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GLOSSARY

Achi : wife of a Nair
Ammachi : mother
Anchal : postal department of Travancore
anna : a coin in Travancore which valued 1/16 of one rupee
antarjanam : Namboothiri women
Aphans : younger sons of a Namboothiri family
ardhangini : half woman
asram : hermitage
avaranas : lower caste people
Bhagavathi : Mother Goddess
Bharat Mata : Mother land Bharat
bhikkunis : Buddhist nuns
biplabis : revolutionaries
Brahmacharya : chastity
chakra : wheel
chakram : a type of money in Travancore
Charka : spinning wheel
Chatta : traditional upper cloth of Syrian Christian women
Chechi : elder sister
Chingam : mid August- September
chithrachurul : picture scrolls
Choukies : customs houses
Devadasi : women servants of God
Devaswam : temple property
Dhanu : mid December- mid January
Diwan : Chief Minister
Ezhuthupallis : village schools for common people
Femina : woman
gherao : a form of strike
ghosha : veil used by Namboothiri women
goondas : scoundrels
Grihanatha : head of the house
Guru : teacher
Harijan : lower caste people
hartal : strike
Holy Qurbana : Holy Mass of Christians
Illam : house of a Namboothiri
jatha : procession
Jauhar : self immolation in fire, which was a custom of self defence of Rajput women.
Jenmi : landlord
jonakas : Muslims
Kachamuri : traditional lower cloth of Syrian Christian women
kaithalam : cymbals
Kalaris : schools for physical training
kallumala : necklaces made of beads and stones, used by lower caste women
kanji : rice gruel
Kanni : mid September- mid October
Karkkadakam : mid July-mid August
kavu : grove in Nair families, where serpent gods were worshipped
khadar : cotton cloth spun in Charka
khadi : hand-made cotton cloth spun in Charka
Kovilakom : palace
kulam : pond
kuppayam : long sleeved blouses
machu : ceiling
maidan : ground
Makkathayam : patrilineal system of inheritance
Malayalis : people with Malayalam as their mother tongue
Mangalapatram : an award of honour
marakkuda : cadjan umbrella
Marumakkathayam : matrilineal system of inheritance
melmundu : upper cloth
Misrabhojanam : interdining
Mlechcha : out caste
mooppan : supervisor of a group of labourers
mukkuthi : nose ring
Muthappan : grandfather
Nair : a particular caste of Kerala
Nasranis : Syrian Christians of Kerala
neriyathu : an upper cloth used by higher caste women in Travancore
Nilavilakku : a traditional oil lamp of Kerala
Nittu : royal rescripts or decrees
njattupattu : songs sung during paddy cultivation
Onam : national festival of Kerala
Oozhiyam : a type of forced labour without remuneration
Paditha veedu : school or college or a house for study
panam : a silver coin in Travancore
panthi bhojanam : sitting together and partaking food
pattivrita : unblemished woman
Peshkar : chief revenue officer of a district in Travancore
pidiyari : a handful of rice
purdah : a particular dress of Muslim women
Purushadhanam : man’s wealth
Rajan : king
Rajni : queen
Rani : queen
rowdy : scoundrel
Sabha : a popular assembly during Vedic period
Sabha Mats : schools for Namboothiri children
Sakhavu : comrade
Sambandham : a system of marriage between the Namboothiris and the Nairs
Samiti : a popular assembly during Vedic period
sati : self immolation of wife in the funeral pyre of the husband

Satyagraha : a novel method of non–violent resistance implemented by Mahatma Gandhi during Indian freedom movement

satyagrahi : one who participates in Satyagraha

savar纳斯 : upper caste people

Shakthi : the indomitable potency

Shashtiabdyapoorthy : Sixtieth birthday

Sleeba : the Cross

Sleeba Dasa Samooham : the order of the ‘Servants of the Cross’

Streedhanam : woman’s wealth/dowry

Stree Samajams : women’s organisations

Swadeshi : goods made in one’s own country

swajathee vivaham : marriage from the same caste

Swaraj : independence

Thamrapatram : an award of honour given by the government of India to freedom fighters

Tharawad : ancestral family

thavazhi : lineage through mother

Theendalum Thodeelum : untouchability

theris : senior nuns

Thiruvathira : name of an asterism/ a traditional dance

Thozhil kendraam : work place

Thulam : mid October- mid November

Urshal : Nair maid of Namboothiri women

utsavam : festival
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Northern Ballads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancheesa Mangalam</td>
<td>a song in praise of Travancore kings</td>
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<td>Veli</td>
<td>Namboothiri marriage ceremony</td>
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<td>master</td>
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