

HISTORY (Code: 027)
Sample Paper 3 — Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This question paper has five Sections — A, B, C, D and E. There are 34 questions in all; all are compulsory.
2. Section A: Question 1 to 21 are MCQs of 1 mark each.
3. Section B: Question 22 to 27 are Short Answer type questions of 3 marks each. Answers should not exceed 60-80 words.
4. Section C: Question 28 to 30 are Long Answer type questions of 8 marks each. Answers should not exceed 300-350 words.
5. Section D: Question 31 to 33 are Source-based questions, each with three sub-questions, of 4 marks each.
6. Section E: Question 34 is a Map-based question of 5 marks, including identification and location of significant test items. Attach the map with the answer sheet.
7. There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been given in a few questions. Only one option is to be attempted in such questions.
8. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever needed.

SECTION A

Objective Type Questions

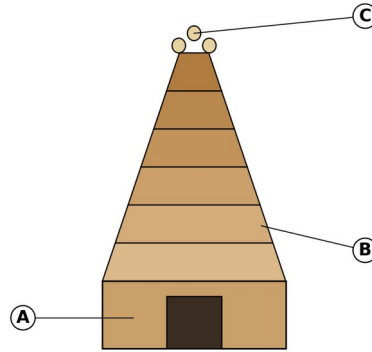
[1 × 21 = 21 Marks]

- Which of the following Harappan sites is notable for its exceptionally large size and division into a fortified upper town and a lower town?
 - Rakhigarhi
 - Kot Diji
 - Chanhudaro
 - Nageshwar
- Beads, weights and specialised tools found in large numbers at a Harappan settlement usually indicate that the site was a centre of:
 - Craft production
 - Only religious activity
 - Purely agricultural storage
 - Military administration
- Which one of the following is NOT correct about the varna-based social order described in the Dharmashastras?
 - It prescribed different codes of conduct (dharma) for each of the four varnas.
 - It placed the Brahmana at the top of the ritual hierarchy.
 - It was uniformly followed in practice by all social groups across the subcontinent, without exception.
 - It was elaborated and reinforced through normative texts composed largely by Brahmana authors.
- Match List I (term) with List II (meaning) and choose the correct option:

List I	List II
1. Endogamy	a. Marriage within a defined social unit
2. Exogamy	b. Marriage outside a defined social unit
3. Polygyny	c. A man having more than one wife
4. Polyandry	d. A woman having more than one husband

- 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d
 - 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c
 - 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-b
 - 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a
- Which Buddhist text describes Ashoka distributing portions of the Buddha's relics to towns across his empire and ordering stupas to be raised over them?
 - Ashokavadana
 - Vinaya Pitaka
 - Sutta Pitaka
 - Dipavamsa
 - Study the schematic diagram of a temple gateway (gopuram) below and answer the question that follows.

Schematic of a Temple Gateway (Gopuram)



Identify the part labelled **B** in the diagram.

- A. The doorway
- B. The tiered pyramidal tower
- C. The kalasha (finial)
- D. The plinth

NOTE: The following question is only for Visually Impaired candidates, in lieu of Q.6

What name is given to the pot-shaped finial found at the very top of a temple gateway tower?

- A. Vedika
- B. Kalasha
- C. Harmika
- D. Medhi

7. The distinctive urban form of Vijayanagara, with its concentric fortifications and separation of sacred, royal and urban zones, has been reconstructed by historians chiefly using:

- A. Only Sanskrit court poetry
- B. A combination of archaeological survey and accounts of foreign travellers
- C. Only Mughal-era chronicles
- D. Only numismatic evidence

8. Which sixteenth-century figure, an ambassador from Persia, described the elaborate fortifications and thriving markets of Vijayanagara?

- A. Abdur Razzaq
- B. Duarte Barbosa
- C. Domingo Paes
- D. Nikitin

9. Which term refers to the tax-free land grants that Vijayanagara rulers made to Brahmanas and temples?

- A. Amaram
- B. Manya (or brahmadeya)
- C. Jagir
- D. Iqta

10. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option. Assertion (A): The Vijayanagara rulers actively patronised both Vaishnava and Shaiva traditions. Reason (R): Royal inscriptions from the period record grants and endowments to temples of both traditions across the empire.

