INTRODUCTION
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Modern Orissa is situated on the eastern coast of India. It extends from $17^\circ 49' \text{N}$ to $22^\circ 34'$ latitude and from $81^\circ 29' \text{E}$ to $87^\circ 29'E$ longitude on the eastern coast of India. It occupies an area of 155,707 Sq. Km. It is surrounded by West Bengal in the north east, Jharkhand in the north, Chhatisgarh in the west, Andhra Pradesh in the south and the Bay of Bengal in the east. It was separated from Bihar on 1st April 1936 and the capital was founded on the historic city of Cuttack located at the apex of Mahanadi delta and shifted to a planned modern town Bhubaneswar.

Orissa can physiographically be divided into three broad regions known as the coastal plains, the middle mountainous country and the plateaus and the rolling up lands. The history of Orissa is proud of having the famous ancient names Kalinga, Utkal, Odra, Kosala and Kongoda in covering a vast area in the historical geography of ancient India. The geographical boundary of Orissa has gone many changes through ages. Territorial dismemberment had started from the Pratapruadradeva and ultimately it passed to the Afghans and the Mughals.

Under the suzerainty of the Mughal emperors, its boundary was extended from the present Midnapur district in the North to Rajahmundhry (Godavari) in the south. The regions beyond Ganjam were under the subjugation of the Sultans of Golconda. The area from Midnapur to Chilika was recognized as the statusquo of the province under the jurisdiction of an independent Nawab but was quite subordinate to the Subedar of Bengal. The Kingdom Golconda had extended their authority from the region of Godavari to Ganjam, popularly called as “Gingelly”. Thomas Bowrey referred that the coast extends from the Bay of Corenga at the point of Godavari to Jagannath (Puri) in the north. The council of Bengal had extended their direct authority over the trading settlements of Balasore,
Hariharpur, Pipli, and the council of Coromandal kept its authority over Ganjam, Bimlipatnam and Vizagpatnam.

The principal aim of the study is to trace and review the Anglo-Orissan relation from 1633 A.D. to 1803 A.D. It is comprehensive work to deal the origin and commercial establishments of the English trade with other European factors on the eastern coast of India. The prime objective of this work how the English East India Company like other European Companies named as Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the Ostanders began their trading settlements in the different places on the Bay of Orissa and elevated the commercial significance of Orissa. For the proper understanding of the commercial establishments and procedure of transactions, attempts have been made to focus the different trading centres, maritime activities, the various imported and exported goods of Orissa to Europe from Orissa.

The emergence of sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was undoubtedly remarkable for the commercial boost in Orissa and Bengal and increased a number of towns in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa which helped the appearance of the early modern age. The first phase of the study has dealt with the concentration of the English factors in establishing their trading settlements, adaptation with the local people and merchants to accommodate their commercial environment, the origin and the prosperity of maritime activities.

The evolution of the Thesis is to trace and reflect the various stages of the arrival, initial stage of trading establishments at Hariharpur. The expansion of commercial centres Balasore, Pipli, Gingelly coast and the shift of trading concentration at Begal. But the eminent historians of India Om Prakash, Sushil Choudhury, Tapan Ray Choudhury, S. Arasaratanam and Surendra Gopal have done some commendable works on different regions of India reflecting the characteristics of trade growth and structure
prevalent in different regions. The present study has given an insight about the trade of the Eastern coast of India and the emergence of the European factors and their role in Orissa, Bengal. It has deeply focused the survival of the East India Company and the display of their role to justify the survival of the fittest among the established European trading Companies.

Some vital aspects of this study are based to focus the rule of Indian merchants, their extensive trade network and commercial linkage with various parts of Asia and Europe. There were limited centres of commerce which were established in Gujurat, Bengal Coromandal and Malabar coasts having the exporting goods named as textiles, cotton, silk, opium, indigo, sugar, food stuffs in the medieval period. People were bartering their surplus goods with each other. But there was tremendous growth of the importing and exporting trade in Orissa and Bengal during the 17th and 18th centuries by the European factors which have been thoroughly examined in this study.

Among the seaports in coastal Orissa, Balasore was the most important port of Orissa where both European and Asian merchants of different nationalities did their best commercial transactions. Thousands of weaving families flocked Balasore to take shelter within the English canon. Even after the establishment of the English factory at Hugli and Karimbazar, Balasore had kept its importance as a seaport. Balasore had got the status quo of the three most important settlements in the Bay, Hugli, and Karimbazar for making sales and investments and Balasore for loading and unloading of the European ships for Bengal and Orissa. The prosperity continued for five decades in Orissa on the Bay of Bengal.

