

GLOSSARY

Aalan	These three pastorals are elegies composed by an unknown Motisar poet in the memory of his patron named Aalan, the son of Ajmal Nathu, who was a charan. Motisar is a community that depended upon the charan patrons and is also regarded as a bard community of a class lower than the charans.
Aaryavart	The region between Himalaya and Vindhya mountains where the Aryans are said to have first settled in the Indian subcontinent and which later came to be known as Bharat and subsequently as India.
Aashaadhee	Of Ashaadh, the first month of the southwest monsoon in western India. The ninth month of the Vikram calendar year.
Aaso	(San. Ashvin): The fourth month of the southwest monsoon in western India. The last month of the Vikram calendar year.
Acre	A unit to measure land, approximately 4050 sq. meters.
Ahir	An ancient virile community (or one belonging to it) of cattle-breeders and farmers said to have come to Saurashtra as AABHIRs in the company of Lord Krishna from Brij.
Akbar	An emperor during the Mogul period of the Indian history known for his liberal views, aesthetic tastes and religious tolerance.
Ambala and Ramdhari	Villages near Bhavnagar in Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
Aniruddha	A grandson of Krishna. He was so extremely handsome a youth that he is regarded as a symbol of male beauty.

(equivalent of Adonis).

Apabhransha	Simplified version of any of the Prakrit dialects.
Arati	Encomium, a Hindu prayer pledging one's devotion and re-dedication to the Divine in recognition of His gift of life.
Ashaadh	The ninth lunar month of Vikram calendar. First month of the monsoon season.
Asopalav	A tree with the leaves that are used for making festoons for auspicious occasions.
Ata-bhai	Vakhatsinh, the king of Bhavnagar in the middle of the nineteenth century.
Auspicious days	Seventh of the month of Shravan is Shitala Saatam and the eighth is Krishna's birthday.
-Ba (Baa)	Literally the word means mother in address form. Among rajpoots, every female name carries the suffix -ba.
Balev	The full moon day of the month of Shraavan, the tenth month of Vikram calendar year.
Bawa (Baawaa)	A recluse, an ascetic, mostly living at a roadside shrine and on alms offered by people.
Begam (Begum)	Indian Muslim lady of high rank.
Ben	Short form of 'Bahen', literally meaning a sister. It is added as a suffix to address elder or unacquainted women.
Bhaa	A suffix to add respect to the male names of Raajpoot or Kathi communities.
Bhaabhee (Bhabhee)	Wife of one's brother.

Bhaadaravaa	(Sans. Bhadrapada): The third month of the southwest monsoon in western India. The eleventh month of the Vikram calendar year.
Bhaageerathee	Another name of river Ganga (the Ganges), which is regarded sacred as an ideal of motherhood and as a Goddess by the Hindus. Originating in the Himalayas and flowing across the northwestern India all the way to the eastern central India, the Ganga and the tributaries take many different names. King Bhagirath is believed to have propitiated for many years to please Lord Shiv to allow Ganga to descend to the earth to redeem his clan destroyed by a sage's bane. Ganga obliged Bhagirath and hence the name Bhagirathi.
Bhaanchaliyaa	A sub-clan of the charan clan.
Bhagirath	King Bhagirath, a descendent of Sagar. Bhagirath's austerities induced Shiv to allow Ganga to descend to the earth to soak and sanctify the ashes of Sagar's sons, who had been earlier consumed by the curse of an angered sage named Kapil.
Bhai	A brother (lit.) Also used as a suffix to male names for giving more respect.
Bhajan(s)	Hymns or paeans composed in simple folk-tongue mostly by saint poets extolling propriety and the essence of the divine preaching.
Bhajaniks	Bhajan singer(s).
Bhajnik(s)	Bhajan singer(s). A Bhajan is a hymn or a paean composed in simple folk-tongue mostly by saint poets extolling propriety and the essence of the divine preaching.

