

# GLOSSARIAL INDEX

## Glossary of Assamese Vaiṣṇava Terms

<i>Ādhikāra:</i>	The head of a sattrā;
<i>Aṅkiyā-nāta:</i>	One-act devotional plays written by Vaisnavite saints. (Sk. <i>Aṅka</i> =an act, a type of drama).
<i>Ātā:</i>	Grand-father; it is a designation applied to Vaiṣṇavite saints (Sk. <i>Alma</i> -).
<i>Ātai :</i>	A venerable person; A celibate devotee attached to a sattrā. (Sk. <i>Atma</i> -).
<i>Baraṅgaṇi:</i>	Subscription for religious ceremonies and festivals.
<i>Bargīta:</i>	A class of devotional songs attuned to classical <i>Rāgas</i> .
<i>Bhārālī:</i>	A store-keeper; (Sk. <i>Bhāṣḍāgārika</i> ).
<i>Bhajana:</i>	The ceremony of ordination after the first initiation to Vaiṣṇavism.
<i>Bhakat:</i>	A devotee; (Sk. <i>Bhakta</i> ).
<i>Bhaṭimā:</i>	A devotional song employed in the <i>Aṅkiyā-nāta</i> , (Sk. <i>Bhāṭa</i> ).
<i>Bāhar:</i>	Temporary huts in a village to accommodate Sattrā heads and disciples on tour ( <i>vāsa</i> + <i>gr̥ha</i> ).
<i>Bāp:</i>	Father; a term of address applied to Vaiṣṇavite saints or sattrā heads.
<i>Bāṭcarā:</i>	A gate-house; an out-house of the sattrā, (As. <i>bāṭ</i> =way, <i>carā</i> =a hall).

<i>Bāyan:</i>	A leader of the party of instrumental players.
<i>Bhāonā:</i>	A religious performance; a dramatic show of Vaiṣṇavite dramas.
<i>Cadar:</i>	Wrapper worn both by man and woman.
<i>Cari-hati:</i>	Four rows of living quarters of monks.
<i>Cho:</i>	Effigy.
<i>Cahar:</i>	An ecclesiastical area; a diocese. Several villages constitute one <i>Cahar</i> under the supervision of one <i>Barmedhi</i> .
<i>Carita-puthi:</i>	A biography of Vaiṣṇavite saints.
<i>Cāri Vastu:</i>	The four fundamental principles of vaisnava, viz., <i>Nāma</i> , <i>Deva</i> , <i>Guru</i> , <i>Bhakat</i> .
<i>Cihna-yatra:</i>	First abhinaya arranged by Sankaradeva. This may mean an abhinaya performed by <i>cinhas</i> or <i>mudras</i> , gesturs.
<i>Daśama:</i>	Book X of the Bhagavata Purana wherein the life of Kṛṣṇa has been depicted.
<i>Deuri or:</i>	Distributor of sacred offerings in religious gathering.
<i>Bilaniya:</i>	
<i>Dhemāli:</i>	A preliminary orchestral music in a <i>Bhāonā</i> performance.
<i>Dhuti:</i>	Man's lower garment; the dhoti.
<i>Gayan:</i>	Person related with music and singing.
<i>Guru:</i>	Preceptor.
<i>Guru-kar:</i>	Tithe; religious tax or contribution.
<i>Eka-śaraṇa :</i>	The supreme surrender to one God.
<i>Ghoṣa:</i>	Refrain; the <i>Nāmaghoṣā</i> by Mādhavadeva is also popularly known as <i>Ghosā</i> : (Sk.√ ghuṣ=to sing aloud).

