Ahimsa: Non-violence

Assimilado: Those who had been ‘assimilated’; meaning they could read, write and speak Portuguese.

Bab: An honorific, used to address another with respect (like ji in Hindi).

Bamonn: Refers to Goud Saraswat Brahmins, which comprise the vast majority of Goa’s brahmins, and are nowadays widely called ‘Saraswats’. Even after centuries of being converted, the caste system still prevails among the Christians, all of whom can still trace the caste to which they originally belonged. Hence, Bamonn refers to Hindu as well as Christian brahmins, a large number of whom were also bhatkars or landowners.

Bandh: A general strike, when all establishments of all kinds remain closed as a mark of protest.

Bhatkar: Landowner.

Charddo: An intermediate upper caste among the Christians. According to Charddos themselves, they are originally Kshatriyas in the post-Vedic four-tier Varna system. Some sections of Chardos are also landlords, and the caste sees itself as being discriminated against by the Bamonn, leading to ongoing rivalry between the two.

Charkha/khadi: A spinning wheel, used to hand-spin cotton threads, which can then be woven to create khadi or handloom fabric.

Choli: The traditional bodice or blouse, worn by women with the dill or traditional saree.

Comunidade: The Portuguese name for the village community or Ganponn.

Confraria: A committee of the laity

Conselhos: The Portuguese term for provinces. Till the second half of the 18th century, Goa had three conselhos; Ilhas, Bardez and Salcette. The Novas Conquistas or New Conquests from 1763 to 1788 added 10 more conselhos to the territory of Goa, making a total of 13. Later, these were consolidated into 10. Then Mormugao was carved out of Salcete, making a total of 11. After liberation, these were renamed talukas.
Cortes: The Portuguese parliament, first set up in 1822.

Cuddo: Literally, a room (the 'o' is silent). Cuddos were clubs in Bombay, organised villagewise, where Goan Christians who went to the city to earn a living could stay.

Ganvkars, Ganvponn: The Ganvponn or village community is the ancient form of social and political organisation in Goa, which survived through innumerable dynasties. Ganvkars are the original inhabitants of the village, who comprised the shareholders of this village cooperative and consequently became the joint owners of nearly all the land in the village. They received a zonn or dividend from the revenues collected through rents paid by the tenants who worked the land.

Gauda: A socially, educationally and economically backward community, mostly agricultural labourers by occupation. Are believed to be the original inhabitants of Goa.

Indigena: 'Native', or a colonial subject who was not assimilated into the Lusitanian mainstream.

Kunbi: Another socially, educationally and economically backward community; like the Gaudas, also primarily engaged in agriculture.

Lusitanisation: Lusitania is the Roman name for the western part of the Iberian peninsula. Lusitanisation is the term the Portuguese coined for what they saw as their mission of 'civilising' barbarian and pagan peoples and making them into fit Portuguese subjects.

Mattov: Shamiana or Pandal.

Mukadam: An assistant to a bhatkar; the one who actually managed the properties.

Mundcar: Tenant occupying a house belonging to a bhatkar.

Ovio: Traditional couplets composed and sung by women in Konkani.

Prabhat Feri: A procession taken out at dawn. They are used mostly to create awareness, and were popular during the freedom struggle in India.

Puddvem: The Goan form of the dhoti, worn traditionally only by upper-caste males (the lower castes wore only a loin cloth, called a kashti). It is a piece of cloth five yards long, which is wound around the waist and an end brought between the legs and tucked in at the back, covering the lower half of the body.

Sashti: The Konkani word for Salcette.
Satyagraha: Literally, the ‘force of truth’. A form of non-violent protest invented by M K Gandhi, of offering no resistance to the violence of authority. It was the principal form of protest used during India’s freedom struggle.

Tiatr: A Konkani musical operetta in seven acts, with sideshows (comic interludes) in between. An extremely popular form of entertainment among Christians.

Tulsi: The holy basil, a shrub held as sacred. It is usually planted in a tall, elaborate pot in the front yard of every Goan Hindu household.

Vaddo: Hamlet or ward; every village comprises several vaddos.

Zagor: A form of folk theatre; very popular among Christian and Nava-Hindu Gaudas (those re-converted during the Shuddhi movement).