

Glossary

Most Indian technical terms listed below are Sanskrit words or derivatives from Sanskrit. Only if they are clearly derived from Kannada or another language, or are spelled differently in Kannada, has this been specifically mentioned.

abhiṣeka Ablution or anointment ceremony.

Abhiṣeka Lakṣmī The goddess Lakṣmī, lustrated by two elephants. Alternatively: Gajalakṣmī.

ācārya A preceptor or leader of a group of Jain ascetics, a mendicant scholar and teacher.

Aḍhādvīpa One and a half islands. The central one-and-a-half island continents of the Jain cosmos.

adhiṣṭhāna The moulded plinth of a temple.

Ādinātha The first Jina. Alternatively: Ṛṣabha, Ṛṣabhanātha.

Ādīśvara Alternative for Ādinātha, the first Jina.

āditīrtha The first and foremost important religious site in a region.

advaita Non-dualism.

Āgamas Sacred Jain literature.

agrahāram A grant of land and the income from it, usually made to a religious institution.

agramaṇḍapa The entrance hall or porch of a temple.

ahiṃsā The key virtue of the Jains of non-violence or non-injury.

aikya Final step of the *śaṣṭhala*, known as total fusion.

ajji Jain nun. Alternatively: *āryikā*, *kanti* (*gantī*).

al-Andalus Name referring to the Muslim-ruled areas of the Iberian Peninsula between the eighth and the fifteenth century CE.

alīyasantānam [Kannada] Tradition of the female heir in the coastal region of Karnataka.

Ālvārs (Ālvārs, Ālvārs) South Indian, *bhakti* Vaiṣṇava saints, who lived in the about the fifth to ninth centuries CE.

āmalaka A domical ribbed ring stone at the summit of temple structures.

Aṃbikā “Mother.” A Jain goddess and *yakṣī*. Amongst the Digambara Jains of Karnataka, she is better known as Kuṣamāṇḍinī. She is associated with the male *yakṣa* Gomedha (Sarvāhana) and the Jina Neminātha.

Anantanātha The fourteenth Jina.

anekāntavāda / anekānta The doctrine of many principles, the manifold nature of reality and of non-one-sidedness in Jainism.

aṇkaṇa [Kannada] A bay formed by pillars in a temple space. In northern architecture known as *kṣaṇa*.

Annapūrṇeśvara The goddess of food.

antarāla Vestibule at the front of a sanctum. Alternatively: *kapilī*, *śukanāsa*, *śukanāsi*.

antarāla jālas Pierced stone screens, separating the *antarāla* from the adjacent hall.

Anubhava Maṇṭapa “Hall of Experience.”

anvaya A lineage of individual Jaina teachers, a subdivision of Jaina monks. Alternatively: *gaṇa*, *gaccha*, *saṅgha*.

aparigraha Vow of non-possession.

apsarā Female heavenly figure, often adorning the outside of temples.

ārādhyadevatā Deity of worship.

āratī Temple ritual involving the waving of a light or lamp in front of a statue.

ardhamaṇḍapa Temple porch, entrance hall. Alternatively: *mukhamaṇḍapa*, *mukhaśāla* or *mukhacatuṣkī*.

arhat “Worthy of worship” or “a worthy one.” Someone who has attained *kevalajñāna*. Alternative term for *kevalin*, Jina or Tirthaṅkara.

aryan Ethnocultural self-designation by Indo-Iranians settling in North India in ancient times, contrasting themselves with the *drāviḍian* cultures of South India.

āryikā Jaina nun. Alternatively: *ajji*, *kanti* (*ganti*).

aṣṭadikapālas [Sanskrit] / *aṣṭadikapālakas* [Kannada] The eight divinities of the four cardinal and four ordinal directions.

aṣṭaparakārī pūjā The *pūjā* of eight substances.

aṣṭavaraṇa The eight “pillars” or “shields” of support in Viraśaivism.

Aśvamedha yāga Royal Vedic ritual of horse sacrifice.

aśvapāda Threshold in the shape of a moonstone at the bottom of stairs leading into a temple. Alternatively: *candraśilā*. In the north, the term *ardhacandra* is more common.

Atimārga Outer Path.

ātman An individual’s inner self, spirit or soul.

attārs A community of perfume sellers.

avatāra “Descent.” Manifestation, material appearance, incarnation.

badmāshes [Anglo-Indian] Rogues or rascals.

bagilu [Kannada] Gate.

Bāhubali Son of Ṛṣabhanātha, the first Jina, and brother of Bharata. He meditated so long in an upright, standing position that creepers grew over his body. He is the model of a Jaina ascetic. Alternatively: Gommaṭeśvara or Gommaṭa.

balipīṭha Altar or sacrificial slab for leaving offerings at the front of a *basadi*.

Bāṇajiga Merchant. Alternatively: Bānjiga, Baṇajiga, Bāṇia, Bāniya or Bāṇija.

bandhana External temple moulding with diamond patterns. Alternatively: *ratna*, *ratnabandha*.

basadi Term for a Jaina temple in South India, mainly in Karnataka. The term has been derived from the Sanskrit word *vasatī*, meaning temple. Alternatively: *basti*.

Basava Founder of Vīraśaivism and reformer of an earlier form of Liṅgāyatism, who lived in the twelfth century CE. Alternatively: Basavaṇṇa, Basavēśvara (Basaveśvara).

Basava Purāṇa A thirteenth-century CE epic poem and sacred text of Vīraśaivism, narrating the life story of Basava.

be! [Kannada] White.

bhadra An outside central projecting niche on a temple wall.

Bhadrabāhu Jain teacher, who after the east Indian famine of the fourth century BCE, allegedly led one section of the Jain community south to the pilgrimage centre of Shravanabelgola.

Bhairava Wrathful incarnation of the Hindu god Śiva.

Bhakta Someone who practises *bhakti*.

bhakti “Devotion.” Respect, love and personal surrender to one supreme deity.

bhakti mārga The devotional path.

bhaṇḍāra / bhaṇḍara A Jain library.