Bharatharee	The folk version of the name Bhartruhari.
Bhawaai	A genre of folk drama.
Bheel	A forest tribe.
Bherav	The highest peak of mount Girnar near Junagadh in Sorath region of Saurashtra.
Brahmin (Braahman)	In the ancient times, Hindu society was divided in four classes. The foremost of the four was the Brahmin class made up of the priestly community engaged in academic activities.
British Agency	(Also referred to as the Agency). The British administration in India formally assumed sovereign rights over the feudal kingdoms of Saurashtra and established its headquarters at Rajkot in 1820. The administrative branch that exercised this authority was known as the British Agency and its head as the Agent.
Cartography	Cartography pertains to the process of creating maps or visual depictions of physical or conceptual spaces. The analysis of recent Nordic fiction's cartographies involves an examination of the literature's unique depictions, structures, and conceptualizations of space.
Chaitra	The second month of the summer. The sixth month of the Vikram calendar year.
Chakwaa Chakrawaak (Sans.)	(Guj); Ruddy Goose or sheldrake. In literature, the word is also used as a symbol of the eternal yearning of lovers.
Chamunda	An emanation of Goddess Durga.
Chandee	Durga, The Fierce form of The Goddess Supreme, 'The Inaccessible', believed to be the wife of Shiva. She is

known by many names according to the form she takes.

Charan

A community (or one belonging to it) of deviputras (born of Goddess Supreme) believed to have originated in the Himalayan mountainous range, In ancient times charans composed, sang and recited paeans in the praise of the Divine but later took to composing odes and poems of love and nobility. Finally, they took to extolling the virtues of the feudal overlords who patronized and maintained them. Charans spread out to central India, Kuchchh, Saurashtra and Sindh and also accepted other professions like cattle raising or clerically maintaining family-tree records of the ruling clans. Charans were the acknowledged guardians of values and ethics.

Charanamrit

Lit. the ambrosia that has washed the Divine feet. The Lord's icon is washed with water, and spoonful of the sanctified liquid is then offered to His devotees. It is believed to purify those who sip it.

Chittod

A city in the present day province of Rajasthan. Some maintain that the mother and the child shifted to Jamnagar (in Saurashtra), and not to Chittod. (In one of the following Duhas, Pithash is addressed as Chitroda, i.e., a resident of Chitroda. In Kuchchh region there exists a town named Chitrod. A matter for researchers: Ed.)

Choondadee

(Hindi Chunari): A red or orange-coloured polka-dotted sash used by young women for draping over the bosom over other garments.

Chopaat

An indoor game to be played with wooden pieces, which are moved on a checkered cloth according to the dice which are made of seven seashells.

Choraa	An elevated three walled roofed hall in the center of every village and town where the residents gathered for an evening prayer or a palaver or to relax or parley and where a wayfarer could put up for the night. An icon of Lord Ram in a corner is an integral part of every chora.
Cultural aspects	Cultural aspects relating to the beliefs, customs, and practices of a particular group or society.
-da	A suffix to a male name to indicate intimacy or familiarity.
Daama Kund	A kund is a large square-shaped watertank with steps leading down to the surface of the water. Dama kund is named after Damodar, a form of Lord Krishna, and is situated in the foothill of mount Girnar near Junagadh where people come to pilgrimage or to immerse the bones of the dead and cremated, a ritual for the salvation of the soul.
Daas	A servant (lit), a devotee. Also used as a suffix to a male name to attribute respect, e.g. Mohan-das Gandhi.
Daatan	A snipped branch of a shrub used for daily morning cleaning of teeth. At first its one end is chewed to prepare a soft brush, which is then used for cleaning the teeth. The stick is then vertically split, and two halves are used for scraping the bile on the surface of the tongue.
-De	A suffix to a female name to enhance respect. A short form of devi, literally meaning a Goddess.
Der	Husband's younger brother.
Dialectical tendency	The inclination of opposing forces or concepts to coexist and interact, leading to new creative possibilities in writing and reading.

