

Author's Forward

1. Place Names

पूर्णिया –District in the northeastern corner of Bihar, bordering on West Bengal and Bangladesh in the east and Nepal in the north.

संथाल परगना--The Santhal Pargana. A pargana is an administrative subdivision of a district. The Santhal Pargana is so named because of the large number of Santhal tribal people living there.

मिथिला--Mithila is the area to the east of Purnea district. It is bounded on the north by the Himalaya, on the south by the Ganga, on the west by the river Gandak and on the east by the river Kosi. It includes the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, as well as the strip of the Nepal Tarai to the north of these districts. Mithila was the area of the kingdom of Raja Janaka in the Ramayana. It is the central area of the Maithili dialect—the only dialect of Bihar with a literary history (which includes the poet Vidyapati). In Maila Anchal, most of the songs are in Maithili, and the speech of certain villagers is made to imitate some of the features of Maithili.

2. Glossary

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| मैला | Adj. | dirty, dusty soiled |
| आंचल | m | a) border of a garment; in particular the end of the sari which covers the upper part of a woman's body b) region |
| आंचलिक | Adj. | regional |
| उपन्यास | m | novel |
| विभिन्न | Adj. | different, various |
| सीमा-रेखा | f | border-line, boundary |
| बनावट | f | construction, structure |
| मुकम्मल | Adj. | complete |
| पिछड़ा | Adj. | backward |
| प्रतीक | m | symbol |
| कथा-क्षेत्र | m | narrative field |
| शूल | m | thorn |
| छान्दन | m | sandalwood |
| कीचड | m | mud, mire, ooze |
| कुरूपता | f | ugliness |
| दामन | m | the skirt of a garment |
| X से दामन बचाना | | Idiom meaning "to save the honor of X" (दामन is a woman's scarf worn across the bosom) |
| दहलीज | f | threshold |

Maila Anchal: Glossary and Notes to the Forward

निष्ठा f loyalty, devotion