Bharata / Bharateśvara First emperor of this world age, son of Ṛṣabha and brother of Bāhubali.

bhaṭṭāraka Head of a traditional Digambara religious institution, such as a monastery or a religious library. *Bhaṭṭārakas* are celibate but not fully-initiated ascetics, taking a hereditary name and wearing orange robes.

bhāvapūjā Mental or contemplative worship in Jainism.

bhoja (bhojaka) Priest of a Jain temple.

bhṛtyācāra Acting as a servant to one’s society and fellow believers. One of the five Vīraśaiva regulating principles of conduct.

bhūta A supernatural being, usually the ghost of an ancestor.

bhūtārādhane [Kannada] Worship of the deceased ancestor.

bhuvaneśvarī Round corbelled ceiling in a temple. Alternatively: *sabhāmandāraka*, *padmanābha*, *padmamandāraka*, *sabhāpadmamandāraka*.

bilva/vilva leaves Leaves from a sacred Indian tree, used in Śaiva and Vīraśaiva ritual

bimba Figural statue, icon. Alternatively: *mūrti*.

bismillāh / basmala [Arabic] An Islamic prayer formula, a *qur’ānic* term referring to Allah (al-A’lā) which accompanies the five daily prayers and appears at the start of each chapter (*surah*) in the *Qur’ān*.

Biṭṭideva Hindu religious name of Viṣṇuvardhana, a Hoysaḷa king (ca. 1104–1141 CE), who was originally a Jain but who under the influence of Rāmānuja converted to Śrīvaiṣṇavism.

BJP Bharatiya Janata Party.

Bodhisattva / bodhisattva One who follows the teachings of the Buddha. A Buddha-to-be.

Brahmā A Hindu god.

Brahma / Brahmadeva A Jain *yakṣa* and *kṣetrapāla*.

Brahma *stambha* Sacred Jaina temple pillar, topped by a representation of the *yakṣa* and *kṣetrapāla* Brahmaḍeva.

Brahmadeva pillar See Brahma *stambha*.

brahmadēya A donation made to *brāhmaṇs*.

brāhmaṇ “Ultimate reality.” The term is also used for members of the priestly class of the Hindu caste system. In Karnataka there are also so-called Jaina *brāhmaṇs*, that is, Hindu *brāhmaṇs* whose families converted to Jainism.

Brahman See: *brāhmaṇ*

brahmāṇḍa The “Brahmā egg,” meaning the universe.

brāhmaṇical Hindu.

brahmārādhane [Kannada] Worship of Brahma.

Brahmaśiva A twelfth-century Kannada Jaina author and poet.

cabūtarā Low offering table in a temple.

caityālaya A temple structure.

cakravartin Universal worldly or religious monarch. Alternatively: *mahāpuruṣa*.

Cakreśvarī A Jaina *yakṣī*, associated with the *yakṣa* Gomukha and the Jina Ādinātha.

cāmaradhara / caurīdhara A flywhisk bearer.

Cāmuṇḍā Fearsome Hindu mother goddess. She is one of the seven mother goddesses and one of the most powerful *yoginīs* of Tantric Hinduism.

Candragiri The smaller hill at Shravanabelgola. Alternatively: Candrabēṭṭa, Choṭā Pahār, Cikkābēṭṭa, Kaḷvappu, Kaṭavapra (Kaṭāvapra).

Candragupta Maurya Founder of the Mauryan dynasty and grandfather of the famous emperor Aśoka in the fourth and third century BCE.

Candranāteśvara The eighth Jina. Alternatively: Candranātha, Candraprabhu.

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candraśilā Threshold in the shape of a moonstone at the bottom of stairs leading into a temple. Alternatively: *aśvapāda*. In the north, the term *ardhacandra* is more common.

cāturmās / cāturmāsa The four-month rain retreat obligatory for Jaina ascetics.

caturmukha A four-faced Jina image. Alternatively: *caumukha*.

caturmukha temple A temple housing a four-faced Jina image. Alternatively: *sarvatobhadra* or *sarvatobhadrikā* temple. In Kannada: *sarvatōbhadra*.

caturmukhaliṅga A four-faced *liṅga*.

caturvīmśati Twenty-four.

caturvīmśati jīnālaya A Jaina temple enshrining statues of all the twenty-four Jinas. In Karnataka alternatively: *caturvīmśati* Tirthaṅkara *basadi*.

caturviṃśati Tirthaṅkara basadi A Jain temple in Karnataka, enshrining statues of all the twenty-four Jinas. Alternatively: *caturviṃśati jinālaya*.

catuṣkī The four-pillared hall, porch or pavilion of a temple.

caubīs-Tirthaṅkara The twenty-four Jinas.

caubīsī / cauvīsī Stone slab depicting all the twenty-four Jinas. Usually there is one central seated or standing image surrounded by depictions of the other twenty-three Tirthaṅkaras. Alternatively: *caubīsī paṭa, caturviṃśati paṭa*.

caumukha A four-faced Jina image. Alternatively: *caturmukha*.

caurīdhara / cāmaradhara A flywhisk bearer.

cauvīsī / caubīsī Stone slab depicting all the twenty-four Jinas. Usually there is one central seated or standing image surrounded by depictions of the other twenty-three Tirthaṅkaras. Alternatively: *caubīsī paṭa, caturviṃśati paṭa*.

Cāvuṇḍarāya A Jain minister and general, who served under King Rācamalla IV and his successor Gaṅgā Mārasīmha. He commissioned the Bāhubali monolith on Vindhyagiri. His name is also spelled Cāmuṇḍarāya.

choultry Rest house.

cūlikā A small pavilion, in Jain art, for instance, at the tip of a *mānastambha*.

Dakṣiṇ Bhārat Jain Sabhā Digambara Jain organisation based in Southern Maharashtra and North Karnataka.

dāna Donation.

dānacintāmaṇi “Jewel of benevolence.” An honorific title.

dānaśālā Charity home.

dargah [Persian] The tomb or shrine of a Muslim Sufi saint.

darśana “View,” “sight.” The meeting of the devotee with the eyes of the deity.

dāsōha “Contribution.” The religious ideal of redistributing wealth.

deśa Land.

deśī Folk, folkish.

deva, devatā God, male divinity.

devālaya / Jaina devālaya A (Jaina) temple.

devī Goddess, female divinity.

Dhāraṇendra Yakṣa Popular Jain *yakṣa*, associated with the *yakṣī* Padmāvatī and the Jina Pārśvanātha.

dharmā Law, religion.

dhvajastambha Flagpole.