Dingal	A phonetic Charani mode of rendering poetry.
Diwalee (Diwali)	The last day of the southwest monsoon and of the Vikram calendar year, it is also the festival of lights marking the victory of the righteous over the evil.
Duha	A heroic verse, usually a couplet containing four ictus. Compact, meaningful and full of ascending and descending rhymes, it is the most popular form of folk lyric in Saurashtra and Kuchchh regions. In variation, they also contain three, four or six lines.
Durga	The Fierce form of The Goddess Supreme. The Inaccessible, believed to be the wife of Shiva. She is known by many names according to the form she takes.
Dwaraka	The city earlier known as Dwaravati (City of gates) in the Epic age, believed to have been the capital of Krishna's kingdom. It is said to have been submerged by the ocean seven days after His departure from the mortal world. Present town of Dwaraka is situated on the western tip of the Gujarat coast of the Arabian sea.
Ek-taaro	A handmade single-stringed folk-instrument, mainly used as a drone accompanying bhajans.
Faag	Gleeful catches, amorous folk ditties, at times suggestively obscene, full of fun and frolic, exchanged during the spring festivities, especially Holi.
Faagan	(Sans. Falgun): The first month of summer associated with the advent of spring. The fifth month of Vikram calendar year.
Faujdaar	A rank equivalent to army sergeant.

Firelocks	Flintlock rifles. A musket gun having a lock in which the priming is ignited by sparks struck from flint and steel.
Fozdaar	A police sub-inspector.
Gaaikwaad	A dynasty of rulers of the kingdom of Vadodara.
Gadhavee (Gadhavi)	The governor of a fort (lit.) Charans were earlier known as Gadhavis.
Ganga Jamni Wires	Gold and silver fibres.
Garaasiyaa	The tradition of Raajpoot clan required that the eldest son of a king inherited the kingdom while the younger sons inherited only small parts of the estate. These small landholders and their descendants were Rajputs (meaning the sons of the soil) and not Raajpoots (meaning the son of the royalty). The former (Rajputs) came to be known as GARASIYAs (meaning landholders). Thus Garasiya is a community of annuity-holders. In the era of princedoms and fiefdoms in Saurashtra and Gujarat regions, men belonging to this community protected a king's village or town in return of a right to collect agricultural tax.
Garabaa-pots	Garaba dance is a female folk dance. The dancing women carry on their heads perforated earthen water-casks inside which oil-lamps are lit.
Geer	A forest sanctuary in the southwestern part of Saurashtra. Abode of the Indian lion.
Geocriticism	It is a theoretical framework that analyses the relationship between literature and the physical environments or geographies it portrays.
Ghee	Boiled and clarified butter.

Gohil	A sub-clan of the Rajpoot clan.
Gopi(s)	Amorous playmates of Krishna.
Gujarat	A province western coast of the central India.
Guru	A spiritual teacher and a revered mentor.
Hanumaan	In the epic of Ramayana, an extremely loyal and earnest devotee of Rama. He hailed from the family of primates. He is said to have been sired by Vayu, the Wind-God, and is worshipped as a symbol of celibacy.
Har or Hari	Another name of Lord Shiva, mostly used while chanting.
Hindutva	Being a Hindu.
Holi	A festival heralding the advent of the spring and completion of harvest when folks rejoice with abandon smearing one another with colors. In the mythology, Prahlad, a devout believer, was protected by God from being burnt alive by a tyrant atheist on this day.
Hothal	The heroine of a folk love-legend titled <i>HOTHAL</i> included in this volume.
Howdaah	Canopied seat on the back of an elephant for the rider.
Hukka	A tobacco smoking waterpipe, also known as hubble-bubble. The tobacco fumes pass through water before they are inhaled.
Id	A Muslim festival of rejoicing.
Imaginary construction	The term "imaginary construction" relates to the portrayal of the North and the Nordic, which are frequently conceived beyond the geographical boundaries of the region. Nevertheless, such depictions incorporate common

perceptions and encounters with the locality.

Imaginative Geographies	The term "Imaginative Geographies" pertains to the cognitive and abstract cartography that writers construct in their literary compositions. The concept pertains to the hypothetical domains, topographies, and environments that are present within the imaginative sphere of Nordic literary works.
Indra	God of the Gods, who regulates the element of rain.
Interpretative frameworks	The lenses or perspectives through which readers interpret and make sense of narratives and spatial representations.
Jaahnavee	Another mythological name of the Ganga derived from the name of sage Jahnu, who drank up the river because its passage disturbed his devotions. Later he relented and let the stream exit through his ears and hence the Ganga was called Jahnavi, the daughter of Jahnu.
Jaambu	(Jamun in Hindi): A juicy berry fruit of grape family, dark in color and of acidic sweet taste.
Jadu	Yadav clan of ancient times to which Krishna belonged.
Jagdamba	Supreme Mother Goddess of the Hindus. The source of the universe.
Jamaadaar	A police head constable.
Jamuna	The river Yamuna in northern India.
Janoi	A sacred twine worn across the neck by all Brahmins. Yajnopavit is a ritual every Brahmin child undergoes when being initiated for a career of learning and as life dedicated to academic activity. During the ritual, the child is given looped twine of nine plies. The plies indicate nine sermons:

