GLOSSARY OF TERMS

i. Alerts: Twitter Alerts enable public safety agencies to inform people during emergencies by highlighting critical time-sensitive content with notifications and a unique look.

ii. API: Application-programming interface. Offers access to Twitter’s database. Steaming API is a popular choice among Researchers. However, the maximum number of Tweets cannot exceed 1% of the total Tweets produced on Twitter.

iii. APPS: Piece of software designed to fulfill a particular purpose for use on smartphones and tablets. It is a self-contained program. Twitter too has its own app.

iv. ASCII: American Standard Code for Information Interchange. This is a scheme used for encoding characters based on the English alphabet. This was the standard used to encode characters over the Internet.

v. Bio: A short (up to 160 characters) personal description that appears in your profile that serves to characterize your persona on Twitter.

vi. Block: If you block a Twitter user, that account will be unable to “follow” you or add you to their Twitter lists, and you will not receive a notification if they mention you in a Tweet.

vii. Blog: It is a personalized online diary combining text, images, and links to other blogs on the World Wide Web.

viii. Broadband Internet: Internet signal which has more bandwidth, meaning greater capacity to carry Internet data.

ix. Convergence: Convergence generally means the coming together of several entities to form one entity which performs the functions of all the entities. In this thesis the term convergence refers to the convergence of Internet, information technologies, telecommunication, electronics, media, and entertainment.
x. Deactivation: If you deactivate your account, it goes into a queue for permanent deletion from Twitter in 30 days. You may reactivate your account within the 30 day grace period.

xi. Digital Literacy: To have large number of capabilities in managing digital tools as well as an understanding of the concepts, methods and culture associated with cyberspace.

xii. Digital Divide: Refers to the inequalities between groups in terms of access and availability of information and communication technology.

xiii. Direct Messages: Direct Messages are private messages sent from one Twitter user to other Twitter users. You can use Direct Messages for one-on-one private conversations, or between groups of users.

xiv. E-mail: Electronic mail: A method of exchanging messages between computer users on a network, especially over the Internet.

xv. Facebook: A social networking website which at the time of writing this thesis boasts of more than 1.49 billion active registered users worldwide. In India, the number of registered users is 125 million.

xvi. Favorite(d): It is an indicator that represents a yellow star to indicate that a tweet is popular or liked by users. A tweet user can mark a tweet as favorite to let the author know that they like that particular tweet.

xvii. Firehose: Full streams of Tweets are available through this, but the access is limited to Twitter partner companies such as GNIP and DataSift, who allow their customers to access this complete stream of Tweets, and to retrieve, on requests, Tweets from the Twitter Archive.

xviii. Follow: Subscribing to a Twitter account is called “following.” To start following, click the Follow button next to the user name or on their profile page to see their Tweets as soon as they post something new. Anyone on Twitter can follow or unfollow anyone else at any time, with the exception of blocked accounts. See “block.”
xix. Follows: A follow is the result of someone following your Twitter account. You can see how many follows (or followers) you have from your Twitter profile.

xx. Follow button: Click the Follow button to follow (or unfollow) anyone on Twitter at any time. When you follow someone, you will see their Tweets in your Home stream.

xxi. Follow count: This count reflects how many people you follow and how many follow you; these numbers are found on your Twitter profile.

xxii. Follower: A follower is another Twitter user who has followed you to receive your Tweets in their Home stream.

xxiii. Geolocation, geotagging: Adding a location to your tweet (a geolocation or geotag) tells those who see your Tweet where you were when you posted that Tweet.

xxiv. Google Hangouts: A networking tool of Google that brings conversations to life with photos and group video calls for free. It can be connected with computers, Android, and Apple devices.

xxv. Hacking: Gaining unauthorized access to an account via phishing, password guessing, or session stealing. Usually this is followed by unauthorized posts from the account.

xxvi. Handle: A Twitter account is also known as a handle.

xxvii. Hashtag: A hashtag is any word or phrase immediately preceded by the # symbol. When you click on a hashtag, you will see other Tweets containing the same keyword or topic.

xxviii. Header photo: Your personal image that you upload, which appears at the top of your profile.

xxix. Home: It shows the real-time stream of Tweets of those who you are following on this page.
xxx. Internet Protocols (IPs): The protocols or rules that are used to transmit and receive data over the Internet.

xxxi. Internet Service Provider (ISP): The organization which provides Internet connectivity to client network, or users.

xxxii. Interface: It is a point of interaction between hardware of a computer and/or software.

xxxiii. Instagram: A social networking platform for the sharing of pictures and videos with facility to link it to other Social Media channels like Facebook and Twitter.

xxxiv. Like: Tap the icon to like a Tweet and the author will see that you appreciate it.

xxxv. Like (n.): Liking a Tweet indicates that you appreciate it. You can find all of your likes by clicking the likes tab on your profile.

xxxvi. Like (v.): Tap the heart icon to like a Tweet and the author will see that you appreciate it.

xxxvii. List: From your own account, you can create a group list of other Twitter users by topic or interest (e.g., a list of friends, coworkers, Celebrities, athletes). Twitter lists also contain a timeline of Tweets from the specific users that were added to the list, offering you a way to follow individual accounts as a group on Twitter.

xxxviii. Mention: Mentioning other users in your Tweet by including the @ sign followed directly by their username is called a “mention.” Also refers to Tweets in which your @username was included.

xxxix. Notifications: The Notifications timeline displays your interactions with other Twitter users, like mentions, favorites, Retweets and who has recently followed you.
xl. Profile: Displays information you choose to share publicly, as well as all of the Tweets you’ve posted. Your profile along with your @username identify you on Twitter.