- A. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C. (A) is correct but (R) is not correct.
- D. (R) is correct but (A) is not correct.

11. Which of the following best describes the "jagirdari" crisis often referred to in the context of the later Mughal Empire?

- A. A shortage of land available for revenue assignment relative to the number of claimants

- B. A sudden loss of all agricultural land to famine
- C. The abolition of all jagirs by a single royal decree
- D. A crisis caused only by foreign invasion

12. Which of the following was a duty typically expected of a Mughal mansabdar in return for his rank and salary?

- A. Maintaining a stipulated quota of cavalry (sawar) for the emperor's service
- B. Collecting temple offerings on behalf of the state
- C. Supervising only irrigation works
- D. Serving exclusively as a provincial judge

13. The Mughal term used for the share of the harvest paid in kind, rather than in cash, was:

- A. Zabt
- B. Batai (ghalla-bakshi)
- C. Nasaq
- D. Dahsala

14. Which European traveller's account is a major source for understanding the diamond mines and trading networks of the Deccan in the seventeenth century?

- A. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
- B. Marco Polo
- C. Fa Xian
- D. Ibn Battuta

15. Arrange the following events in correct chronological order and choose the correct option:

1. Simon Commission arrives in India.
 2. Civil Disobedience Movement is launched.
 3. Government of India Act is passed.
 4. Quit India Movement is launched.
- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
 - B. 2, 1, 3, 4
 - C. 1, 3, 2, 4
 - D. 3, 1, 2, 4

16. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.
Assertion (A): Sharecroppers under the indigo plantation system in Bengal were deeply resentful of European planters.
Reason (R): Planters often forced peasants to grow indigo on their best land at rates lower than those for food crops, through coercive contracts.

- A. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B. Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C. (A) is correct but (R) is not correct.
- D. (R) is correct but (A) is not correct.

17. Which of the following official records has been especially useful to historians studying the colonial countryside, despite reflecting the standpoint of the government?

- A. Temple copper plates
- B. Revenue and settlement reports compiled by district officials
- C. Sufi malfuzat
- D. Mughal court chronicles

18. Who is widely credited with the original design of the Indian national flag on which the final tricolour was later based?

- A. Pingali Venkayya
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Rajendra Prasad
- D. Abul Kalam Azad

19. Which fundamental debate in the Constituent Assembly concerned whether India should have a single, common citizenship or allow dual citizenship for the states?

- A. The citizenship debate
- B. The language debate
- C. The federalism debate

D. The reservation debate

20. The historian who is well known for detailed studies of the Revolt of 1857 based on extensive use of vernacular sources and oral traditions from Awadh is:

- A. Eric Stokes
- B. Rudrangshu Mukherjee
- C. S. B. Chaudhuri
- D. R. C. Majumdar

21. Which provision of the Constitution empowers courts to enforce Fundamental Rights directly?

- A. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- B. Right to Equality
- C. Right to Property (as originally enacted)
- D. Directive Principles of State Policy

SECTION B

Short Answer Type Questions

[3 × 6 = 18 Marks]

22.A. Explain any three ways in which craft specialisation is evident from archaeological finds at Harappan sites.

OR

22.B. Describe any three features of the Harappan drainage and water-management system.

23. Explain the rules of endogamy and exogamy prescribed for marriage in the Dharmashastras, and describe how gotra was used in practice.

24. Describe the distinctive features of Vijayanagara's city planning, referring to its sacred, royal and urban zones.

25. Explain the causes and effects of the jagirdari crisis in the later Mughal Empire.

26. Describe the conditions under which peasants were forced to cultivate indigo in colonial Bengal.

27.A. Discuss the role of Rani Lakshmibai and the events at Jhansi during the Revolt of 1857.

OR

27.B. Explain how the British suppressed the Revolt of 1857 and restored their authority.

SECTION C

Long Answer Type Questions

[8 × 3 = 24 Marks]

28.A. Discuss the evidence for craft production and trade in the Harappan civilisation.