to revere one's father and teacher; to speak truth, to behave oneself and to be diligent in studies; to integrate thoughts and translate them into speech and action. The twine is supposed to be a constant reminder of the need to give, to dedicate oneself.

Jantar	The folk-instrument described in the text.
Jat	A Muslim community. (Not to be confused with Jaat, a raajpoot sub-clan)
Jawaar	A smaller variety of grains similar to corn.
Jee	A suffix to a name indicating reverence, e.g. Gandhi-jee.
Jeshrikarshan (Jeshreekarshan)	Colloquial form of Jai Shri Krishna; Victory to Lord Krishna. A greeting phrase.
Jeth	The last month of summer. The eighth month of the Vikram calendar year.
Jivan; Jivandas	An inspired saint poet of Saurashtra in the nineteenth century, popularly known as Dasi Jivan, was a hideskinner cum tanner by profession. He was an ardent devotee of Krishna and had composed many folk-hymns eulogizing the love of Gopi(s) for the Lord.
Jogeedaas	Jogidas Khuman, A legendary outlaw in the kingdom of Bhavnagar during the first half of the 19 th century.
Jogmaya	Goddess Durga, the Divine power behind the creation of the universe.
Kaartak; (Sans. Kartik)	The first month of the winter and of the Vikram calendar year.
Kaathee	A community (or one belonging to it) of warriors and

landholders, a section of which worships the sun, originated in Sindh and after the ninth century AD came into Kuchchh and then conquered Saurashtra region that later came to be known as Kathiyawad.

Kaathiyawaad

A peninsula of hoary antiquity on the westernmost shores of India, presently known as the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. After the ninth century AD, Kathi clans migrated from Sindh and Kuchchh and occupied the peninsula, and hence the name.

Kalaam

Islamic religious verse.

Kalaapee

(Lit. a peacock) The pen-name of Sursinh Gohil, a romantic Gujarati poet who was a prince of the kingdom of Lathee in the erstwhile Kathiyawaad region during the first quarter of the 20th century. He died at a young age.

Kaliyuga

According to the Vedas, the lifespan of the universe is divided into four yugas or ages: Dwapar, Treta and Kali, Kaliyuga, the present age of the universe during which the evil is forecast to have an upper hand, is believed to have commenced in 3102BC and to last 432,000 years.

Karen

Oleander. A wild flowering plant (or its flower).

Karma

Destiny. The consequences of one's deed.

Kashyap

One of the seven great sages (rishis) of the Vedic Age, he was believed to be the son of Brahma, the Creator. The task of creation is attributed to sage Kashyap.

Kathi

A community (or one belonging to it) of warriors and landholders, a section of which worship the sun, originated in Sindh and after the ninth century AD came into Kuchchh and then conquered Saurashtra region that later came to be

known as Kathiyawad.

Kesudaa	<i>Butea frondosa</i> , a tree of saffron colored flowers, or the flowers. The tree blossoms in the spring and the willowy flowers and their color are identified with the surging romantic joy during the spring.
Khaakharaa	A tree bearing spring blossoms of Kesu(da) flowers.
Khamma	An expression equivalent to 'Bless you!', used for wishing someone well, mostly used by mothers for their children, by the weak and the meek for the strong Samaritans.
Koli	Then a community of peasants and poachers.
Koree (Kori)	A silver coin then in use in Kuchchh region, equivalent to one third of a rupee.
Krishna	The eighth incarnation of Vishnu, One of the Trinity of Hindu religion, probably in the Epic age. The Enunciator of Geeta, a philosophical exposition of birth, existence and death, in the epic Mahabharat.
Kshatriya	One of the four social classes (or one belonging to it) during the ancient era, dutifully bound to protect the people. Ruler and warrior class (or one belonging to it).
Kuchchh	A dry, arid, marshy part of Gujarat situated between Saurashtra and Sindh province of Pakistan.
Kunj	A bird of the crane family.
Kunpada	The name of the minstrel who composed the ode.
Lakshman	In the epic Raamaayana, the loyal and virtuous younger brother of Rama is legendarily known for his reverence for women and for his devotion to his elder brother.