Digambara “Sky clad.” The group of Jinas whose male mendicants reject clothing and go naked. This group is more numerous in the south of India and in Karnataka.

Digambara Mūla Saṅgha The main branch and oldest monastic order of Digambara Jainism in South India.

dikapāla / dikapālaka Regent of the directions.

dikṣā Religious initiation.

dīpastambha Light pillar.

Doḍḍappā [Kannada] Paternal uncle.

drāviḍa The south Indian temple idiom.

Draviḍa Saṅgha The Digambara Jain community founded by Vajranandī in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, in the fifth or the ninth/tenth century CE. It also played an important role in Karnataka.

drāviḍian South Indian; pertaining to South Indian culture and tradition.

drāviḍian / dravidic temples South Indian temples.

Durgā Powerful Hindu goddess associated with motherhood and war.

dvaita Dualism, dualistic doctrine.

dvāra Door, doorway.

dvāramaṇḍapa A relatively complex gateway structure. Alternatively: *pratolī*. In Kannada: *pratolī*.

dvārapāla Door guardian.

dvāraśālā [Sanskrit] / *dvāraśābhā* [Kannada] Small, ordinary entrance gate.

dvikūṭācala Double temple, usually with two shrines side by side or facing one another.

ekamukhaliṅga A one-faced *liṅga*.

ekānta One-sided.

ekāntavāda Absolutist doctrine of one principle only with regards to divine provenance and existence as a whole.

gaccha A lineage of individual Jain teachers, a subdivision of Jain monks. Alternatively: *gaṇa*, *anvaya*, *saṅgha*.

Gajalakṣmī Representation of the goddess Lakṣmī lustrated by two elephants. Often found on the central block of the lintel leading into Jain temples and sanctums. Alternatively: Abhiṣeka Lakṣmī.

gaṇa A lineage of individual Jain teachers, a subdivision of Jain monks. Alternatively: *gaccha*, *anvaya*, *saṅgha*. The term is also used by Śiva groups.

gaṇācāra Working, serving and even fighting to defend the Liṅgāyat community. One of the five Viraśaiva regulating principles of conduct (*pañcācāra*).

gaṇadhara Head of a *gaṇa* and in Jainism a follower of the Jinās.

gandhakuṭī A wooden frame to hold lights or to display multiple statues inside a temple.

Gaṇeśa Elephant-headed divinity, popular in Hindu and Jain worship.

garbhagṛha The sanctum of a temple.

Garuḍa Carrier animal of the Hindu god Viṣṇu.

Gauḍa A Jain caste in Karnataka.

gavākṣa Horseshoe arch. Alternatively: *kūṭu*, *nāsī*.

gāvuṇḍa Landowner.

ghaṇṭā Bell.

Gomedha (Sarvāhana) A Jaina *yakṣa*, associated with the *yakṣī* Kuṣamāṇḍinī and the Jina Neminātha.

Gommaṭeśvara Son of Ṛṣabhanātha, the first Jina, and brother of Bharata. Meditated so long that creepers grew over his body. Model of a Jaina ascetic. Same as: Bāhubali or Gommaṭa.

gomukh Cow head.

Gomukha Jaina *yakṣa* associated with the *yakṣī* Cakreśvarī and the Jina Ādinātha.

gopura [Sanskrit] / *gōpura* [Kannada] South Indian gateway structure belonging to a temple or sacred compound.

gudda The lower of two main Jaina castes, comprising the majority of the Jaina populace of Karnataka, many of whom were converts from other faith groups.

gūḍhamanḍapa A closed temple hall.

guha A cave.

guha jinālaya A Jaina cave temple.

gulla / gullakayi Hairy-fruited eggplant, *solanum ferox*.

Gullekāyī Ajji Kuṣamāṇḍinī in the disguise of an old lady, who allegedly performed ablutions on the tall statue of Gommaṭeśvara at Shravanabelgola with the little milk contained in a *gullakayi* fruit.

guru Spiritual teacher.

Gurusthala Monastic tradition which traces the origins of the Viraśaiva movement to a lineage of five masters (*pañcācāryas*).

gurvādis Jaina monastic orders.

Ḥadīths [Arabic] The sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muḥammad.

halāl [Arabic] “Permissible,” “permitted,” “lawful” (in Islam).

hāra Miniature pavilion decorating the pronounced eaves (*kapota*) of *drāviḍia* temples.

hastihasta The stylised elephant trunk design decorating the balustrade frames flanking the stairs leading to temples.

heggaḍe [Kannada] “Chiefman,” “Headman of a village.” Today, usually a feudal lord of a temple town and religious chief, also responsible for solving disputes. It can also be a head of a Śaiva *maṭha*. Alternatively: *herggaḍe*, *maṭhādhpati*.

homa Fire offerings in Jaina and Hindu temples.

homakuṇḍa Receptacle for making fire offerings.

Īśāna The guardian (*dikapāla*) of the north-eastern direction.

iṣṭa Meditation.

iṣṭadevatā The chosen, personal deity of a person.

iṣṭaliṅga “Personal *liṅga*.” The object of veneration for all Viraśaivas to carry on their body.

jagatī The terrace or platform raising a temple above the ground. Alternatively: *vedī*.

Jaina A follower of the Jinas.

jakka Kannada for *yakṣī*.

jālī Perforated stone screen, often found in the temple architecture of Karnataka.

janapada “Foothold of a people.” Settlements or countries demarcated by boundaries in ancient India.

jaṅgama “Moving,” as for instance in *jaṅgama liṅgas*, moving *liṅgas*, carried by the believers. Refers also to living beings that can move, such as devotees and wandering Viraśaiva mendicants.

jaṅgamana “The moving One.” Viraśaiva (and formerly also Kāḷāmukha) itinerant sage who has attained oneness with the *liṅga*, turning himself into a moving temple. Today, the term is also used to refer to a group of hereditary Viraśaiva priests.

jaṅghā Outer wall of a temple.

jāti Sub-caste.

Jina “Conqueror,” “spiritual victor.” The twenty-four enlightened teachers of each world age. Alternatively: *arhat*, *kevalin* and Tirthaṅkara

jinālaya Jaina temple. Alternatively: *jinamandira*.

jināratha festival A Jaina festival procession involving a chariot.

