Chapter: Two

Growth and Expansion of Commercial Ports in the Coromandel Coast

The visits to the east of the first English East India Company ships, undertaken in a series of separately funded voyages, were exploratory in nature. Captains were under instructions to seek out those places that offered the best opportunities for trade and to seek permission to trade from local rulers. According to the information received back, Company instructions then became more specific and the captains were advised to visit or revisit particular places to try to establish connections. At these ports Captains tried to obtain permission for a merchant or merchants to settle and, if necessary, to set up factories. A “factory” was a trading post where a number of merchants, or factors, resided. When company ships arrived at the factories, ships' merchants were thus enabled to exchange goods for trading immediately instead of having to wait to make deals with local merchants. Factories were run by a chief factor and a council of factors. In the areas that proved most successful for trading, groups of factories were eventually established. These were known as settlements and were governed by an agent and council. Eventually, certain settlements developed into centres to which all other factories in the region reported. These became known as Presidencies and were administered by an agent (first called a President and later a Governor) and a large council of senior factors. Contacts developed only gradually.

The main purpose of the establishment of the English East India Company was to trade, to buy goods in the Asian markets and sell them in Europe or in Asia whatever the profits market could offer. One of its distant characters is the wide geographical areas it encompassed. For a successful trade with their distant world there is need for settled and safe settlement for supplies, construction of ships, the appointment of able men, a regular exchange of correspondence, and above all an operational plan which took into account the spatial demarcation of economic regions and the temporal constraints of long-distance commerce. This fact
explains the rise of factory system and the eventual rise of the fortified settlements and sovereign enclaves and handled all trading business. This pattern of the Company’s settlements was taken into considerations with the accessibility to market and centers of productions nearby.

Given this requirements and after many abortive attempts to own a territory, which could be fortified, and a place for footing steps in the eastern trade, the English had finally succeeded in buying a piece of land in the Coromandel Coast from the local contenders in 1639. In the western coast they could not succeed as there was a powerful Mughal Empire who neither grant territory nor allowed any fortification. In this circumstance the English were looking towards the southern coast where there are many small kingdoms who were opposed to each other. Taking advantage of the situation they accomplished in acquiring a territory that can be their trading center and a firmly occupied place. That is Madraspatam.

Before this, they have established a factory at Masulipatnam in 1611 with the help of two merchants Peter Floris and Lucas Antheunis. However, here at Masulipatnam, the English felt themselves oppressed and harassed, and had been seeking a better place further south, closer to the sources of the fine Carnatic piece goods, especially the painted varieties. They abandoned the Masulipatnam factory and established again at Armagon in 1626; it was about forty miles north of Pulicat, the Dutch Company’s headquarter established on the Coromandel Coast. However, it did not helped much because the Dutch threatened the weaving castes with reprisals if they deal with the English. It was here in Armagon, for the first time in India, they were allowed to fortify a settlement, but could not do so when the local nayak, under the influence of the Dutch at Pulicat, put many obstacles. Civil war broke out between the nayaks and their overlord and it was spreading over to the neighboring region affecting trading activities and posed a threat to

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settlement. Despite many letters to the Director seeking funds and 'permission' to build strong fortification it was never fulfilled. They again tried to rebuild in 1934 but could not do so as the expanse of fortification was so uncommercial and unable to spend money on anything but trade.

Masulipatnam which was abandoned in the autumn of 1928, owing to the exactions of the native officials was later resettled again in 1632. This was because the merchants of the port were anxious to expand their trade, and the English were also equally desirous for it, owing to the fact that Armagon was insufficient to cater their commercial needs. Apparently, commerce was resumed on the old lines without any definite agreement and only token promised of better treatment by the local rulers.

Francis Day who was the Company chief in Armagon in 1634 concluded that it's getting worse and their trade was dwindling. The coast witnessed one of the worst famine, 'the great mortality of poore people in Meslapatan and other towns adjacent, occasioned both the greate dearth of rice and other graine, for the major part of boeth weavers and washers are dead, the country being almost ruinated'. Even the concession from the king of Golconda in 1934 proved disappointing to trade at Masulipatnam and the farman provoked the Dutch to bitter reprisals since they had to pay a fixed sum in customs under old farman of 1612 while the English were henceforth exempted. Apart from these obstacles the merchants had to be impoverished by the exactions from the nayak, 'as for the forte of Armagon, it is of soe meane strength that those resident in it doeth feared daily to be oppress by the kings and other souldiers which raingeth over those parts.'

3 E.F.I., 1630-33, pp. xxiii, 204.
4 E.F.I., 1630-33, pp. 7,82,86,128,163,301.
6 E.F.I., 1630-33, p. 78.
7 E.F.I., 1630-33, p. 203.
8 E.F.I., 1634-36, p. xxxiv.
9 E.F.I., 1630-33, p. 204.
The English were not satisfied with their factories at Armagaon and Masulipatnam, as they were in dire need of supply and it never came up to expectation from the coast: 'Mesulapatan and Armagon was porely opprest with famine, the liveinge eating up the dead, and the men derest scarsly travel in the country for fear they should be killed and eaten.' Consequently, Francis Day wanted to shift their headquarters to other place. He started surveying other likely places for a factory, and he seems to have taken no action until the prospect for the Coromandel Coast took for the better, that is, in 1639, where he started looking for firm trading port for the future of the English Company. During this time he had received several goodwill overtures from Damarla Venkatappa, the powerful nayak of a neighboring district, who ruled the coast-line extending from Pulicat to San Thome. But he spent most of his time at capital Wandewash, leaving his brother, Ayappa Nayak, who resided at Poonamallee to administer his territories for him.

In June 1639, Francis Day gained permission to visit the nayak country, embarking in one of the small country-built boat he voyaged thither, and on 27th July landed at Madraspatam, a small village about twenty-five miles south of the Dutch settlement of Pulicat. His first duty was to visit the nayak, (probably Ayappa Nayak) whom he found eager to encouraged commerce in the hope of seeing his country 'flurrrish and grow rich' and then he proceeded to make careful examination of the district and its products. On this visit the merchants showed him piece-goods of excellent quality at prices far cheaper than he had been in the habit of buying at Armagon, which makes him convince that it is far better place compare to the north region. The place shown by the nayak was quite attractive to establish a factory. Francis Day without further delay agreed to settle in this little village called Madraspatam and it seemed to be an ideal spot for the proposed