Late modernity	It relates to the present-day period distinguished by post-industrial societies, globalization, individualization, and the decline of conventional social structures.
Literary cartography	Literary cartography refers to the technique of delineating and illustrating the geographical and spatial aspects of literary works, with a focus on the dynamic relationship between narrative and spatiality.
Maagshar	The second month of the winter and of the Vikram calendar year.
Maarwaad	A region in Central India.
Maha	(Magh): Last month of the winter and of Vikram calendar year.
Mahu	<i>Bassia latifolia</i> , Mowra tree. Its fruit is an ingredient for the home-distilled liquor.
Makarani (Makaraanee)	Of Makaran, the frontier region in the northwest of Sindh province (now in Pakistan). Warrior tribesmen from Makaran region.
Mallaa (Mallaa)	(Coll. From Mullah) A man of Vohra community.
Mandakini (Mandaakinee)	The arm of the river Ganga that flows through the sacred shrine of Kedarnath.
Mangada the Ghost	The bridegroom who died fighting marauders and became a ghost in the legend titled <i>GHASTLY WAILED A GHOST</i> included in this volume.
Mantra	The portion of Veda that consists of hymns. The word also indicates a set of blessed divine words assigned by a Guru, by chanting or incantation of which a devotee's ardent wish

is realized.

Mapping narratives	The act of using narratives as a means to represent and explore the real and imagined spaces of human experience.
Maps of the Imagination	Maps of the Imagination refers to Peter Turchi's guide to creative writing, which explores how organizing information on maps can provide new perspectives and inspire further exploration and questioning.
Meendh	An uninterrupted drone of merging notes evoked by gliding the finger along the scale after the chord is struck.
Meer	A Muslim community (or one belonging to it) professionally folk-story-tellers and bards, similar to charans. They claim to be the descendents of Tansen, the great musician and one of the nine jewels in the court of emperor Akbar.
Mengal	Lit. Elephant; a breed of buffalo (col.)
Mer	A person-warrior community (or one belonging to it). The community of the mers is believed to have originated from Kush, one of the two sons of Lord Ram. Most of the mers lived in Barada and Ghed sub-regions of Sorath district in Saurashtra.
Mother Goddess	The Divine manifestation of the vital force behind aal creation.
Motisar	A community (or one belonging to it) that mostly depended upon charan patrons and regarded as a bard community though to a lesser extent than charan.
Mount Udayachal	The imaginary mountain from behind which the sun is believed to be rising.

Mullaah	A Muslim priest learned in Islamic theology and its sacred law.
Multani (Multanee)	Of Multan, a city on the bank of river Jhelum, midway between Sindh and Punjab (now in Pakistan). Here, warrior tribesmen of Multan region.
Naag	Literally, snake, especially the cobra-capella. In Hindu mythology, a race of semi-divine beings with human face, the tail of a serpent and the expanded neck of the cobra. They are believed to have lived in the neither world.
Nagher	A sub-region near the southwest coast of Saurashtra.
Narratives as mapping machines	It is used for viewing narratives as devices or methods that facilitate the mapping of spaces and experiences.
Natureculture	The term "Natureculture" was introduced by Donna Haraway to describe the interconnected and combined characteristics of entities and organisms that are conventionally classified as either "natural" or "cultural." The concept highlights the interdependence between the natural environment and human society.
Nightly Ventures	Chitara was an unruly character. In absence of a system of law and order, the region abounded with highhanded characters that made their living by thefts, robberies etc. Nightly venture meant an outing for the night for this kind of an errand.
Nordic literature	Nordic literature pertains to the corpus of literary compositions originating from the Nordic region, encompassing Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland.
Nordic Noir	A genre of crime fiction that originated in the Nordic

countries, often characterized by its dark and gritty themes, atmospheric settings, and social critique.

