<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahl-i-Hadis</td>
<td>A section of the Sunni Sect claiming adherence to only whatever the Prophet Muhammad taught in the Quran and authoritative traditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajlaf</td>
<td>Term used to describe converts from lower Hindu caste groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annaprasan</td>
<td>A ceremony which is also known as 'Bhujna', is performed on the occasion when the child takes rice for the first time after he/she attains a particular age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquiqua</td>
<td>A Muslim religious ceremony celebrating the birth of a child. The essential element of the occasion is to sacrifice two beasts upon the birth of a male child and one beast upon the birth of a female child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashraf</td>
<td>The term describes Muslims of foreign extraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asirvad</td>
<td>Blessings; On several occasions i.e. after the fixation of the day of marriage or after marriage, both the bride and bridegroom are blessed by their elders with some articles or money. The celebration of the occasion is known as Asirbad ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asram</td>
<td>Religious hermitage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azan</td>
<td>The procedure of calling a faithful to the mosque five times a day to join the prayer. The recital is done in Arabic.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Baralok</td>
<td>Economically well-off person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barat</td>
<td>Marriage party or procession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barui</td>
<td>Term applied to persons who roof the mud house with straw.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagal</td>
<td>Cow-boy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bostom</td>
<td>Corrupted form of Baishnab, a reformist sect of Hindu religion but now turned into a caste group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhaja</td>
<td>A ceremony performed in the seventh month of pregnancy of a married woman. She is offered fried grains, fried flattened rice, fried sweetened paddy and cakes prepared from rice and sugar and curd. These materials are sent by her parent's household.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhadralok</td>
<td>A socially privileged and upper section which keeps its distance from the masses by descent, occupation and culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigha</td>
<td>A measure of land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britti</td>
<td>Traditional occupation, usually caste-based.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chotolok</td>
<td>The term used to describe persons of unclean caste-groups and also those of low economic and social status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chotojat</td>
<td>A caste belonging to unclean caste group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chasa</td>
<td>Cultivator who ploughs land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamar</td>
<td>Workers in leather. The term is also used to denote a miser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dai</td>
<td>A Hari (uncle clean Sudra caste) woman attending the prospective mother during delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darga</td>
<td>The resting place of a saint. The term is also used to indicate the place housing the grave of a saint where people throng to beg for his blessing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinagaman</td>
<td>A ceremony celebrating the coming of the bridegroom to her husband's house a few months after her marriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darzi</td>
<td>A persian word meaning a tailor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekuse</td>
<td>The purificatory ceremony observed at the 21st day after the birth of a child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falar</td>
<td>Corrupted form of Falahar i.e. eating of fruits. The villagers get together on a day of Baisak/Jaista to show their devotion to a personage/deity and take fried rice, curd, fruits etc on the place where they meet together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulsajya</td>
<td>Bed of flowers. A ceremony observed on the third day of marriage celebrating the marriage of the couple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorib</td>
<td>Poor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayeholud</td>
<td>Corrupted form of gatraharidra. Before marriage, both the bridegroom and bride smear oil and halud (turmeric paste) on their body and the ceremony is known as gayeholud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotra</td>
<td>A Hindu clan; tracing its parental linkage from a common ancestor, usually a saint or sage. For the Brahmans, marriage in the same gotra is prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram Panchayet</td>
<td>Lowest tier of the three-tier system of elective institutions of rural self-government established under Panchayati Raj.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guru</td>
<td>Spiritual adviser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadis</td>
<td>The Hadis (traditions) are the records of the saying of Prophet Muhammad or his companions. They are also sunna, which signifies custom or regulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haj</td>
<td>Pilgrimage to Mecca which every faithful Muslim is supposed to make at least once in his lifetime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haji</td>
<td>One who has performed his pilgrimage to Mecca.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajjam</td>
<td>A Muslim barber. He is the professional circumcisor in the villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halal</td>
<td>Permitted according to Quran and Tradition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hakim</td>
<td>Literally, a judge or magistrate, one in authority. The term is used to a physician of the unami system of medicine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanafi</td>
<td>A follower of the Hanafi school of jurisprudence which is so named after the Persian scholar Abu Hanifa who is one of the jurists of Islamic jurisprudence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haram</td>
<td>Forbidden according to Quran and Tradition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>A village market-place.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imam</td>
<td>Arabic origin, meaning a spiritual guide. The word is used to denote the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>person who leads the congregation prayer of the Muslims in the mosque.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamization</td>
<td>Cultural process whereby Muslims try to abandon the so-called unIslamic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>customs and practices and follow the precepts of Islam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jajmani system</td>
<td>System of performing caste services and by this system the household of a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>particular caste possesses the right to render caste services to some par-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ticular households.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jat</td>
<td>Corrupted form of Jati meaning the endogamous unit in the caste system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jihad</td>
<td>Literally, a battle for religion. This is one of the five pillars of Islamic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>faith.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jinn</td>
<td>Literally, a genius or spirit. Muslims believe that there is a distinct</td>
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<td></td>
<td>order of creatures, good and evil, called Jinn, Genii. The evil one haras-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ses humans if offended in any way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaaba</td>
<td>The place in Medina towards which Muslims face while praying. The corpse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>is also placed in this direction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabiraj</td>
<td>A practitioner of the pseudoscientific system of Ayurvedic medicine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaccha food</td>
<td>Food cooked with water is called Kaccha food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaccha house</td>
<td>House built of mud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalima</td>
<td>The Muhammadan confession of faith.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsen</td>
<td>Colloquial form of krisan, i.e. a cultivator. The term is used to denote agricultural labourer who is appointed for one year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirtan</td>
<td>Devotional songs of the Hindus in praise of God Hari Krishna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulin</td>
<td>A sub-caste of the Brahmin caste claiming higher social ranking from another subcastes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kushandiha</td>
<td>A ceremony performed by the Muslims during marriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lingam</td>
<td>A stone of phallic shape. The Hindus' view it as the symbol of God Siva.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madrasa</td>
<td>School where lessons on Islamic religion are given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maulawi</td>
<td>A Muslim teacher of Persian or Arabic. It is a class of Madrasa educated persons who take it their occupation to teach Islam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maund</td>
<td>A measure of weight; approximately 37.3 kilograms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehr</td>
<td>Dower promised by the Husband to his wife at the time of marriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nabanna</td>
<td>A ceremony relating to the testing of the new rice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namaz</td>
<td>Prayer, Islamic form of worship supposed to be performed at least five times a day.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nikah</td>
<td>The formal marriage ceremony of the Muslims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojha</td>
<td>A sorcerer who is generally called in to help persons possessed by evil spirits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchuti</td>
<td>On the fifth day after the birth of a child a purificatory ceremony known as 'Panchuti' is performed. The village deities and personage are also worshipped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para</td>
<td>Locality i.e. a section of village. Generally the members of a particular caste live in a particular locality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parda</td>
<td>Literally, a curtain to hide something. It refers to the Muslim woman's observance of being veiled against strangers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacca food</td>
<td>Food cooked with ghee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacca house</td>
<td>House made of concrete and bricks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purohit</td>
<td>Priest who prays for the welfare of the family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qazi</td>
<td>A judge appointed to administer Muslim law. The word is also used as a surname.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quran</td>
<td>The sacred text of Islam believed to have been dictated to Prophet Muhammad by Gabriel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramazan</td>
<td>The ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this month daily fast is</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rigidly enjoined by the faithful Muslims from dawn until sunset.