Jvālāmālīnī A Jaina goddess and *yakṣī*, also known as Jvālā Devī. Amongst the Śvetāmbaras, she is referred to as Bhṛkuṭī. She is connected with the *yakṣa* Śyāma and the Jina Candraprabhu.

jyotirliṅga “*Liṅga* of light.” There are sixty-four main *liṅga* temples at different sites in India.

kakṣāsana A sloping seat with backrest in a temple.

kāḷa guḷaguṇḷi [Sanskrit] / **mādhavī** [Kannada] A creeper.

kālamukha / **kāḷāmukha** “Face of time.” Vanitas motif. Ornament found on Hindu architecture. Alternatively: *kīrttimukha*.

Kāḷāmukhas The “dark” or “black-faced ones.” Ascetic followers of an early heterodox *bhakti* Śaiva order, worshipping the male god Bhairava. They were especially influential from the ninth to the thirteenth century. Alternatively: Kāḷāmukhas, Kālamukhas. See Chapter 1, section 5.2.3.

kalaśa A narrow-mouthed water-pot-like ornament placed at the tip of the superstructure of a *basadi* or temple.

Kālī Hindu goddess associated with death, who plays an important role in Tantric cults.

kamal Lotus.

kamaṇḍalu A water pot carried by Jaina ascetics.

kambad / **kambada** [Kannada] Pillar. In Sanskrit: *stambha*.

Kanarese People living in Karnataka, sometimes only those living in the coastal region of the State. It can also be an old-fashioned term for Kannada, the language of the region.

Kannada / **Kannaḍa** South Indian language, spoken primarily by the people of Karnataka. Formerly also known as Canarese or Kanarese.

kanti / **ganti** Jaina nun. Alternatively: *ajji*, *āryikā*.

kapāla A human skull.

Kāpālikas “Skull-bearers.” Ascetic followers of an early heterodox form of Śaivism, commencing around the second century CE and now extinct. The *kapālinas* followed a monotheistic *bhakti* path, concentrating on the worship of Bhairava, the wrathful form of Śiva. See Chapter 1, section 5.2.4.

kapilī Vestibule at the front of a sanctum. Alternatively: *antarāla*, *śukanāsa*, *śukanāsi*.

kapota [Sanskrit] / **kapōta** [Kannada] Pronounced overhanging cornice, typical of south Indian temple structures.

karma “Action.” In Jainism, *karma* is considered to be a physical substance which applies itself to the human body and prevents it from reaching enlightenment. Alternatively *karman*.

Karnad, Girish Indian actor, film director, Kannada writer and playwright (1938–2019).

karōṭaka A domed temple ceiling.

kāyaka In Viraśaivism, worshipful work, social labour.

kāyotsarga Standing posture of abandonment. Alternatively: *khaḍgāsana*.

kevalajñāna Supreme knowledge, full enlightenment, omniscience.

kevalin A person who has attained *kevalajñāna*. Alternatively: *arhat*, Jina and Tirthāṅkara.

khaḍgāsana Standing posture of abandonment. Alternatively: *kāyotsarga*.

Khāravēla King in Orissa in the late first century BCE or early first century CE.

Kimpuruṣa A Jaina *yakṣa*, associated with the *yakṣī* Mahāmānasa, and the Jina Śāntinātha.

kīrttimukha / **kālamukha** / **kālāmukha** A mask or face of the passing of time or of death. A popular ornament found on temple facades above niches and windows.

kōla A square, usually coffered temple ceiling, which can, however, also be domical.

koḷa / **goḷa** [Kannada] A pond or tank.

koṣṭha A wall niche on the inside of a temple.

kṣatriya A member of the warrior caste of the Hindu caste system.

kṣetra The sacred area of a temple or a pilgrimage site.

kṣetrapāla Guardian of the sacred temple compound.

kṣipta / **kṣipta vitāna** Domical ceilings with a central pendentive (*kuḍmala*).

kūḍalasaṅgamadēva “Lord of the Meeting Rivers.”

kuḍmala A pendentive projecting from the centre into a concave, domical ceiling (*kṣipta vitāna*). Alternatively: *lambana*.

kukkuṭa sarpa A two-legged, serpent-like creature with the head of a chicken.

kuladevatā Clan deity. A person’s inherited lineage deity (as opposed to his or her chosen personal deity, *iṣṭadevatā*).

kuladevī Female lineage goddess of local ruling families in Karnataka.

kumbha A water pot, or a stone depiction of one, as part of the finials of temple towers.

kumkum / **kumkumārchan** Vermillion red turmeric powder paste, used to make auspicious markings on human beings and sacred icons.

kuṇḍa A deep stepped water basin, usually accessing ground water through an integrated well shaft.

Kuṇḍakuṇḍa Important Digambara Jain monk and philosopher, who lived around the first century CE. Alternatively: Kuṇḍakunda or Kuṇḍakundācārya.

Kuṣamāṇḍinī (Kuṣmāṇḍī, Kūṣmāṇḍinī) A popular Jain goddess and *yakṣī*, associated with the male *yakṣa* Gomedha (Sarvāhana) and the Jina Neminātha. Amongst the Śvetāmbara Jains of North India, in particular, Kuṣamāṇḍinī is also known as Āmbikā.

kūṭa A shrine.

kūṭa Square or round topped aedicule in the shape of a shrine.

kūṭu Horseshoe arch. Alternatively: *gavākṣa*, *nāsī*.

Lakṣmī / Śrī Goddess of wealth in Jainism and Hinduism.

Lakuliśas Ascetic followers of an early form of Śaivism, now extinct, which followed a monotheistic *bhakti* path. The Lakuliśas or Lākulas are a school of the Pāśupatas. They believed that Lakuliśa founded the Pāśupata system in the second century CE.

lalāṭa The block in the centre of a temple door lintel.

lalāṭabimba The central image adorning the *lalāṭa* block of a temple doorframe.

lambana Pendentive in the centre of a domical ceiling. Alternatively: *kuḍmala*.

lāñchana A mark or sign. A symbol of recognition, associated with the individual Jinas since the early Gupta period.

latā A creeper.

laukika Mundane, worldly.

liṅga “Sign.” The phallic symbol that, in a Śaiva context, represents the essence of the god Śiva. In the Viraśaiva tradition, the *liṅga* is the Supreme Absolute.

liṅga śarīra The subtle vital body of Śiva.

liṅgācāra Wearing and worshipping the *liṅga*. One of the five Viraśaiva regulating principles of conduct.

