INTRODUCTION
Urban history is a recent development in the field of historical studies. In the West extensive work have been done in this field. But in India, till independence, its importance was hardly recognised. Although no systematic research was done in this subject from academic point of view. The central concern in historical research in India has more often been with agrarian systems, peasant history and the general pattern of socio-economic change rather than urbanisation. Urbanisation is recognised as a social process and it brings about great transformation in man's way of life.¹ The urbanisation is a continuing process of economic growth and social change.² Generally it is accepted that the first urbanisation, i.e. the Indus Valley urbanisation, left no legacy beyond the middle of the second Millennium B.C.³ The second or the early historical phase represents a long period of urban growth stretching from the 6th century B.C. to 3rd century A.D. which spread over the whole of North India, central India and the Deccan.

Some research works have been done on the different aspects of urbanisation in ancient and Medieval India. Presently in the field of historical

2. A. Bose, India's Urbanization, P.3.
research more emphasis is given on the economic history of which urbanisation is an important manifestation. The excavations of different urban sites of ancient period provide three dimensional and tangible facts of economic history. So far as Orissa is concerned no work has yet been done on this important aspects of economic history. This work aims at providing a regional perspective for Orissa, mainly as an indicator of a field where a great deal of work needs to be done. Hence, this thesis will be a pioneering work in this field.

In recent years quite a good number of scholars of Orissa have made significant contributions to the study of Orissan history. Our knowledge on the early history of Orissa is not adequate. Even we are not in a position to say exactly as to how and when the civilization of Orissa developed, what was the socio-economic life of the people in ancient Orissa and when did the urbanisation take place? Moreover, the history of Orissa from 1st century B.C. to the rise of Bhauma-karas in the 8th century A.D is almost dark. No chronological history is available although during this period some minor dynasties ruled over Orissa.

Attempts have been made in this thesis to study the nature and the pattern of urbanisation in Orissa in all-India perspective and the development of trade and commerce in Orissa from ancient to early medieval
period and its impact on urbanisation. It is to show how the development of trade and commerce led to the establishment of urban centres in the different parts of Orissa. Being situated on the coast of the Bay of Bengal, Orissa had favourable trade relation with the South-East Asian countries and Srilanka. The major rivers of Orissa played an important role in the Inland trade. The geographical position of Orissa was no less important in her trade activities. Taking all these factors into consideration we can presume that ancient Orissa was prosperous due to trade and commerce.

From ancient period to early Medieval period a good number of urban centres grew up in the various parts of the region. The traders and merchants of Orissa transported various commodities from one end to other by means of rivers and highways. Commodities were transported to the ports for export to foreign countries in Sea-going vessels. As a result, a number of ports grew up on the coast of Orissa. Through these ports Orissa maintained its trade link with the South-East Asian countries and Srilanka. In course of time these port areas were converted into urban centres. Various other factors were also responsible for the growth of urban centres as well as its decline in the post-Gupta period. In this thesis an attempt has been made to analyse these factors.
Orissa occupies an important place in India with a long history of her own. Orissa has been contributing, since time immemorial, towards the growth and development of Indian culture. Like India, Orissa also presents a picture of great variety with different dialects and professing different religious rites and practices. The people of Orissa with their achievements and failures, their qualities and failings, their customs and habits are as much the products of their history, environment and other circumstances as any other people living in any other part of this country or Indians as a whole.

The history of Orissa virtually unknown to the historians till the 19th century. Of course, some articles on Orissa history were published in the different journals. In the 19th century a number of British officers like A. Stirling, W.W. Hunter and others started writing the history of Orissa without utilising archaeological and epigraphic materials. Their writings were mainly based on legends and traditions as contained in the Mādalāpāṇji. However, in their works the Socio-economic life of the people has not been dealt with.

Much work has been done on the political history of ancient Orissa; but sufficient attention has not been paid to its economic history

4. A. Stirling, *An Account of Orissa proper or Cuttack*.
which include trade and commerce. Growth and decline of urban centres has remained a virgin area for the scholars working on Orissa.

