

Glossary

amavasya: the new moon . ?

arati: act of greeting, by weaving lamp(s), fan, singing etc in front of the deity

ashan; a place for sitting or placing , seat

asryam: hermitage

ashram

astami: the eighth day of the either fortnight of a lunar month ; eighth

goddess

astadashabhujā : usually the deity with eighteen hands

bahir: outer

Bangabda. The Bengali era (counted from 693 A.D.).

Bangiya: of Bengal; born or produced in Bengal; Bengali

bari: house or residence. It is used as a suffix to use a proper noun and mark as landmark. Example: Raj bari, Thakur bari (Tagores' House)

baro bhuiyan: twelve chieftains

bastra: cloth/ dress

batasha : a kind of convex sweet drop of sugar or molasses. Introduced as food offering to the god through Vaishnavism

bayat : initiation , oath of allegiance

ber : circumference

bhog : offered food to the deity

bhog ghar: the room where the food/ meal of the deity is prepared / kitchen of the deity house

(*mandir*)

boli khanra: a large falchion used in immolating animals

bon: jungle, wood

chadar : sheet or shawl / *ruza*

chatgiri : catafalque

chala : a Bengali hut with a curved thatched roof; the stylized curved vault simulating the hut roof; *bangla*

charchala: Bengali roof form with crossed curved ridges and curved eaves on a square or a rectangular plan

dana: donation, offering

dargah: Muslim shrine, seat of a Sufi master

dakshina: a fee or gift given to a priest or Brahmin or teacher

darwaza: gate way

desh: country/ land/ state/ province

diksha: an act which gives the rights to practice and follow the rites and rules of a denomination / an order / a sect of a religion

dochala: Bengali roof form with single curved ridges and curved side eaves and gabled ends, usually on a rectangular plan

ekaratna : a Ratna temple with a single upper shrine.

Farman : Mughal imperial order ?

falgun : 11th month of Bengali year

garbha

garva griha: temple sanctuary, 'womb house'

giti natya : play or theatre performed by singing and dancing

goli: narrow lane

ganj : large market where goods and granaries are stored, and sold at wholesale rates; is a centre where export and import business takes place on a large scale. It suggests the geographical location of the place. It is used as suffix and recognized as proper noun.

gurubhai: co-disciple, brother disciple

guru-bon - sister disciple
u - disciple (female)

hat: market, which held on, fixed days of a week or month. It is suffixed with another name to suggest the market of a place or people and becomes a name of the place (proper noun)

hujra : room

Idgah : *qibla* wall for prayer during id festival.

Jami masjid: congregational mosque where the Friday sermon and prayer are held

Jiol fish: fish which can survive without water or in nominal water for sometime. Such as *magur*, *koi*, *singi* (type of catfish, barbed fish)

Jumma masjid: Jami masjid , in abbreviation in Bengali

Jor bangle^a: double do-chala hut form

Karcha: written in verse of chronicle/ biography/journey etc. account book written in verse.

khana : room

kirtan – devotion songs of vaishnavite sects.

kobi: poet

Latina: a north Indian curvilinear superstructure

mandapa: columned temple hall

manat: a promise to offer a particular sacrifice to a deity on fulfillment of a prayer, a vow.

mandir : temple

masjid: mosque

mazhar : decree of infallibility

minar: minaret

mirhab: prayer niche indicating direction towards Mecca

mofussil :small town or subdivision town

mullah : Muslim priest

muttawalli : care taker

nagar : a city ; town;

nagar kirtan : act of singing devotional songs in procession through town or village

nakuldana: a kind of roundish toffee or sweet drop of sugar . Introduced as food offering through Vaishnavism

namaz: the canonical prayers Muslims perform five times a day.

nat mandir: a hall of entertainment , located across the courtyard , usually in front of sanctum

nava-ratna: a Ratna temple with nine miniature shrine forms above the sanctum : one in each corner, and one in the centre that supports four smaller ones above

nawab: Mughal provincial governor

nitya puja : *puja* of everyday

on-g & m : The supreme and most sacred syllable, consisting in Sanskrit of the three sounds (a), (u), and (g&m), representing various fundamental triads and believed to be the spoken essence of the universe. It is uttered as a mantra and in affirmations and blessings.

pally: a small area of human habitation. It is used as suffix to mark the community with caste / religious denomination and treated as proper noun

pandal: a temporary shed, esp. one used for public gathering

pancharatna: a Ratna temple with five miniature shrine forms above the sanctum: one in each corner and one in the centre.

para: a small area of human habitation containing cluster of house. Often it is suffixed with other word and recognized as name (proper noun) of a street or area in modern city

paribrajak: a traveller; a mendicant or wandering ascetic.

payra – pigeon,

pir: Spiritual Guide, a Muslim saint

peth: any one of the fifty one holy places where the parts of the body of Sati, daughter of Dakshya and wife of Siva were fallen.

pranam: act of pray/ worship/ reverence/ apology by lying prostrate or bending and touching 's feet

pranami: money offered after *pranam*

puja : The ritual of prayer and worship, addressed to favourite gods and goddess is popularly call *puja*. For an orthodox Hindu, the concept of *karma* stands for *puja*.

puri :a house/palace (example *Indra puri*, *Raj puri*) . Suggests a city (Iswar puri)

pujari: an employed/ assigned priest (*purohit*) to do day to day *puja* in the temple..

puṇnima : a full moon

purohit : Bramhim who does *puja* .

qibla : wall of prayer hall facing Mecca , west of the mosque

rekha deul : towered temple sanctuary

ratna : a double storied Bengali temple type , with additional structure creating bi-axial organization on the tower level.

sebayit: who cleans and does the regular maintenance of dargah

sadhu : Spiritual Guide in Hindu ?

satyagrahi : believers or followers or practitioner of *satyagrha* (a method of non-violent agitation devised by Mahatma Gandhi)

sashtanga pranam : act of *pranam* by touching the ground with one's eight limbs (namely thighs, feet, hands, chest, head, eyes, sight and speech/ tongue) lying at full length with the face of the ground.

samaj: community/ association/ society

samiti : association

sati: widows sacrificing themselves on the funeral pyre of their dead husband. In spoken Bengali it suggest a faithful, loyal wife intently devoted towards her husband, refers myth of Sati, daughter of Dahksha raj and wife of Siva

shikhara: curved temple tower

sindoor : vermillion red or red lid used for auspicious or religious rituals

subedar: the governor of *subha* (province)

sufi: mystic exponent of *tasawwuf* (mystical dimension of Islam)

thakur ghar: room of the god in the Bengali residential house. It is treated as a part of daily domestic activity. Whoever the deity would be woken up, given breakfast, bathe, lunch, dinner and so on.

tawiz: amulet

toron: decorated gate made for special purpose. It is used as a suffix. Vijay Toron is popularly known as Curzon gate till now.

Vaishnavites : followers of Vaishnavism

vighraha : an idol

zunnar : sacred thread

zamindar (s): landlords