Liṅgāyats Alternative term for Viraśaivas.

lokapāla The guardian of the world and of the cardinal directions.

madanikā A beautiful young woman.

Mahābhārata Famous Hindu epic.

mahādāna An especially large donation.

Mahāmānasa A Jain *yakṣī*, associated with the *yakṣa* Kimpuruṣa and the Jina Śāntinātha.

mahāmaṇḍapa A large or great hall. Usually the largest hall of a temple.

Mahāmastakābhiṣeka “The great anointing of the head.” Major ablution ceremony of colossal statues, usually of Bāhubali.

mahāprabhu “Great master or lord.” Term for a great saint or holy man.

mahāpradhāna Principal minister and advisor of a king.

mahāpuruṣa “Great man.” Universal worldly or religious monarch. Alternatively: *cakravartin*.

mahārāja King, ruler.

mahātīrtha A large or major pilgrimage site or centre.

mahāvidyās The great goddesses of knowledge and learning.

Mahāvīra The twenty-fourth Jina.

mahāvratā Great vow.

Mahendravarma I A Pallava emperor (about 600–630 CE).

maheśvara The second stage of the *ṣaṣṭhala*, taking the shape of socially shared labour.

Māheśvaras Vīraśaivas. Alternatively: Vīra Māheśvaras.

Maisamma Devī Hindu mother goddess, who is believed to protect cattle, worshipped predominantly in rural areas of Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra.

makara Mythical water animal, combining elements of a crocodile, an elephant, a snake and/or a fish.

makaratoraṇa An arch formed out of two mythical sea animals (*makaras*) facing each other.

Mallinātha The nineteenth Jina.

mānastambha “Pillar of glory.” A free-standing pillar constructed in front of Jaina temples or *samavasaraṇas*, carrying either one, or more commonly, four addorsed seated or standing Jina statues, usually contained inside a small pavilion (*cūlikā*).

maṇḍala Sacred diagram or circle in Jaina (and Buddhist) Tantric art.

maṇḍapa Generic term for a temple hall.

Mañjuśrī Buddhist Bodhisattva carrying a sword.

mantra Mystic syllables, single-word spells and sacred utterances more generally.

Mantramārga Path of *Mantras*.

Mantravadin Someone having great mastery over spells.

mantravidyā Spell.

Marāṭhās Largely eighteenth-century Indian rulers with their headquarters in the central Indian State of Maharashtra.

masjid [Arabic] Mosque.

mātā Mother, mother goddess.

maṭha Priest house, seat of a Jaina *bhaṭṭāraka*, religious or monastic headquarters associated with all religious groups in the area of Karnataka.

maṭhādhipatī “Lord of the *maṭha*.” In Jainism, alternative term for *bhaṭṭāraka*. In Vīraśaivism also *maṭhapatī* or *jagadguru*.

maṭhavāsī Ascetic who has settled in a *maṭha*.

mātrkās Mothers, mother goddesses.

mīthuna A loving couple, often adorning the outside of temple structures.

moktēsara [Kannada] Manager of a religious institution.

Mount Śatruñjaya North-west Indian pilgrimage site, sacred predominantly for Śvetāmbara Jains.

mudrā Powerful positioning and movement of the hands and fingers.

mukhamaṇḍapa / mukhaśāla / mukhacatuṣkī Temple porch, entrance hall. Alternatively: *ardhamaṇḍapa*.

mūlanāyaka The main sacred icon of a Jaina temple.

Mūla Saṅgha (Digambara Mūla Saṅgha) The main branch and oldest monastic order of Digambara Jainism in South India.

muṇḍamāla A flat temple roof.

muni A mendicant.

mūrti “Appearance,” “embodiment.” Figural statue, icon. Alternatively: *bimba*.

nābichanda Lantern ceiling constructed in a corbelled technique.

nāḍ Country, area, land.

nāga A snake or serpent.

nāgadevata A snake divinity.

Nāganātha “Lord of the serpent.”

nagara Merchant.

nāgara The north Indian temple idiom.

nāgarādhane [Kannada] Worship of the serpent, the *nāga*.

Nākoḍā Bhairava A popular Śvetāmbara Jaina guardian deity associated with the site of Nakora Tirth (Nākoḍā Tirth) in Rajasthan, which allegedly goes back to the third century CE and expanded during the eleventh century.

Nandī / Nandin *Vāhana* or animal carrier of the Hindu god Śiva and in Viraśaivism itself a manifestation of Śiva.

Nārāyaṇa A form of Viṣṇu, showing him asleep on the cosmic snake. Alternatively: Viṣṇu Nārāyaṇa or Śeṣaśāyīn (Śeṣaśāyī).

nāsī Horseshoe arch. Alternatively: *gavākṣa*, *kūṭu*.

nāstika Heterodox, non-Vedic.

navagrahas The nine planetary divinities.

Navaitas The Navaita Muslims (also spelled Navayat, Nait or Naita) are a subgroup of the Konkani Muslims, living along the west coast of Karnataka.

navaraṅga / navaraṅgamaṇḍapa Large pillared hall, especially intricately decorated, usually with an elaborate ceiling. The name refers to a hall with nine internal quadrants or ceilings, supported by four pillars. Outside Karnataka: *raṅgamaṇḍapa*.

Nāyaṇārs (Nāyaṇmārs) A group of sixty-three Śaiva *bhakti* Tamil saints, who lived in the period from the sixth to the eighth century CE.

Neminātha The Twenty-second Jina.

nirgrantha / nigaṇṭha Jaina ascetic.

nirvāṇa Liberation, enlightenment, the release of the soul from *karmic* bondage.

niśidhi Memorial stone. Alternatively: *niśidhi*.

niśidhi platform / maṇḍapa A platform with footprints or an inscribed panel, carved to commemorate a deceased person who has committed *sallekhanā* and to mark the sanctified spot. Some were later transformed into pavilions.

niṣkala The divinity in its formless or abstract state.