Pandava (Paandava)	Lit. The descendants of king Pandu in the epic Mahabharat. They ended their lives by proceeding to oblivion in the Himalayas.
Parkar (Paarkar)	The desert region named Tharpakar, now in Sindh province of Pakistan.
Parvati (Paarvatee)	(Lit. The Mountaineer) The wife of Shiva, the Great Goddess mentioned in the epic Mahaabhaarat under many different names, each depending upon the form of power that she manifested in each situation.
Patan (Paatan)	There were several cities named Patan during the period of the event. This one must have been located somewhere near Ghoomali.
Pachhedi	A thick denim sheet always carried on the shoulder by menfolk. It serves in different ways, as a towel, a bedsheet, a headrest etc.
Padma-Purana	Second of the eighteen Puranas. It contains 55,000 stanzaz giving an account of the age known as the golden lotus age.
Padminee	A woman of the first of the four classes into which writers on ancient Indian erotic science divided women. (Lit. An assemblage of lotuses.)
Padmini	(Lit. An assemblage of lotuses). A woman of the first of the four classes into which the scholars of ancient erotic science categorized women. An extremely beautiful and highly virtuous woman.
Palav	Sari's one end that hangs loose in front.

Palm-marks	A widow planning to commit a suttee act (self-immolation in the pyre of her dead husband) ritually smeared vermilion on her palms and stamped them on a stone that would be later worshipped as her headstone.
Parajiyaa	Orthodox.
Patel	(Lit. a landowning farmer). In practice, a farmer is addressed or referred to as Patel.
Pathan (Pathaan)	A tribesman (or the tribe) of Pakhtoonistan in the northwestern subcontinent (now in Pakistan).
Peer	An enshrined holy man believed to have Divine powers. Muslims as well as Hindus revere, worship and propitiate Him though during His lifetime He might have adhered to either faith.
Pir	An enshrined holy man believed to have Divine powers. Muslims as well as Hindus revere, worship and propitiate Him though during His lifetime He might have adhered to either faith.
Player of the Flute	Krishna
Political aspects	Political aspects pertain to matters concerning authority, administration, or regulations within a societal framework.
Polytop	The term "Polytop" was introduced by Bertrand Westphal to describe a multifaceted concept of space that encompasses both coherence and heterogeneity. The framework presented provides a means of comprehending both historical and present-day space-time phenomena.
Pooja	The act of worshipping.

Porasaa's Duhas	The folk-verses (about the charan shepherd losing his wife in a river flood near a village owned by Porasa Wala) unearthed by the author during his research. A legend (titled <i>A RUBY SHATTERED</i>) based on these verses and composed by the author is included in this volume.
Posh	The third month of the winter and of the Vikram calendar year.
Prabandha	A study of the compilation of history and legends in poetical form, esp. in Jain religion.
Prakrit	Any of the dialects of northern and central India anciently existing alongside, or derived from Sanskrit.
Puranas	Eighteen collections of sacred Sanskrit poems of Hindu mythology.
Raajpootana	A part of the central Indian state of Rajasthan.
Raakhee	Symbolic twine tied on certain auspicious occasions by a well-wisher around one's wrist as a protection against evil forces. (Rakhi is mainly associated with a sister's love and concern for her brother, but the symbolic ritual is not limited to a sister-brother relationship alone.)
Raam	Seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, a human manifestation of the ideal qualities a human being should aspire.
Raamachandra-jee	A reverential form of Rama, the protagonist of Ramayana, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, a human manifestation of all the ideal qualities a human being should aspire for.
Raam-Raam	Greetings commonly used in Saurashtra region of Gujarat while meeting or parting.

