

GLOSSARY OF INDIAN WORDS

- Acharya : Teacher ; professor, preceptor.
- Adesh : Command ; 'inspiration'.
- Adhibeshan : Proceedings ; session.
- Adi : Original.
- Advita (Adwita) : Non-duality ; One-without-a-second, Vedanta philosophy of the oneness of reality.
- Agni : Fire ; god of fire.
- Agrahayan : The eighth month of Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-November to mid-December.
- Antahpur : Zenana, harem, the inner portion of a dwelling-house where strangers are not usually allowed to enter.
- Anusthanic : A Brahma who not merely professed the faith and principles of the Brahma Samaj, but also put them consistently into practice.
- Apostolic Darbar : Council of Brahma missionaries, from 1881 onward.
- Arati : Popular ceremony of waving a lighted lamp (dipa) before the image, with the object to please the deity with bright lights and colours and also to counteract the evil eyes. To be daily observed by Hindus, in public or private.
- Asharh : The third month of Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-June to mid-July.
- Asram (Ashram) : Hermitage ; place of religious retreat ; a residential institution (especially an educational or religious one) ; a stage of life (in the Vedic sense).
- Aswin : The sixth month of Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-September to mid-October.
- Atmasharit : Autobiography
- Atmakatha : Autobiography
- Atma Pratyay : Self-conviction ; self-confidence.
- Atman : The soul or self. Identical to Brahman in Adwaita thought.

Atmiya Sabha	: 'Society of Friends'.
Avatar	: Incarnation of the deity.
Babu	: Title of respect for an English speaking Hindu. Applied derogatorily by the British to semi-educated Bhadraklok clerks, and by extension to any Bhadraklok.
Bairi	: a. Hostile, enemical ; n. enemy, foe, adversary.
Baisakh	: The first month of the Bengali calendar, corresponding with mid-April to mid-May.
Bama Hitaishini	: Relating to the welfare or benefit of woman (bama), used as an adjective.
Bhadra	: The fifth month of the Bengali calendar, corresponding with mid-August to mid-September ; gentle.
Bhadraklok	: A gentleman ; the common dominant elite in Bengal.
Bhadrotsav	: Major Brahma festival (utsav) during the month of Bhadra.
Bhagvadgita	: The holy text of the Hindus, the famous Hindu scripture.
Bhai	: Brother.
Bhakta	: Devotee, worshipper.
Bhakti	: An attitude of love, faith and devotion to God.
Bharat	: India ; the son or descendant of King Bharata.
Bibaha	: Marriage ; nuptials.
Bidhaba	: Widow.
Bodhi	: Knowledge of God ; enlightenment.
Brahma	: The Absolute Being, God ; God the creator, one of the Hindu Trimurty or 'Trinity', the others being Vishnu and Shiva.
Brahma Dharma	: Brahma religion, Brahmoism.
Brahma Sabha	: The house of worshippers of God ; house of God.

- Brahman : The Infinite; the Absolute, the Ultimate reality.
- Brahman (Brahmin) : Member of the priestly caste.
- Brahmananda : Rejoice in God, title given to Keshub Chunder Sen by Devendranath Tagore.
- Brahmica (Brahmika) : Female Brahmo.
- Brahmo : Member of the Brahmo Samaj ; the theist
- Brahmo Samaj : 'Society of worshippers of God' ; the theistic society.
- Brahmo Bandhu Sabha : 'Society of Theistic Friends'.
- Brahmoism : Philosophy and the spiritual culture of the Brahmo Samaj.
- Brahmotsav (Brahmotsab) : Festival in God ; Festival (utsav) of the Brahmos.
- Brata : The vow (religious or secular) ; practice of ascetical austerities in order to attain something.
- Buddha : Conscience ; knowledge ; enlightenment.
- Chaitra : The twelvth month of the Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-March to mid-April.
- Crore : Ten millions.
- Dal : Party ; social faction, formed under the leadership of a powerful man.
- Danda-Dharan : Bearing a staff in connexion with religious practice.
- Darbar : An audience-chamber ; a court or a levee of a king or a man of rank.
- Deva : God, a male deity ; a teacher ; the chief or best man.
- Dewan : Financial steward (as of a business concern or of a land owner) ; superior Indian official in early Company administration.
- Dharma : Religion ; the Hindu sacred law ; virtue ; legal or moral duty.