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10 E.F.I., 1630-33, p. 268.
12 E.F.I., 1637-41, p. xxxvii.
13 E.F.I., 1637-41, p. xxxviii.
fort, as it is on a tongue of land protected by the sea on the east, and by the little river Cooum and another small stream on the south and west.\textsuperscript{14} Thus, Fort St. George was founded on 23\textsuperscript{rd} July 1639. According to John Fryer it was a mere strip of land, three miles to the south of Madras was San Thome. Overall it was four hundred yards long and about a hundred yards wide, but it could be easily rendered secured against the predatory attacks of native kingdom.\textsuperscript{15}

The \textit{nayak} promised to bear the cost of erecting the desired fort, on condition that the English repaid him the outlay on their taking possession. The entire control of Madraspatam was to be handed over to the English for a period of two years, after which its revenues were to be equally divided between the \textit{nayak} and the English. The goods of the latter were to be for ever duty free at Madraspatam, while as regards inland tolls they were only to pay half the usual levy. The privilege of mintage was conceded to the Company. The \textit{nayak} undertook to be responsible for the fulfillment of all contracts made by the weavers of his district, provided he was consulted beforehand as to their trustworthiness. Besides no duty was to be levied upon provisions bought by the English for their ships or fort and should any vessel of theirs be wrecked on the \textit{nayak}'s coast he promised to restore to them all goods found there.\textsuperscript{16}

The fortunes of the English East India Company at Fort St. George were subject to the political changes on the Coromandel Coast, which were very considerable in the course of their settlement. The region passed first from Vijayanagar to Golconda and then from Golconda to the Mughals. Each time there was a change in their political master the English had to confirm their privileges. Before long the English set up in Madras with generous tariff and administrative reduction by the fragile Vijayanagar Empire, now they see many changes in the political scenario and the privileges was no longer fruitful from what they had

\textsuperscript{14} E.F.I., 1637-41, pp. xxxviii-xxxix.
\textsuperscript{15} Crooke, William (ed), A New Account of East India and Persia, Being Nine Years Travel, 1672-1681, by John Fryer, vol.i, p. 103.
\textsuperscript{16} E.F.I., 1637-41, p. xxxix.
expected. The situation change in the coast as rulers from other region extended at
the expense of the weak rulers. Thus, the region was taken over by the strong
neighboring Golconda General Mir Jumla, and whose possess now become the
landlords of the English at Madras.\textsuperscript{17} According to this change the English had to
confirm again about the privilege given by the former rulers. Most of the rulers
had not much problem while giving the privileges reconfirm provided they get the
benefit. As such each ruler used to reconfirmed, ‘all over former privilidges in
ample manner, as it was graunted unto us by the foresaid fled Jentue king.’\textsuperscript{18}

However, there were occasions in which conflict used to ensue. The first
sign of conflict came with Mir Jumla. Had the English deal them properly at the
first instance the strife could not have occurred. We are informed that on the
arrival of the Golconda troops under Mir Jumla, Brahman Ventaka, an agent
employed by Thomas Ivy, was dispatched to greet the Nawab and obtain from him
the same confirmation of privilege enjoyed by the English from the previous ruler.
Mir Jumla readily agreed without any hesitation and made certain demands. The
Nawab demand was brass gun besides others as a condition of his assent. But on
his return Ventaka said nothing about the gun. When Mir Jumla sent for the gun
Ivy think that this was a new demand and he refused. The Nawab was very much
annoyed by the refusal, so he at once summoned Venkata and the town
Accountant to the camp, but the Brahman Venkata, fearing the result of a fresh
interview, prevailed on Ivy to send the Accountant alone. Mir Jumla dealt roughly
with the latter and ordered him to give full details of the existing arrangements.
The frightened official, unaware of what had been furnished before, gave in true
account, with the result that the Brahman’s duplicity became apparent. The nawab
now sent a fresh summons to Vankata, who alarmed for his life, induced Ivy to
imprison him as debtor to the Company.\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{17} E.F.I., 1646-50, pp. 70,166.
\textsuperscript{18} E.F.I., 1646-50, p. xxviii.
\textsuperscript{19} E.F.I., 1646-50, pp. xxviii-xxix.
However, Mir Jumla was still eager to obtain the gun, and, on a promise that this should be given, he was appeased, and a satisfactory conclusion was reached when Brahman Venkata and Walter Littleton was sent with a present to Mir Jumla at Gandikota. The Nawab was well satisfy and expressing a desire to continue the negotiations. On May 28th 1652 Littleton and Venkata arrived with a satisfactory reply from the Nawab, 'with the fruit of their labours, all being againe pacified with him'.

Trouble did not end here, Mir Jumla knew English have benefited a lot out of the concessions and their trades were flourishing. He wanted to re-impose duties on collection of traffic revenue on goods going 'in' and 'out' of Madras as it was already long time back since the grant was made. For this arrangement Mir Jumla appointed Balu Rao, as his representative at Poonamalle, a town 13 miles west of Madras and declared centre of the administration. The English out-rightly rejected this inconvenience, 'the agent answeringe Ballaraw that this was alwayes a government of it selfe, and that it was never joined with the government of Punnamalle.' The English refused to entertain Bala Rao who was sent as Nawab representative to take charge as customs-officers. The English didn’t accept the newly appointed customs-officers at the second place as there is already one at Madras, which is working on behalf of Nawab. Collecting customs at two places was totally unconvinced and it will caused harm in the long run for the merchants trading at Madras. Upon this refusal, Bala Rao started stopping the goods coming to Madras, which had very affected the inhabitants of Madras. Mir Jumla was evidently too much engrossed in his own affairs, at this critical juncture, to pay attention to the complaints of the English. But this gesture compelled the English

21 E.F.I., 1651-55, p. 133.
22 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 41.
23 The Nawab representative during this day was Timmaji.
24 E.F.I., 1655-60, pp. 41-42.
to siege one of the Nawab ships in the following year, which caused a bitter relationship between the English and Mir Jumla in the coming years.\textsuperscript{25}

Mir Sayyid Ali was sent from the Nawab to take charge of the region. Thereupon, the English wrote at once about their grievances and promised to solve within ten days.\textsuperscript{26} Mir Sayyid Ali wrote to English to let the Nawab ship's go and he will send his kinsman Mahmud Ali Beg to sort out all the differences. When Mahmud Ali Beg arrived the English refused to negotiate with him, Mir Sayyid Ali arrived personally but he forget all about their grievance and came to enquire only about the Nawab ship, and the matter could not be solved when Mir Sayyid Ali left.\textsuperscript{27}