Raandal-maa; Rannaa-de	(Sans. Randala): The Goddess invoked before beginning a wedding ceremony by lighting earthen oil-lamps and by planting barley seeds in an earthen pot for sprouting during the days of the ritual of marriage. She is symbolic of the regeneration of life, fertility.
Raaval	A community (or its member) of those maintaining lists of dynasties or genealogies.
Rabaaree	One of the shepherd communities, or one belonging to it.
Radha	A symbolic female manifestation of Krishna's beloved.
Rajpoot	A soldier community (or one belonging to it) of kshatriya class. In Saurashtra region they were mainly mercenary warriors and, therefore, farming landholders, landlords and consequently the rulers.
Ras	A folk-dance in which men and women singing a choral folksong revolve around a drummer, who keeps raising the tempo leading the dancers to a frenzied ecstatic climax.
Ravaaj	A string instrument, also known as RABAAB.
Real and imaginary places	It refers to both tangible, physical locations and fictional or imagined spaces depicted in narratives.
Rig-Veda	The oldest of the four most ancient Hindu scriptures, collections of hymns.
Roja	Muslim religious fasting.
Saaras	Indian crane.
Saraswati	The goddess of wisdom and learning.
Saurashtra	A peninsula of hoary antiquity on the westernmost shores

of India.

Saurashtra-nee Rasdhar	Five volumes of Gujarati short stories based on the folklore of Saurashtra. The source of this series.
Seemant	The Sanskrit source word is Simmantonayam. A ceremony performed at the husband's home for a woman in the fourth, sixth or eighth month of pregnancy.
Seeta	In the epic of Ramayana, the virtuous wife of Rama. An ideal of womanhood according to Hindu mythology.
Shaadul	(Coll.) From shardool (Sanskrit), a tiger.
Shankar	Same as SHIV, SHIVA.
Shehnaai	A wind instrument of the family of trumpets and clarinets, but with holes, like those on a flute, instead of buttons. It is played on auspicious occasions like weddings, inaugurations, welcome ceremonies etc. Its strains are symbolic of divination and joy and believed to purify the air.
Shenee-Vijaanand	A famous love-legend of Saurashtra. (The balladic folk rendering titled A Maiden Love included in A Ruby Shattered, the third volume of this series.)
Shenee-Vijaanand	The heroine and the hero of a love legend titled A MAIDEN LOVE included in this volume.
Sheshnaag	Hindu mythology regards the concept of mammoth Reptile as the mainstay supporting the world. According to the books, at the end of every lifespan of the world, the Super Cobra living in the nether world belches venomous fire that destroys the Creation. He is also called Anant or 'The Endless', a symbol of timelessness.

Sheth	(Lit. A rich man). In practice a form of address for or reference to a man of the trading community.
Shetrunjaa	Colloquial form of mount Shatrunjay situated near the town of Palitana in southeast Saurashtra.
Shiv or Shiva	The third Member of Hindu Divine Trinity; the Destroyer. The supreme God of the Hindus. He is without a beginning, a middle or an end; He is the One, the pervading, the spiritual and blessed, the wonderful. He is undecaying and self-resplendent. He is breath and spirit. He is all that hath been or that shall be, The Eternal.
Shiva-ratri	The night of the fourteenth day of the dark half of Maha (Sanskrit. Magh), the fourth month of Vikram calendar year. Also, see SHIVA.
Shiv-linga	The icon of Shiv in phallic form symbolizing the regenerative role of Shiv.
shloka	A couplet verse in Sanskrit poetry.
Shraaddha	In Bhadrapada, the eleventh month of the Vikram calendar year, during the sixteen days of shraaddha ceremony, feasts are offered to the dead ancestors.
Shraavan	The second month of the southwest monsoon in western India. The tenth month of the Vikram calendar year.
Shreemad Bhaagawad	One of the eighteen puranas in Sanskrit, collections of sacred poems of Hindu mythology.
Siddharaaj Jaisinh	King of Gujarat in the twelfth century AD.
Sindoor	A brightly red colored powder finely ground from a tree bark. When used as an anointing salve, it is a symbol of the auspicious. A sindoor smudge on the sinciput by a woman

indicates her married status.