In 1930-31 R.D. Banerji⁶ and in 1959 H.K Mahatab⁷ wrote the history of Orissa. They have chiefly concentrated on the political history of Orissa and in their writing one misses the study of economic condition including the great role played by trade and commerce in the development of Urban centres in ancient Orissa.

They were followed by N.K. Sahu⁸ and K.C. Panigrahi.⁹ N.K Sahu in his book deals with the Orissa history from the earliest times upto A.D. 500. K.C. Panigrahi’s History of Orissa covers the Period from the earliest time to A.D. 1568. In their works they have not given sufficient attention to this particular subject. Only a few pages in their books have been devoted to economic condition of Orissa. They have mentioned about some of the port cities. But their studies on the economic conditions as exhibited in the infrastructure of trade and commerce is inadequate.

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In recent years a good number of books have been published on dynastic history of Orissa. Notable among them are A.C. Mittal, D.K. Ganguly, D.N. Das, B. Mishra, S.N. Rajguru, S.C. Behera, U. Subudhi, B. Das, S.R. Nema and Bina Sharma.

D.K. Ganguly in his *Historical Geography and Dynastic History of Orissa* deals with the history of different dynasties upto Bhaumakara dynasty. Part 1 of his work deals with the historical geography of Orissa and the second dynastic history. But trade and commerce has not received his attention. While discussing the historical geography he has simply mentioned the towns of different territorial units of ancient Orissa. The early history of Orissa and that of Kalinga have been studied by A.C. Mittal and D.N. Das respectively. The former covers the period from the earliest times upto the first century B.C. where as the later covers the period from the earliest times upto the Śailodbhavas. But they have not paid any attention to the development of trade and urban centres in Orissa. B. Mishra, in his work *Dynasties of Medieval Orissa*, gives an account of a few dynasties that


13. B. Mishra, *Dynasties of Medieval Orissa*.
flourished in Orissa from about A.D. 600 to A.D. 1100. The nature of his work does not leave room for the study in economic development of that period. S.C. Behera\textsuperscript{14} in the \textit{Rise and Fall of the Šailodbhavas} deals with the history and culture of ancient Orissa from A.D. 550 to A.D. 736. The author traces the political and cultural history of Kangoda under the Šailodbhavas. In his work he has simply mentioned the names of some towns that flourished during the period of his study. The towns mentioned by him were mostly the military camps. U.Subudhi\textsuperscript{15} in the \textit{Bhauma-karas of Orissa} deals with the political history of the Bhauma-kara dynasty and also the cultural developments. But he does not make any attempt to discuss the urban centres of Orissa. But in chapter VIII he has mentioned different important places of Orissa which are not helpful for the study of urbanisation. S.N. Rajguru,\textsuperscript{16} B. Das,\textsuperscript{17} S.R. Nema,\textsuperscript{18} and Bina Sharma,\textsuperscript{19} in their dynastic history, have not paid any attention to the development of trade and commerce and the cities that flourished in Orissa in ancient and early medieval period.

\textsuperscript{14} S. C. Behera, \textit{Rise and Fall of the Šailodbhavas}, PP. 180-89.
\textsuperscript{15} U. Subudhi, \textit{The Bhauma-karas of Orissa}, PP. 129-41.
\textsuperscript{16} S.N. Rajguru, \textit{History of Gangas}.
\textsuperscript{17} B. Das, \textit{The Bhauma-karas and Times}.
\textsuperscript{18} S.R. Nema, \textit{The Somavamsīs of South Kosala and Orissa}.
\textsuperscript{19} B. Sharma, \textit{The Somavamsīs of Orissa}.
The economic and social history of ancient and early medieval Orissa is yet to be studied in its proper perspective. The scholars have not given any attention towards the economic history. Recently a few scholars like B.S. Das, A. P. Shah and P.R. Mohapatra published their books on economic history of Orissa. B.S. Das,\(^{20}\) in the *Economic History of Orissa* deals with social and economic developments of Orissa from ancient time to A.D. 1833. But he does not make any serious attempt to study the trade, commerce and urban centres. A.P. Shah,\(^{21}\) in his *Life in Medieval Orissa (A.D. 600- A.D. 1200)* deals with trade and commerce in medieval Orissa. Section II of his work throws light on the trade and commerce. He has discussed briefly crafts, commerce and currency system. Here he has mentioned Orissa's internal as well as foreign trade and different articles used in trade. He has mentioned the name of some port cities of early medieval Orissa. Though he has fully utilised the epigraphic sources, his study remains descriptive rather than analytical. This is not sufficient to know about the urban centres of Orissa. P.R. Mohapatra,\(^{22}\) in his *Aspect of Economic History of Orissa*, has not paid any attention to the development of trade and urban centres in Orissa.


\(^{22}\) P.R. Mohapatra, *Aspect of Economic History of Orissa*. 
V.K. Thakur’s, Urbanisation in Ancient India has analysed the ancient Indian urban process and different aspects of urban growth. But in his scheme of work, Orissa does not find place. While discussing the decline of urban centres he refers to Śiśupālgarh a city of ancient Kalinga. He has not included other urban centres of ancient Orissa in his study.

A number of articles relating to the subject have appeared in different journals. But they do not give a clear picture of the growth and development of urban centres. A few research scholars have also worked on different aspects of economic history of ancient and early medieval Orissa. But no systematic history of origin and growth of urban centres is available. An exclusive study devoted to the subject is thus an imperative as many new sites have been excavated in recent years. There is also scope for reinterpretation of the old materials, which have been used by previous writers.

From the above analysis it is clear that no unified approach has been made to project an overall picture of the trade and urban centres of ancient and early medieval Orissa. They have provided partial insight which requires further investigation. The present study includes within its orbit many new areas not explored by the scholars.

23. V.K. Thakur, Urbanisation in Ancient India, P. 290.
The region now called Orissa, was known by different names at different periods viz, Kalinga, Utkal, Odra and Kosala. It is by these names that Orissa has been referred to both in inscriptions and literature. The present state of Orissa is a creation of the modern time. The references of the epic indicate that the borders of Kalinga stretched up to the river Ganga in the north and the Godāvari in the South. The Western boundary of Kalinga is difficult to determine as it was often fluctuating with political upheavals. According to the puranas, the Western boundary of this territory was, however, fixed at Amarakantaka hills. Thus the territory of ancient kalinga at one time extended as far as the Ganga in the North, the Godāvari in the South and Amarakantaka hill in the West and the Sea (Bay of Bengal) in the East.24

The territory of Utkal extended from the river Kapisa, the modern Kansai in Midnapore district of West Bengal up to the Northern border of Kalinga. After the fall of the Gangas in A.D. 1435 the name Utkal lost its political importance. The territory of Odra was limited to the valley of the Mahānadi and to the Suvarnarekha river. Which comprised the whole of the present districts of undivided Cuttack and Sambalpur and a portion of Midnapore district of West Bengal. It was bounded on the West by Gondwāna, on the North by Singhbhum district of Bihar, on the East by the Sea. Ancient literatures refers to the Kingdom of Kosala. The modern districts of Bilaspur

and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh together with the undivided districts of Sundargarh, Sambalpur and Bolangir in Orissa comprised the territory of Kosala. The capital city of Kosala was Sripur on the Bank of Māhanadi in Raipur district.²⁵

It is evident from the above discussion that different parts of Orissa were known by various names and included areas of the neighbouring states such as Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & West Bengal.

The study covers all the important urban centres of ancient and early medieval period. Besides the process of urbanisation in the region and the development of all economic activities such as trade, commerce, trade routes, transport and communication, guilds, market places, coins, industry, crafts have been brought under scrutiny.

From the available sources we get many informations about the growth, development and decline of trade and urban centres. The development of trade and commerce brought about vital changes in the economic life of Orissa. The period witnessed the rise, growth and decline of trade and urban centres.

²⁵.. Ibid.
The study covers the period from the earliest time upto A.D. 1568. The year 1568 is a dividing line in the history of Orissa. In this year Sulaiman Karrāni, the Afghan ruler of Bengal occupied Orissa by defeating Mukundadeva. As a result the Hindu supremacy came to an end in Orissa and the region passed on to the Muslims. The new rulers introduced their own system of administration. Many port cities were abandoned. Many urban centres were converted into military headquarters. Many towns lost its previous importance and in its place new towns developed. The urban revival under the Muslims was of different character. Trade was not the only factor of urban growth in this period. Military and political considerations also contributed to the establishment of towns. Therefore, the present study is limited in the pre-muslim period.

This thesis is an exercise in the direction of microlevel study of urbanisation. The region has been comparatively urbanised since early historical period. The process of urbanisation got remarkable stimulation after the invasion of Asoka. Hence the study of urbanisation is expected to help in understanding the issues involved in the socio-economic development in the early phase.

The study is mainly based on the excavation reports, inscriptions, old Sanskrit and Pali literature (Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jain)
and foreign accounts. Field survey of the old urban sites has also been undertaken. Where ever possible, every effort has been made to incorporate relevant new informations and data in the study. To make the work comprehensive and unbiased, the trade and town planning system have been portrayed by examining literary and archaeological sources.

The inscriptions furnish us with bulk of informations about the trade, commerce and different port cities of Orissa during the period of our study. They throw a flood of light on different aspects of economic life of the people. The inscriptions also refer to different village hātas (markets) which in course of time converted into towns. We find mention of a market place (hāta) in an inscription of 8th century A.D. found in Jajpur.26 Puri copper plates inscription of Bhanudeva II, the Ganga king refer to a number of hātas.27 The copper plate grant of Bhanja king Nettabhanja mentions about such a place, which became prosperous with a merchant community, who used to sell commodities to the people.28 The Nāgarā ṭ plates29 of Anangabhima III refer to a town, inhabited by a number of merchants and artisans. The informations gathered from different inscriptions have been fully utilised in

29.. EI, Vol.XXVIII, prt.VI, p.256.
this thesis. The record of other contemporary Indian rulers have also been fully utilised to know the commercial relations of Orissa with them.

Besides the inscriptions, hoards of coins such as Punch-Marked, Kuśāna, Purī-Kuśāna, Roman and Gupta coins have been found in different places of Orissa. They throw significant light on the economic activities, particularly trade and commerce.\(^{30}\) They were used as medium of trade.

As regards the literary sources, the Mahābhārata; the Ramāyan; the Matsya Purāṇa; the Buddhist literature like Datha Vamsa, Dīgha Nikāya, Jātakas etc.; the Jaina works like Uttaradhyāyan Śūtra and many other works contain several references to the subject. The contemporary Chinese text brought to light by S. Beal has also been used in this thesis to show the contact of ancient Orissa with China.

The accounts of the Arab and Persian geographers and travellers also contain the trade and commerce and port cities of Orissa. Hence their accounts are very useful to know the history of trade and commerce and urban centres of Orissa. The muslim accounts such as Hudud-al-Alam and Kitab-ul-Hind of Alberuni refers to the industry of Pre-Ganga period.

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\(^{30}\) S. Tripathy, *Coins and Currency System in Ancient and Medieval Orissa*, p.XVI.
The Oriya *Mahābhārata* of Sāralā Dāsa, the *Mādalāpañji* and the *Virajā Māhātmya* are also helpful to trace the origin and development of different trade centres of ancient Orissa. The *Mānasollāsa* written by Someśvara III constitutes an important source of information about the industries of Orissa.

In this thesis every attempt has been made to cover different aspects of the growth and development of trade and urban centres. The thesis contains the following chapters.

Chapter I deals with the Urbanisation in India. It shows how the various factors helped the growth of urban centres in India. A general survey of the growth and decline of the towns in India has been made in this chapter which serves the background of the study of urbanisation in Orissa.

Chapter II deals with trade and commerce. In this chapter the nature, exports and imports of different articles, transport and communication system will be discussed. Light has been thrown on the different trade routes passing through Orissa. Here an attempt has been made to show how trade and commerce helped the growth of urban centres.
Chapter III is entitled as growth of urban centres. In this chapter it has been shown how the development of trade and commerce from the 3rd century B.C. to the 4th century A.D. led to the growth of different urban centres in the different parts of Orissa.

Chapter IV deals with decline of urban centres. In this chapter it has been discussed how the Gupta and Post-Gupta period witnessed the decline of trade and commerce which ultimately led to the decay of towns.

The last chapter is the conclusion of the study.