In the meantime, Mir Jumla defected to the Mughals, Golconda was defeated by Aurangzeb in 1656 and a humiliating treaty was signed with king Abdullah Kutb Shah.\textsuperscript{28} Moreover, the Hindus in Caranatic, encouraged by Golconda, began to revolt against the Nawab's official, and there was a strong hope that the Chandragiri Raja would recover his ancestral throne.\textsuperscript{29} In the revolt Ponnamalee was taken and Pulicat was about to fall but due to the foolishness of the Ghandragiri Raja General Koneri Chetti in delaying the seized and ultimately the revolt was subdued by the Nawab's troops. While pursuing the nayaks troops, Golconda troops have done many damages in the vicinity of Madras which have far impact in their trading activities.\textsuperscript{30}

The nayaks troops came to the Fort for safety, which greatly annoyed the nawab in giving shelter to his enemies.\textsuperscript{31} Fearing the vengeance of Nawab, the English guard the town in a defensible posture with the help of Eurasians, Europeans and Indians to resist any Golconda incursion: the face of war and continued appearance of hostility in these countrys hath enforced us to increase

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{25} E.F.I., p. 42.
\item \textsuperscript{26} E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 94.
\item \textsuperscript{27} E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 95.
\item \textsuperscript{28} E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 90.
\item \textsuperscript{29} E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 92.
\item \textsuperscript{30} E.F.I., 1655-60, pp. 92-93.
\item \textsuperscript{31} E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 98.
\end{itemize}
our garrison with Portugalls, mestizoes, and blacks." Thus, from the mid-
September 1657 Madras was blockaded by the Nawabs troops, which lasted until
April 1658. 

In 1658, Mir Jumla, tired of his fruitless operations, finally agreed to settle
the ongoing dispute. Nawab agreed that the English should be left in peaceable
possession of Madras; in return the English will pay an annual sum of 380 pagodas
in satisfaction of all demands. According to the sources: 'after many disputes
with the Nabob and his ministers about our priviledges and abuses, and some
bickering, with the sustaining neere seven months siege, the enemy rose the 19th
April last, frustrate in his main designs and leaving us in a better condition then
formally; which he promiseth to continue inviolably, and is (at least seemingly)
become our great friend, having rendred up his interest in our town and customes
for the rent of 380 pagodas per annum; which will be a great ease to us, especially
for matter of further disputes and trouble.' In return the Nawab authorities
allowed the English in undisturbed possession of the town and honour the English
at Fort St. George.

The dispute which was already settle was renew again when the English
failed to deliver the captured ship of Mir Jumla, as per the agreement which
stipulated that the English would restore whatever they had in their possession
belonging to Mir Jumla. For it was not in the power of Henry Greenhill and
Thomas Chamber to deliver the ships, as they had already sold it (on credit) to
Winter who repaired it, christened it as St. George, and was making use of it in his
trading operations. So the matters was allowed to drift the two in a more
precarious way. Mir Jumla in his position obtained a farman from the Emperor,

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32 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 104.
33 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 137.
ordering the restoration of the vessel, and his representative at Masulipatnam were pressed for more severe action. 36

Mir Jumla used the old tactics to renew his demand with more offensive for the surrender of his ships and the English were really helpless as they could not arrange the ships to restore according to the agreement. 37 There was great relief when Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb dispatched Mir Jumla to Bengal to conduct the campaign against Prince Shuja, but the worst thing is, he continued to retain the jagir of the newly conquered including the Madras region from the Kutb Shah, 38 and one of his first acts, after chasing Prince Shuja and occupied Bihar, he stop all the English Company from procuring saltpeter at Patna, ‘pending satisfaction of his claims.’ 39

The matter still dragged on and finally the Surat council intervene and asked the Fort St. George on 12th October 1659, insisting to hand over the ships, and that any money it might be necessarily to pay the Nawab should be recovered from Greenhill’s estate, if Winter had paid for the vessel, the amount was to be refunded to him, if he refused to surrender, possession was to be taken by force. This order from the Surat Presidency could not in any case be carried out, as Edward Winter had sent the ship on his trading voyage to the east, and no attempts was made to adjust matters in any other respects. 40 However, in early January, 1660, Edward Winter came to Madras to negotiate the money due from him on account of the 1658 investment. In this arrangement he was allowed to return to England and promised the Masulpatnam factors that the Nawab’s ship should be surrender to them on her return to that port. 41

Mir Jumla successful campaign in Bengal earned him more popular by rewarding him the little of ‘Kankanam’ (commander-in-chief) by the Mughal

36 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 186.
37 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 263.
38 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 91.
40 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 65.
41 E.F.I., 1655-60, p. 273
Emperor Aurangzeb. But for the English it makes more worrisome as the negotiations with Mir Jumla on 10th May 1660, was inconclusive as his demands was expect too much “upwards of 20,000 pagodas, besides the denying of payment of 32,000 pagodas which hee owes the Company”. As there is no alternative the English have to agreed on whatever the given terms and if at all then their will be more consequence followed in their trading activities, which the English can’t take any more risk. The consequence of not agreeing in his terms was caution from Surat Presidency: ‘if the Nabob will not be satisfied with this, but shall proceed to molest you in your trade or abuse you in your person, wee hope, being forewarned, you are forearm’d, and ready to leave the country, that so wee proceed against the moores in another manner of language...And should they seize on all the Companies estate with you, yet doe you all endeavour to leave the country, though you loose all the estate; for wee shall soone recover it’. Spontaneously, not only in Bihar, Mir Jumla stopped all kinds of English trading activities in Kasimbazaar of Bengal, the impacts even reached in Decca when seven English sailors were detained by Mir Jumla and allowed to be released only when they are agreed to be employed in his service.

The unresolved issued of Nawab ships and pending of customs charges bring again uncertainty for the English commercial activities in the coast as the Golconda troops arrives, ‘the companies priviledges are in some hazard, the king sending downe from Golconda into the town with a huge trayne to receive his parts of customes.’ This was at a time when the neighbouring settlers of San Thome was captured in August 1661 by Golconda troops under Neknam Khan, which makes on the fate of Fort of St. George precarious: ‘St Thoma was lost

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42 E.F.I, 1655-60, p. 388.
43 E.F.I, 1655-60, p. 391.
44 E.F.I, 1655-60, p. 392.
45 E.F.I, 1655-60, p. 392.
46 E.F.I, 1655-60, p. 410.
47 E.F.I, 1661-64, p. 39.
48 E.F.I, 1661-64 pp. 145-46.
about 10 daies agoe to the king of Golconda, and the companies fort is much threatened, but wee shall defend ourself to the utmost of our power. 49

