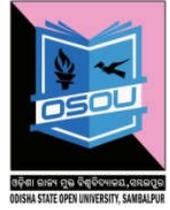

UNIT-1: AFGHAN CONQUEST AND MUGHAL RULE IN ODISHA - ADMINISTRATION



Structure

- 1.0 Objectives
- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Afghan Conquest of Odisha
- 1.3 Mughal- Afghan Conflict
- 1.4 Mughal Rule in Odisha
- 1.5 Mughal Administration in Odisha
- 1.7 Let Us Sum Up
- 1.8 Check Your Progress
- 1.9 Answer to Check Your Progress Exercise

1.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit you will be able to know about

- The Afghan conquest of Odisha,
- Mughal – Afghan conflict,
- Mughal rule in Odisha, and
- Mughal Administration.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

After the death of Gajapati Prataprudradev, the political scenario of Odisha became turbulent. Govinda Vidyadhar, the general of Prataprudradev killed Kaluadev and Kakharudev the two sons of Prataprudradev, and ascended the throne of Odisha in 1541-42 C.E. and became the founder of Bhoi dynasty in Odisha. After the death of Govinda Vidyadhara in 1549 C.E. his successors were not able to keep the empire intact. Mukunda Harichandan, later renamed as Mukundadev, the ablest general of Raghuram Chhotray and the ruler of Bhoi dynasty killed Raghuram Chhotray and ascended the throne of Odisha in 1560 C.E. The political upheaval and anarchy came to a halt when Mukundadev took over the reign of Odisha administration. Mughal Emperor Akbar assured Mukundadev to help against any possible attack from the Afghan ruler of Bengal.



1.2 AFGHAN CONQUEST OF ODISHA

Sulaiman Khan Karrani, the younger brother of Taj Khan Karrani (the founder of Karrani dynasty in Bengal) became the Sultan of Bengal in 1565 C.E.after the death of his brother.

Sulaiman maintained as a vassal state of Mughal Emperor Akbar in Bengal. He didn't establish his coinage and honored Akbar as the Supreme ruler of Bengal by reading Akbar's name in Khutbah during the prayer at mosques in Bengal.

In 1568 C.E. Sulaiman sent his son Bayazid Khan and general Kalapahada against Mukundadev of Odisha. When Akbar was busy in the conquest of Chittor, he took advantage. Mukundadev fought with the Bengal army at Gohiratikiri (near Jajpur) and was defeated and killed on the battlefield in 1568 C.E. The victory of Odisha was one of the glorious and unique military achievements of Sulaiman Khan Karrani. Kalapahada, the general of Sulaiman Khan Karrani sacked the Jagannath temple and took Puri under the control of Afghan. Sulaiman Khan appointed Ismail Khan Lodhi as the Governor of Odisha.

In 1573 C.E. Sulaiman Khan Karrani died before the consolidation of Afghan power in Odisha. He was succeeded by Bayazid Khan Karrani, the younger brother of Bayazid hold a huge army against Hassan. He killed Hassan and became the Sultan of Bengal. He consolidated the sovereign power of Bengal by introducing his own coin and Khutbah.

1.3 MUGHAL- AFGHAN CONFLICT

Emperor Akbar took a bold step against Daud Khan Karrani and sent Raja Todarmal to Bihar to help Munim Khan, the Governor of Bihar. With the arrival of Akbar's army, Daud fled to Bihar and returned to Bengal. Daud fled to Cuttack and moved forward and backward between Cuttack and Jaleswar keeping a close watch on the advance of Mughal army. Finally, in the battle of Tukaroi which took place at modern Balesore, six miles west of Jaleswar on the bank of the river Suvarnarekha. Daud was defeated by the combined army of Mughal led by Munim Khan and Todarmal. Daud had no alternative but to rush towards Cuttack.

Downfall of Daud

Mughal army led by Todarmal reached Kaikalghati (Bhadrak), following Daud which is described in the Ain-i- Akbari of Abul Fazal. Munim Khan also joined Todarmal with a grand army on the bank of the river Mahanadi. The situation became crystal clear to Daud and Munim Khan forced Daud to surrender. Finally, Daud surrendered before the court of Munim Khan on 12th April 1575 C.E. A treaty was signed between Daud and Munim Khan. According to the treaty, Daud promised not to

show any hostile attitude against Akbar. The deed prepared by Munim Khan got Akbar's approval. Daud got Odisha and Munim Khan became the Governor of Bengal.

Diplomacy of Daud

After Munim Khan died on 23 October 1575 C.E. Daud ignored the humiliating treaty and started a revolt against the Mughals. Marched towards Bhadrak and killed NazarBahadur, the Governor of Akbar. Daud proceeded towards Jaleswar. Smelling the scent of the attack, Murad Khan the Mughal Officer fled away to Tanda, and Jaleswar was reoccupied by Daud. Thus Daud was able to capture Bengal and Odisha.

Suppression of the rebels by Akbar

To punish Daud Karrari and Afghans, Akbar appointed Hussain Quli Beg entitled Khan-i- Jahan assisted by Todarmal to lead an expedition against Afghan. In the meantime, Akbar sent Muzafar Khan to join the imperial army on 10th July 1576 C.E. Almost all the leaders of the Afghans met their end and the Afghans were utterly defeated by the Mughal Army. Daud was captured and later he was killed by the Mughals.

1.4. MUGHAL RULE IN ODISHA

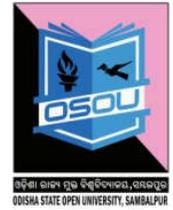
After Daud Khan Karrani's death, Odisha was annexed to Akbar's empire. Between 1576 to 1605 C.E. the Mughal Officers of Bengal spent thirty years attempting to drive the Afghans out of Odisha and wanted to implement Mughal administration, but were not able to implement it effectively until the death of Akbar. Muzaffar Khan Turbati was appointed as Governor Odisha after the death of Hussain Quli Beg in 1578 C.E.

Suppression of Afghan rebels by Akbar

Todarmal returned to Delhi in 1582 C.E. after establishing the Mughal rule in Odisha. Meanwhile, Khan-i-Jahan was appointed as the Mughal Governor of Bengal. QutulLohari, a prominent supporter of Daud Karrani supported by Mausam Khan had established his authority over Odisha. QutulLohari advanced towards Hoogly and defeated the Mughal Founder Mohammad Nizat Khan at Salimabad on 27 March 1583 C.E. The Afghan rebels led by Mausam Khan and QutulLohari, met the Mughal army. The Afghans were defeated by the troop of Mughal Mausam Khan and other Afghan rebels left the companion of QutulLohari and surrendered before Akbar. But in spite of Mughal attacks until 1593 C.E. QutulLohari enjoyed his days in Odisha.

Mughal- Afghan Treaty

Akbar sent one of his trusted Generals Raja Man Singh to teach a lesson to QutulLohari, the Afghan ruler of Odisha. Meanwhile, QutulLohari died and was succeeded by his son. As the son of QutulLohari was a weak ruler, his Wazir Khwaza Isa wanted a peaceful relationship with the Mughals. A treaty between the Afghan and



Mughal general Mansingh was signed on 15 August 1590 C.E. with the following terms and conditions.

