals; 40 dams were reckoned as equal to a rupee under Akbar, the ratio in actual practice changing from time to time.

Darbār: the royal court.

Darogha: a superintendent or head of any organisation.

Deg: literally a cauldron signifying bounty.

Dera: the camp; a religious establishment.

Devottar: land granted for the maintenance of the temples of Hindu Gods.

Dhadhi: a musician who sings in praise of the Sikh Gurus and recounts the heroic deeds of the Sikhs.

Dharmarth: literally, by way of religious duty; land revenue alienated in favour of a religious personage or institution by a ruler, or acting in his place, by a jagidar, or an official.

Dharmsāla: rest-houses.

Diwan: the head of the finance department of a suba; a finance officer; also an honorific title given to the Hindu nobles who were mostly Khatris.

Diwana: a sect of udāsi saints.

Doab: a region lying between two rivers.

Dogar faqirs: a clan descended from the Rajputs. Dogars are mostly Muslims and keep cows and buffaloes, their colonies are mostly

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seen at banks of the rivers, they are mainly settled on the banks of Satluj in district Ferozepur, the word Dogar has originated from a Sanskrit word meaning milcher.

Faqir : a Muslim mendicant.

Faqirana : grants made to faqirs for subsistence.

Farman : a royal order.

Farrash : the official who looked after the royal tents, floorings, etc.

Faujdar : literally, the official who maintained troops for law and order; the administrator of a sarkar under the Mughals; used indiscriminately for the Sikh nazims and pargana officials.

Gadwai : a personal attendant on the Maharaja; bearer of a gadvi, a utensil (containing water for washing).

Ganjbakhshia : Ganjbakhsh a faqir, was a follower of Guru Amar Das; a religious preacher whose followers call themselves as 'ganjbakshtias'.

Ghee : the clarified butter.

Ghumaon : a measure of land, varying in different parts of the Punjab, consisting of 8 kanals; also, equal to 2 bighas or about an acre.

Ghurcharha : a horseman.

Granthis : a reader and attendant of Guru Granth Sahib.

Gujjar : an ethnic category, but used commonly for the Muslim cattle heards.

Gumashta : an assistance or subordinate, generally of a revenue collector.

Guzara : maintenance; subsistence.

Hajjam : a barber.

Hakim : learned and wise; a philosopher; a physician.

Hasil : the collection, particularly of the revenues from land.

Haveli : dwelling house.
Hiba: stands for conferment of right by a proprietor upon someone else through an act of bestowal.

Hijri: Muslim era which began with the migration of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca on 15th July 622 AD.

Hukmnāma: a written order; used generally for the letters of the Sikh Gurus to their followers.

Huzur: lord or master.

Huzuri: the royal scribes.

Ilaqa: an area, generally inhabited by people belonging to the same tribe, and also treated as an administrative subdivision.

In'am: literally, a reward; an assignment of revenue distinct from jagir and dharmarth, implying the idea of reward.

Iqrarnāma: any bond or contract or written agreement.

Jāgir: an assignment of land revenue in lieu of salary.

Jagirdar: the holder of a jagir.

Jamadar: an officer in the army.

Jarib: the chain of rope for measuring; a unit of length generally considered equal to 10 karams.

Jhullars: rivulet or water flow.

Jiwars: a title given by Guru Amar Das; Manak Chand, a Khatri resident of Vairowal, died by drowning during the excavation of Goidwals. Guru Amar Das is said to have infused life in him and named him Jiwra, his descendants are known as Jiwras.

Jog: a yoke of bullocks.

Jogi: a renunciant belonging to one or the other of the twelve gorakhnathi orders.

Kammedan: commandant (in French).

Kanal: a measure of land consisting of 20 marlas and equal to 1/4th of the bigha or 1/8th of a ghumaon.

Khanaqah: a religious establishment, generally of the sufi recluses.
Kanchani: a dancing girl; a prostitute.

Karam: a space of 2 steps, used as the basic unit of length equal to 3 haths (cubits) or about 54 to 66 inches.

Kardar: an agent; an official; a revenue collector of a ta'alluqa or a pargana; kardari; a cess for the kardar.

