ACARYA - teacher, usually in the sense of a guru.

ANJALI - a present given to deities with cupped palms; act of worshipping or surving.

ANUBHAVA - experience, feeling.

ANNAPRASANA - Hindu ceremony involving the first feeding of solids to an infant of six months.

ARATI - worship involving the waving of lamps before a deity.

ARTH - statecraft; aim / goal of life, wealth.

ASANA - 'seat'; refers to yogic postures.

ASHRAMA - stage of life; monastery; stage in a brahmin's life.

AVATARA - incarnation of a deity; literally, 'one who crosses down', that is, one who comes to earth.

AVIDYA - ignorance.

BHAKTA - one who is devoted to a deity or guru; hence, a devotee.

BHAKTI - devotion to and 'participation' in or with a deity.

BHITA - original dwelling place, where the house rests.

BHARMACARYA - religious study or the religious studentship of a brahmin youth, passed in celibacy, being the first stage in the religious life of a brahmin.

BHARTAM - supreme essence of the universe in Hindu cosmology.

BRAHMIN - topmost caste in the varna system of Hindu religion

BHOGA - sacred food

BRATA - penance in consequence of a vow.

CHAKRA - literally, 'wheel'; a physical - psychical center, of which there are seven in classical yoga.

SANGHA - assembly, association.

CHIT - intellect, senses, mind.

D

DAKSHINA - a fee or gifts given to a priest or a brahmin or a teacher.

DANA - gift, giving, 'bribing' as a means of statecraft (artha).

DARSHANA - sight, vision; act of seeing and being seen by a deity, usually through an encounter with an iconic representation of the deity, particularly when the icon is filled with power; also means view point, as in philosophical viewpoint.

DEVA/DEVATA - deity

DEV - goddess

DHYANA - concentration; meditation without objects.

DIKSHA - initiation

DVAITA - dualism
G
grihasta - householder
guna - quality
gurubhai - co-desciple or brother disciple.
I
id - Islamic festival or day
id al fitr - festival of the breaking of the fast. It is a time of celebration and rejoicing for it officially brings the observance of fasting during Ramadan to a close.
isvara - lord; a personal deity found in some forms of yoga.
J
jiva - life-entities
jnana - knowledge, wisdom; one of the principal means of ascertaining how one ought to live in order to live in accordance with dharma.
K
Karuna - grace
karma - action
katho-katha - story-telling in folk ways; a kind of drama in rural Bengal.
kshatriya - warrior class; second of four-fold caste scheme.
L
Lila - literally, 'plays'; the view espoused by Natyasatra, a text which elaborates upon aesthetics, that is, drama, music, art; associated generally with Krishna, particularly in his childhood, and his playful mischievousness; the world is see as a play that one enters into joyfully.
linga - the symbol of phallus, literally 'penis'; an iconic representation of the Siva.
M
manat - religious promise or vow
mandapa - part of the Hindu temple; pavilion.
mantra - syllable, word, or group of words which have some special significance, often sacred in nature, believed to have magical potency used in meditation, chanting, and temple ritual.
marga - path; a particular means or way by which one lives a religious life, or a path, or a path leading to release or liberation (moksa).
matha - monastery or solitary hut of an ascetic or student.
maya - the measured world, illusion.
moksha - aim of Hindu life, liberation, release.
mudra - specific hand pose, each with a different meaning; used in art, dance, and iconography.
N
naibidya - offering
nama - name
namaz - urdu for salat, the Islamic canonical prayer. The means given by allah for
mankind to make contact with him. It is a worship of the whole person; heart, mind, tongue, and body. It is the second of the fine pillars of Islam.

**nirguna** - without qualities or form; deities tend to be worshiped either as having qualities (saguna) or not having qualities, i.e. spirit.

**niyama** - commission; appropriate actions, according to ethical yoga.

**O**

**om** - Sanskrit sacred syllable which becomes, among other things, equated with the totality of the universe.

**P**

**paksha** - fifteen days.

**pantha** - path (see also marga)

**pir** - Muslim saint, folk hero in some sects of Shiite Islam; pirs are worshiped at cemeteries after death.

**prapatti** - surrender

**prasada** - favor or grace; symbolized by the offering of camphor, food, etc. to devotees after such items have been blessed by the deity.

**puja** - honour, respect, or hospitality given to a deity, guru, king, or icon, the ritual activitig of offering honor; worship.

**pujari** - priest

**purana** - literary form, primarily mythological texts retelling the activities or lives of the gods.

**purusa** - man, male, spirit

**R**

**raj yoga** - the king of yogas; it is concerned directly with the mind.

**ramadan** - an auspicious month in which Muslims kept fasting from morning five to evening six.

**S**

**sakta** - follower of sakti cult.

**sakti** - power, ability; female active energy of a deity.

**samadhi** - trance; highest level of concentration in yoga.

**sannyasi** - ascetic

**samskara** - rite of passage marked by ritual activity.

**sankirtana** - singing or chanting the name of the divine.

**savikalpa** - knowing the one, according to Sankara.

**T**

**tantra** - name given to oral, then written, texts in which the human body is homologized to the cosmos.

**tirtha** - sacred place, site for the pilgrimage.

**Y**

**yoga** - discipline; also specific schools of yoga.