- Coins shall bear the Emperor's name and the khutaba shall be read in the honour of the Moghuls.
- The Afghan ruler of Odisha shall be subordinate and loyal to the Moghuls.
- Jagannath Temple (at Puri) and its surrounding area would be ceded to the Moghul Emperor.

Position of Ramachandradev and fall of Sarangagarh

Ramachandradev the then king of Odisha was not satisfied with the treaty because his power and position as the Custodian of God Jagannath was not placed in the Treaty. On the other hand Nasir Khan, the ruler of Afghan and his followers captured the Temple of God Jagannath in 1592 C.E. showing their dissatisfaction to the treaty Raja Ramachandradev undoubtedly supported the Afghans. Man Sing the Moghul general defeated the Afghans and drove them to Cuttack in a fight on 10 April 1592 C.E. on the bank of river Subarnarekha.

Fall of Sarangagarh

The Afghans were unable to maintain their position at Cuttack because of the Mughal army and fled away to the fort of Sarangagarh followed him and Mansingh marched towards Khordha while Raja Ramachandradev remained at the fort. He did not send any assistance to the Afghans at Sarangagarh. The Afghans surrendered after feeble resistance and Sarangagarh was caught hold.

Raja Ramachandradev in 1593 C.E., demonstrated his loyalty to Akbar by meeting peace with Mansingh. Akbar recognized him as the protector of the Puri Jagannath temple. He was also offered the rank of Mansabdar, with a salary of three thousand and five hundred rupees. With the surrender of Ramachandradev in 1593 C.E., the Mughals captured Odisha driving away from the Afghans.

Odisha under Akbar

After the death of Daud Karrani Raja Todarmal peace-fully administered Odisha. Mughal Emperor Akbar recognized Raja Ramachandradev as the legitimate successor of the Odisha Gajapati's, and he assumed the title of Gajapati. In a diplomatic way Mansingh also satisfied the two sons of Mukundadev by giving them the Zamindari of Aul and Patia. Mansingh implemented Todarmal's revenue system. Akbar did not intervene in the matters of Puri Jagannath Temple during his reign and Odisha became an integral part of Bengal Subah which was ruled from Bengal's capital.

Odisha under Jahangir

Jahangir ascended the throne of Mughal Empire in 1605 C.E. after the death of Akbar. He was not liberal to Odisha like Akbar. He intervened in the internal administration



of Odisha and the temple of God Jagannath. Odisha became a separate Subah and appointed Hasim Khan as the Governor of Odisha. Raja Kesu Das Manu, a subordinate of Jahangir marched against Purusottam Dev the king of Odisha to materialize the dream of his master. Puri was occupied during the car festival. In 1611 C.E. Kalyamala became the Governor by replacing Hasim Khan. He occupied Khordha and a humiliating treaty was signed with king Purusottamdev of Khordha. After the death of Purusottamdev his son Narasinghadev became the ruler of Khordha and remained loyal to the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. But latter he lost the sympathy of Jahangir because he greeted the rebellious Prince Khurram (Sahajahan) in Odisha. Odisha became a separate province during the period of Jahangir.

Odisha under Shah-Jahan

Muhammad Baqar Khan was appointed Governor of Odisha following Shah Jahan's accession to the Mughal throne in 1628 C.E. After the death of Jahangir, Muhammad Baqar Khan occupied Mansurgarah; Baqar Khan was appointed Governor of Odisha in 1632 C.E. in place of Muta Quad Khan. He granted permission to captain Ralph Cartwright to establish a factory of East India Company at Hariharpur. According to William Burton's account, the East India Company established factories in the Balasore and undivided Cuttack districts during this time. There was no invasion on Khordha on behalf of Mughal Governor of Odisha and the Mughals were never involved in the matters of the Jagannath temple at Puri during SahJahan's rule.

Odisha under Aurangzeb

In 1658 C.E. Shah Jahan was ill and DaraShikoh took on as the royal regent. This led to a war of succession in which Aurangzeb emerged victorious in 1659 C.E. He also imprisoned his own father, who later died in 1666 C.E. During this period of instability in the Mughal Empire several chieftains in Odisha declared their independence. Khan-i-Duran was appointed the Governor under Aurangzeb and he ruled from 1660 C.E. to 1667 C.E. During this period, he crushed several rebel chieftains and subdued Mukundadev-I, the then king of Khordha. During Aurangzeb's time, Governor Junaid broke the famous Sarala temple of Jhankad in the present Jagatsinghpur district and a good number of temples at Jajpur for which Aurangzeb's rule were unpopular in Odisha.

1.6. MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION IN ODISHA

Establishing a firm rule in Odisha, Mughal Emperor Akbar introduced a well-planned system of administration in Odisha which was discharged very efficiently. The Governor's appointment by the Mughal Emperor in Odisha became very careful in looking after the revenue administration. Todar Mall divided Odisha into Five Sarkars in 1582 C.E. These were Jaleswar Sarkar (extending from river Rupanarayan to



Budhabalanga), BhadrakSarkar (extending from river Budhabalanga to Brahmani), Cuttack Sarkar (extending from river Brahmani to Chilika Lake), Kalinga-dandapat (South Odisha), and Rajahmundry (North Andhra).

Land Revenue System

The Mughals had applied a reasonably and well-structured system of revenue collection. Land revenue continued to have an important source of income for the state during the time of Akbar. Todarmall, the wise revenue Minister of Akbar introduced bandobast (settlement) in Odisha popularly known as Tankhwa Raqmi. Accordingly, Odisha was divided into two regions, the Mughalbandi and the Gadjat. The areas under the direct control of Mughals were called Mughalbandi and the areas under the direct control of the native kings were called as Gadjatas. The Gadjatas were submissive to the Mughal emperor by paying fixed annual peshkash; the settlement acknowledged the hereditary chiefs of the Gadjatas called Zamindars. Raja Mansingh gave a final shape to the system of Todar Mall in 1593 C.E. The King of Khordhawas a prominent state of the Zamindari system.

Administrative division

The head of the province was Subahdar and later on, he was called Nazim. Next to him was Diwan. The Subahdar was responsible for the executive, criminal Justice, and general supervision. The Diwan was responsible for revenue and civil justice. These two officers were directly responsible to the Emperor. The Choudhury, Muqaddams, and Quanungos played a dominant role in the field of revenue collection. The Province or Subah was divided into five Sarkars. The head of the Sarkar was Fauzdar. The Sarkars were again divided into Mahals or Praganas. Choudhury was the head of the Mahal. Mahals or Praganahs were divided into Taluqs. Taluqdar was the head of the Taluq. Mouza was the last unit of administration, which was under Muqaddam. The Kotwal looked after the administration in the town. Village Panchayats were to look after village administration.