Indian currency. Also known as Taka. It has 100 paisas.

A ceremony performed at ninth month of pregnancy of a married woman. The woman is served favourable dishes and new clothes by her parents.

Holy man; a Hindu who is supposed to have renounced the world with a view to devoting himself to God.

A pebble, found in certain rivers. The Hindus worship it as the image of God Vishnu.

A measure of weight; approximately 933 grams.

A Muslim sect who claims that Ali was the rightful successor to Prophet Muhammad but his right of succession was usurped by the first three Caliphs.

A mixture of milk, banana, sugar and flower which is offered to the deity Olabibi, any Pir and also to God Satyanarayan.

The purificatory rite performed after the death of a person.

An act of purification.

A Muslim mystic.
Tabij: An amulet. The religious men or saints are requested to write the tabit. The paper with certain religious verses written by the religious man or saint is sewn into a tablet and is tied on the arms or hung on the neck.

Upanayana: A religious ceremony performed by a Brahmin after he attains the age of twelve. At this ceremony he wears the sacred thread and becomes capable of performing religious practices.

Varna: Literally colour. The term is used to classify Hindu society according to four major categories each of which contains a number of castes.

Zakat: One of the five pillars of Islamic faith. Every Muslim is supposed to give away annually one fortieth of his income to charity. Zakat is a compulsory taxation and the percentage is also fixed.