Oḍeyars Fourteenth to twentieth-century Hindu royal family, the former kings of Mysore. Alternatively: Wadiyar, Wodeyer.

om / om̐ Sacred syllable.

padma A lotus flower. Frequently an ornament in the superstructure of temples and inside as decorations for ceiling panels.

padmanābha / padmamandāraka Round corbelled ceiling in a temple. Alternatively: *bhuvaneśvarī*, *sabhāmandāraka*, *sabhāpadmamandāraka*.

padmaśīla Central carving depicting an open lotus at the centre of a flat (*samatala*) ceiling.

Padmāvatī Popular Jaina goddess and *yakṣī*. Associated with the male *yakṣa* Dhāraṇendra and the Jina Pārśvanātha.

pādōdaka “Water of [master’s] feet.” The holy water sanctified by contact with the *guru*’s feet.

pādukā Foot imprint or foot image.

pañc / pañca Five.

pañca / pañcakūṭa basadi Five-shrined temple.

pañcācāra The five regulating principles of conduct in Viraśaivism.

pañcācāryas Five masters.

pañcakūṭa Five-shrined (temple building).

pañcamahāśabda Honouring someone with five specific drums and cymbals.

pañcapīṭhas “Five seats.” The five main Viraśaiva *maṭhas*.

pāralaukika Otherworldly.

parama bhāgavatha A devotee of Viṣṇu.

pārśvacatuṣkī Porch for a side-entrance to a temple structure.

Pārśvanātha The twenty-third Jina.

Pārvatī One of the most powerful Hindu goddesses. Wife of the god Śiva.

Paryūṣaṇa A Jaina festival.

Pāśupatas Ascetic followers of an early form of Śaivism, now extinct, dating from about the second century CE. The Pāśupatas followed a monotheistic *bhakti* path. See Chapter 1, section 5.2.2.

Pāśupati Epithet of the god Śiva, meaning “lord of the animals.”

paṭṭaśālā / vīthika An oblong shallow columnar hall or forehall, which is a variant of an *ardhamanḍapa*.

paṭṭavali [Kannada] The term refers to the record of a spiritual lineage of the heads of monastic orders.

pavāḍas “Purifications.” The meaning in Kannada is “miracle.”

piñchī A brush made of peacock feathers for cleaning the floor before sitting or lying down, carried by Digambara ascetics.

piṇḍāṇḍa The human body, microcosm.

pīṭha / pīṭham “Seat.” A pedestal or altar and by extension also sacred place.

prabhāvalī An image frame.

pradakṣiṇā Ritual circumambulation in clock-wise fashion.

pradakṣiṇāpatha An ambulatory or path used for clock-wise ritual circumambulation.

prākāra A compound wall of a temple.

prāṇa Life force, vital principle or soul.

prasāda “Sacred oblation.” Food presented to an icon and received back by the worshippers as a blessing. In Viraśaivism, also the third stage of *ṣaṭsthala*, usually translated as “grace.”

prāsāda Main part of a temple, containing the sanctum (*garbhagṛha*).

pratiṣṭhāpanā The consecration ceremony of a statue.

pratolī [Sanskrit] / **pratōlī** [Kannada] A gateway structure. Alternatively: *dvāramaṇḍapa*.

pūjā Ritualised worship.

pujārī A priest.

Purāṇas Vast body of Hindu literature composed originally in Sanskrit.

Purāṇic Pertaining to the *Purāṇas*.

pūrṇa kalaśa / pūrṇa patra Full auspicious water pots, usually as an ornament adorning the top of temple towers.

puruṣa / Prajāpati The primeval Being.

Puṣpadanta The ninth Jina.

Qur’ān / Koran [Arabic] The central religious text of Islam.

ragaḷe [Kannada] A type of metre in used in Kannada poetry.

Rājasūya yaga Vedic ritual of the royal consecration, emphasising the king’s universal royal power and endowing him with divine charisma.

rājguru Royal preceptor.

Rāmānuja Eleventh-century Hindu poet, teacher and social reformer. Founder of the prominent south Indian *bhakti* form of Vaiṣṇavism, known as Śrīvaiṣṇavism. Alternatively: Rāmānujācārya.

raṅgabhūmikā A slightly raised circular stone platform or dais at the centre of large temple halls.

raṅgamaṇḍapa Large pillared hall, especially intricately decorated, usually with an elaborate ceiling. In Kannada: *navaraṅga*, *navaraṅgamaṇḍapa*.

ratha A festival chariot. Alternatively: *teru* [Kannada], *mandara*.

ratnatraya The triple jewels of Jainism: *samyak darśana* (true insight), *samyak jñāna* (right knowledge) and *samyak cāritra* (correct conduct). The same term is also used to refer to the three great Kannada poets, Pampa, Ponna and Ranna.

Rēcimayya A general and minister (1135–1225 CE) of Hoysaḷa King Vīra Ballāla II (1173–1220 CE).

Ṛg Veda Ancient Indian collection of Vedic sacred hymns. It is the oldest Vedic Sanskrit text.

Ṛṣabhanātha The first Jina. Alternatively: Ṛṣabha, Ādinātha.

Rudra A Ṛg Vedic deity, associated with the god Śiva.

rudrākṣa / rudrākṣi The garland of seeds sacred to Śiva, employed to make rosaries for prayers.

sabhāmaṇḍapa A temple hall, usually semi-closed, used for audiences and assemblies.

sabhāmandāraka / sabhāpadmamandāraka Round corbelled ceiling in a temple. Alternatively: *bhuvaneśvarī*, *padmanābha*, *padmamandāraka*.

sadācāra Work and action in harmony with one's vocation and duty. One of the five Viraśaiva regulating principles of conduct.

sādhu A mendicant, a religious person, a holy man.

śahasrakūṭa A cubical or pyramidal structure in Jaina temples, decorated with one thousand or at least with a very large number of Jinas.

Śaiva Siddhānta The form of Śaivism prevalent in the south of India from about the fifth century CE onwards, which is Tantric and aims to achieve a union with Śiva.

Śaiva Siddhāntins Adherents of Śaiva Siddhānta.

Śaivas Followers of the Hindu god Śiva.

Śaivism One of the major Hindu sects, focusing on the veneration of the god Śiva.

