PREFACE

Urbanisation is one of the most striking features of contemporary society. Researchers have readily recognised the varying process and rates of urbanisation in various parts of the world. Urban centres have always been considered as nucleus of human civilization and culture and therefore, urbanisation is regarded as an important index of socio-economic development of a region.

With our changed conception and outlook about historical studies the need for writing more and more on economic life being realised and emphasized. The present work is based on this historical approach. The scope of this work is limited to the study of trade and urban centres in ancient and early medieval period. Any attempt to present a comprehensive and detailed account of the subject is a stupendous task still awaiting the patience and painstaking labours of right minded researchers. In this work, I have only tried, in my humble way, to bring to light the neglected and unexplored aspects of the present subject.

There are number of articles already in the field dealing with some of the aspects, but a systematic and comprehensive work explaining briefly the trade and urban centres of Orissa during ancient and early medieval period is still required. The present work attempts to meet this need with the help of source materials. Based on the materials this thesis presents a comprehensive, intelligible and interesting picture of the period under review. In carrying out this scheme, I have not ignored anything that is
essential for forming a correct appreciation of the subject. I have not spared the material available both from epigraphical evidences and literary sources and thus, have attempted to give an updated account of the period under our study. I have tried my best to make this work as critical and comprehensive as possible.

In course of my research work, I have used different libraries and visited different places of historical importance connected with the subject.

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Bhubaneswar

( C.M. Nayak )