The Bengal merchants had played an important role for the progress of trade of the English factors. The English East India Company’s purchases had acquired the name of “Investment” as described as the public trade of the Company. The role of the Dadni merchants utilized a
considerable amount of ready money investment. They actually acted as the brokers in the seventeenth century living in Calcutta under the protection of the East India Company. The Bengal merchants acted as merchants, buyers, and sellers of different commodities procuring a high amount of profit. Sometimes they acted as middle man transacting their business between the European factors and the political elite. Bermier has referred that on the manufactures of Bengal that “there is in Bengali such a quality of cotton and silks, that the Kingdom may be called for the common store house for these two kinds of merchandise not of Hindustan or of the Empire of the Great Mughal only but of all the neighbouring Kingdoms and even Europe”.

Hugli was a dominant port of Bengal to the early 1730s and the foundation of Calcutta city had reduced the importance of Hugli.

The local merchants had played a vital role for the progress and expansion of regional trade. They played the role of the middle man and acted as linkmen between the producers and the European factors. The two established merchants of Balasore Khem Chand and Chintaman Shah played a very significant role in the commercial life of Orissa in the second half of the seventeenth century. Both of them had kept commercial relations with the European factors in the merchantile of Bengal and Orissa and worked as the inseparable wings of the company’s trade. They maintained trading reputation as the trusted and principal brokers of East India Company at Balasore providing commodities for the investment of the Company. Besides them, the Hindu and Muslim merchants of Orissa used to export iron, stone plate and rice and imported tobacco and certain other commodities from Calcutta to Balasore. The merchants of Balasore had extended their trade to outside countries like Cylon, Tennaserim, and Maldives in the seventies of seventeenth century.

Despite the trade relation between the local merchants and the English factors in Orissa, the merchants were facing the difficulties of the
availability of money to sell the European goods and made part payments for goods in form of articles imported from Europe. The local merchants faced a number of difficulties in the first half of the eighteenth century due to the custom duties and financial extortions of the government officials. The increasing volume of private trade, the bad sequences of the natural calamities like floods and draughts and the political uncertainty due to Maratha wars added the woes of the merchants which became responsible to refrain to transact the foreign trade. The unjust dealing of the so called Mughal officials had sometimes upset the European traders and became the worst victims of their pretended justice.

The collaboration of the trading activities between the local and European factors was undoubtedly elevated the economic conditions and at the same time the products of agriculture contributed a large share of economy in that period. There was the trading relation of Orissa with Golkonda and Balasore was regularly suppling cloth goods to Patna in the seventeenth century. The English factors were importing the commodities named as broad cloth of various colour, copper, quick silver, vermilion, glasses, scarlet to Orissa, Bengal, and Patna through Balasore.

So, the emergence of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was important in the sense that it contributed to the development of merchant activities and commercial organizations of Orissa. The role of the English from 1757 to 1803 A.D. was dramatically changed and marked the emergence of new trend to indulge in active politics in resorting diplomacy to conquer the province of Orissa.

Exploiting the political turmoil of Bengal Raghuji Bhonsle I of Nagpur being invited by Mr Habib, Mushid Quli II sent a large army under Bhaskar Pandit to attack Alivardi Khan. How ever Alivardi Khan was at last compelled to sign a humiliating treaty with Bhonsle in 1751 A.D. and agreed...
to pay an annual tribute of 12 lakhs as chauth and ceded the revenue province of Cuttack to the south of river Suvarnarekha.  

It was the ripe of time that when the Marathas had emerged as the challenging force in Indian politics and the English power was growing in Bengal in the north and Northern circars in the south. When the English became highly successful in the battle of Plassey in 1757 A.D., the Wandiwash in 1760 A.D., and the Buxar in 1764 A.D., their supremacy in eastern India was stabilized. The acquisition of British power in Bengal by 1760 A.D., and the strategical location of Orissa became more important as it was like a wedge into the possession along with the eastern coast of India.  