xli. Profile photo: Your personal image found under the Me icon. It is also the picture that appears next to each of your Tweets.

xlii. Protected Tweets: Tweets are public by default. Choosing to protect your Tweets means that you’re Tweets will only be seen by your followers.

xliii. Reactivation: You may reactivate a deactivated account within 30 days of the deactivation date. After 30 days, deactivated accounts are permanently deleted.

xliv. Reply: A response to another user’s Tweet that begins with the @username of the person you’re replying to is known as a reply.

xlv. Retweet (n.), RT: A Tweet that you forward to your followers is known as a Retweet. Often used to pass along news or other valuable discoveries on Twitter, a Retweet retains original attribution.

xlvi. Retweet(ed) (v.): The act of sharing another user’s Tweet to all followers by clicking on the Retweet button.

xlvii. Screenshot: An image of the screen of a computer. This can be taken by pressing the ‘PrtSc’ button on the computer keyboard and pasted in a document by using the simple ‘Paste’ command in the edit menu of software.

xlviii. Selfie: A self-portrait taken with a smart phone/tablet and often shared on Social Media like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

xlix. Short code: A five-digit phone number used to send and receive Tweets via text message.

l. SMS: Short Message Service (SMS) is most commonly known as text messaging.
li. Smart Phone: It is a mobile phone which combines advanced features of a phone with features of a personal computer.

lii. Social Networking Sites: An online service that helps build online network of friends and people with common interests, backgrounds or helps in connecting with people and maintaining contacts online.

liii. Spam: Refers to a variety of prohibited behaviors that violate the Twitter Rules. Spam can be generally described as unsolicited, repeated actions that negatively impact other users.

liv. Tablet: Portable personal computer with touch screen interface.

lv. Tech-Savvy: Person having advanced knowledge of how to use modern gadgets.

lvi. Technocrat: A person in power or influential position who uses technology. Technocracy is an organizational structure or system of governance where decision-makers are selected on the basis of technological knowledge.

lvii. Text commands: When using Twitter via SMS, these commands allow you to access most Twitter features with simple text keywords.

lviii. Timeline: A timeline is a real-time stream of Tweets. Your Home stream, for instance, is where you see all the Tweets shared by your friends and other people you follow.

lix. Timestamp: The date and time a Tweet was posted to Twitter. A Tweet's timestamp can be found in grey text in the detail view of any Tweet.

lx. Top Tweets: Tweets determined by a Twitter algorithm to be the most popular or resonant on Twitter at any given time.

lxi. Touchscreen: It is an input device that performs the function of a keyboard and is displayed on the screen of a smartphone or tablet.
lxii. Trends: A Trend is a topic or hashtag determined algorithmically to be one of the most popular on Twitter at that moment. You can choose to tailor Trends based on your location and who you follow.

lxiii. Tweet (n.): A Tweet may contain photos, videos, links and up to 140 characters of text.

lxiv. Tweet(ing) (v.): The act of sending a Tweet. Tweets get shown in Twitter timelines or are embedded in websites and blogs.

lxv. Tweet button: Anyone can add a Tweet button to their website.

lxvi. Twiplomacy: Twitter has helped foster digital diplomacy, giving world leaders and foreign ministries an opportunity to interact directly with the public and with peers. This has led to the coining of the term twiplomacy (tweet+diplomacy).

lxvii. Twitter: An information network made up of 140-character messages (including photos, videos and links) from all over the world. India had 22.2 million Twitter users in January 2015.

lxviii. Twitter emoji: A Twitter emoji is a specific series of letters immediately preceded by the # sign which generates an icon on Twitter such as a national flag or another small image.

lxix. Twitter Polls: Twitter Polls allow you to weigh in on questions posed by other people on Twitter. You can also easily create your own poll and see the results instantly.

lxx. Unfollow: See “follow.”

lxii. URL, URLs: A URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is a web address that points to a unique page on the internet.

lxii. Verification: A process whereby a Twitter account receives a blue check icon to indicate that the creator of these Tweets is a legitimate source. Verified users include public figures and those who may have experienced identity confusion on Twitter.
lxxiii. Web 2.0: World Wide Web sites that emphasize user-generated content, usability, and interoperability. The term was popularized by Tim O’Reilly and Dale Dougherty at the O’Reilly Media Web 2.0 Conference in late 2004, though it was coined by Darcy DiNucci in 1999.

lxxiv. Who to follow: Who to follow is an automated list of recommended accounts we think you might find interesting, based on the types of accounts you already follow and who those people follow.

lxxv. Whatsapp: A Social Media Application for making calls, sending messages and sharing pictures and videos on mobile phones through the internet.

lxxvi. Windows: A disk operating system developed by Microsoft Corporation.

lxxvii. Wikipedia: Free encyclopedia which is continuously developed by people on the World Wide Web collectively.


lxxix. YouTube: An award winning service and application which allows users to upload videos over the Internet and share them with others.

lxxx. SYMBOLS: @: The@ sign is used to call out usernames in Tweets: “Hello @twitter!” People will use your @username to mention you in Tweets, send you a message or link to your profile.

lxxxii. SYMBOLS: @username: A username is how you are identified on Twitter, and is always preceded immediately by the@ symbol. For instance, Madhuri Dixit is @madhuridixit.

lxxxii. SYMBOLS: #: See “hashtag.”

*Source: Twitter (https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337) and Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org)*