The Director appointed Edward Winter Governor of Fort St. George and reached Madras on 11th September 1661. He went to Masulipatnam to negotiate with the Golconda Governor (Fath-ullah Beg), but he was seriously injured by Governor bodyguard. 50 The Governor Beg pacify him by sending a farman, with a dress of honour and Persian horse for a present. Winter accepted the farman, but refused the gifts, vowing that he would have better satisfaction. To secure this, he took the English settlers aboard the vessels, and proceeded to blockade the port. After a while the governor and the principal merchants, entreated him to come ashore, again promising the punishment of those who had assaulted the Agent, and the continuance of the English privileges, and solved to the satisfaction of other grievances and on these terms harmony was restored. 51 Mir Junla died on his way to Decca on 1st April 1663, 52 and the fate of his ship was never return as it was wreck in the Andaman island, ‘mett with a firc storme about the Andeman Islands or Niccabar (wee know not wel whether), where with she was prest soe much that she spent all her standing mast, but made a shift with some jury ones to get to Mallacca; where wee heare by Mr. Cooper, her pilot, she is now laid up and utterly unfit to procced further, unless there bee more bestowed on her, in fitting her out, then her value’. 53

Neknam khan who was in-charge now appointed as new Nawab, and campaign more vigorously, this time on the matter of unsettled customs disputes. The problem with Neknam khan was that he wanted to keep his own agent in the Fort St. George with full authority to collect his shares of revenues. In this demand the English did not agree, but insist to help the collection the dues by themselves. It appears that, in view of the rapid growth of the commercial town and its trade,

49 E.F.I., 1661-64, p. 148.
50 E.F.I., 1661-64, pp. 171-172.
51 E.F.I., 1661-64, p. 172.
52 E.F.I., 1661-64, p. 178.
53 E.F.I., 1661-64, p. 148.
they wished to revert to the old arrangement and to receive half the actual yield, and demanded that as agent of theirs should be installed in the Fort itself to check the amount payable.\textsuperscript{54}

To investigate the charges of embezzlement and fraud against Edward Winter, George Foxcroft was sent by the Directors from London. Foxcroft discovered many things of the late agent indebted to the Company in several matters. Edward Winter tried every means to fail the proceedings and shield his confederates but Foxcroft was soon convinced that the main allegation were true and that his predecessor had not only shared in the high profits the brokers had made out of their contracts, but had also permitted Timmanna and Kasi Viranna to tyrannize over the inhabitants and monopolize the trade.\textsuperscript{55} As a result of this Edward Winter made a coup with the aid of the commander of the garrison and others close friends, and imprisoned Foxcroft and seized the administration of Fort St. George. This brings more wrath for Neknam Khan to settle his personal score as Edward Winter detains his cargo of elephant without any reasons: 'about twoe elephants of Neknam Caun, whoe complained in his first letter, that Sir Edward had unjustly detained them a long tyme from him.'\textsuperscript{56}

Subsequently, in the following year (1666) Neknam Khan returned at the vicinity of Fort St. George to secure Foxcroft release.\textsuperscript{57} But he got the information that Edward Winter had already charged with treason for unjustly imprisoning the Company Agent.\textsuperscript{58} When this internal feud was going on, trade had come to a standstill both at Masulipatnam and Madras.\textsuperscript{59} Foxcroft was again restored in the middle of the 1668.\textsuperscript{60} The main feature of Foxcroft's administration was the protracted dispute with Nawab Neknam khan regarding dues payable to the suzerain. The Nawab wanted to settle the disputes on the model of Pulicat where

\textsuperscript{54} E.F.I., 1661-64, p. 278
\textsuperscript{55} E.F.I., 1665-67, p. 117.
\textsuperscript{56} E.F.I., 1665-67, p. 118.
\textsuperscript{57} E.F.I., 1665-67, pp. 229, 234.
\textsuperscript{58} E.F.I., 1665-67, p. 246.
\textsuperscript{59} E.F.I., 1665-67, p. 326.
\textsuperscript{60} E.F.I., 1668-69, pp. 132-133.
his representative havaldar collected half the customs due for the Diwan from the custom post in the town, ‘the government of the towne should be acted by his people, as at Pollecat’. Moreover, his demand was justified as Nawab also knew that the customs revenue at Madras was far greater than that at Pulicat.

The disputes was finally settled when William Langhorn who assumed the charge as Agent and Governor of Fort St. George on 18th January, 1972. Langhorn immediate attention was devoted to the completion of the negotiations with Nawab Neknam Khan for a settlement of the disputes regarding the town rent, and for the confirmatory grant of territory and privileges which Foxcroft had so long laboured to obtain. The issue was finally resolved in February 1672 when a farman was issued, according to which the English were to pay 1200 pagodas annually for half the share of customs, arrears of dues for the last eleven year at 1000 pagodas per year: “eleven thousand agreed to be paid by agent Foxcroft, in full of all demands for the time past and to the end of may next from which: time at each years end, it was likewise agreed by the aforesaid agent Foxcroft and the council to pay the Diwan twelve hundred pagodas per annum yearly rent and so to hold this fort and town free from any havaldar or Diwans people or any other imposition for ever.”

In this agreement the English had agreed to pay 1000 pagodas a year for the past eleven years and 1200 pagodas a year for the future. Nawab Necknam Khan gave a satisfactory reply to remain friendly forever and promise a fair deal in the near future: ‘eleven thousand pagodas to be paid in full of all demands for the past, and, in future. Pagodas 1200 per annum rent, and so to told this fort and town free from any Avelders, or Divans people, or any other imposition for ever’. After the death of Nawab Necknam Khan, Mussa Khan, his successor, also confirmed the privileges: ‘Nabob Yecknam Cawn being dead and his successor Mussa Cawn

61 E.F.I., 1668-69, p. 29.
63 Diary and Consultation Book, (hereafter D&CB), 1672-1678, p. 3.
64 Notes on and Extracts from the Government Records in Fort Saint George, Madras, Public Department. Letters from England, from, 1670-1677, p. 25.
having confirmed the Phirmaund, his predecessor, the late Nabob of happy memory, resolve that a suitable present be sent to him by over Brahmin, who will make his first visit to him on taking money for the Diwan.\textsuperscript{65} The recognition of freedom of duty on English goods and goods for the consumption of the town and the autonomous administration of the English in Madras without the interference of the Golconda officials was recognized. Again in 1676 the new king of Golconda Adul Hassan Qutb Shah issued a \textit{farman} which not only confirmed Necknam Khan cowl of 1672 for Madras, but also adding the village of Triplicane as British territory.\textsuperscript{66}

William Langhorn renovate fortifications of Fort St. George, which is neglected by his predecessor as it started falling into decay and the series of Public consultations begins with Langhorn’s initiative from January 1672. In 1678, after ruling for six years, Langhorn resigned his office to Streynsham Master and sailed for England.

