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zam·in·dar also **zem·in·dar**  (zām ən-dār', zēm -, zə-mēn-dār)

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n.

1. An official in precolonial India assigned to collect the land taxes of his district.
2. A landholder in British colonial India responsible for collecting and paying to the government the taxes on the land under his jurisdiction.

[Hindi *zamīndār*, from Persian : *zamīn*, earth; see **dhghem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-dār*, -holder; see **dher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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