- Dhola : Musical instrument, small barrel-shaped drum.
- Durga : Hindu Goddess especially in Bengal. The Shakti (wife) of Shiva, and the destroyer of all evil beings.
- Dwija (Dvija) : Twice born ; second birth into the spiritual life when invested with the Sacred Thread ; initiated man in one of the three higher Varnas in India.
- Ekmevadwitiyam : The-One-Without-A-Second.
- Ektara : Musical instrument based on a single string, mostly used by the Bowls (a class of Hindu stoical devotees singing songs in a special mode illustrating their doctrine) of Bengal.
- Falgun : The eleventh month of the Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-February to mid-March.
- Gairic : Ascetic saffron garb.
- Ganesh : One of the Hindu deities, son of Shiva and Parvati ; elephant God of good luck and remover of difficulties.
- Garal : Poison.
- Gayatri Mantra : Hymns for daily worship of Brahman.
- Ghot : Sacred vessel used in the worship of deities or images.
- Gomasta : Rent collector ; Steward of a landlord or a businessman, mercantile firm etc.
- Gosthi : Group ; family ; clan.
- Grantha : Book ; scripture.
- Grihastha : Householder.
- Guru : Teacher ; spiritual guide or leader ; preceptor.
- Hakim : Muslim physician.
- Hari : Name of Vishnu or Krishna, popularly interpreted to mean 'vanquisher of sin'.

- Hindu : (Litt.) Resident of Hindusthan, originally Sindh Valley ; religious community practising Hinduism.
- Homa : Fire sacrifice ; Fire-baptism, a traditional Vedic ceremony with fire.
- Iswara (Isvara) : God in personal form ; Lord.
- Jaistha : The second month of Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-May to mid-June.
- Jatkarma : Festival celebrated on the occasion of the birth of a child.
- Jhanda : Flag or banner.
- Jnan : Knowledge ; knowledge of the Divine ; serving insight in reality.
- Kabiraj : Physician who follows the Ayurvedic system of treatment.
- Kali : Popular Hindu goddess (black-complexioned) representing force and awe ; the Shakti of Shiva.
- Kamal Sarobar : 'Lily Pond', in the garden of Keshub Chunder Sen's residence 'Lily Cottage'.
- Kansar : Musical instrument ; combination of bells and gongs.
- Kartik : War-God who slayed the demon ; son of Shiva and Parvati ; the seventh month of the Bengali calender, corresponding with mid-October to mid-November.
- Karma : Action ; law of cause and effect.
- Karta : Head of the house, around whom the Bengali joint house-hold is organized.
- Kartal : Musical instrument ; wooden clappers, serving as rhythm instrument.
- Kathakatha : Reading and exposition of the Puranas or of mythological stories.
- Kayastha : Writer caste ; most numerous in Bengal.
- Khole (Khol) : Musical instrument : drum made of clay, to accompany religious songs ; also cover for shell.

