Glossary

ACHAR ritual
AHAMKAR ego
AISHWARYA Krishna’s warrior moods
AKHRA BABAJIS’ residential ashram
ANANDA happiness/pleasure
ANUMAN inference
ARATI light-offering made to deities
ASTA-KALIYA eight daily periods in celestial Vrindavan
ASTA SATTVIKA BHAVAS eight physical manifestations of internal Vaishnava devotional states
ASVADAN taste
BABAJI male renouncer Vaishnava
BARTAMAN present/immediacy
BHAKTI devotion
BHASHA language
BHAVA emotion
BHEK Vaishnava renunciation
BHOG food-offering to deities
BOL KHOL rhythm
BRAHMACHARI male celibate practitioner/monk
CHAKRA energy region in the body
DARSHAN spiritual gaze
DEHA body
DESH place of residence/land/spiritual stage
DHAM sacred place
DIKSHA initiation
GOPI Krishna’s lovers
GOSHALA  cow shed  
GOSWAMI  householder Brahmin Vaishnava  
GUPTA  unmanifest/hidden/secret  
GURUKUL  school providing spiritual training  
GYAN  knowledge  
HOLI  festival commemorating Radha-Krishna’s passionate play with colors  
JAPA  chanting and keeping count  
JAP-MALA  basil-seed necklace used for counting while chanting  
KAMA  self-directed lust  
KARTAL  cymbals used in KIRTAN  
KHOL  sacred drum used in KIRTAN  
KIRTAN  Vaishnava devotional music  
LILA  divine play  
LILA-KIRTAN  performance of songs describing the deities’ love-acts by trained singers before devotee-audiences  
MADHURYA  Krishna’s sweet moods  
MAHAMANTRA  uttering Vishnu’s sixteen names  
MALA  necklace  
MANAS  mind-heart  
MANDIR  temple  
MANJARI  Radha’s handmaiden friend  
MANTRA  ritual efficacious utterance  
MRDANGA  Sanskrit name for the KHOL or sacred drum used in KIRTAN  
NAM  name  
NAM-KIRTAN  loud musical chanting of the deities’ names in a group  
PADMA  lotus  
PATH  reading from scriptures by Vaishnava practitioners for devotee-audiences  
PRACHAR  preaching  
PRAKAT  manifest  
PRANAYAM  controlled breathing  
PRASAD/PRASADAM  food-offering tasted by deities  
PREM  (spiritual) love  
PUJA  worship  
RAGA  passion  
RAGANUGA  passionate devotion  
RAS  festival commemorating Krishna’s autumnal dance with his lovers in Vrindavan  
RASA  thick sap/concentrated emotion/aesthetic mood  
RASIKA  aesthete/devotional connoisseur  
SADHAK  religious practitioner  
SADHANA  spiritual discipline  
SAHAJA  natural/easy/spontaneous  
SAHAJIYA  Vaishnava with practices similar to tantrics  
SAKHII  Radha’s girlfriends  
SAMADHI  burial  
SAMPRADAYA  tradition  
SANKIRTAN  collective singing
Sannyas renunciation
Seva service, public feasts
Sharir body
Shiksha knowledge/(esoteric) training
Shukhho subtle
Siddha perfected, essential
Smaran remembering
Sthul gross
Svarup essential self
Tilak sacred design made on a Vaishnava’s forehead with sandalwood paste
Tulsi basil-seed considered sacred by Vaishnavas
Tyagi renouncer
Vaidhi disciplined devotion
Vairagya mentality of renunciation
Vaishnava follower of Vaishnavism
Vaishnavism tradition of worshipping the Hindu deity Vishnu and his incarnations
Yogapitha place of the deities’ union
Yugal deity-couple
Yukta together