**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

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

*astadashabhuja:* 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

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

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
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

Jiolfish: 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: 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 prostate 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.

purnima: 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.

sehayit: 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: vermilion 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

vigraha: an idol

zunnar: sacred thread

zamindar(s): landlords