GLOSSARY

Arivoli lyyakkam: Literacy campaign
Atrocities **Act:** The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
Atrocities **Rules:** The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995.
Backward castes: those whose ritual rank and occupational status are above "untouchables" but who themselves remain socially and economically depressed.
Caste Hindus: those falling within the caste system, or all non-Dalits.
Chakiliyar: a Dalit community of manual scavengers in Tamil Nadu.
Dalits: literally meaning "broken" people, a term employed by rights activists to refer to "untouchables."
Panchayat: village council.
Reservations: quotas for various lower castes allowing for increased representation in education, government jobs, and political bodies.
Scheduled castes: A list of socially deprived ("untouchable") castes prepared by the British Government in 1935. The schedule of castes was intended to increase representation of scheduled-caste members in the legislature, in government employment, and in university placement. The term is also used in the constitution and various laws.
Scheduled tribes: a list of indigenous tribal populations who are entitled to much of the same compensatory treatment as scheduled castes.
The Hindu (TH): India's National Newspaper (in English)
Thevars: a powerful "backward caste" in Tamil Nadu.
Thina Thanthi (TT): News paper (in Tamil)
Untouchability: the imposition of social disabilities on persons by reason of their birth in certain castes.