- Kirtan : Singing of the name and praises of God, prevailing in Bengal Vaishnavism. The most powerful means of bringing about an attitude for Bhakti.
- Krishna : Incarnation of the god Vishnu.
- Lakh : One hundred thousand.
- Lakshmi : Wife of the god Vishnu and goddess of wealth and prosperity.
- Magh : The tenth month of the Bengali calendar, corresponding with mid-January to mid-February.
- Maghotsav : Anniversary festival (utsav) of the Brahmos held during the month of Magh.
- Mahabharata : Great Indian epic, written by Veda Vyas.
- Maharaja : 'Great Raja', honorary title of Raja or king.
- Maharani : 'Great Rani', honorary title of Rani or queen.
- Maharshi : 'Great Rishi', or saint ; title given to Devendranath Tagore by Keshub Chunder Sen.
- Mandir : Temple ; place of worship ; sacred place
- Mangalbari : 'Abode of Welfare' ; the Brahmo missionaries' neighbourhood.
- Mantra : Incantation ; verse ; sacred utterance.
- Mad : Wine ; intoxicating juice ; vanity.
- Marga : Path ; way ; road.
- Mat : Doctrine ; opinion.
- Mofussil : The country districts and stations in India as distinguished from the cities or towns. In Bengal : the country and provinces as opposed to Calcutta.
- Moksha : Spiritual perfection ; liberation ; freedom of re-birth.

- Mridanga : Musical instrument ; wooden drum, to accompany religious songs.
- Muni : Class of ascetics, saints and magicians in the Vedas.
- Munsi : Writer ; clerk ; secretary ; teacher or interpreter of languages.
- Mutsuddi : Class of commercial agents, banians, emerged specially in the days of early British rule in India through East India Company.
- Nadia : Region or district in Bengal where Chaitanya born and lived.
- Nagar sankirtan (Nagar kirtan) : Processional coral singing in the streets.
- Namkaran : Nomination or giving the child a name, like Christening among Christians.
- Nava Samhita : New code.
- Navavidhan : 'New Dispensation'.
- Nirdharan : Settlement ; resolution.
- Nirguna : Without attributes (guna) ; without qualities as opposed to Saguna.
- Nirvana : Extinguishment ; extinction of individuality and absorption into the Supreme Spirit ; popular Buddhist doctrine of emancipation of soul.
- Nisan Varan : Worship of the flag or banner (nisan), Varan = Worship or welcome through waving of articles or hands.
- Paita : Sacred thread worn by the initiates of the twice-born castes.
- Panch Prodigip : Five lights for worshipping Gods and Goddess, in public or private, connected with Arati.
- Paricharika : Female servant ; periodical for the Brahmo women.
- Pice : A small copper coin, one quarter of an anna.

Pracharak	: 'Preacher', Brahma missionary.
Pracharakganer Sabha	: Council of the Brahma missionaries.
Prarthana	: Prayer.
Prarthana Sabha	: 'Society of Prayer' in Bombay.
Patrabali	: Letters ; correspondence.
Poush	: The ninth month of Bengali calendar, corresponding with mid-December to mid-January.
Pratinidhi Sabha	: 'Society of Representatives' in the Brahma Samaj ; Representative Council or assembly.
Tuja	: Worship ; worship service ; offerings to God.
Puranas	: Old, ancient texts, relating mainly to the activities of the gods on earth(puranic).
Purdah	: Seclusion of Indian women, 'zenana'.
Purohit	: A Brahmin chaplain to a nobleman ; sometimes a village priest.
Purusha	: In Sankhya philosophy the cosmic spirit, spiritual subjective, immaterial and indestructible.
Raj	: Rule ; ruling power ; kingdom.
Raja	: King ; prince ; ruler, title given by the Mughal emperor, later British Indian Government to Hindus of rank.
Rishi	: Seer ; sage.
Rupee	: Standard coin of the (British) Indian monetary system.
Sabha	: Society ; assembly, council or place of assembly.
Saccidananda (Satchidananda)	: 'Being, consciousness and bliss', Vedantic designation of Brahman.
Sadhan	: Spiritual culture ; worshipping ; observance of religious ceremonies.