Revenue Administration of Aurangzeb

The revenue system drastically changed during the reign of Aurangzeb. In 1728 C.E. MurshidQuliKhan introduced a system known as Zanna Kamal. In this settlement, the rate was specified in terms of cowrie (Kaudi) currency. Odisha was divided into 12 sarkars having 258 Mahals.

Judicial administration

The judicial administration in Mughal Odisha was vested normally in three agencies. The Emperor and his agents, the Subahdar in the province and the Fauzdar in the Sarkar. The Kotwal usually administered political cases. The sacred law or shariwas administered by the Quazi the Judge. His jurisdiction was beyond issues connected

with religion and included disputes connecting family, law, marriage, inheritance, and criminal cases.

Military administration

The Mughal army was Turves type in origin. It is apparent that for the smooth continuity of the Mughal rule in Odisha, The Muslim Governors would have recruited local people as soldiers. Cuttack must have played recruiting ground for this selection. Vast field before Barabati even exists today in Cuttack, famous as Quila Padia was used for recruitment in the later period. The army was divided into distinct groups each under its separate commander. The Mughals relied more upon the cavalry than on the war elephants. Artillery entered the scene during this period. Weapons of the Mughal army generally consisted of swords, shields, bows, arrows, mace, battle axes, and flint guns, light and heavy guns.

Attitude towards the religions of Odisha

During the reign of Akbar and Shah Jahan, the Mughal administration had taken a tolerant view in the field of religion. But, being a staunch Sunni-Muslim, Aurangzeb wanted to deal with the Hindus of Odisha's core and concept. He imposed pilgrim tax upon the Hindus who visited the temples of God Jagannath. Prof. Jadunath Sarkar in his book, 'History of Aurangzeb' mentions about the temple destruction order of Aurangzeb in Odisha. He ordered the destruction of newly built temples in Odisha. During his reign the administration of the temple of God Jagannath at Puri got a setback and some festivals of the temples could not be performed in proper time. Aurangzeb strongly favored the cause of Muslims in Odisha. During his period huge lands were granted to the Ulemas, Maulavis, holy men, and downtrodden Muslims in Odisha. Shaikh Abdul Khair of Golapara and Shaikh Barkhudar of Cuttack received Maddad-i- Mesh (grant of land for religious purpose) in form of land which shows his Muslim favor.

1.7 LET US SUM UP

Mukund Dev was the last ruler of independent Odisha. After he died in 1568 C.E., Odisha lost its freedom and was captured by the Afghans and Mughals in turn. Daud the then Afghan ruler of Bihar had spread over his rule in Odisha. During the reign of Akbar, Todar Mall led the Mughal army against Daud. Hussain Quali Beg was also merged in the suit. Daud was easily maneuvered and surrendered before the Moghals.

It took nearly thirty years (from 1576 to 1605 C.E.) for the Mughals to wash the Afghans totally out of Odisha. Odisha was annexed to Moghals empire after the fall of Daud and during Akbar. This situation also was accompanied by a treaty in 1590 C.E. between the Afghans and the Mughals. As a result, Cuttack came under the direct control of the Moghals. As Akbar's greatness is well-known history, Rama Chandra





Dev of Odisha showed his loyalty to Akbar, and in 1593 C.E. and Odisha's occupation by the Moghals was full-fledged.

Unlike Akbar, his successor Jahangir poked his nose in the internal administration of Khordha and God Jagannath Temple. Kalyanmall, the powerful Mughal Governor to Odisha attacked Khordha and Purusottam Dev, the then ruler of Khordha was compelled to sign a humiliating treaty in 1611 C.E. However, Shah Jahan after succeeding the Moghal throne appointed Muhammad Baqar Khan as the Governor of Odisha in 1628 C.E. In 1632 C.E. Mutaqb Khan, the Governor of Odisha granted permission to the British East India Company to set factories at Balasore and Cuttack. But Shah Jahan did never attempt to attack Khordha nor interfere in God Jagannath Temple matters. During the short period of emperorship of Prince Shujah, the Odisha's Kings and chieftains rose to rebel. But such rebels were suppressed by the accession of Aurangzeb in 1658 C.E. During the Governorship of Khan-I-Duran in Odisha, MukundaDev I, the best rebel king of Odisha was subdued. The Famous Sarala Temple at Jhankad of Jagatsinghpur district was partially defiled by Junaid, the Moghal Governor.

As stated earlier, the main aim of the Mughals was to extract money or kinds from Odisha. They had some administrative reforms in the state to facilitate their extraction. They divided Odisha into two political zones: Moghalbandi and the Gadajats.

Again and for revenue collections in Odisha, Todar Mall, the revenue minister of Akbar further divided Odisha into five Sarkars in 1582 C.E. To facilitate land revenue collection, Todar Mall introduced the bandobast (settlement) of land which was known as TankhwaRaqmi. Mushidquali khan in 1728 C.E. introduced a new system in Odisha known as Jamma Kamal. The Choudhury, Muquadams, and Quanungoes were the officials responsible for revenue collection.

The Judicial administration had the Emperor at the top and the Subahdar and the Faujdar to settle the civil and other disputes. Mughal Emperor Akbar and Shah Jahan took a tolerant view in the matters of God Jagannath temple at Puri. Shahjahan favoured the cases of Muslims in Odisha. Thus the Afghan and Moghal administration in Odisha bears no such significance.

1.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

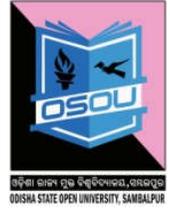
1. Discuss the Mughal-Afghan conflict in Odisha.
2. Write a note on the Mughal rule in Odisha.
3. Give an account of the Mughal administration in Odisha.
4. Write a short note on the revenue system of Mughals in Odisha.
5. Write a brief note on the Moghul's attitude towards the religion of Odisha.



1.9 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

1. See Section 1.3
2. See Section 1.4
3. See Section 1.6
4. See Section 1.6
5. See Section 1.6

UNIT-2: MARATHA RULE IN ODISHA - ADMINISTRATION



Structure

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Maratha Rule in Odisha
- 2.3. Maratha Governors in Odisha
- 2.4. Maratha Administration in Odisha
- 2.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 2.6 Check Your Progress
- 2.7 Key Words
- 2.8 Answer To Check Your Progress Exercise

2.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit you will be able to know about

- Maratha occupation of Odisha,
- Maratha rule in Odisha, and
- Maratha administration in Odisha.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Military power of the Marathas was a challenge to the Mughal rule in India at the later period. Peshwa BajiRao (1740-1761) repeatedly invaded Bengal between 1742-1751. Alivardi Khan (1740-1756) the then Nawab of Bengal gave a part of Odisha to the Marathas in order to avoid their frequent loot.