Khalsa: an epithet used for the followers of Guru Gobind Singh, derived from an idea of a direct link between the Sikh and the Guru; also used for an individual Sikh as well as for the collective body.

Khalsaji: an individual Sikh including the Sikh ruler; an epithet used by the Sikh rulers for themselves in their seals.

Khanka shumari: tax payable by cultivators of wells.

Kharij-az-jama: exempt from assessment; revenue free.

Kharif: crops sown in summer and reaped in autumn.

Kharwar: literally, an ass load, signifying a measure of weight as well as of land in Kashmir.

Khaseel: denoting supply of fodder by the cultivator.

Khatri: the well known ethnic group in the Punjab; a caste to which most of the revenue officials and administrators of the Punjab belonged.

Khidmat: service; khidmatgar; a servant; an attendant.

Khurd: small; junior

Lambardar: the headman of a village, known as muqaddam in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Langar: kitchen.

Langari: a person incharge of the kitchen or a langar.

Madad-i-ma’ash: literally aid for subsistence, given in charity by he rulers.

Mandi: a market.

Mani: a measure of weight.
Marla: a measure of land equal to \( \frac{1}{20} \) of a kanal or \( \frac{1}{60} \) part of a ghumaon.

Maund: a unit of weight consisting of 40 sers and seldom standardized for a large area.

Milk: stand for revenue free land grants.

Minas: a class of people who make designs on gold; followers of a sect found by Prithvi Chand, elder son of Guru Ram Das.

Mirasi: a caste of Muslims employed as musicians, bards and genealogists; similar to bhattis but are Muslims and perform function of recitation of genealogies of their patrons.

Mu'af: exempt, revenue free.

Mu'amla: matter, affair; revenue.

Mulla: a Muslim priest and teacher, generally in charge of the mosque in a village.

Mullas: men of learning.

Muqaddam: the headman of a village or a part of thereof; haqq-i-muqqadami: the dues paid to the muqaddam; also called lambardari and biswi; nazr-i-muqaddam: a cess for the muqaddan.

Mutassaddi: a functionary.

Nahrana: water tax on water taken from a canal for purpose of irrigation.

Naslan bad naslan: generation after generation.

Nāzim: the governor of a province; an administrator; nizamat: an administrative charge; also governorship of a province or primary division in an empire.

Nazr: offering.

Nazrana: the tribute paid by a vassal; also, paid by an official on special occasions.

Neaz: an offering made to a saint or deity.
Nirmala sadhs: the ascetics and renunciants belonging to the *nirmala* order of the Sikhs.

Pahul: baptism of the double-edged sword started by Guru Gobind Singh, known as *khande-ki-pahul*.

Panch: a member of the *panchayat*; the headman of a village or one of its sub-divisions.

Panda: a *brahman* priest, generally with a fixed clientele and conducting worship at places of pilgrimage.

Pandit: a *brahman*, whether learned or not.

Pargana: the administrative sub-division of a *sarakar* under the Mughals and of a *suba* under Ranjit Singh, and thus interchangeable with *ta'alluqa*.

Parwana: a written order under the seal of a person in power.

Pathi: the professional reader of a religious book.

Patta: a deed of lease; a document given to the revenue-payer, indicating the sum payable by him.

Pir: saint.

Pirzada: literally, the son of a saint.

Purohit: a *brahman* performing social and religious ceremonies for individual families.

Pusht dar pusht: generation after generation.

Qanungo: a hereditary keeper of the revenue records at the *pargana* or the *ta'alluqa* level.

Qarar-i-qadim: established practice.

Qazi: an official appointed by the government to administer civil and criminal justice according to the Islamic law.

Qureshi: Qureshi is a famous Arabic lineage; grandfather of Prophet Mohammad who was the headman of this family.

Rababi: one who plays *rabab*, a kind of violin with three strings.

Rabi: the crop sown in September-October and harvested in April-May.
Ragi: a singer, particularly of the verses of the Sikh Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib.

Ramanandi bairāgis: a bairāgi who follows the sect of Ramanand bairāgi.

Ramdasias: the followers of Ramdas, a weaver, are known as Ramdasias.

Rasad: Daily provisions.

Rupaia (Kashmiri, Nanak Shahi, ZamanShahi): rupee.