OR

28.B. Examine the social norms relating to marriage, kinship and gender prescribed in the Dharmashastras, and discuss how far these norms may have reflected actual social practice.

29.A. Discuss the distinctive features of Vijayanagara's temple architecture and city planning, with suitable examples.

OR

29.B. Examine the impressions of foreign travellers regarding the prosperity and administration of Vijayanagara.

30.A. Discuss the causes and consequences of the jagirdari crisis and its impact on the stability of the Mughal Empire.

OR

30.B. Discuss the causes and significance of the Revolt of 1857, and examine why some historians regard it as India's first major struggle for independence.

SECTION D

Source-Based Questions

[4 × 3 = 12 Marks]

31. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

At several Harappan sites, archaeologists have found workshops containing half-finished beads, drilling tools, and discarded shell and stone fragments. Such clusters suggest that certain settlements specialised in producing particular crafts, which were then likely exchanged with other Harappan towns and possibly with distant regions, given similar finished beads have turned up far from these workshop sites.

(Adapted for illustrative use)

31.1 What evidence suggests that some Harappan settlements specialised in craft production?

31.2 Name any one raw material likely used in Harappan bead-making.

31.3 How does the distribution of finished beads support the idea of exchange between settlements?

32. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Domingo Paes, a Portuguese traveller who visited Vijayanagara in the early sixteenth century, described its markets as filled with precious stones, textiles, spices and horses, and noted how the city's tanks and canals kept its gardens and fields well-watered even in the dry season. Historians read such travellers' accounts alongside inscriptions to build a fuller picture of urban prosperity.

(Adapted for illustrative use)

32.1 Name the Portuguese traveller mentioned in the passage.

32.2 What goods did he note being sold in the markets of Vijayanagara?

32.3 Why do historians read travellers' accounts alongside inscriptions rather than relying on either alone?

33. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

In several parts of Awadh during 1857, peasants and disbanded sepoys attacked the record-keepers' offices first, destroying revenue papers and debt bonds before turning to other targets. Historians see this as evidence that the revolt was not simply a mutiny of soldiers, but also an expression of deep agrarian grievance against the new settlement and against moneylenders who had gained land at the expense of older cultivators.

(Adapted for illustrative use)

33.1 What did peasants and sepoys often attack first during the uprising in Awadh?

33.2 Against whom, besides the British, was popular anger also directed?

33.3 Why do historians see this pattern as evidence of agrarian grievance, and not only military mutiny?

SECTION E

Map-Based Question

[5 Marks]

34.1 On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the following with appropriate symbols:

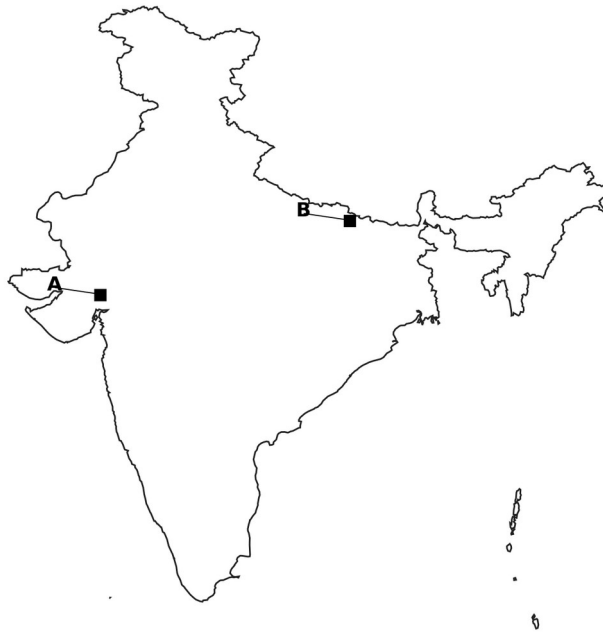
- Rakhigarhi — a Harappan site
- Taxila — an early city / seat of learning
- Bodh Gaya — a major Buddhist site

[1 + 1 + 1]

34.2 On the same outline map, two places have been marked as 'A' and 'B', being important centres of the National Movement. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.

