Glossary

Abhi: Just now
Ambubachi: A three-day period in Asharh (June-July)
Arvi: A vegetable
Arya: Sir
Ashwin: September-October
Baba: Term for father; also applied to a holy man or to a child
Bara-dari: A building which is open from all sides
Beji: Mother
Bhabi: Elder brother’s wife; also a respectable way of addressing an elder friend’s wife
Bhadrapad: August-September
Brahma: Creator
Brahm-muhurt: Early morning
Chalo: Let’s go
Chillum: The earthen smoking pipe
Chunni: An upper garment
Dada: Normally elder brother, sometimes also used for addressing an elderly man
Dasahara: A festival in honour of the river Ganges
Dewanjee: Minister
Didi: Elder sister
Dosai: A South Indian dish
Grihastha: Married state
Gulabi Attar: Attar of Roses
Harikatha: Religious discourse with music and mythological story-telling
Hashas: Enclosure
Homanala: Sacrificial fire
Kadamba: A flowering tree, with fragrant blossoms
Kaka: Son (in Punjabi)
Karinjotta: Plant in Kerala, branches of which are used for making walking sticks
Kichri: A dish made of rice and split pulse (dal) cooked together
Kolhi: Fisher-folk
Khus-Khus: A cooling device of fragrant dried grass
Lajwanti: Sensitive plant
Le: Look!
Mahapatra: High Priest
Maharshi: lit. Great Seer
Mahashay: Mr.
Makaram: Malayalam month corresponding to the latter half of January and first half of February
Mathali: A wicker hat, normally used by peasants and boatmen
Mehndi: Henna plant whose shoots and leaves are used as a dye on palms
Mohalla: Street
Moharrir: Clerk
Moulvi: Generally a Muslim teacher
Mukti: Deliverance
Musamat: Lady
Naik: Court-peon
Nazar: Gift
Nazarana: Gift
Neem: An Indian tree (Margosa)
Pappad or Papadum: An Indian savoury
Prabhat Pheris: Morning processions in nationalist movement
Puja: Worship
Purana: Religious discourse based on mythology
Ramrajya: (lit. Kingdom of Ram) Gandhi's term for Ideal State
Samadhi: State of meditation
Sat Sri Akal: Sikh greeting
Serishtadar: Clerk in a court of law
Simul: Silk-cotton tree
Tal: Palmyra fruit
Tali: Palm tree
**Thakur:** Sire

**Thali:** Plate

**Thanadar:** Police Superintendent

**Thikri:** Pebbles of burnt bricks

**Tongawallah:** Horse-cart driver

**Vakil:** Pledger

**Vizier:** Minister

**Zindabad:** Long live!