Before assuming his post, Streynsham Master was directed to proceed at once to Masulipatnam and bring the factory in order. Master reached on the evening of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} August, 1676 found in disparate and confusion, he at once order a method for keeping the books to note down in detail. A list of the factors and writers with the dates of their entrance into the service and their standing was started noting down in 1676 onwards. Master’s next concern was with the estates of those who died in the Company’s service. There had been many serious complaints in obtaining the effects of their deceased friends, and so he ordered that on the death of any servant of the Company, an inventory should at once be taken of his goods, which should then be effectually secured until sold or otherwise disposed of. He formulated the Council to sit every Monday and Thursday or at least once in a week, and if no business were transacted, an entry has to be made in the consultations book to that effect. The Council was specially directed to note

\textsuperscript{65}Ibid., 1670-1677, pp. 25-26.
\textsuperscript{66} D&CB., 1672-1678, p. 90.
in writing the ‘coming’ and ‘going’ of ships, business transaction and the conducts of the other European factories. Copies of all consultations were to be sent both to Fort St. George and to England with due regularity.67

Streynsham Master who understood the benefit to expand the suburban villages under their jurisdiction tried to acquire Madapollam and Versheraum but it was never materialize.68 Possibility arrived in early 1678 when the king of Golconda Abul Hassan Shah visited the coastal parts as Masulipatnam, Narasapur and the adjacent towns, accompanied by John Field and Kola Venkatadri acting as interpreter.69 The English through their agents and friend sought to procure a number of towns and dependent villages on half rent. They wanted to lease in this way like Egmore, Trivottiyur and San Thome and a number of villages dependent on them.70 These villages and its dependent were Egmore for 670 pagodas and its nine dependent villages were Poreshvawca, Pudapawca, Vepery, Keepaca, Chellypatta, Omanjacca, Lumbagawca, Roshna, Buduro and Agaram Trivottiyur for 900 pagodas, and its six dependent villages were Satangawdo, Chedayamcuppam, Tandore, Verrandalchery, Enoar and Cartivawca. San Thome for 1500 pagodas and its six dependent villages were Pallacawrana, Nammangalam, Olandor, Nandambawca, Mambalam and Sattevido.71

The negotiation were carried out through the Wizar (Prime Minister) of Golconda, Madanna, who agreed to talk to his political agent at Golconda Court if the English pay him 3000 pagodas, ‘concerning renting of St. Thoma and Yegamore’.72 The sum was accordingly paid, and a draft farman was dispatched to the king,73 but did not secure royal approval and was dropped for the time being. Streynsham Master aspiration was never fulfilled till his tenure at Madras.

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68 D&CB., 1678-79, pp. 73,113.
69 Temple, R.C. (ed), The Diaries of Streynsham Master, vol.i. p.81. also see, D&CB, 1678-79, p. 72.
70 D&CB., 1678-79, p. 76
71 D&CB., 1678-79, pp. 76-78.
72 D&CB., 1679-80, p. 17.
73 D&CB., 1679-80, p. 20.
The next Governor was William Gyfford who arrived on 7th July 1681 and assumed the post immediately by removing Master with the order from Director. Gyfford endorse a draft initiated by Streynsham Master to established new factory in the coast. In 1681 Elihu Yale was sent to negotiate with Sambhaji’s representative. Yale was successful in obtaining a cowl from Harji Raja, Governor of Ginji through his subordinate Gopal Pant, subahdar of Porto Novo, which permitted the English to settle and trade at Porto Novo, Cuddalore and Conimere. Settlements were duly made at Porto Novo and Cuddalore, but their existence was precarious and even intermittent. A factory was also established at Petapoli (Nizampatam), and Conimere in 1682, with full staff and agent to function as factory.

The factories of the English Company’s on the Coromandel Coast now reached at seven ports Vizagapatnam, Masulipatnam, Madapollam, Petapoli (Nizampatam), Conimere, Cuddalore and Porto Novo. Four were to the north of Madras and three were to the south. With these additions of trading ports there was acute inaccuracy and miscalculation of the stock bought in. The council decide to close down initially but fearing being used by the interlopers it decided to retain all the factories. To solve this problem the Council decided to reduce the staff so that the expense will be reduced. The English Company have faced biggest threat from the interlopers in the early 1680’s, sometimes even confused among the native rulers, as the matter become serious His majesty made a formal proclamation against interlopers which was also ‘read out in the church accordingly’.

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75 D&CB., 1680, pp. 72-73.
76 E.F.I., 1678-84, (new series), pp. 44-45. see also D&CB., 1682, pp. 77-78.
77 E.F.I., 1678-84, (new series), pp. 125, 128.
78 D&CB., 1683, pp. 103-104.
79 D&CB., 1684, p. 65.
80 D&CB., 1684, pp. 65-66.
81 D&CB., 1684, p. 88.
82 D&CB., 1686, p. 4.
severely punished and his properties will be siege, it include to all settlers who are staying within the English enclosure in the Coromandel Coast.

The grants which the English secured from the Golconda were again bring in uncertain condition when the Mughal conquered Golconda Empire in 1687. The problem was complicated by the out break of hostilities between the English and the Mughal in Bengal in 1689 leading to the stoppage of all English trade in Mughal dominions. The English factories in Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam and Madapollam were seized and there was a fear of possible attacks at Madras. This came in the light of a letter they received from the company ‘adviseing that the Mogull has ordered the besieging this place and to destroy all the English in his dominions and to seize their concerns: it was then immediately ordered ‘to find and repair the defects of the town and walls of the garrison, and make provision of powder shott and sufficient against a siege’.

The Mughals suspect that the Golconda treasure may be hiding under the security of the English Company at the Fort St. George.

In March 1690, news was received from the English agents at the Mughal’s camp in Bidar that peaceful agreement was settled and the farmans for Madras was delayed for wants of the original grants. This was the time when Mughal General Zulfikar Khan appealed for ammunition and soldiers from the English to help in his attack on the Marathas in Ginji. The English factor Yale responded promptly with a dispatch of 200 maunds of gunpowder. Yale consider it as godsend occasion and sought a remission of the annual rent for Madras and Triplicane along with this the rental of three more towns near Madras and more importantly needed for English was right to mint coin with the emperor’s stamp in the Madras mint. After the Nawab had taken Ginji, he sends appreciation and granted most of the demands. The cowl send from Zulfikar Khan translate as “with

83 D&CB., 1689, p. 86.
84 D&CB., 1689, p. 83.
85 D&CB., 1687, p. 43.
86 D&CB., 1690, p. 80.
other service in consideration, whereof I made and given this my Cowl or grant, that the rent of the fort and factory and Chinnapatnam with accustomed privileges, the English factory of Metchlepataam, Maddapollam, Vizagapatam and within the territory of Darullichand alias the Golconda country, also their settlements and factory of Dewnamatna, Essalamabaud, alias Cuddalore, Mamood Bundar alias Porto Novo, Trimlevassill and Factorys. Within these territories of Chingee, according to the former custome and the usuall practice of the English.”