[2]

Political Outline Map of India



NOTE: The following questions are for Visually Impaired candidates only, in lieu of Q.34

34.1 Name the modern Indian state in which the Harappan site of Rakhigarhi is located, and state one feature that makes this site distinctive.

[3]

34.2 Name any two important centres of the National Movement associated with Mahatma Gandhi.

[2]

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Sample Paper 3 — Marking Scheme / Solutions

SECTION A — Answer Key with Justification

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
1	A	Rakhigarhi	Rakhigarhi is one of the largest Harappan sites, with a fortified upper town and an adjoining lower town.
2	A	Craft production	Concentrations of beads, weights and specialised tools point to workshops engaged in craft production.
3	C	Statement C is incorrect	While the Dharmashastras prescribed a varna order, actual social practice varied widely and often departed from these prescriptions.
4	A	1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d	Endogamy = marriage within a unit (a); Exogamy = marriage outside a unit (b); Polygyny = man with multiple wives (c); Polyandry = woman with multiple husbands (d).
5	A	Ashokavadana	The Ashokavadana recounts the tradition of Ashoka distributing the Buddha's relics and ordering stupas built over them.
6	B	Tiered pyramidal tower	Part B, the stacked diminishing tiers above the entrance, is the pyramidal tower of the gopuram.
6 (VI)	B	Kalasha	The kalasha is the pot-shaped finial placed at the very top of a temple gateway tower.
7	B	Archaeology + travellers' accounts	Historians combine archaeological surveys of Vijayanagara's ruins with descriptions left by foreign travellers to reconstruct its urban form.
8	A	Abdur Razzaq	The Persian envoy Abdur Razzaq described Vijayanagara's fortifications and markets in the fifteenth century.
9	B	Manya (brahmadeya)	Manya or brahmadeya grants were tax-free land grants made to Brahmanas and temples.
10	A	Both correct, R explains A	Inscriptional evidence of grants to both Vaishnava and Shaiva temples directly supports and explains the rulers' patronage of both traditions.
11	A	Shortage of land for assignment	The jagirdari crisis arose because the number of mansabdars needing jagir assignments grew faster than the available assignable land.
12	A	Maintaining cavalry (sawar) quota	A mansabdar was required to maintain a stipulated quota of cavalry for imperial service in return for rank and salary.
13	B	Batai (ghalla-bakshi)	Batai, or ghalla-bakshi, was the system of sharing the harvest in kind between the state and the cultivator.
14	A	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	The French traveller Tavernier's account is a key source on the Deccan's diamond trade in the seventeenth century.
15	D	3, 1, 2, 4	The Government of India Act (1919) preceded the Simon Commission (1927), which was followed by the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and the Quit India Movement (1942).

Q.No	Ans	Answer	Justification
16	A	Both correct, R explains A	Coercive contracts forcing cultivation of indigo on prime land at low, fixed rates directly explain peasant resentment towards planters.
17	B	Revenue and settlement reports	Despite their official standpoint, district-level revenue and settlement reports remain an important source for studying the colonial countryside.
18	A	Pingali Venkayya	Pingali Venkayya is credited with designing the original flag on which the final tricolour was later based.
19	A	The citizenship debate	Whether India should adopt single, common citizenship or allow dual citizenship for states was a key point of debate.
20	B	Rudrangshu Mukherjee	Rudrangshu Mukherjee's work on Awadh drew extensively on vernacular and oral sources to study the Revolt of 1857.
21	A	Right to Constitutional Remedies	Article 32 empowers citizens to move the courts directly for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

SECTION B — Short Answer Type (3 marks each)

22.A. Evidence of craft specialisation at Harappan sites (any three, 1 mark each):

- Workshops with half-finished beads, drilling tools and waste flakes point to dedicated bead-making activity at certain sites.
- Standardised weights made of stone, used in a fixed ratio, suggest specialised production for trade and exchange.
- Distinct craft quarters have been identified at some sites, indicating that specific crafts (such as shell-working or metal-working) were concentrated in particular areas.

