Explanatory Notes:-

1. “Abhojyanna” means food prepared by whom is not partaken by Brahmins.
3. “Ati-Shudra” or “Ati-Sudra”: A very low caste Hindu, especially the ex-untouchables. Modern day Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
4. “Barmu”: Is the twelfth day of the Hindu deceased after his death to be observed by his near and dear ones and relatives when certain rites and rituals are performed for the salvation of the soul of the deceased. The occasion of Barmu differs from caste to caste in certain aspects.
5. “Beedi”: Beedi means roll of a leaf containing tobacco-powder shaped cylindrically with pointed end for smoking. The beedies consist of two ingredients, (i) tendu leaves and (ii) tobacco. Tobacco is rolled in a tendu leaf. A beedi is a thin, often flavoured Indian cigarette made of tobacco wrapped in a tendu leaf. In Gujarati, it is called “Timru” leaf.
6. “Bhajnic”: He is a Hindu religious person who sings devotional songs mostly before a group of persons.
8. “Bhojan”: used for all types of meals i.e. lunch, dinner, supper
9. “Bhojyanna” means food prepared by whom is partaken by Brahmins.
10. “Brahmin”: A member of Hindu priestly class.
11. “Caste”: Hindu hereditary class, with members socially equal, united in religion and usually following the same trades having no social
communication with persons of other castes, more or less exclusive social class.

12. “Caste Hindu”:- Caste Hindu means higher caste/Upper caste Hindu popularly known as “Savarna” in Indian local languages.

13. “Chamar”:- Cobbler but not Mochi who is de-scheduled now in Gujarat from the list of the Scheduled Castes. Deals in skin and bones of the dead animals. A maker of shoes and often of other leather goods. The leather preparers of skins/the manufacturers of leather articles and the maker of shoes, belongs to a well defined class in the Indian Social order. (The Chamars, by Geo. W. Briggs, Associated Press, 5 Russel Street, Calcutta, 1920, p.1)

14. “Charak Puja”:- Charak Puja was a system wherein it was a practice to tie the waist with a strong rope of the persons belonging to castes like Kanbi (now Patel/Patidar), Potter, Koli, Blacksmith, Carpenter and others, declared as “Shudras” by the “Smritis” and then the high Caste Hindus will drag them by the rope and kill them dragging mercilessly and rejoice at the cruel deaths of the members of the above communities. Britishers banned it 1863.

15. “Chaturvarnya”:- Chaturvarnya means four Varnas namely – (1) Brahmin (2) Kshatriya (3) Vaishya and (4) Shudra. This was the part of the Aryan Culture and social order. Chaturvarnya is the main social system of the Hindus. “Varna” means colour of the skin.

16. “Dalits”:- Dalits means members of Scheduled Caste so far as this study is concerned.

17. “Dudhapiti”:- A Custom of the Dwij Varnas of Hindu in which they used to kill a female child, immediately after her birth, by drowning
her in a vessel filled with milk. The British banned this custom in the year 1795.

18. “Dwij”:- Twice born, a term used for Brahmin. Once the Brahmin is born from the womb of his mother, it is his first birth. The investiture ceremony of girdle (Janoi – Sacred thread) is called his second birth and hence the Brahmins are called “Dwij.” The Kshatriyas and Vaishyas too are called “Dwij” as they were also entitled for the so called pious investiture ceremony of the girdle and whoever, for any reason, used to be denied this ceremonial adaptation of girdle, used to lose his social status from the social hierarchy and used to stand downgraded socially.

19. “Ex-Untouchable”:- Ex-Untouchable means member of lower caste whose touch, the caste Hindus believed, used to pollute them.

20. “Garba”:- Garba means band of dancers and singers in religious ceremonies and dramatic performances, any simultaneous utterance of song by many persons. Now the same is also held on the eve of marriages.

21. “Gharak”:- Gharak menas a system of Hindus in which lower caste people are connected with the higher caste people in a relationship in which former render services and the latter reward them with small favours occasionally and especially on festivities and other auspicious occasions in lieu of services so rendered, in small cash or kind.

22. “Guru”:- Preceptor, Teacher, Knowledge giver.

23. “Inter-caste marriage”:- Inter-caste marriage means marriage between male and female belonging to different castes. A limited agreed exogamy.

24. “Kathakar”:- He is a story-teller.
25. “Kshatriya”:- Member of a second of four great Hindu Castes, the military Caste.

26. “Mahant”:- Mahant is generally a bigger Hindu Sadhu (religious person) owning some “matha” (Hindu Convent)—a spacious religious place known as ‘Ahram.’

27. “Muni”:- An ancient Hindu ascetic.


29. “Paan”:- Paan means leaf of the betel; this enclosing lime and areca-nut parings, chewed by Asians.

30. “Patel”:- A Caste of Hindus which is not part of Brahmin, Kshatriya or Vaishya Varna or Caste. Originally Patels belonged to the Shudra Varna but now, due to their very high economic prosperity, they are considered to be quite high socially too.

31. “Person” includes any company or association or body of persons, whether incorporated or not. The “Dalit” was not considered to be a “person” before advent and establishment of British Rule in India. During British Rule only, he was considered to be a “person” . A person is an entity upon whom Legal rights, Powers and Privileges are conferred, to whom liberties are given and duties are prescribed. The “Avarnas” were not regarded as “Person” in the eyes of the Hindu Law before arrival of Britishers in India.

32. “Puran”:- The name “Puran” is given to a class of works said to have been compiled by Vyasa. They are about 18 and they deal with five things cp. Puran-pancallaksana. They were compiled in undue hurry at a time which is quite uncertain; their subject matter too being not properly arranged.

33. “Rishi”:- An ancient Hindu ascetic.
34. “Sadhu”: This is an Indian word for holy man. Sage, or ascetic.
35. “Samhita”: ‘Sam’ means along with + ‘Hit’ means placed. “Samhita” is the ritual part of the Vedas, it is the branch of the Vedas, Part of the Vedas covering propitiation of Vedas’ Gods, a Chapter of the Vedas, in all there are 12 ‘Samhitas’. It is the part of religious literature of Hindus.
36. “Sanatan Dharma”: Sanatan Dharma means the old and traditional religion of the Hindus in which the structure of religion is based on the “Varanashram” i.e. four Varnas and four Ashram System along with the values attached to them and various philosophy of life and social system emanated from the Vedas, Shruti, Smriti, Upnishad etc. and other scriptures.
37. “Sati”: Sati means a faithful, virtuous and pious wife.
38. “Scheduled Castes”: means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purpose of this Constitution. (Article 366(24) of the Constitution of India)
39. “Scheduled Tribes”: means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purpose of this Constitution. (Article 366(25) of the Constitution of India)
40. “Shudra” or “Sudra”: A low caste Hindu. Modern day SEBC/OBC/MANDAL PANCHCASTES/BAXIPANCHCASTES including the Patels/Patidars. The very name of Shudra is derived from “Shue” (Sorrow) and “Dru” (overcome), “One who has overcome sorrow.”
41. Smriti/Smruti”: Smriti means a class of works handed down by tradition, tradition, memory.
42. “Untouchability”:- Untouchability means misplaced belief of the caste Hindus that the mere touch by a member of lower caste Hindu hereditary group held to defile the members of higher caste on contact and thus the practice of untouchability creates discrimination and all types of disabilities against the ex-untouchables and the present day Scheduled Castes or the Dalits.

43. “Untouchable”:- means members of the lower caste Hindus whom the higher caste Hindus do not touch or allow them to touch thinking and believing that touch of the members of untouchable castes would defile or pollute them. Untouchable means that cannot or must not be touched. Member of Hindu hereditary group held to defile members of higher caste on contact. Eleanor Zelliot, “From Untouchable to Dalit”, Essays on Ambedkar Movement, Manohar Publications, New Delhi, 1992, p.146 has described four names of the Dalits – “A note on nomenclature: four terms are used to describe the same group: Untouchable, Depressed Class, Scheduled Caste, Harijan. The word “Untouchable” is used freely among the Untouchables themselves. Those Untouchables who are influenced by Gandhi’s Organization, The Harijan Sevak Sangh and most Caste Hindus use the term Harijan (People of God). Its use by the untouchable indicates that he is of the Congress, not one of Dr. Ambedkar’s followers. Depressed Class was the term used widely until Scheduled Castes came into currency in 1935, according to the Schedule prepared under the Government of India Act. The term Neo-Buddhists, generally used for the converts, is unacceptable to them. They call themselves, simply, “Buddhists.”

44. “Upanishads”:- Upanishad means to go close and squat. Thus the original meaning of the word seems to be ‘Sitting close to the teacher’ and ‘the
secret of life’. According to Samkara (Shankar) Upnishad signify destruction of ignorance by realizing the Supreme Being. Though the Upnishads generally form part of the Brahmanas being continuation of their speculative side, they really represent a new religion, which is in virtual opposition to the ritual and practical side (Karmkanda) of the Vedas. Their aim is to release from mundane existence by the absorption of the individual soul in the world-soul through correct knowledge. Chief Upnishadas are: Isa, Kena, Katha, Prasna, Mandukya, Taittiriya, Aitareya, Chandogya and Brahadaranyaka. On these alone Samkara has written his commentary. Extant are 108.

45. “Vaishya”: Member of third of four great Hindu Castes, comprising the merchants and agriculturalists.

46. “Valmiki”: a member of one of the Scheduled Castes who traditionally do scavenging work. “Valmiki” is their new name. The old name is “Bhangi”.

47. “Vankar”: Weaver – Whose original occupation was weaving cloth. Ex-Untouchable and now part of the Scheduled Caste.

48. “Varna”: Any of the four divisions of Hindu society mainly the Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and the Shudra. The Ati-Shudra was considered to be the Avarna or the fifth Varna outside the main four-fold division of Hindu society. In Sanskrit language “Varna” means colour, class.