Śākta Tantrism Tantric form of Śāktism.

śakti “Energy.” The female principle, feminine energy or goddess. The central deity in Śāktism.

Śāktism One of many Hindu sects, focusing on the veneration of the female principle, the *śakti* / Śakti.

śālā Barrel-vaulted aedicule in a temple.

śālabhañjikā Tree nymph.

sallekhanā The Jaina religious practice of fasting to death under strict religious guidance. Known also as *sallekhanā vrata*, the vow to perform a ritual death.

samādhi “Self-absorption.” The highest level of mental concentration or meditation that can be achieved while still bound to the body, leading to union with the highest reality in death. By extension, it is also used to refer to the place of cremation and to funerary monuments.

samāja The merchant guild.

samatāla / samatāla vitāna A flat ceiling panel in a temple, usually decorated with a grid pattern.

samavasaraṇa The teaching auditorium constructed by the gods for the first sermon delivered by an enlightened Jina.

sāmāyika Developing equanimity, refraining from injury and temporarily renouncing some of one's possessions by making a religious gift.

saṁnyāsana Alternative term for *sallekhanā*.

saṁsāra The cycle of rebirths.

saṁskāras The sixteen worldly rituals or sacraments of the *brāhmaṇs*.

sāndhāra temple A temple with an internal circumabulatory path around the sanctum. Alternatively: *sāndhāra prāsāda*, *sāndhāra garbhagṛha*, and in the south *sāndhāra vimāna*.

sandhivigrahi Term for a minister in charge of foreign affairs, often responsible for writing important documents.

saṅgama Confluence.

saṅgha Religious community.

Śaṅkarācārya A Vedic Sanskrit scholar and teacher, who probably lived in the eighth century CE. He is the first (Ādi Śaṅkara) in a long line of important Vaiṣṇava teachers.

śaṅkha Conch.

Sannyāsin / Saṁnyāsin A person who has reached the final stage of their life (especially amongst *brāhmaṇs*) in which they have separated from their family and become a religious ascetic.

santhārā Alternative term used for *sallekhanā*, more widespread in Śvetāmbara Jainism.

Śāntinātha The sixteenth Jina.

Śāntiśvara Alternative name for Śāntinātha, the sixteenth Jina.

saptamātṛkās The seven mother goddesses.

śarana Holy man or refugee.

Sarasvatī The goddess of learning in Jainism and in Hinduism.

sāṛī Traditional unstitched Indian woman's dress.

Sarvāhana (Sarvāhṇa) A Jaina *yakṣa*, paired with the female *yakṣī* Kuṣamāṇḍinī and the Jina Neminātha. Amongst the Śvetāmbara Jains of North India, in particular, he is also known as Gomedha.

śāsana Inscription.

śāsana maṇḍapikā A pavilion sheltering one or several inscription steles.

ṣaṣṭhala Six successive stages of the spiritual journey of a Vīraśaiva devotee.

Seṭṭi / Seṭṭikār [Kannada] Trading or merchant class. The term Seṭṭi can also be spelled Śeṭṭi and derives from *śreṣṭhin*, whilst -*śeṭṭi* as suffix means “head of a guild.”

sheikh [Arabic] An honorific title in Islam, meaning “elder,” referring to a leader, master or chief.

Shī'a [Arabic] One sect of Islam, according to which the Prophet Muḥammad left 'Alī ibn Ṭālib as his successor.

siddha A fully-liberated being.

Siddheśvara A form of Śiva.

śikhara Tower of a north Indian temple.

Simhanandi Important Jaina teacher in Karnataka at the time of the Western Gaṅgā dynasty.

śiṃhāsana “Lion-throne.” Offering stand, usually made of metal, or a more permanent pedestal made of stone supporting an icon in a temple.

śiṣya Higher of two main Jain castes, comprising the so-called “Jainas by birth” or “pure Jainas,” who can prove their descent from an ancient Jain family bloodline.

śivācāra Worshipping only Śiva. One of the five Vīraśaiva regulating principles of conduct.

sopāna [Sanskrit] / **sōpāna** [Kannada] The steps leading up to the entrance of a temple structure.

śramaṇa An ascetic spiritual aspirant who follows the Jain, the Buddhist or some other non-Vedic religious path.

śrāvaka A Jain layperson.

Śrīvaiṣṇavas Adherents of the south Indian reformed *bhakti* form of Vaiṣṇavism known as Śrīvaiṣṇavism, which originated in the eleventh century.

Śrīvaiṣṇavism South Indian form of Vaiṣṇavism. It is a renewed *bhakti* form, focusing on the sixth-century CE Ālvār saints, reinvigorated by Śaṅkarācārya and further reformed by Rāmānuja in the eleventh century. See Chapter 1, section 5.4. Alternatively: Viśiṣṭādvaita School of Rāmānuja.

śṛṅgāra An erotic sculpture.

śṛṅgāracaaurīmaṇḍapa A large open pillared hall.

śrutakevali An ascetic who has acquired profound knowledge of the Jain scriptures, the *Āgamas*.

stambha Pillar. Alternatively: *kambad*, *kambada* [Kannada].

stambha pañjaras Pillar ornaments on the outside walls of temples.

Sthānakvāsī A non-image-worshipping group of Śvetāmbara Jainas.

sthāvara “Immovable,” “stagnant.”

sthāvara liṅga “Fixed” or “permanent.” An immovable stone *liṅga*, installed inside a temple.

strī mokṣa Enlightenment.

stūpa Buddhist commemorative monument.

stūpi / **stūpika** The pinnacle of a temple building.

Subrahmaṇya Hindu god of war. The son of Śiva and Pārvatī. Alternatively: Kārttikeya, Skanda, Murugan (Murugaṇ).

śūdras Labourers and service providers, lowest of the four classes in the Hindu *varṇa* system.

Sufi [Arabic] A Muslim mystic who practises the Sufi form of Islam.

Sufism The mystical form of Islam.

śukanāsa / **śukanāsi** Vestibule at the front of a sanctum. Alternatively: *antarāla*, *kapilī*. The term can also refer to the roof projection or antefix, shaped like a parrot-beak, attached to the main temple tower. This is positioned right above the internal vestibule.

sultān [Arabic] Title of an Islamic ruler.