OR

22.B. Harappan drainage/water-management system:

- Covered drains ran along streets and connected to individual houses, showing careful town-level planning.
- Soak pits were sometimes provided to collect sediment and prevent the drains from clogging.
- Large water reservoirs and wells, as at Dholavira, indicate significant investment in water storage and conservation.

23. Endogamy, exogamy and gotra (3 marks):

- Endogamy required marriage within a defined social unit, such as caste or kin group, to preserve its boundaries.
- Exogamy required marriage outside a defined unit — for instance, outside one's own gotra, to avoid unions considered too close.
- In practice, the gotra system was used to trace descent from a common (usually mythical) ancestor, and marriage within the same gotra was prohibited, even when actual kinship ties were distant or unclear.

24. Vijayanagara's city planning (any three features, 1 mark each):

- The sacred centre, with its temple complexes, was generally located near naturally sacred sites such as riverbanks or hills.
- The royal centre, containing palaces and administrative buildings, occupied well-fortified, elevated ground separate from residential areas.
- The urban core spread around these zones, with concentric walls and gateways (gopurams) controlling access and providing defence.

25. Jagirdari crisis (3 marks):

- The number of mansabdars requiring jagir assignments grew faster than the amount of assignable land, especially in the later Mughal period.
- This intensified competition among nobles for productive jagirs and encouraged short-term, extractive revenue practices on assigned land.
- The resulting instability weakened the central administration's control over the nobility and contributed to the broader decline of Mughal authority.

26. Forced indigo cultivation in colonial Bengal (any three points, 1 mark each):

- Peasants were often compelled to sign coercive contracts (satta) obliging them to grow indigo on a portion of their land.
- Indigo was frequently grown on the best land, displacing food crops and reducing peasants' own subsistence security.
- Advances given by planters bound peasants into cycles of debt, since the price paid for indigo was usually far below its market value.

27.A. Rani Lakshmbai and Jhansi (3 marks):

- After the British refused to recognise her adopted son as heir and moved to annex Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse, Rani Lakshmbai took charge of the resistance.
- She organised and led troops in defending Jhansi against the British siege in 1858, becoming one of the most prominent leaders of the revolt.
- Her death in battle near Gwalior made her a lasting symbol of resistance to colonial rule, remembered in both popular memory and later nationalist writing.

OR

27.B. British suppression of the Revolt of 1857:

- The British brought in reinforcements from Britain and other colonies to reassert military control over rebel strongholds.
- They recaptured key centres such as Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow through prolonged sieges and, in several cases, harsh reprisals against the local population.
- Loyal princely states and sections of the population who did not join the revolt were used to help isolate and defeat rebel forces region by region.

SECTION C — Long Answer Type (8 marks each)

28.A. Craft production and trade in the Harappan civilisation:

- Workshops with unfinished beads, drilling tools and waste material point to specialised bead-making at certain settlements, such as Chanhudaro.
- Raw materials such as carnelian (Gujarat), lapis lazuli (Afghanistan) and copper (Rajasthan/Oman) were sourced from distant regions, showing extensive procurement networks.
- Standardised weights, made in a fixed ratio, suggest common commercial norms across widely separated Harappan sites.
- Seals with the unidentified Harappan script, found as far away as Mesopotamia, indicate long-distance exchange, possibly linked to the region referred to as "Meluhha" in Mesopotamian texts.
- The presence of dockyards, as at Lothal, further supports the idea of organised maritime trade alongside overland exchange.

OR

28.B. Dharmashastra norms vs actual social practice:

- The Dharmashastras prescribed detailed rules on endogamy, exogamy, and the duties of each varna, presenting an idealised social order.
- They also laid down rules on stridhana (women's property) and inheritance, though the extent to which these were followed varied by region and community.
- Historians note that these texts were composed largely by Brahmana authors and may reflect a normative ideal rather than universal practice.
- Inscriptions, sculpture and other sources sometimes reveal practices — such as varying marriage customs across regions — that diverge from strict Dharmashastra prescriptions, showing considerable regional and social diversity in actual practice.

