

GLOSSARY

<i>Agrahara</i>	:	Grant of land typically by king to <i>Brahmanas</i> , for religious purpose
<i>Alankara</i>	:	Ornaments
<i>Asana</i>	:	A sitting <i>yoga</i> posture
<i>Avatara</i>	:	Incarnation of a Hindu deity, especially Vishnu
<i>Ausadhi</i>	:	Weeds, Herbal medicine
<i>Baatkirtana</i>	:	Performing art involving ritual singing, drumming on the road
<i>Bez</i>	:	Folk Healers
<i>Bhakat</i>	:	Member of Vaisnavite monastic order
<i>Bira</i>	:	An evil spirit
<i>Buranji</i>	:	Chronicles written during the Ahom rule in Assam
<i>Charia Dula</i>	:	Palanquin
<i>Chawki</i>	:	Military outpost; station
<i>Damaru</i>	:	Small hourglass shaped drum
<i>Deo</i>	:	A spirit
<i>Deva</i>	:	God
<i>Devi</i>	:	Goddess
<i>Diksha</i>	:	Initiation
<i>Gana</i>	:	Spirit accompanying a deity
<i>Ganak</i>	:	Priest; Astrologer
<i>Gopi</i>	:	Cowherd Girl
<i>Guru</i>	:	Initiator, the guide
<i>Haat</i>	:	Traditional market
<i>Jaap</i>	:	A piece of thread charmed with <i>mantras</i> to be worn tied at waist, arm, wrist or neck
<i>Kapalika</i>	:	A medieval Saiva Tantric practice
<i>Kekura Dula</i>	:	Palanquin

<i>Kirtamukuta</i>	:	A tall conical crown, typically worn by Visnu
<i>Kriya</i>	:	Sport
<i>Kundalini</i>	:	Energy of Shakti believe to be lying dormant in each individual in the Muladhara Chakra at the back of the spine
<i>Linga</i>	:	Phallic symbol
<i>Linga Puja</i>	:	Worship of phallic emblem of Siva
<i>Mantra</i>	:	Sacred utterance; Repetition of sound formula
<i>Mudra</i>	:	Symbolic hand gesture, particular position of the body
<i>Namghar</i>	:	Congregational halls of Neo-vaishnavite tradition
<i>Namkirtana</i>	:	Devotional Song
<i>Narabali</i>	:	Human sacrifice
<i>Paik</i>	:	Corvee labour of the Paik system
<i>Pitha</i>	:	Sacred place; holy seat of Mother Goddess
<i>Pujari</i>	:	Priest
<i>Sadhana</i>	:	Worship
<i>Sattra</i>	:	Neo-Vaisnavite monastery
<i>Sloka</i>	:	Verse in Sanskrit; of Vedic tradition
<i>Tantra</i>	:	Esoteric practices of some Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain sects
<i>Umalingana</i>	:	Images of Uma and Maheswara in sitting posture
<i>Upasana</i>	:	Worshipping a divine entity, meditation
<i>Vahana</i>	:	Animal vehicle/mount of a deity
<i>Varnasramadharm</i>	:	Four orders of society and stages of life according to <i>Vedas</i>
<i>Vamacara</i>	:	Tantric rites performed with the left hand
<i>Vamsawali</i>	:	Genealogical account
<i>Yajna</i>	:	Sacrifice
<i>Yantra</i>	:	Mystical diagram of Tantric tradition
<i>Yoni</i>	:	Female principle representing Mother Goddess