GLOSSARY
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**Abhayamudra**
Gesture of protection. The hand showing this *mudra* should be slightly elevated and bent with the palm turned outward, the fingers being outstretched and elevated.

**Adya-Sakti**
Primordial energy conceived as a goddess.

**Agni**
Hindu god of fire.

**Aksamala**
String of beads made of a kind of dried fruit, known as *Rudraksa*, for repeating the name of a deity as many times as the number of beads.

**Alidha**
A posture of legs, as if a bow is charged with an arrow. The right leg is outstretched while the left is slightly bent. *Pratyalidha* is the reverse posture in which the left leg is outstretched while the right is slightly bent.

**Anjali Mudra**
A gesture of veneration in which the two hands are clasped against the chest, palm to palm, both of which are extended upward with all fingers erect or slightly bend.

**Anji**
Regarded as a *kala* or evolutes of Sakti often described as *vyapika-Sakti* or all-pervading energy. In Satcakranirupana it
Ankusa is often described as an alphabetical symbol.

- **Ankusa**: Elephant goad
- **Asana**: Posture, seat, pedestal. The term denotes a mystic or any attitude exhibited in the lower limbs. Asana of various kind, such as: *paryanka, lalita, bhadra, alidha*, etc.
- **Asura**: Demon
- **Avatara**: An incarnation of god.
- **Ayudha**: A weapon, a symbolical instrument peculiar to a deity.
- **Bali**: Sacrifice and offering to a deity.
- **Cakra**: Tantric circle, used in a variety of senses, symbolizing endless rotation of Sakti. In rituals there are different *cakra-sadhana* in which men and female aspirants assemble and perform the rites of *pancamakara*.
- **Catra**: Umbrella.
- **Dakini**: Dakinis are especially celebrated in Tantric Buddhism. In the *Naradapancaratra*, Dakini is described as a companion of Parvati and connected with the emergence of Cinnamonast. *Pranatosani Tantra* regarded Dakini as special form of Parasakti.
- **Danda**: Staff or mace.
- **Darpana**: Mirror
- **Dvibhanga**: Double bend of the body in standing posture
**Dhyana**
Meditation, which is concentration of mind on the chosen deity by controlling all the sense organs.

**Ghata**
Water pot, pitcher.

**Guru**
The preceptor or teachers who is the pivot of Tantric Sadhana. According to Kulamava Tantra, guru is one who dispels darkness.

**Hathayoga**
A form of physical exercise for making the body so disciplined as to serve all spiritual purpose.

**Hom**
Offering oblations into fire.

**Japa**
Taking within and muttering of the syllables in terms of the identity of guru, mantra and devata.

**Jata**
Matted locks

**Jatamukuta**
The crown of matted hair. The hair is tied up above the head in a way resembling a crown.

**Kankana**
A garland of pearls.

**Karandamukuta**
A crown without a pyramidal member.

**Katihastamudra**
In this posture one hand or both rest on the hip.

**Keyura**
Flat ornament used on the arm

**Khadga**
Sword.

**Khatvanga**
A sort of staff made up of bones with a human skull at the top.

**Kirtimukha**
The grinning lion face shown usually on the top centre of the stele.

**Kundala**
Ear-ring
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kundalini</td>
<td>The serpent power remaining latent in the Muladhara. It has two forms, dynamic and static.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalitsana</td>
<td>Sitting posture with ease in which one leg folded rest flat on the seat and the other hangs down gracefully from the seat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linga</td>
<td>Male generative organ worshipped in phallic symbols. Linga is the symbol of Siva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madya</td>
<td>Wine, various types of which are described in the Tantras. It is the first of the pancamakaras.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makara</td>
<td>Crocodile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandala</td>
<td>Tantric diagrams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mantra</td>
<td>Mystic hymns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudra</td>
<td>Pose, generally that of hands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsya</td>
<td>Fish, which is one of the pancamakaras. Symbolically matsya is described as that which destroys the fetters and leads to the way of salvation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maya</td>
<td>Illusion, false knowledge, material cause of creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudra</td>
<td>Posture of body, especially of hands, needed for yogic exercise and spiritual attainment. Mudra is also one of the pancamakaras. In Buddhist Tantras the terms mudra and mahamudra are used exclusively in the sense of woman and of her generative organ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundamala</td>
<td>Garland of skulls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navapatrika</td>
<td>Worship of a bundle of nine different plants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pancamakara
Theories and practice regarding madya (wine), mamsa (meat), matsya (fish), mudra (cereal, diagram), maithuna (sexual intercourse).

Pancharatha
A ground plan with five walls in each cardinal direction.

Pancharatna
A temple with five domes.

Pitha
Holy resort of Sakti, traditionally fifty-one in number. Their origin is associated with the Puranic Daksayajna legend. Each pitha is supposed to contain a limb of Sati, a presiding goddess and her Siva.

Prabhavali
Halo

Prakriti
Female principle of creation, variously conceived of as primordial matter of energy. Often identified with Sakti, the supreme being of the Saktas.

Preta
Ghost.

Puja
Worship, the ultimate purpose of which is unification with the deity.

Purascarana
Repeated recitation of mantras

Pustaka
Book or manuscript.

Sadhaka
Spiritual aspirant

Sadhana
Term of spiritual exercise.

Samabhanga
Straight standing posture without any bend of the body.

Samapadastanaka
Standing posture in which legs are firm or strong without any bent and two vertical halves of the symmetrically disposed of the palm line along the middle of the body corresponding to its vertical axis.
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<tr>
<td>Sankha</td>
<td>Conch shell, which can be blown to produce sound and used in rituals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silapatta</td>
<td>Stele, the backward flat stone-slab attached to an image.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunyata</td>
<td>The Buddhist idea of vacuity conceived in terms of the female principle.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It is also known as Prajna and symbolized in the form of different goddesses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The male principle is thought of as Karuna and Upaya.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Svayampradhanamurti</td>
<td>Image depicted alone and not in a group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribhanga</td>
<td>A standing posture with the body bent in three different axes - at the neck,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>waist and the knees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trisula</td>
<td>Trident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vahana</td>
<td>Vehicle or the mount of god or goddess.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vajra</td>
<td>Thunderbolt. A weapon frequently found in the hands Tantric icons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vajrayana</td>
<td>A form of Tantric Buddhism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varada</td>
<td>Hand pose in the form of granting boon, right hand raised upwards with palm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bent downwards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vidyadhara</td>
<td>A class of demi-gods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yajna</td>
<td>Sacrifice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yoni</td>
<td>Female generative organ.</td>
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