The request to mint the coin inside the Fort St. George was accepted, but granting new places was referred to the emperor as he didn’t have the power to grant such matter.

The demand to rent the towns of Tandore, Puruswakam and Egmore initiate by Stresnsham Master were granted on 10th February 1693. Problem arose while renting these three villages as prior to the grant by the Vizar, his son Zulfikar Khan had given jigar to a certain name Valayuda Arasuma Nayak, which included of these two villages. After the English had taken into their possession, Arasama Nayak demands the return not only Egmore and Puruswakam, but also included Triplicane. This led to open conflict and the English were equally determined to defend their rights by force and sent an armed troops to prevent the entry of the nayak’s men. The English sent a letter to clarify the confusion in granting, ‘Triblecane was granted to the English at the time that Chinapatam, was, and Yegmore and Peasiwacca were lately granted to us by the king Hoosbull Hookum and Grand Vissers and Nawab’s Pervannas and therefore cannot deliver to them.’ After the English wrote to the Wazir it brought a substantial order overriding the nayak’s previous right. The English subsequently came to know

87 D&CB., 1691, p. 14
88 D&CB., 1692, pp. 9-10.
89 D&CB., 1693, pp. 52-54.
90 D&CB., 1693, p. 165.
that all grants were duly entered in the Mughal land records kept by the *quanungo.*

Before the hinterland region in Coromandel was overrun by Mughal General Zulfikar Khan. The English took the risk by purchasing the old fort of Devanampatnam in 1690 from Maratha ruler Rama Raja. The English sent Thomas Yale, the president’s brother to negotiate with the Marathas. On 2nd September it was agreed to sell the fort, Rama Raja signed the farman and hand over at once to the English Company. The farman included the transfer of all the guns inside the fort and the land reach up to one gun shot fired inland from the fort. For the purchase of the land it cost 40,000 pagodas. William Hatsell was dispatch immediately as deputy, with five members of his council to take gharge and on 23rd September 1690, they took over the fort. The old fort was rename as Fort St. David and from 1690 it was recorded as Fort St. David in the English records.

On 17th August 1693, Dr. Samuel Brown visit Ginji on the request by the Nawab of Carnatic Kasim Khan to look after his health. After restoring his health the Nawab grant six more villages in the north of Madras for the gratitude to take care of Nawab health. These were Tiruvottiyur, Sattaankudy, Shadain Kuppam, Ernavoor, Kutavakam and Alandacheri. Though it was granted to the English Company they were not ready to take possession and it was voluntarily relinquished. Moreover, it was also under the jurisdiction of Nawab Zulfikar Khan, who is still opposed to the English Company.

In January 1698 news came at Fort St. George that the Maratha at Ginji was already occupied by the Mughals. Zulfikar Khan now becomes the overlord and he rejected on the treaty regarding the Fort of Devanampatnam which was bought

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91 D&CB., 1695, p. 99.
92 D&CB., 1690, pp. 63-65.
93 D&CB., 1690, p. 82.
94 D&CB., 1690, p. 81.
95 D&CB., 1693, p. 116.
96 Letters from Fort St. George, 1693, p. 48.
97 D&CB., 1698, p. 9.
in 1690 from the Marathas King Rama Raja. He started demanding the return of Devenampatnam and Cuddalore, soon skirmish broke out: "demanding the delivery of Cuddalore and Tevenapatam towns of Gusbas Cawns people to whom he was given it for his jageer, from whence they apprehend trouble, and desire us to send to the Nabob upon the occasion for prevention of a quarrel." This type of threat from the local rulers was counter balance by the English in blockading important trading ports and interrupts the seaborne trade of the local merchants. There were many conflicts between the English Company and the Mughal officers, both in the seventeenth and in the eighteenth century, in which two basic moves were played out carefully. When these type of siege occurred the Company responded by moving up their naval fleets from their settlement and blockading the port. When the leading merchants found that they were likely to lose the season's voyages, they undertook to act as intermediaries in settling the disputes. Neither the Mughal’s nor the English Company was anxious to resort to actual force of arms, and in most cases agreement was reached without much bloodshed. Thus, matters were finally resolved in July after endless negotiations. The negotiation was carried out through an Armenian merchant named Amir John who voluntarily asked to talk on the behalf of the English Company, 'our vacqueel Amirjeah having advised us that he concluded all with the Nabob for 10,000 pagodas.'

In 1700 Zulfikar Khan Deputy General Daud Khan was appointed the Nawab of the Carnatic, and Zulfikar Khan become Subahdar of the Deccan. Therefore, an institution of a new Nawab means a new privilege is required for trading concession from the new Nawab and acquiring of new trading place. When the new Nawab came to Arcot at the beginning of 1701, he ordered European wine to the English at Fort St. George: 'Dowd Cawn having wrote the governor to buy

98 D&CB., 1698, p. 17.  
99 D&CB, 1698, pp. 78-80.  
100 Letters from Fort St. George, 1698, p. 91.  
101 Letters from Fort St. George, 1700-01, p. 4.  
him some liquors, and supposing his interest may be of advantage to the Company in those parts, it is ordered that six dozen of French brandy, six cases of spirits and two chests of syrash be provided. 103 The Council takes this occasion and sent well experienced person in the Mughal's court etiquette, Niccolao Manucci for obtaining more privileges with the present to grant more trading concession and to established new port within his domain. 104 Manucci had already stayed for nearly about thirty years at the Mughal's court, and was also a servant to one of the Mughal princes, and speaks the Persian very well. He alone with Ramappa was send with the present, consisting of two cannon, several lengths of broad cloth in scarlet and other colours, pieces of gold cloth from Europe and China, and several rarities such as mirrors of all sizes, different kinds of crystal vases, and some weapons such as fusils, pistols, and sabres; also different kinds of wine; added to all of which was a sum of five thousand rupees. 105

Manucci introduced himself in the proper Mughal court etiquette, but the present didn't reached Nawab expectations and sent Manucci back with threat of appointing his representative at Black Town and developing San Thome at the expense of Madras, "told'm it was not near enough for him, hee having been at court, where it had lost him a great deal of money for his employes which hee must and would raise by some means or other, telling us that he had an account of our revenues, calculating them at about one hundred thousand pagodas per annum. That wee had nothing to do with the black town, in which hee would put a government: and constrain us to keep only to our fort, and that hee also daily encouraged unjust complaints against us, telling them that he would first go to Tanjore, Tevenapaynam and then come to St. Thoma, when hee would ruin this port and sett up that, after all which hee dismissed our agents without any Perwnna or Tashereiff to the governor as usuall, and write only a letter referring to what

103 D&CB., 1700, p. 45.
104 D&CB., 1701, pp. 3-4.
they should tell us and Duan the same, the Duan also signing as significant Perwanna." 106 It was very usual tactics applied by his predecessor to extract more present from the English and he applied the same method.