The Maratha rule in Odisha was essentially military in nature and a replica of the Mughal administration. The then Odisha was politically divided into two regions:- (a) The Garjat states which consisted of 24 chieftains (puppet leaders) and (b) Mughalbandi. The Garjat rulers held land by paying feudal fee. There were 24 such states. The Mughalbandi area spread over the coastal Odisha ranged from Suvarnarekha in the north to the Chilikalake in the south. The Rajas of Kanika, Dhenkanal, Ranapur, Badamba, Athagara, Kujanga, Aul and Mayurbhanj retained their importance during Marathas rule.

The Maratha Governors did not interfere in the internal administration of these Garjat chiefs. The feudatories had to pay tribute in form of gift or wealth like gold, farm produces or slaves to the Raja of Nagpur. The scenario of Mughalbandi area under direct Mughal rule was something different. The main aim of the Marathas was to get

wealth and revenue. The Mughalbandi area was divided into 150 praganas or group of villages otherwise known as the subdivision of a district which were managed 32 Amils or local diwans. Each Pragana was further divided into three, four or more Mahalas or allotments. Amil or the Revenue commissioner was empowered to assess different taxes and ensure collection of the tax through other different revenue officers. The Marathas granted various allowances in terms of money or land to the revenue officers along with other expenses. Tax was imposed based on the amount of land under cultivation. The Maratha rulers imposed heavy customs duties which discouraged cotton cultivation in Odisha. The intention behind this discouragement was that the peasants or cultivators of Odisha will be bound to produce rice in plenty so as to meet the demand of the Maratha rulers at Nagpur.

During Maratha's rule, Odisha was producing salt in plenty of salt which provided a considerable tax to the Marathas towards the end of 18th century, there was a business dispute between Marathas and British East India Company which was centered on salt. The Maratha rulers built good roads to connect Odisha with Bengal, Madras and Nagpur. These roads were not made for the people. The aim was to make the administration easy from Nagpur. Taxes were collected at toll gates from the people coming from outside Odisha. The Marathas were not pro-people but pro- Brahmin. They liked to project themselves as Hindus. So they somehow reformed God Jagannath temple administration and policy. Their intention might be such that majority of the Odisha's were Hindus or to get revenue. They imposed pilgrim tax on the devotees which was a major source of their revenue as people from all over India visited God Jagannath. Near about 9 lakh revenue was collected from the temple which was an exorbitant amount in that time.

The Marathas were tyrants in the matter of collecting revenue. They thought Odisha as a milching cow and extorted maximum rent from the Odishas which ignited the fire of dissatisfaction and outrage among the inhabitants. Frequent change of Governors defiled the social-erna of Odisha making the administration more hostile as the new Governors had different administrative policies. Non prevalence of law and frequent march of the British troops were perhaps the reasons that began a mass upsurge against the Marathas. This paved the way for the British occupation of Odisha in 1803.

2.2 MARATHA RULE IN ODISHA

Decline of the Mughal administration in India created a fare-weather for the Bengal Nizams to exercise their control over Odisha. In 1568 C.E. the region of Odisha was conquered by the armies of the sultanate of Bengal led by the econoclast general Kalapahad. This invasion by Kalapahad found in the folk-lore and fables of Odisha. On

the other hand Marathas were gaining strength and trying to set their dominance all over India. Peshwa Balaji Bajirao (1740-1761) repeatedly invaded Bengal between 1742 and 1751 C.E. Marathas looted Bengal during all these invasions which was a great concern for Alivardi Khan, the then Nawab of Bengal. He was thus forced to give a part of Odisha to the Marathas.

Capture of Barabati forte by the Marathas

At the time Cuttack was the centre of Odisha encased the famous Barabati Forte, which was an attractive point for the Afghans, Moghals and Marathas. Alivardi Khan, the Nawab of Bengal caught hold of entire Odisha by the time. The Forte centered the attraction of Marathas. Bhaskar Pandit assisted by Mir Habib crossed Baramula with a grand Maratha army and entered Odisha. Nawab's army was frightened with such unexpected military endeavour. On 19 April 1742, Barabati Forte was captured by the Marathas. Mir Habib's aftermath endeavour marched from Midnapore to Burdwan. He also targeted Murshidabad. Alivardi Khan was able to save Murshidabad from the Maratha's plunder by paying a large sum of money to Bhaskar Pandit.

Reoccupation of Cuttack By Alivardi Khan

After capturing Barabati Forte, Bhaskar Pandit marched towards Nagpur via Chilika on his plundering endeavour. In the mean time, Alivardi Khan took its advantage and put an appeal before the shadowy Mughal emperor Mohammad Shah to assist him combat Bhaskar Pandit on his return. By the emperor's information Nawab of Oadh and Peshwa Balaji Bajirao of Puna assisted Alivardi to reoccupy Cuttack.

After Cuttack was occupied by the Marathas, Raghuji Bhonsle, after plundering Cuttack proceeded towards Bengal to realize chauth from Alivardi. At this situation Alivardi in order to save him from the clutches of Raghuji allied with Peshwa Balaji Bajirao by paying twenty-two lakh rupees. Raghuji was forced to retreat towards Nagpur, when Peshwa interfered the matter. A treaty was made between the Bhonsles and the Peshwas which paved the way for Bhaskar Pandit to enter Odisha with his troops. Alivardi treacherously invited Bhaskar Pandit to a meeting at Mankora and killed 22 efficient generals of the Marathas. This treachery frightened the Marathas and they returned to Nagpur immediately.

Recapture of Cuttack by the Marathas

Raghuji became furious at the treacherous deed of Alivardi and took Barabati to his hands on 12 May 1745. But his troop was defeated by Alivardi. On the way of his retreat towards Nagpur, Raghuji instructed Mir Habib to get back Odisha under Maratha control. Mir Habib proceeded with his troops and occupied Midnapur. Diplomat Alivardi appointed Sayed Ahmad Khan as the Governor of Odisha who was able to defeat the Marathas at Midnapur. At this crucial period Januji, the son of

Raghuji assisted Mir Habib. The decedent Afghan chiefs helped Januji and Alivardi could not save Midnapur from the Marathas. Meanwhile, Alivardi proceeded towards Cuttack and captured it. Giving Odisha under the Governorship of Shaik Abdul Subhan, Alivardi left for Bengal. After one week of Alivardi's departure Mir Habib suddenly attacked and captured Cuttack.

The Peace Treaty of 1751

Capture of Cuttack by the Marathas made Alivardi fragile. Alivardi then was old, weak and feeble. On the other hand Mir Habib proceeded towards Bengal with 40000 soldiers. Alivardi gathered his army to combat Mir Habib. The Marathas were master in guerila war.

Alivardi, for this purpose established permanent military outpost at Midnapur. Ali Quil Khan was the commander of the camp. He also sent his grandson Siraj-ud-Daula to face the Marathas on the battle field. When he confronted the Marathas at Murshidabad, they attacked at Burdwan. Moreover, Alivardi wanted to get rid of warfare owing to his old age. All that he needed was a negotiation. Both of them, Alivardi and the Marathas sat for a peace negotiation in 1751 C.E. Mir Zafar and Mirza Saleh represented Alivardi and Mir Habib for the Marathas. As per the outcome of this peace treaty, Mir Habib was to rule Odisha under the portfolio of Naib Nawab. He would pay the surplus tax and revenue of the province to Raghuji's troops. Raghuji shall be paid twelve lakhs annually for not putting the Marathas foot in the province. River Sonamukhi (Suvarnarekha) near Balasore and Bengal would be the demarcating line between Odisha and West Bengal.

