

Explanation of some important terms

1. **Lost wax technique:** 'Lost wax' also known as 'cire perdue' is a technique by which statues of metals are made. To begin with the process involves making of a wax model of the statue, which is then covered with clay with holes made into it. The clay cover is then allowed to dry. Once dried, it is baked leading the wax to melt and leaving a hollowed clay form. Molten metal is then poured into it. Once this metal is cooled, the clay cover is removed. This allows the metal casting to come out in solid form and polished. The much discussed 'Dancing girl' of Harappa and the Chola bronze statues were made using this technique.
2. **Zamindar/Zamindari:** It is originally a Persian word which means the holder of land. In an extension of the meaning of this term, 'the right of holding land' was known as *zamindari*. In the Indian context the term came to be first used by Amir Khusro from the 14th century onwards (Sultanate period) to refer to the landed aristocracy at the rural level. Under the Mughals, especially from the time of Akbar's reign the *zamindars* came to be divided into three categories: hereditary rulers, proprietary land holders (with a legal right of ownership over land), and revenue collectors with a share in the produce of the land and other rights. During the colonial period the English East India company ushered in a system of land revenue under the act of permanent settlement in 1793 by which a new class of *zamindars* (landlords) was created in the Bengal presidency out of the highest bidders who were granted proprietary rights over land in perpetuity. From the point of view of the company administration this was done to ensure the steady inflow of revenue to its treasury at fixed rates. Perhaps there was also an idea behind it to encourage the landlords to invest in land expand agriculture and contribute to rural prosperity. However, on account of a late realisation of the failure of this policy, the system of permanent settlement was not extended to other parts of the company territory in India. Instead systems like *malikdars* and *ryotwari* were introduced.

Source: NCERT (2017) *Dictionary of History for School Children (Trilingual)*, National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi.