Glossary

adiwasi  literally inhabitants since ancient times; colonial
classificatory scheme listed them as scheduled tribes (ST)

arthashastra  written by Kautiliya; lays down rules, norms, taxes for a
hindu theory of state which was a major employer of slave
dasa labour in agriculture

bania  trader caste

bhumihar  Brahmins who were landlords, to be found mostly in Bihar

brahmin  priestly caste

burakumin  'untouchables' under Japanese feudalism

dalit  literally downtrodden or oppressed'; colonial classificatory
scheme listed them as scheduled castes (SC); the term
chosen to refer to themselves by those earlier known as
'untouchables', who fall out of the four-fold varna system
on which caste is based

dharmashastra  ancient hindu law codes

gulamgiri  slavery

jajmani  a particular form of feudal organisation of agrarian structure
which had caste defined obligatory labour for the lower
castes, a particular form of bonded labour system

jati  caste in the Indian context

kshatriya  warrior caste

kuchha  houses made of mud, leaves, stones, plastic etc.

mahajan  moneylender who extract through usury

mahalwari  a particular type of tenurial arrangement mainly in Haryana

manu smriti  ancient hindu law codes which legitimises brahminism

pucca  opposite of raw, e.g. cooked as opposed to raw

ryotwari  a type of tenurial arrangement mainly in western india

sahukar  moneylender who extracts through usury

sarkar  state

shudra  lowest castes in varna system who were mostly labourers,
artisans, the 'untouchables'

shudraati shudra  literally most oppressed among the oppressed; Phule used
this term for women in hindu society

thekedar  contractor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>varna</td>
<td>literally, ‘colour’; refers to the four-fold racist division of ancient Hindu society into Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras, classification on which the caste system is based</td>
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<tr>
<td>varnashram dharm</td>
<td>caste defined obligatory labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>veth-begar</td>
<td>bonded labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>zamindari</td>
<td>a type of tenurial arrangement mainly in eastern and central India</td>
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