2.3 MARATHA GOVERNORS IN ODISHA

Odisha traditionally was ruled by the native kings. But when it was occupied by the Afghans, Mughals and the Marathas, its administration was vested upon the Governors. The soul motto of the Marathas was to extract revenue and wealth from Odisha. These Governors interfered the Odisha administration to facilitate their revenue collection. Odisha however came into the hands of the Marathas as one of the conditions of the peace treaty in 1751 C.E. The following Governors administered Odisha as rulers.

Mir Habib (1751-1752)

No such information about the origin and life of Mir Habib till he appeared in history is available till the date. Alivardi Khan killed Murshid-Quli, the master of Mir Habib. Habib was strongly determined from that day to avenge the death of his master and was in search of an opportunity. When Raghuji, the Maratha attempted on Alivardi for Odisha, Mir Habib took it as an opportunity and sided with Raghuji's previous revenge plan and which perhaps was a cause for the peace treaty of 1751 C.E. with Alivardi Khan.

He was like a bridge between the two parties :Alivardi and the Marathas in the treaty of 1751 and was indispensable for both of them. The Marathas favoured him for getting back the arrear amount from Odisha and regular annual revenue while Alivardi to get rid of the turbulent politics of Odisha. Mir Habib was stable in his attitude and took prudent decision as and when required. After the death of Ramachandra Dev of Khurdha, Padmanav Dev of Patia appealed before him for the throne. When he was about to place Padmanav Dev, the courtiers of Khurdha convinced him about the legitimacy of Bhagirathi Kumar, Mir Habib accepted it and Bhagirathi Kumar got the throne of Khurdha as Birakishor Deva. This was an example of his ability as a fair administrator.

Mir Habib was an able administrator. He never failed to pay the promised amount of four lakhs annual tribute to the Marathas and received twelve lakhs from Bengal as per the conditions of the peace treaty. He was unfortunately alleged of mis-appropriation of certain amount of cash by Junuji which led to his death.

Mirza Saleh (1752-1759)

Mirza Saleh, the nephew of Mir Habib part took in the peace treaty of 1751 C.E. between Mir Habib, Alivardi and Raghuji, the Marathas. He succeeded his uncle Mir Habib as Governor of Odisha in 1752 C.E. after his uncle's death. He was hanged between two giant masters: Alivardi, the Afghan and Raghuji, the Maratha. Unlike his uncle, he intended to outwit both of them. He had a sharp wit and was more diplomatic. When Raghuji demanded more money than previous amount Mirza agreed to pay an extra four lakhs rupees which he demanded from Alivardi, who refused to pay. So he adhered to other ways of getting the money. For this, he occasionally coerced the people of Odisha to pay more. By that time the British East India Company had set factories at Hariharpur, Pipili and Balasore. He also collected some money from the British merchants. The British merchants offered costly presentations to him for the profit they earned from the business and prosperity of the factories.

When Alivardi's grandson Siraj-ud-daula ascended the throne of Bengal after his death in 1756 C.E., he instructed Saleh not to render any assistance to the Britishers. He showed allegiance to Siraj, but secretly helped the Britishers in Odisha. With the assistance of the Britishers, he raised 1000 gunmen for their security and also conspired to oust Siraj from the throne of Bengal. When it was caught, he sought refuge before Raghuji at Nagpur, who refused to shelter as he was a coward. During Saleh's absence his son, Didar Ali took over the charge of Odisha's administration. Siraj was defeated and was killed in the battle of Plassey of 1757 with the British.

Didar Ali his successors failed to control Bengal and were imprisoned by the Marathas. Under this fair weather, Saleh returned to Cuttack and again became the Governor of Odisha. The new Nawab of Bengal Mir Zafar stopped payment of chauth to the Marathas which was a bad sign for Mirza Saleh. He was forced to resign in 1759



C.E. Mirza Saleh was the last Muslim Subahdar of Odisha both for the Nawab of Bengal and the Marathas.

Sheo Bhatt Sathe

Sheo Bhatt Sathe was the first Maratha Governor in Odisha. After the death of Raghuji Bhonsle, his son Januji ascended the throne of Nagpur, who appointed Sheo Bhatt as the Subahdar of Odisha. After being the Governor of Odisha, Sheo Bhatt's first task was to collect chouth from the Nawab of Bengal. By the time, Mir Quasim became the Nawab by replacing Mir Zafar. When Sheo Bhatt Sathe demanded Chauth from him, the Nawab paid no attention. So he attacked and plundered Burdwan. He also claimed Midnapur and Burdwan to be the part of Maratha region in Odisha. Again in 1761 C.E. he attacked to plunder. Bengal was foiled by the British garrison.

The Britishers deployed their troops in Midnapur and Bengal as aprecationary measures. For this, Maratha failed to collect chouth and Sheo Bhatt was enraged. He kept the British agent KushalChand of Cuttack under his custody. The Britishers persuaded Mir Quasim to drive the Marathas out of Odisha. But Mir Quasim negotiated with Sheo Bhatt for his cooperation and assured him to pay the chouth. Mir quasim sent a sanand of Jaleswar and Midnapur. After this, Sheo Bhatt sent his younger brother Bhaskar Pandit and Batl Khan to Jaleswar with troops against the British.

British East India company was alarmed which sent its agent Aga Mohammad Ali of Balasore and Ghulam Mustafa the company's gumasta to Balasore to meet the Maratha Governor and tell him not to go against the company. On the other hand, Vansittart, the British representative of Bengal assured the Marathas to pay the arrear of their chouth if they take British side. At this, Sheo Bhatt withdrew his alliance with Mir Quasim. As a result Mir Quasim was defeated by the Britishers in the battle of Buxar in 1764 C.E. But the Britishers be fooled Sheo Bhatt who was unable to pay the arrear of chouth to Januji and was dismissed and imprisoned on 12 April 1764 C.E.

Bhawani Pandit (1764-1768)

During Sheo Bhatt's dismiss, Chimna Sau was the subahdar of Odisha which was challanged by Sheo Bhatt. Sheo Bhatt had instigated the zamindars against Chimna Sau. When the news reached Nagpur, Bhawani Pandit with a grand army of five thousands cavarly reached Odisha in July 1764 C.E. to take of the Governorship of Odisha. He crushed the rebel zamindars of Dhenkanal, Nilgiri and Mayurbhanj who submitted before him and paid a considerable amount to Bhawani for maintenance of his army. The British requested the assistance of Bhawani Pandit to suppress Sheo Bhatt. He avoided them in this endeavor. She signed a treaty with the British to hand over the salt produced by the zamindars of Balasore and neighboring districts to the British merchants only. He also negotiated with the British and Januji for realisation of



chouth. Mir Zainul Abedin, on behalf of the British reached Januji's court at Nagpur. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the Bhawani Pandit government. Januji, at this, dismissed Bhawani Pandit for not being able to collect chouth.

