Glossary

aragalaya struggle (Sinhala), denoting the popular uprising against

the Rajapaksa government in 2022

arasu state, government or, much less commonly, king (Tamil)

gama village (Sinhala)

grama niladari village- or ward-level officer (Sinhala, also used in English

and Tamil)

kachcheri district administration, headed by the government agent

(used in Sinhala, Tamil and English)

kadchi political party (Tamil)

kudi clan (Tamil)

malaiyaha Tamil upcountry Tamil, referring to Tamils of recent (colonial era)

Indian origin who have historically resided in Sri Lanka's

central highland region

pottu a coloured dot adorning the forehead (Tamil)
satyagraha non-violent protest (Sinhala; Tamil cognates)

talaivar leader (Tamil) thanthai father (Tamil)