Daud Khan had already stayed for long in the coast and he knew the weakness of the English confine inside the fort. In July he march with 10,000 troops and it appeared at the gate of San Thome, the English sent with more present but the Nawab politely rejected.107 Not knowing the Nawab intention, Thomas Pitt immediately prepared to resist any offensive. He called the sailors which are in the port to form a Company of marines, and asked ship captain George Heron and John Berlu to assist. He also summons all the Portuguese settlers to form Company under Emmanuel de Silva, and with the help of hundred peons as scouts prepared to defend the fort.108

Seeing such preparation Nawab finally agreed to receive the presents which he had previously refused. Later there was big reception and hearty dinner with six hundred dishes of big and great.109 As most of the mainland rulers with no knowledge of seafaring the Nawab also requested to inspect one of the ships in the port. Accordingly, arrangement was made to board from Triplicane but as he was too drunk the Nawab deferred for the next day.110 However, on 17th July Nawab suddenly had to march towards Poonamalle.111 Later, the English received from him the much sought privilege later.112

All this while, the English continued to supply his drink but six month later Daud Khan re-appeared again at San Thome with his army,113 as the present and gift from the English becomes appetizer for all the noblemen in this coast. The English agent was sent with the present but refused to accept by Nawab as he

108 D&CB., 1701, p. 62.
109 D&CB., 1701, pp. 66-68.
110 D&CB., 1701, pp. 67-68.
111 D&CB., 1701, p. 69.
112 D&CB., 1701, pp. 69,73.
113 Letters from Fort St. George, 1702, p. 16.
expect more at the same time the English also flatly refused for more demand by Nawab. Thomas Pitt again prepare for any eventuality, this time alone with two hundred Rajputs. The consequence was tight blockade on Madras of goods passing ‘in’ and ‘out’. To strengthen his enterprise, the Nawab dispatch to the Imperial Court on 16th November, 1702 asking to forbid trade with Europeans on the ground that they had failed to prevent piracies on ships sailing under the Muslim flag, ‘the English and other Europeans having entered into a contract to defend our subjects from piracies committed on the seas, notwithstanding that they have seized and plundered moors and therefore I have wrote all Subas and Diwan that all manner of trade be interdicted with those nations throughout our dominions, and that you seize on all the effects ‘where ever they can be found.’ The Nawab also exploited on the ground of religion as the pilgrim to Mecca was continued to harm by the European pirates.

For his justification, the Nawab started looting on the nearby territory of Madras at Egmore, Pursewaukum and Triplicane, which makes the whole inhabitants flight for safely. The Nawab also demanded to control over the Black Town and the mint of which, Thomas Pitt made no reply and stick to his position to defend whatever he can inside the fort. When this blockade was prolonged the entire foodstuff became scarce and the help from other English settlers was impossible to reach as it was also extended at Fort St. David, Masulipatnam, Bengal and Surat. So they sought help from the Dutch and Danes. The Dutch refused any help on the plea that they don’t want to antagonize the local rulers but the Danes helped the provision to stay on during this siege. Negotiations started from mid-March by demanding to pay 30,000 pagodas. With no option left, the English agreed to pay 25,000 pagodas and demanded to return all the plunder goods. The blockade was finally lifted on 5th May 1702, and final agreement was

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114 D&CB., 1702, p. 8.
115 D&CB., 1702, p. 9.
116 D&CB., 1702, p. 11. see also, Letters from Fort St. George, 1702, p. 37.
settled: ‘send the chubdars to order our trade to be as formerly, and to restore all goods which seized and now lye in St. Thoma.’\textsuperscript{118} For maintaining a good lasting relationship the English took the opportunity when the Nawab Daud Khan married on 6\textsuperscript{th} January 1705, the English sent a presents of “two baskets of orange, thirty bottles of liquor and a chest of rosewater.”\textsuperscript{119}

After the agreement the English came to acquire three more villages, which was already gave in 1693 but could not take due to the problem with the Nawab, that is, Egmore, Pursewaukum and Todiarpett and this had been given on three year leases to English chief merchant Serappa after that again given to Narayan for seven years at 1300 pagodas per annum.\textsuperscript{120} Narayan term was expired on 30\textsuperscript{th} June 1708 and it was again given to Kalanay Cheetti and Venkata Cheetti for twelve years at 1750 pagodas per annum.\textsuperscript{121}

Ziya-ud-din Khan who was steward of the Emperor Shan Alam offered his service for the English to acquire more land to lease.\textsuperscript{122} Through his service the English decided to lease Mylapore and its surrounding five villages (Trivacore, Nungumbaukum, Vasalavada, Catawauk and Satangadu). The English council wrote to the Emperor by asking that, “Your Excellency cannot but know, that Miliapore is a troublesome neighbourhood to us, creating always disputes and quarrels, little advantage to the king, nor will it ever be more, which could be obtain, and the town of Trivitore on the other side of us, it would make us easy and increase the Riches of the kings country”.\textsuperscript{123} Ziya-ud-din Khan secretly wrote back again advising Thomas Pitt not to limit his demand to Mylapore and Trivacore but request for more places like Pulicat or Pondicherry and prepared enormous present for the Emperor.\textsuperscript{124} Thomas Pitt sent the present at Masulipatam to deliver Emperor Shah Alam at Golconda. The Emperor, however, left suddenly

\textsuperscript{118} D&CB., 1702, p. 38.
\textsuperscript{119} D&CB., 1705. p. 6.
\textsuperscript{120} D&CB., 1704, p. 67.
\textsuperscript{121} D&CB., 1708, p. 13
\textsuperscript{122} D&CB., 1708, pp. 42-43.
\textsuperscript{123} D&CB., 1708, p. 44.
\textsuperscript{124} D&CB., 1708, pp. 64-71.
for Delhi after the defeat of Prince Khan Baksh, so Pitt decided to sent, despite it's far away, 'itt being Herculian labour for us too send it too Dilhee, itt being little less than 2000 miles, and would be an immense charge to the Company'. Shah Alam died on 17th February 1712 at Lahore, after a brief reign and soon traditional war of succession followed, finally Farruksiyar emerged the winner, in early 1713.