Sambhuji Ganesh (1768-1770)

Sole Mutto of the Marathas ruler to appoint Sambhuji Ganesh as Governor of Odisha was to collect chouth from Bengal. For the purpose he played a trick to allie with the British and to satisfy them. He offered 50,000 horses to the British for their use. He further allowed British troops under Major Achmuls command to march through Odisha. This negotiation was failed when the Britishers refused to assist Januji against the Peshwa. During his period French ships arrived at the coast of Ganjam. The British authorities misunderstood Sambhuji that he was responsible for this. He encouraged pilgrims from all over India to visit God Jagannath at Puri. The amla's oppression of the mutassadis was ended by his step. Sambhuji passed away in 1770 C.E.

Babuji Naik (1771-1773)

Rajaram Pandit was the Governor of Odisha for a short period following the death of Sambhuji Ganesh. Then in 1770 C.E. Babuji Naik was appointed Subahdar of Odisha. His attitude towards the British was quite friendly and cordial. He helped the Britishers in many ways. A company servant Allyn lent money to many people of Odisha. Babuji helped him to release the money after Allyn requested him. When there was grain shortage in Calcuuta, he instructed Abdullah Khan, the faujdar of Balasore to sell rice for the company as and when required by the Britishers. The British also showed their good will and assisted Babuji Naik in supressing the rebelious border Zamindars. Thus his tennure in Odisha was fruitful to some extent.

Madhoji Hari (1773-1777)

Madoji Hari's Governorship in Odisha was some how different. By the time there were numerous ship wrecks, particularly in the coastal Odisha like Kujanga, Kanika, and Aul. The inhabitants of these areas were pillaging the wrecked ships. The local king supported them for such act, The shipwreked were also mistreated and were occasionally imprisoned by the local kings. The British authorities in Odisha pleaded before the Raja of Nagpur to ensure the safety and security of the merchants, travelers and wayfarers and to punish the King of Kujanga, who was mostly responsible for this. In this connection, the British authorities desired a sanand from the Maratha Chief granting them "perpetual possession of a strip of land running parallel the sea coast between the rivers of Kanika and Mahanadi". In addition, the authority of the king of Kujang to be revoked. This proposal was rejected outright by the Maratha chief. Instead, he directed Madhoji Hari to inquire about the king of Kujang. The Subahdar summoned the king and he begs pardon for his previous misdeeds. Madhoji excused him which enraged the Raja of Nagpur and summoned to Nagpur.



Rajaram Pandit (1778-1793)

During Rajaram Pandit's Governorship, Odisha witnessed the Anglo-Maratha conflict with Warren Hasting, the British Governor. An anti-British confederation was initiated by the Raja of Nagpur, which included the rulers of Puna, Hyderabad, and Mysore. Mysore's Hyder Ali was a headache for the Britishers. In order to reach Mysore, the British troops had to march through Odisha. There, in Nagpur the Bhonsle chief did not want a clash with the Britishers. When the British Governor-General put a request before the Bhonsle chief to permit his troops through Odisha in 1781 C.E., he thought it an opportunity to realize chouth from the Britishers. So he directed RajaramPandit to extract chouth from the British authorities allowing their troops to pass through Odisha. Warren Hastings dispatched a group of representatives under Colonel Pearse and Anderson to Balasore to obtain permission from the Maratha Governor of Odisha by paying twelve lakhs of rupees. RajaramPandit reached Calcutta personally to deal with the Governor general in financial requirements. He demanded a loan of twenty-five lakh rupees with an immediate amount of twelve lakh rupees. After due negotiation the British Governor-general paid him thirteen lakh instantly with a loan of ten lakh rupees. Colonel Pearse Marched with his army through Odisha and crossed the border of Ganjam with the assistance of Harihar Mahadeo and MagunChoudhury, two Maratha officers. Thus Rajaram Pandit acted as a bridge between the British and the Maratha closeness.

Rajaram Pandit's actions were adamant. When he got the information from Wilkinson, the British resident at Balasore about the oppression of a merchant named Gangadhar by the Maratha fauzdar Bhawani Das Choudhury, he dismissed Bhawani and appointed Murar Pandit in his place. Most of his steps were to appease the Britishers in order to to get money.

He was an able administrator of the Marathas. He took certain steps to attract pilgrims to God Jagannath at Puri. He abolished the prevellan the reditary tax collection by the Talukdars and appointed his own persons for the work. This admirable Subahdar died in 1793 C.E.

Sadashiv Rao (1793-1803)

Sadashiv Rao, the son of Rajaram Pandit succeeded his father after the former's death. He maintained a keen relationship with the Britishers like his father. By the time British Residency at Balasore was abolished and Barabati of Cuttack remained out of the British control. But Sadashiv offered them Barabati to be used for the purpose as the British factory was near the Forte. To aid Britishers, he suppressed the Odisha kings who raised their voice against British. One of the remarkable incidents of his period is that a British battalion refused to lay down the arms was attacked by another battalion and some of the sepoy were imprisoned. Other sepoy of the battalion

sought refuge at the King of Mayurbhanj, who turns down the Britisher's approach to hand over the sepoys. The British authorities approached Sadashiv Rao. Sadashiv Rao wrote a letter to the King of Mayurbhanj, who in compliance with the letter expelled the rebellious sepoys from his territory. British postal service was upgraded from Calcutta to Puri during his period.

He was not a blind supporter of the British. When Dibyashimha Dev-II of Khurdha died, a conflict for the throne arose between Divyashimha Dev's son Mukunda Dev and Birakishore Dev's second son Shyamsundar. British favored Shyamsundar, who was not legitimate for the throne. Sadashiv Rao fought with the British and won for Mukunda Deva, who ascended the throne when he knew about the royal tradition.

2.4 MARATHA ADMINISTRATION IN ODISHA

The Maratha administration in Odisha consisted of three divisions: Central administration, Revenue administration, and Military administration. Marathas administered the legacy of the Mughal rule in Odisha. Maratha administration in Odisha was designed to collect more and more revenue wealth by exploiting the people of Odisha.

Administrative division of Maratha Empire in Odisha

The Maratha territory in Odisha was spread over to the sea in the east to Chhattisgarh province in the west and from the Chilikalake in the south to Jaleswar, Midnapur, and Burdwan in the North. The empire was politically divided into two regions: The Gadjatadministered by twenty-four tributary chieftains and the Mughjalbandi area under the direct control of the Mughals which extended over the coastal belt from river Suvarnarekha in the north to Chilika lake in the south.

Administration in Gadjat states

The Gadjat states were supposed to be independent and ruled by twenty-four feudatories. The Rajas of Kanika Aul and Mayurbhanj were more powerful and important during Maratha rule. The Maratha Governors remained out of the internal affairs of these chieftains. These kings and chieftains were not punctual on payment to the Maratha Governors.