Social aspects	This term pertains to matters that are associated with society or interactions among individuals within a social context.
Sorath	The southwestern part of Saurashtra, the western peninsular Gujarat. The region encompassing the Geer Forest, the abode of the Asian lion and mount Girnar.
Sorathaa	A metrical variation of duha.
Spatial	Relating to space or physical dimensions.
Spatial practice	Spatial practice pertains to the manners in which individuals and collectives comprehend, traverse, and engage with tangible and intangible environments. Within the realm of literature, the concept pertains to the manner in which authors depict and interact with spatial elements in their literary compositions.
Spatial relations	Spatial relations refer to the interconnections and interactions among entities or objects within a given space, which play a crucial role in shaping and defining the spatial characteristics and features of that particular area.
Spatial strategies	Approaches or techniques related to the use of space.
Spatial turn	Spatial turn refers to a shift or increased focus on the relationships between space, place, mapping, and literature within the arts, humanities, and social sciences.
Spatiality	Spatiality refers to the attribute or property of being associated with space or exhibiting spatial characteristics.
Spatiotemporal context	The combination of spatial and temporal elements that provide a framework for understanding and interpreting

narratives and spatial representations.

Squire	(Lit. An elder person). Aapaa, a man of high stature or age.
Storied spaces	Storied space refers to spaces that are imbued with narrative significance, carrying cultural, historical, or symbolic meanings within a literary work or a broader cultural context.
Talaatee	Village Revenue Collector.
Tamaachee Sumaraa	A folk-poet, whose pastorals about the yearnings or parted lovers composed in the scheme of six lined duhas are widely popular in various parts of Saurashtra and Kuchchh regions of Gujarat.
Temporal	Relating to time or the passage of time.
Territorial specificity	It refers to the distinct features and attributes that are linked to a specific geographical region, with a focus on the interplay between space, literature, and culture.
Thar	A desert area in Sindh province, now in Pakistan.
Tola	A unit of small weight. 11.66 grams.
Tulsi	A plant (Holy Basil) grown in the frontyard of a Hindu home. Apart from worshipping it as a Mother Goddess, it is nurtured for its herbal value as well as an air-purifier.
Turee	A Muslim community in Gujarat, or one belonging to it. Its members use a wind instrument named Turai and also practice folk-story-telling.
Unity of opposites	The resolution or synthesis of contrasting elements or concepts, as proposed by Hegelian dialectics.

Vaagad	A border region in Gujarat.
Varanasi (Vaaraanasee)	Another mythological name of the river Ganga. The confluence of the rivers Varun and Asi generated the stream of the Ganga. Thus, Varun + Asi = Varanasi.
Vaitaraneer	Lit. '(The river) to be crossed'. The river of hell to be crossed by the dead before able to enter the infernal regions.
Vajesang	A colloquialism of Vajrasinh, the name of the then king of Bhavnagar.
Vajra	The thunderbolt of Lord Indra. When used in literature, the word signifies tenacity.
Vajsoor Wala (Vaajsoor Waalaa)	During the early part of the 20 th century, a well-educated, enlightened and reformist vassal in the erstwhile Kathiyaawaad region now known as Saurashtra.
Vanniya	(Bania in Hindi): A community (or one belonging to it) of traders, shopkeepers and moneylenders mostly following Jain religion.
Vashiyaang	Visal's son, who was an infant in a cradle at the time. Many years hence the shepherdess's curse came true. Vashiyang grew up, went to the city of Amadavad and smack in the heart of the market place he impaled the telltale with a spear and killed him.
Vasuki	The king of the snake community.
Vedas	Most ancient Hindu scriptures, collections of hymns.
Veeghaa	(Bigha in Hindi): A unit for measuring farmland, a little more than half an acre; 1815 square yards.

Vindhyaachal	The mountain range topographically dividing the Indian subcontinent in the northern and southern regions.
Vishnu	One of the Trinity of Hindu God Shiva. The One Who sustains the universe.
Vraj (Brij in Hindi)	A region in northern India where Krishna was born and brought up.
Vrindavan	A forest in the district of Mathura (U.P.) where Krishna grew up.
Waalaa	The clan of kathis is divided in three sub-clans: Khuman, Khachar and Wala.
Yagna, Yajna	A ritual of sacrifice in Fire to appease Gods. Rama had conducted Ashvamedh Yajna, a sacrificial horse was sent around the world to claim the territories he traversed. When the horse returned, during the ritual, an icon of Seeta had to be set next to Rama because she was not available at the site.
Yellow	Just before the wedding, the back and the shoulders of the bride and the bridegroom are smeared with fragrant yellow oily turmeric paste, which stains their clothing.