Sadhan Kanan	: 'Forest of Spiritual Culture'.
Sadhak	: Devotee.
Sadhu	: Saint ; an ascetic who practises sadhan.
Sadhu Samagam	: Communion of saints and prophets, a religious practice.
Saguna	: With attributes (guna).
Sakta (shakta)	: Worshipper of the Sakti (Shakti), the incarnation of force popularly called Goddess Kali ; a religious sect.
Samadhi	: Absorbed contemplation of God ; higher stage of spiritual practice.
Samadarshi	: Observer of equality ; liberal party in the Brahma Samaj ; Bengali periodical.
Samaj	: Society ; assembly ; church.
Samhita	: 'Collection', viz. of the four Vedas ; code.
Sangit	: Hymn ; religious song.
Sankirtan	: Popular hymns singing in chorus ; Vaishnavite aid to worship Hari or Vishnu.
Samnyasi	: Religious hermit or wanderer who has abandoned worldly attachments.
Saraswati (Sarasvati)	: Goddess of learning, art and music.
Sastra	: Scripture.
Sati (Suttee)	: Chaste wife ; practice in which widow immolated herself on her husband's funeral pyre.
Seva	: Service rendered unto fellowman.
Sishya (Shishya)	: Disciple.
Siva (Shiva)	: Third member of the Hindu triad ; the deity presiding over destruction and renovation. Hindus recognizing the supremacy of Shiva are called Shaivites or Shaiva.
Sloka	: Verse or text.

- Smriti : Hindu scriptures containing religious knowledge 'remembered', written and handed down by human beings, in contrast to Sruti.
- Snan Jatra : Ceremonial bathing and ablution ; holy bath, process of devotional purification to a Hindu.
- Somprakash : A Bengali periodical.
- Sraban : The fourth month of Bengali calendar, corresponding with mid-July to mid-August.
- Sradha : The rite of commemorating the ancestors, deceased relatives or friends.
- Stri Shiksha : Education for woman (Stri)
- Sulabh Samachar : 'Cheap News', Bengali periodical published by the Brahmos.
- Swami : Litt. 'Lord', title used for a religious teacher or spiritual preceptor.
- Tapavan (Tapoban) : 'Forest of Asceticism'.
- Tattvabodhini Patrika: (Tattvabodhini) : Periodical of the Tattvabodhini Sabha.
- Tattvabodhini Sabha : 'Society for the Investigation of Truth', in Calcutta in the 1840-1850s.
- Upadhyay : Teacher ; spiritual preceptor.
- Upadesh : Precepts ; sermons.
- Upanayan : Investiture with the sacred thread ; initiation.
- Upasana : Worship, religious service.
- Utsav (Utsab) : Religious festival.
- Vaidya : Caste-status of hereditary physicians, found only in Bengal.
- Vairagya : Detachment from, indifference towards, the world.
- Vaishnava (Vaisnava) : Worshipper of Vishnu ; a religious sect. Also used as an adjective.

Varna	: 'Colour', the Varnas are the four Vedic classes of Hindu society.
Varuna	: (Myth) the Hindu sea-god.
Vedanta	: 'End of the Vedas' ; schools of Indian thought emphasizing the philosophical and metaphysical speculation of the Upanishads.
Vedas	: Ancient (Vedic) literature ( 1500- 900 B.C.) with four parts containing the ultimate Truth revealed to the Rishis.
Vedi	: Pulpit.
Vidyalaya	: School ; place of learning.
Vishnu (Visnu)	: The second of the three principal deities of the Hindus ; the preserving power personified. Hindus worshipping Vishnu are called Vaishnavas or Vaishnavites.
Vivek (Bibek)	: Conscience ; discernment.
Vrindavan(Brindaban)	: Holy place in Northern India, where Krishna is supposed to have lived.
Yatra	: Open folk theatre, mainly based on mythological and epic themes ; holy festival.
Yoga	: Union with God ; system of physical, mental, and spiritual discipline, leading to such union.
Yogi	: One who practises Yoga ; saint.
Yuga	: Age of the world, or subdivision of a greater age. The world is now in the Kali Yuga.
Yugal (Jugal)	: Conjugal.
Zamindar	: Hereditary landholder.
Zamindary	: Land held by Zamindar.
Zenana	: Seclusion of women ; women's section of the house ; woman living in a zenana.