Administration in Mughalbandi Areas

The Mughalbandi areas were under the direct control of the Maratha Governors as representatives of Moghals. The region was subdivided into 150 praganas. Each of such Praganas was under the administrative control of 32 Amils. Each Pragana was further subdivided into two, three, four or more Mahalas or allotments. The Amil or Revenue Commissioner was entrusted for the assessment of revenue and deployed different officers for revenue collection. Choudhuries, Quanungos, or Talukdars were

in charge of a Talukor Sub-Division. They were responsible for the collection of revenue from their respective areas. These positions were hereditary and they were given rent-free lands known as Nakar. They were also to collect revenue and make the subjects happy and content. The settlement was known as Hustabud. The revenue from the tenants was assessed on the basis of the amount of land they cultivated.

Civil and Military administration

Civil and Military administration of the Marathas in Odisha was solely vested upon the Subahdar. The Kuladar temporarily discharged the Subahdar's duties during his temporary absence. Some faujdars were appointed under the Subahdar, who controlled chaukis (outpost). Athanadar was the head of a chauk and both the faujdar, and the thanadars were responsible for local law and order. Amil or the Revenue Commissioner was vested with the power for investigation and trial of both civil and criminal cases.

Trade and Commerce

Odisha's paddy production was in huge amount during Maratha rule. Paddy was exported to Bengal and Madras through small ports of Golrah, Harishpur, Bishenpur and Manikpatna. Salt was also plentifully harvested along the sea coast of Odisha. Odisha, then was well connected through roads with Bengal, via Bhadrak, Balasore, Jaleswar and Midnapur. There were two roads from Nagpur to Sambalpur. Madras was connected through a road from Cuttack passing through Puri, Ganjam, Burgun, Tekkali, Kalingapatnam, Chicacole and Vishakapatnam.

Puri Jagannath Temple Policy

Maratha Subahdars had a deep devotion for God Jagannath at Puri. Well maintenance of God Jagannath temple at Puri was the prime duty of the Maratha Subahdars. Once deserted during Mughal rule Puri was now crowded with pilgrims from all over India. The Marathas made all such arrangements at the temple, so that the pilgrims would face no difficulties. They collected pilgrim tax, but a huge portion of the collected amount was spent in organizing various festivals of God Jagannath. It was the Maratha rulers in Odisha who made God Jagannath famous all over India. They opened free food distribution camps (Anna chhatras) and granted rent free lands to the priests and Brahmins. All the monasteries and monks at Puri were provided with grants for the performance of various festivals.

2.5 LET US SUM UP

When Mughal empire in India was perturbed by the Afghans; the Marathas became powerful and wanted to exercise their power all over India.

A new dimension of the Marathas over Odisha was given by the Bhonsles of Nagpur through Raghuji, Alivardi Khan was the Nawab of Bengal and Odisha was under his empire. The Maratha's first attempt to turn down Alivardi was a failure due to the power of Sahu and plundering they marched towards North-East Odisha. Barabati came under the clutches of the Marathas on 19 April 1742 C.E. The Marathas fell upon Odisha and proceeded towards Bengal with vigor to realize Chauth from Alivardi. Alivardi pretended a peaceful discussion with Raghuji and treacherously killed twelve of his military officers. As a reaction to this, the Marathas occupied the Fort of Barabati on 12 May 1745 C.E.. A peace treaty was signed in 1751 between Alivardi and the Marathas.

Sheo Bhatt Sathe was the first Maratha Subahdar of Odisha. Mirza Saleh first allowed the British East India Company to set factories at Hariharpur, Pipili and Balasore. They also collected tax from the British merchants. Rajaram Pandit was a diplomat Governor who was able to establish a close relationship with the British and extracted a considerable amount by giving permission to the British troops pass through Odisha in their mission to Mysore for a war with the coalition of anti-British confederation.

The Maratha administration had two political segments the Gadjat and Mughalbandi. The Gadjat provinces were ruled by powerful chieftains who had to pay annual allowances to the Marathas. Mughalbandi area was under direct control of the Mughal emperor. The Mughalbandi area was divided into 150 praganas administered by 32 Amils. Each praganas was further divided into two, three, four or five mahalas. The Amil or Revenue commissioner was the soul authority for revenue collection. Chaudhuries, Quanungoes or Talukdars were deployed to collect revenue in their jurisdiction.

Subahdar was the top authority for civil-military administration. These officers were given rent-free land. Some fauzdars were also appointed under the Amils to decentralize the duties. Thanadar was the head of a Chouk. Both the faujdar and Thanadars were responsible for local law and order. Amil or the Revenue Commissioner was vested with the power for investigation and trial of both civil and criminal cases.

Odisha then was the paddy exporter. Paddy was exported to Bengal and Madras through the small ports like Golrah, Harishpur, and Bishenpur and Manikpatna. Salt was also plentifully harvested along the sea coast of Odisha. Odisha was well connected through roads with Bengal via Bhadrak, Balasore, Jaleswar and Midnapur.

The Maratha rulers showed their devotion to God Jagannath temple at Puri. They well maintained the temple and took every possible steps to attract pilgrims from all over India. Though they collected pilgrim tax, major portion of the tax was spent in the rituals and festivals of the temple. They patronaged the monks and monasteries at Puri

for observation of various functions and provided rent-free lands to the priests and Brahmins.

Thus the Maratha rule in Odisha was not so significant. Their soul motto was to get chouth from Odisha and Bengal.



2.6 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Write about the beginning of Maratha rule in Odisha.
2. Write a short note on the peace treaty of 1751.
3. Give a brief account of Maratha administration in Gadjat.
4. Discuss about Maratha administration in Mughalbandi.
5. Write about PuriJagannath Temple policy of the Maratha's.
6. Write a short note on trade and commerce of Odishaduring the Marathas.

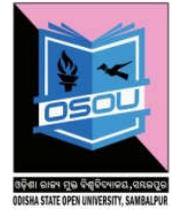
2.7 KEY WORDS

Chouth: Name of a tax collected by the Marathas from their occupied regions.
Amil: The Revenue and Judicial chief of the Marathas

2.8 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

1. See Section 2.2
2. See Section 2.2
3. See Section 2.4
4. See Section 2.4
5. See Section 2.4
6. See Section 2.4

UNIT-3: BRITISH OCCUPATION AND EARLY COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION LAND REVENUE, SALT POLICY, JAIL AND POLICE ADMINISTRATION.