29.A. Vijayanagara's temple architecture and city planning:

- Temple complexes such as the Virupaksha temple at Hampi feature tall, tiered gopurams (gateway towers) that dominate the skyline and mark sacred boundaries.
- The sacred centre was typically situated near natural features considered auspicious, such as riverbanks or hills.
- The royal centre occupied a separate, well-fortified elevated area containing palaces, audience halls and administrative buildings.
- Multiple concentric fortification walls linked the sacred, royal and urban zones while controlling access to the city as a whole, reflecting both defensive planning and a hierarchy of sacred and secular space.

OR

29.B. Foreign travellers' impressions of Vijayanagara:

- Abdur Razzaq described multiple lines of fortification and a thriving market selling precious stones openly to the public.
- Domingo Paes was impressed by the well-stocked bazaars and the extensive irrigation works, including tanks and canals, that sustained agriculture.
- Duarte Barbosa recorded social customs he observed, including practices such as sati, offering insight into contemporary society beyond just administration and trade.
- Taken together, these accounts, when read alongside inscriptions, allow historians to reconstruct a fuller and more externally verified picture of Vijayanagara's prosperity and organisation.

30.A. Jagirdari crisis and Mughal decline:

- As the number of mansabdars grew under later Mughal rulers, the pool of assignable jagir land failed to keep pace, intensifying competition among nobles.
- Nobles holding jagirs for shorter periods had less incentive to invest in the long-term productivity of their assigned land, encouraging excessive extraction from peasants.
- This bred instability among the nobility, with factional rivalries weakening the emperor's ability to command loyalty.
- Combined with regional revolts and external invasions, the jagirdari crisis contributed significantly to the gradual decline of centralised Mughal authority in the eighteenth century.

OR

30.B. Causes and significance of the Revolt of 1857:

- Immediate causes included the greased-cartridge controversy and long-standing resentment among sepoys over pay, promotion and treatment.
- Wider causes included the annexation of states like Awadh, high and inflexible land revenue demands, and the displacement of traditional elites such as taluqdars.
- The revolt drew in a wide cross-section of society — sepoys, peasants, taluqdars and artisans — giving it a broad, popular character beyond a mere military mutiny.

- Some historians regard it as India's first major struggle for independence because it united diverse groups in a shared, if not always coordinated, opposition to colonial rule, even though it was ultimately suppressed and did not result in immediate political change.

SECTION D — Source-Based Questions (4 marks each)

31.1 Workshops with half-finished beads, drilling tools and discarded fragments suggest specialised craft production at certain settlements. [2]

31.2 Carnelian (also acceptable: shell, lapis lazuli, steatite). [1]

31.3 Finished beads found far from the workshop sites suggest these items were exchanged or traded between settlements rather than only used locally. [1]

32.1 Domingo Paes. [1]

32.2 Precious stones, textiles, spices and horses. [1]

32.3 Because travellers' accounts, while vivid, may be shaped by personal impressions or misunderstanding, whereas inscriptions provide official/local detail — combining both gives a more balanced and verified picture. [2]

33.1 Record-keepers' offices, destroying revenue papers and debt bonds. [1]

33.2 Moneylenders who had acquired land at the expense of older cultivators. [1]

33.3 Because targeting revenue records and moneylenders reflects specific economic grievances over land and debt, showing the revolt drew on deep agrarian discontent and was not confined to sepoys' military concerns alone. [2]

SECTION E — Map Answer Key (5 marks)

34.1 Rakhigarhi, Taxila and Bodh Gaya should be correctly located and labelled as shown on the answer-key map below (1 mark each).

34.2 A = Ahmedabad, B = Champaran (1 mark each).

Political Outline Map of India — Answer Key



Visually Impaired candidates (in lieu of Q.34):

34.1 Rakhigarhi is located in the state of Haryana. It is distinctive for being one of the largest known Harappan sites, with a fortified upper town and surrounding lower settlement. [3]

34.2 Any two of: Ahmedabad, Champaran, Kheda, Bardoli, Dandi. [2]