The new Mughal Emperor Farruksiyar made Nizam-ul-mulk, who sided with him during the war of succession, as Nawab of all the Deccan country, which included Carnatic, Vizapur and Golconda, 'and Nizam-ul-mulk is considered as great friend of Europeans'. Therefore, the Bengal Council under John Surman decided to maneuver for granting more trading concession by sending enormous amount of wealth. John Surman left for Delhi from Calcutta in 1714 and he was able to secure three farmans in February 1717 related with Madras, Bengal and Surat. The new Emperor sanction was received in 21st July 1717: "that the Company have liberty of trading Customs free in all the port towns under the Subah of Golconda, that they annually pay twelve hundred pagodas to the king's treasury for the rent of Chinnapatam, as appear by the books, also that in time of the Chingie war they supplied the kings camp with guns powders, balls and ammunition and provisions. That in consideration of such services his Majesty gave them (as a free gift) Trivacore and five villages, which long time enjoy'd, but that they were taken from them by the officers three year ago, wherefore the king has commanded that their petition be granted, and that the five villages be redelivered to their possession with all the priviledges which they enjoyed by the Munificence of Aurenzgeb." Thus, the English finally got what they wanted

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125 D\&CB., 1709, p. 107.
126 D\&CB., 1712, p. 66.
127 D\&CB., 1713, p. 31.
128 D\&CB., 1713, p. 147.
129 D\&CB., 1714, p. 31.
130 D\&CB., 1717, pp. 116-117
after a long time. The farman confirmed the grant of Madras for 1200 pagodas per year and the duty free trade in the entire subah.

According to this agreement the English got five more villages: Trivacore, Satan Godu, Catawauca, Vezallawarrow and Lingumbauca. But these new five villages were refused to hand over by Nawab Sadatullah Khan until the original farman of the Mughal were produced by the English. However, the English replied that its too dangerous to carry the farman and always kept in the chamber and they sent the duplicate copy and justified ‘that in sending it from place to place they are in danger of losing that which is of so much consequence to them and that that mangers under the Subah are not contended if they produce any other authority than a Perwanna under the Subah seal. That they humbly desire his majesty to publish his Royall Edict that no one should dispute their priviledges upon producing attested copys of the originall grants’.  

In this confusion the new President Joseph Collet took decision on 23rd September 1717, to take over the granted villages forcefully and sent the English troops after occupying the villages as a symbol put up English flag. The same method was applied by the Daya Ram, the chief renter, enters the town with his soldiers, occupied it and cut down the English flag. After Dayal Ram occupied Trivacore, Collet immediately ordered Lieut. John Roach to retaliate and in a surprise attack drove out the Daya Ram’s troops and the occupied village. The troops of Dayal Ram retreated towards Poonamallee, and the English troops were called back again to Fort St. George. Knowing the native plans Collet immediately prepared any assault in the Fort.

Finally, the difficulties of these renting was solved by way of renting it to one of English merchant Sunka Rama for twelve years at 1,200 pagodas per annum. The final agreement was settled on 15th December 1718, by paying

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131 D&CB., 1717, p. 117.
132 D&CB., 1717, p. 171.
133 D&CB., 1717, pp. 170-171.
134 D&CB., 1717, p. 200.
2000 pagodas to Nawab and 1500 pagodas to his officials, “the present being record, the Nabobs Health was drank and 31 guns fired”.135

From the 1720s there was many emerging regional power due to the disintegration of Mughal Empire, the English took this precaution and now more prepared to challenge any threat from the native’s rulers and become bolder while claiming their given privileges. The English Company now well aware, the tactics of Nizam-ul-Mulk (Chin Qilich Khan) of Hyderabad and Saddatullah Khan of Arcot, who declare themselves the new rulers of the southern coast. The newly princely states were not like large Mughal Empire where the troops used to come in a large number in non-stop as they witness in the preceding century. In these circumstance the English were prepare any action and if possible prepare for battle and not to defend the fort all the time.

The English policy towards the native rulers change in the given situation as we can see when Nawab Saddatullah Khan demand to return the five villages and marches in the direction of Madras in 1723. The Nawab encamped at the vicinity of Madras and sent a threatening message.136 The English Company decided to response boldly and the Governor in the meeting resolve to defend aggressively with all the English might by any attempt to deprive the English privileges given by the Mughal Emperor. In the consultation it was recorded that “the president inform the board that he had upon this news directed the officers and gunner to be in a readiness, and that he had ordered the guards at Egmore and the Out choultrys to be doubled.”137

The English Company’s were one step ahead while comparing with their counterpart especially the French and the Dutch as the Dutch at Pulicat were remain isolated from their fort and started decline their influence with the local rulers as the new rulers were not like the Qutb Shahi dynasty where once they have major interest within the court but now the power was shifted from

135 D&CB., 1718, p. 215.
136 D&CB., 1723, p. 33.
137 D&CB., 1723, p. 33.
Masulipatnam to Hydrabad and Arcot. Pulicat no long remain their center, after they captured Nagapatnam in 1658 from Portuguese, slowly they replaced their center at Nagapatnam in 1690. The Dutch rivalry with the English, which begin in the middle of the seventeenth century finally begin to decline by the beginning of the eighteenth century and their collapse was with their defeat by the English in the Battle Of Badera in 1759. Likewise, the French East India Company is still new, established in 1664, and their first factory in Coromandel Coast was establish at Masulipatnam in 1669 and later in the Pondicherry in 1673 as their headquarters. After the failure of San Thome siege (1672-1674) they were less popular comparatively with others European Companies and again in 1693 their main headquarters, Pondicherry was captured by the Dutch but restored again after the Treaty of Ryswick. Soon their focus in the 18\textsuperscript{th} century went to the nearby places such as Mauritius (1721), Mahe (1725), Calicut, Yanam and Karikal (1739), these new places were occupied and set for their trading station. French were finally defeated in the Battle of Wandiwash in 1760 by English and they lost almost all Indian settlement by the Treaty of Paris in 1763 to English. This left the only English from the European mercantile Nation.

To sum up, the English at Fort St. George made up by different class of people where everyone mined’s concentrate on the commercial activities begin to grow in spite of many difficulties. The little village which acquire in 1639 now became the center helped by many peripheral interior villages absorb the entire product in this fort. The English Company resisted pressure for a long time and they were able to endure from these difficulties because their sole intention of doing commercial activities pay off abundantly from the mid-eighteenth century onwards.