The British authorities paid immediate attention for the acquisition of Orissa which remained one of the main concerns of the British power in early 1760 A.D. They observed that the movement of British troops could not be possible with Orissa remaining under the Maratha rule. Besides, the strategical importance the alluring question of chauth and the frontier incursions by restless Zamindars into Company’s territories highly embittered their relations. A cold war was emerged between the English and Marathas for the possession of Orissa through out the 18th century. The British authorities had restored to diplomacy as the only means to achieve their end to aquire Orissa. The failure of the diplomatic maneuvers from 1763 to 1790 for the acquisition of Orissa convinced the British that the employment of force was the only means to acquire it. Ultimately, a contest was ensured between the two known as the Marathas and the English power.  

The English who at once clamoured a piece of land for the trading settlement became its master by the imperialistic policy of Lord Wellesley in 1803 A.D. Lord Wellesley was excited and wrote to his brother Arthurs Wellesley, commander of troops that “ from the Raja of Berar, I wish to acquire the whole province of Cuttack so as to unite the Northern
Circars by a continued line of sea coast with the Bengal. The conquest of Orissa was successfully achieved on 14th October, 1803 after the fall of Barabati by Colonel Clayton and the treaty of Deogaon made the legal recognition on 17th December 1803 A.D. Taking into account of the above cited aspects, the present thesis has been divided to six chapters.

1 The chapter one sets out to deal with topography, the population, and the geographical divisions of present Orissa. The extent and the boundary of Orissa had really undergone many changes from the historical geography of ancient India to the occupation of British of Orissa in 1803 A.D. It has been thoroughly reflected the glorious political history, socio, economic and cultural status quo of Orissa before the influx of the Britishers. It deals with the strategic importance of coastal area which was congenial for trading activities, the role of Subedars and Mughal Supremacy, the resources and productivity of the sanctified soil to allure the traders in Orissa.

2 The second chapter focuses the debut of the European Companies, the establishment of their trading settlements in different places like Pipli, Balasore, Hariharpur and the shift of trade of the English factors to Bengal. A thorough examination has been made to reflect the timely role and trading activities of indigenous merchants like Khem Chand and Chintaman Shah and their trading linkage with the European factors with local and provincial authorities. The final part of the chapter had focused the role of the English East India Company and their trading role in coastal Orissa.

3 The third chapter has reflected the relation of Nazims of Bengal with the Marathas and the English power which heralded the British dominion of Bengal after the battle of Plassey in 1757 A.D. It reveals the Anglo-Maratha conflicting relations on trade, the exaction of chauth, frontier
tensions and communication which ultimately strained the Anglo-Marathas relation before the British acquisition of Orissa.

The silting of Orissan rivers which forbade the water navigation of Orissan ports. It reflects the burden of debts on the local merchants coupled with the establishment of Calcutta port and the perennial Anglo-Maratha conflict after 1760 A.D. highly affected the decline of trade scenario of Orissa in the last of seventeenth century leaving it to the mercy of petty in land businessmen.

4 The fourth chapter has reflected the important parts of Orissa which allured both the European and Asian merchants. It deals with the marine exploitation of Orissa with the foreign countries from the ancient to modern period. It further highlights the commercial significance of the famous ports named Balasore, Pipili, Hariharpur and Gingelly coast in the 17th and 18th century. It indicates the trading relation of Orissa with other commercial centres of India as well as outside India.

5 The fifth chapter reveals the Anglo-Maratha conflict, the diplomatic maneuvers of the British for the acquisition of Orissa after the establishment of their power in Northern Sarkar and Bengal in 1760 A.D. It focuses the keen observation of the English on the political situation in India, the meticulous plan to turn the internal jealousy and dissension cropped up among the Maratha and other princes to their account by playing one against another.

It has reflected how the English East India Company having the dwindling beginning accepted the various complex challenges and maintained their status quo in proving the only trading company to master over Orissa in 1803 A.D. at the cost of the thorough preparation which bore desired fruits.
The sixth chapter refers the decline of Orissa trade towards the end of the seventeenth century. It addresses the decline of coastal trade owing to the development of trading centres at Murshidabad, Hugli, and the halt of textile export of Orissa. It again deals with the silting of Orissan rivers which forbade the water navigation of the ports of Orissa. It reflects the burden of debts on the local merchants coupled with the establishment of Calcutta port and the perennial Anglo-Maratha conflict after 1860 A.D. which highly affected the decline of trade scenario of Orissa in the last of the 17th century, living it to the mercy of petty inland businessmen.
REFERENCE:


2. Ibid., P. 11.


4. *E.F.I. 1630 – 33*, PP. XXXI.


8. Ibid.


20. Ibid.