<i>Gosāin:</i>	A religious preceptor who is versed in the Vedas. The heads of Vaiṣṇavite sattras are popularly called Gosain ( <i>Goswāmin</i> ).
<i>Hāṭi:</i>	Rows of huts where devotees are lodged in a sattra are collectively known as <i>Hāṭi</i> (Sk. <i>Haṭṭa</i> =market).
<i>Haribhakat:</i>	A fellow devotee It is a term of mutual address by persons initiated simultaneously.
<i>Kalā-Saṁhati:</i>	A sub-sect of the Mahapuruṣīya cult initiated by Gopāl Ātā.
<i>Kar:</i>	Religious tithe due to sattra from its disciples annually.
<i>Karāpāt:</i>	Vide <i>Bāṭcarā</i> ; a gate or a gate-house.
<i>Kathā:</i>	Prose; the word <i>kathā</i> is generally prefixed to the title of works written in prose, e.g., <i>Kathā-Gītā</i> , <i>Kathā-Bhāgavata</i> etc.
<i>Kewaliyā:</i>	A celibate devotee;
<i>Kṛttana:</i>	The act of chanting prayers; it is the name of a devotional Kāvya by Śaṅkaradeva.
<i>Karadhani:</i>	Waist-band.
<i>Kath</i>	One type of mat use for devotional prayer at Namghar or Kittanghar.
<i>Khanikar:</i>	Decorator or painter; also maker of images.
<i>Kirttan-ghar:</i>	Prayer-hall; term used mostly in Lower Assam.
<i>Krishna-nac:</i>	Form of dance by Krishna.
<i>Mahapurushiya:</i>	Sankaradeva's sect.
<i>Mah-prasad:</i>	Sacred offerings consisting of pulse, uncooked rice and fruit.
<i>Mahanta:</i>	A noble man; related as the some Sattra. ( <i>Mahat</i> ).

<i>Mahāpuruṣa:</i>	Literally the Great Being, i.e., God; Śaṅkaradeva is popularly known as <i>Mahāpuruṣa</i> .
<i>Maṇikūṭa:</i>	The shrine where the Sacred Scripture or the idol of the deity is installed.
<i>Mekhela:</i>	Woman's lower garment.
<i>Medhi:</i>	A functionary appointed by the sattrā to look after the affairs in a village. (Sk. <i>Medhhāvin</i> ).
<i>Nām (Nāma):</i>	Names and attributes of God.
<i>Nāmaghar:</i>	A prayer-hall.
<i>Nāmā-lagowā:</i>	One who leads or initiates the congregational prayer.
<i>Nāma-prasaṅga:</i>	Devotional services consisting of prayers, recitations and religious discussions.
<i>Nikā Samhita:</i>	Sub-sect organised by Padma Āta, and Mathuradāsa.
<i>Pāli:</i>	An assistant to <i>Gāyan</i> or <i>Bāyan</i> .
<i>Pacati:</i>	A festival celebrated on the fifth day of the birth anniversary of Kṛṣṇa. (Sk. <i>Pañcatikā</i> ).
<i>Pāik:</i>	Persons who had to render specific services to the State or to the sattrā. Four persons constituted one <i>Pāik</i> . Each had to render three months service to the State or to the sattrā to which he was attached.
<i>Padasila:</i>	Foot-prints (of Sankaradeva and Madhavadeva).
<i>Padasila-ghara:</i>	House where foot-marks of . the two saints are preserved.
<i>Pag:</i>	Head-gear; puggree.
<i>Prasanga:</i>	Religious service; matins.

<i>Prasad:</i>	Sacred offering.
<i>Puruṣa Saṁhati:</i>	The sub-sect organised by Purusottama Thākura.
<i>Puthi:</i>	Manuscript copy of sacred text usually written on bark of aguru tree.
<i>Riha:</i>	Woman's breast-cloth.
<i>Sarai:</i>	Raised tray made of Wood, bell-metal or brass as receptacle of sacred offerings.
<i>Satradhikar:</i>	Head of sattra : pontiff.
<i>Sutradhara:</i>	Who organises dance and drama; producer of Ankiya plays.
<i>Sisya:</i>	Laity
<i>Singhasana:</i>	Wooden throne standing , on four carved lions; sacred text is placed on it for worship.
<i>Sabāh:</i>	Religious congregation where prayer services are held (Sk. <i>Sabhā</i> ).
<i>Samhati:</i>	Association; a sect.
<i>Śaraṇa:</i>	The initiation ceremony in which a neophyte is required to surrender himself absolutely to the four fundamental principles.
<i>Sāt-saṅga:</i>	A holy association.
<i>Sidhā:</i>	Uncooked eatables supplied to a sattra by disciples on ceremonial occasions or things supplied to guest for the purpose of cooking.
<i>Satrīyā:</i>	The head of a sattra holding a limited authority.
<i>Tāwai:</i>	Equal to one's father; it is a form of address applied to the sacramental friend of one's father. (Sk. <i>tāta</i> = Father ).

<i>Thāpanā:</i>	Holy altar whereon the sacred scripture is kept.
<i>Tithi:</i>	Literally a lunar day; it also denotes birth and death anniversaries of Vaiṣṇavite saints.
<i>Udashin:</i>	Unmarried; celibate.