Sunnī [Arabic] One sect of Islam, according to which the Prophet Muḥammad left no successor.

śūnya pīṭha “Seat of Void.”

Supārśvanātha The seventh Jina.

sūtra “String,” “thread.” A verse, an aphorism or collection of aphorisms, or the canonical scriptures more generally.

Śuttāla / Śuttālaya The pillared cloister surrounding the statue of Gommaṭeśvara at Shravanabelgola.

svāmī / swami An honorific title given to an ascetic.

Śvetāmbara “White (cotton) clad” group of Jaina ascetics whose male and female mendicants wear simple white robes.

śvetapaṭa Those who dress in white robes.

syādvāda Doctrine in Jaina metaphysics that all judgments are conditional.

Śyāma A Jaina *yakṣa*, paired with the female *yakṣī* Jvālāmālīnī and with the Jina Candraprabhu.

Tantrism This is an overarching term for esoteric forms of practice which focus on the sacred texts of the *Tantras*. It developed in India from about the late fifth century CE and was applied to Hindu, Buddhist and Jaina traditions.

teru [Kannada] A festival chariot. Alternatively: *ratha* or *mandara*.

tīrtha “Ford.” A sacred place or a holy person.

Tīrthaṅkar “Fordmaker.” The twenty-four enlightened teachers in Jainism. Alternatively: *arhat*, Jina and *kevalin*.

trikūṭa / trikūṭācala temple Temple structures with three sanctums, usually arranged either in a star-like fashion or side by side.

tripuṇḍra Parallel white lines worn by Śaiva practitioners on their forehead as a denominational indicator. The same lines are also applied to Śaiva and Viraśaiva statues to indicate their belonging or annexation.

tripuruṣaśālā temples Temple structures with three sanctums, of which the main and central sanctum is dedicated to the Hindu god Śiva and the other two to the Hindu divinities of Viṣṇu and Brahmā.

triśūla The trident carried by the Hindu god Śiva.

tritāla A three-storeyed temple.

udumbara Threshold. Alternatively: *bhuvāṅga*.

upasarga A condition of unavoidable calamity.

upparige [Kannada] A gatehouse or gate hall.

urs [Arabic, Persian] An annual festival celebrating the death anniversary of a Sufi saint.

Vacanas [Kannada] “Sayings.” Prose-poems composed by Basava and his successors.

vāhana The vehicle or animal carrier of a god.

Vaiṣṇavas Followers of the Hindu god Viṣṇu.

Vaiṣṇavism One of the major Hindu sects, focusing on the veneration of the god Viṣṇu.

vanavāsī Forest-dwelling ascetic.

varṇa “Colour.” Indian system of social stratification into four main classes, based on occupation.

vedabāhya People who are “external” to the *Vedas*, that is, who are heterodox.

Vedānta One of the six orthodox (*āstika*) schools of Hindu philosophy, based on the *Vedas*, also known as Uttara Mīmāṃsā.

Vedas A large body of ancient sacred religious texts written in Vedic Sanskrit.

vedi The terrace or platform, raising a temple above the ground. Alternatively: *jagatī*.

vesara The central Indian temple idiom. In Kannada: *vēsara*.

VHP The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) is an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist organisation, formed in 1925.

vibhūti The sacred ash, prepared in a special process from cow dung, used to make a sign (*tilaka*) on the forehead or to mark statues, denoting association with a particular religious sect.

vidyādevīs The goddesses of knowledge and learning.

vidyās Magical multi-word utterances or spells. In Prakrit: *vijjā*.

vimāna The pyramidal superstructure of *drāviḍa* temples. By extension sometimes also applied to the main part of a south Indian temple, below the superstructure.

Viṇḍhyagiri The taller hill at Shravanabelgola. Alternatively: Indragiri and in Kannada Doddābeṭṭā or Doḍḍabeṭṭa.

Vīr Nārāyaṇ “Hero Nārāyaṇa,” “Hero Viṣṇu.”

vīra Hero.

vīra bāṇajiga dharma “Law of the noble merchants.”

Vīra Bāṇajigas The merchant class.

Vīra Māheśvaras Vīraśaivas. Alternatively: Māheśvaras.

Vīrabhadra / Vīrabhadreśvara “Auspicious hero.” A fierce form of the Hindu god Śiva.

Vīraśaivas Followers of Vīraśaivism.

Vīraśaivism On Vīraśaivism (and Liṅgāyatism), refer to Chapter 1, section 5.3.1.

viśiṣṭādvaita Qualified non-dualism.

Viṣṇu Nārāyaṇa A form of Viṣṇu, showing him asleep on the cosmic snake. Alternatively: Nārāyaṇa or Śeṣaśāyin (Śeṣaśāyī).

Viṣṇuvardhana A Hoysaḷa king (ca. 1104–1141 CE), who was originally a Jaina but who under the influence of Rāmānuja converted to Śrīvaiṣṇavism and subsequently called himself Bṛiṭṭideva.

vitāna Temple ceiling.

Viṭṭhala Name of Viṣṇu. Alternatively: Viṭhōbā.

vṛṣa / vṛṣabha Bull.

yāga Sacrifice. Alternatively: *yagna* or *yajña*.

yakṣa Originally a nature spirit. In later Jainism, a male divinity, associated with the Jinas as guardian deity.

yakṣī Originally a nature spirit. In later Jainism, a female divinity, at first associated with the Jinas as guardian deity and later a more independent goddess, almost rivalling the status of the Jinas in the later forms of Jainism in South India.

yāli A fabulous animal, often composite, combining elements of a lion and an elephant.

yantra Sacred diagram, commonly used in Tantric rituals.

Yāpaniya Saṅgha The religious community of the Yāpanīyas.

Yāpanīyas Medieval subgroup of Digambara Jainism, no longer extant. For further details, see Chapter 1, section 3.2.2.

yati An ascetic.

yogin An ascetic Kāḷāmukha priest. Alternatively: *jaṅgama*.

yoginī Powerful female goddess. Also, a female expert practitioner in Tantric forms of Hinduism and Jainism.

yuga A cyclic world age.

zakat [Arabic] Almsgiving or paying taxes for social purposes, considered a religious obligation in Islam. One of the Five Pillars of Islam.