GLOSSARY

1. All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

M.G. Ramchandran after his split with DMK formed his party and named it as ADMK or Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It means that the DMK of Annadurai, the founder of DMK. The name was chosen to emphasize his argument that DMK under Karunanidhi leadership had deviated from the original ideology of DMK and Annadurai. Later on during Emergency he renamed the party as All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

2. Communal G.O

It meant Communal Government Order. Two such orders were issued by the government in 1920’s providing for communal reservation to non-Brahmins. After independence they were nullified by the judgment of the Supreme Court and subsequently the first Constitutional Amendment Act was introduced to safeguard the reservation system.

3. Dravida Congress

In the 40s and 50s of the last century the non-Brahmin congressmen were called as Dravida Congressmen by Dravida Kazhagam. It was advocated that the Dravida Congressmen would work for the diminution of Brahmin hegemony within the congress party and its state government while the Dravida Kazhagam would work for the non-brahmanization of the Tamil society outside the congress.

4. DMK

It is Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It means the Development Association of Dravida People.
5. Kalaignar
   It means the great artist. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the leader of DMK M. Karunanidhi is called as Kalaignar by his followers and almost all political leaders.

6. Katchi
   In Tamil it means a party

7. Kavi Arasu
   The poet who joined national stream of congress from Dravidian movement through the Tamil Desiya Katchi, Kannadasan was called as Kavi Arasu meaning the king of poems.

8. Kazhagam
   In Tamil it means an association or organization. The word came to be extensively used in the politics of the state after the formation of Dravida Kazhagam by E.V. Ramasamy in Salem.

9. Kula Kalvi Thittam
   The leader of Dravidar Kazhagam Periyar E.V. Ramasamy characterized the controversial education scheme of Rajaji as Kula Kalvi Thittam meaning caste based education scheme. The scheme was titled so that mass mobilization of the people against the scheme and Brahmmins could be done rapidly.

10. Makkal Thalaivar
    The founder of Tamil Maanila congress G.K. Moopanar was eulogized by followers as Makkal Thalaivar.

11. Marumalarchi
    In Tamil it means renaissance. The Dravidian leader Vaiko named his party after the split in DMK as Marumalarchi DMK or Renaissance DMK.
12. Moopanar

It is a caste group predominantly engaged in agriculture found in composite Thanjavoor district. G.K. Karuppaiah, the congress leader and founder of Tamil Manila Congress hailed from this caste.

13. Mootharignar

It means the elderly statesman or scholar. The former Governor-General of India, Chief Minister of Madras C. Rajagolpalachariar was eulogized as Mootharignar.

14. Naanjil Nadu

It refers to the Kanyakumari district.

15. Namakkal Kavignar

It means the poet of Namakkal. Ramalingam Pillai was called so and he was known for his songs that fused Tamil nationalism and Indian Nationalism. All congress leaders and workers sang his song during the Vedaranyam salt march.

16. Patchai Tamilan

It means a pure Tamil. The leader of Dravidar Kazhagam Periyar gave this title to Kamaraj, when he became the Chief Minister of Madras State in the aftermath of the resignation of Rajaji. The word was chosen to emphasize the point that unlike Rajaji who was a Brahmin and hence not a Tamil in Dravidian definition, Kamaraj was a true son of the Tamil community.

17. Pattali

In Tamil it means the proletariat or the worker. The Vanniyar leader Ramadoss named his party as Pattal Makkal Katchi meaning Proletariat People Party.

18. Perarignar

It means the great scholar. The former Chief Minister, the architect of DMK C.N. Annadurai was affectionately called so.
19. Periyar
In Tamil it means the great man. The leader of self-respect movement E.V. Ramasamy came to be bestowed with this title during the anti-Hindi agitation in 1938.

20. Pongal
The unique festival of Agriculture in Tamil Nadu is called as Pongal. Falling in the month of January or the first day of the Tamil month ‘Thai’ this festival was popularized by regional Dravidian movement. Here it is often portrayed as a Tamil festival in opposition to Diwali associated with Brahmanized Tamil Nadu.

21. Pudhiya Tamilagam
It means the new land of Tamil community. M.P. Sivagnanam popularized the concept in the era of linguistic reorganization. It meant the creation of the homogenous Tamil state with extremely federated powers. In the contemporary political discourse of Tamil Nadu Pudhiya Tamilagam is the party of the Dalit community called as Devendra Kula Vellalar, founded by Dr. Krishna Swamy.

22. Puratchi Thalaivar
It means the revolutionary leader. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the founder of AIADMK was known as Puratchi Thalaivar.

23. Sangam
It means Association. In ancient period Tamil flourished because of the association of poets.

24. Sentamil
It means the pure Tamil or the classical Tamil. The Dravidian movement and its affiliated organizations popularized pure Tamil in opposition to the Sanskrit influenced Tamil of Brahmins.
25. Silambu Selvar
The leader of Tamil Arasu Kazhagam M. P. Sivagnanam was eulogized as Silambu Selvar. It meant the Son, Scholar of Silambu. The Silambu refers to the great Tamil epic Silappadikaram written by Ilango. As M.P. Sivagnanam was known for his mastery over this masterpiece he was called so.

26. Tamil Arasu Kazhagam
It meant Tamil Kingdom Association. It was formed by M.P. Sivagnanamm to secure Tamil interests in the era of the politics of linguistic reorganization of India. It indicated the extreme regionalization and Tamilisation of the congress party in Tamil Nadu.

27. Tamil Thendral
The non-Brahmin congressman Thiru-Vi-Kaliyanasundaranar was called as Tamil Thendral meaning the breeze of Tamil. This was because of his contribution to the development of Tamil as a language of political mobilization and nationalist awakening.

28. Teendamai Ozhippu
It means abolition of untouchability. The Indian National Congress formed many associations with this purpose because of inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi in 1930’s.

29. Vellalar
It means the agriculturists. All the agricultural communities are known collectively by this name.

30. Viduthalai Siruthaigal
In Tamil Viduthalai means freedom and Siruthaigal means leopards. The Dalit Panthers of India is known in Tamil as Viduthalai Siruthaigal.