Rozina: daily allowance or pay.

Sadabart: a free kitchen that remains open continuously.

Sadh: a mendicant; renunciant: a religious recluse.

Sahukar: a wealthy businessman; also a money lender.

Sakhi Sarwar: founder of a cult who died while fighting in 1174, his followers are known as Sultānīās or Sarwariās. His real name was Sayyid Ahmad whose father belonged to Baghdad but had came and settled at Shahkot in Jhang.

Sal b'sal fasl b'fas: literally, ‘year after year, harvest after harvest’; in perpetuity; generally used for the dharmarth grants.

Samadh: a large or small structure raised on the place of cremation of someone important.

Sammat: an era; the Bikrami Era.

Sanad: a royal order of a deed or a grant given by the ruler or the one in authority.

Sankalp: offering for the fulfillment of a wish.

Sankrant: first day of each month of the Indian solar calendar, based on the shifting of the sun from one house to another.

Sarai: a halting or resting place for travellers and caravans with facilities of broading and lodging.
Sarbat khalsa: the entire body of Khalsa; the Sikh Panth.

Sardar: a leader; a Sikh ruler; a title given to a Sikh noble under Ranjit Singh.

Sarghi: is a meal taken before dawn.

Sarkar: the primary division of a province under the Mughals; one of the forms of address used for Ranjit Singh and the early Sikh rulers.

Sayurghal: revenue free land grants.

Sayyads: a descendant of Prophet Muhammad, especially one of his grandson, Husain, and held venerable by the rulers and people alike.

Ser or seer: a measure of weight varying in different parts of the Punjab, and for different articles but generally reckoned as 1/40th of a maund.

Sevapanthi: Bhāi Ghanaiya had served water to the injured Sikhs and Muslims during the battle of Anandpur, his seat was later occupied by Seva Ram, a celebrity because of his services, his sect came to be known as sevapanthi.

Shaikh: the head of a religious fraternity.

Shaiva jogis: a renunciant belonging to one or other of the twelve Gorakhnāthi orders.

Shamāfaroz: lighter of lamps.

Suba: a province or a primary division of an empire.

Subadar: the governor of a province, also known as nazim.

Ta'alluqa: literally, a dependency denoting connection with, or possession of a given area; the term was most commonly used during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century for the administrative unit next to the province, and as such was interchangeable with pargana.

Tahsildar: a revenue collector; also used occasionally for the kardar under the Sikh rule.

Takya: a place of repose or the dwelling place for a faqir.
Tambol: the invitation money, the cash given by friends and family as present on a marriage., the early Sikh chiefs made its payment compulsory on the people under their control and fixed a certain percentage on the revenue of each village.

Tappa: the sub-division of the ta'alluqa or the pargana, containing a varying number of villages.

Tasbirdar: picture-maker.

Thakurdwara: a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu or one of his incarnations.

Tirni: the grazing tax.

Toshakhana: the royal treasury.

Tuladan: a ritual of giving alms, in this ritual, the person giving alms is made to sit on one pan of a weighing balance and on the other pan, food-stuff, clothes, metal etc of equivalent weight are placed. The astrologers hold that the ritual of giving alms in this manner is beneficial for removing all obstacles.

Udasi Akharas: a religious establishment of the udasi order.

Udasi Deras: dera denotes a shrine raised over the cremation site of a deceased person.

Udasi Sect: a sect within the Sikh community established by Guru Nanak Dev's elder son Baba Shri Chand whose claim for guru gaddi was rejected by Guru Nanak.

Ulama: plural of 'alim’ the learned; on the doctrine of Islamic Law and theology.

Vakil: an agent or a deputy; an envoy, also denoted to a high officer or an administrator.

Waguzar: exempted from payment of revenue.

Waqf: land grant made for the maintenance of a religious shrine; trust for religious purpose, Auqaf is the plural of waqf.

Wazifa: subsistence allowance in cash.
Zamindar: literally, possessor of the land; a peasant proprietor also, the holder of a right over a certain share in the produce from land, and as such, also called intermediately zamindar.

Zila: used loosely for an administrative unit; used indifferently for a ta'alluqa and its sub-divisions under Sikh rule.