Structure

- 3.0 Objectives
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Causes of British occupation of Odisha
- 3.3 Occupation of Puri
- 3.4 Early colonial Administration
- 3.5 Land Revenue Settlement
- 3.6 Salt Policy
- 3.7 Jail and Police Administration
- 3.8 Let us sum up
- 3.9 Key Words
- 3.10 Check Your Progress
- 3.11 Answer to check your Progress Exercise

3.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit you will be able to know about

- British occupation and early colonial administration
- Land revenue settlement of the British in Odisha
- Salt Policy of the British in Odisha
- Jail and Police administration

3.1 INTRODUCTION

During 1805 when European colonialism was spreading over, Maratha Governors permitted the colonial British East India Company to set factories at Cuttack, Balasore, Pipili. This was perhaps a step for the colonial administration to poke nose into indirect rule in Odisha. The Company looked Odisha and its coasts in watering mouth. As a result, Odisha was occupied by the British in 1803 C.E. Cuttack was occupied on 14th October 1803 and Lord Wellesley, the then Governor General of India appointed John Melville and colonel Harcourt as “Commissioners for setting the affairs at Cuttack”. They tried to win the faith of people to set right administration. It took two years to eradicate the Marathas from Odisha and plant their administration.

3.2 CAUSES OF BRITISH OCCUPATION OF ODISHA

Internal turbulences in the then Odisha were responsible for British occupation of Odisha. Some of the major causes are

Weakness of the Maratha rulers

After the death of Junuji, there was a conflict among the Bhonsles of Nagpur which weakened the Maratha rule in Odisha. The Maratha administrators of Odisha could not get sufficient support from Nagpur and had no way than to seek British help in some internal administrative obstacles such as to suppress the landlords.

The opposition of the Land Lords

Smelling the weakness of the Maratha rulers due to internal conflict at their power centre Nagpur, the regional landlords became unruly and oppressive. They went beyond law and oppressed the tenants and subjects with great intensity. Lack of strong political control made the Zamindars to exploit the common man of Odisha to the best of their whims. The oppressed people of Odisha were in need to get rid of the oppressive Zamindars and landlords.

Capture of Ganjam

The British established factories in different parts of Odisha. East India Company was granted the Dewani of Bengal , Bihar and Odisha in 1765. After establishing factories at Haripur, Pipili and Balasore , they felt the importance of salt as a major commercial commodity and kept their eyes on coastal Odisha.

After the grant of Dewani in 1765, Lord Clive obtained the northern circars of Odisha from Shah Alam which included Chicacols, Rajahmundry, Ellore and Guntur, which were under the undivided Ganjam District. They were also able to get Midnapur, a part of the then North Odisha. Thus, the East India Company got the South and North provinces of Odisha which facilitated them to capture the other parts of Odisha.

The contract of 1765

The firman issued to the British East India Company on 12 August 1765 came into force on 12 November 1766 with another treaty signed between Nizam Ali of Hyderabad and colonel Forde. Letters were issued to Zamindars of Northern Circars to support and regard the British East India Company for their good future. They were also suggested to pay rents to the British Authorities.

Costford's Inquiry

The Northern and Southern circars of Odisha consisting of Midnapur and undivided Ganjam came under the British colony. The company appointed administrators to Ganjam. An order of the council was passed on 2 December 1776 C.E. to appoint

Costford, an English Engineer as the resident of Ganjam to look after the administration. On reaching Ganjam, Costford reviewed the political situation of the area and found that Narayandeva of Paralakhemundi's designation created a state of turmoil in the northern adjacent territories of Vishakapatnam. He intimated the situation to the Madras Government.

Colonel Peach was sent by Madras Government to deal with Narayandev .Narayandev was defeated by the British troops at Jamur in May 1768and was forced to take shelter there. The administration of Paralakhemundi was entrusted upon his Dewan. Thus Ganjam was annexed to Madras province and Costford became the Resident of Ganjam uninterruptedly in 1768.

3.3 OCCUPATION OF PURI

The following diplomacy was adopted by the Britishers to occupy Puri.

Lord Wellesley's Diplomacy on Jagannath faith

Lord Wellesley knew it well that Puri was the land where God Jagannath was the dip touching faith of the inhabitants of Puri and they can do everything for the name of God Jagannath. So he decided to play a diplomatic trick on this faith. He wrote letters to the fuedatorious of Odisha conveying that it was the desired of God Jagannath to drive the Marathas away from Odisha by the Britishers. Thre priests of Puri Jagannath Temple were assured by the Governor General that they would be respected by the Britishersand the British authorities shall not interfere in the temple administration. Thus they were able to gain some trust of the people of Puri.

Bribing the Marathas

After winning the faith of the people of Odisha Lord Wellesly played another trick of diplomacy to strengthen Odisha occupation. He thought to bribe the Maratha officers designated at different places of Odisha to win their support. He issued letters of commitment for a considerably high amount as a bribe to Bhanuji Pandit, the Naib of Cuttack. Haribansa Ray, the Dewan, Balaji Kumar, the Commander-in-chief, and Moro Pandit, the faujdar to help the British force. Lt. Colonel Campbell of 74 Regiment of the Northern division army under Madras Government conquered Puri and Cuttack by the instruction of Wellesly.

With the orders of Wellesly, Campbell proceeded to Puri from Ganjam . Barabati was under strong hold of the Marathas. The Maratha troop had to enter through Baramul (near Baudh) pass. The British there was to keep a watching eye on the movement of the Maratha troops from Nagpur. But Campbell was seriously ill and Colonel Harcourt of the 12th Regiment was to command the troops instead.



Harcourt started his operation against Cuttack and Puri on 11th September 1803. A narrow and dangerous path near the mouth of Chilika was a major constraint for the British. Because Fateh Muhammad, the Maratha Faujdar kept a sharp eye on the narrow pass. The Cunning Commander succeeded to capture the Faujdar by heavy bribe. Harcourt occupied Manik Patna of Puri and sent message to the priests of God Jagannath Temple, Puri that he will not interfere in the temple matters and promised their safety. He also got the support of the Raja of Khordha on payment of rupees one lakh. The priests and the King were fed up by the Maratha ruler and welcomed the British troops. Thus, Puri was occupied on 18th September 1803 without any resistance.

Capture of Cuttack

After the occupation of Puri, the British troop planned to capture Cuttack. Harcourt engaged Lt. Ogilvie at Manikpatna and Major Fletcher at Puri to deal with the Maratha troops. On 24th September 1803 C.E. Harcourt marched towards Cuttack. He faced a strong resistance of the Maratha troops at Ahamadpur and Mukundpur. But the skilful mobilisation of British Artillery by Harcourt defeated the Marathas and entire Cuttack except the Barabati Fort came to the British clutch.

But Barabati Fort was a difficult task for Harcourt. He tried to bribe Shiv Prasad, the Maratha Officer in charge of the Fort, but was failed on his mission. In the night of 13th October 1803, the British troops set explosive batteries of different power at a distance of around 500 yards from the outer gate of the Fort. There was a blast on 14th October morning of 1803 and the gate of the Fort was cracked. The British troops rushed into the Fort inspite of strong resistive firings of the Maratha troop inside and captured the Fort. The Marathas fled away from the Fort out of fear for the British troops. Many of them were drowned in the ditch around the Fort while escaping. Two European soldiers were killed and sixteen were injured. Likewise sixteen Indian soldiers were killed and thirteen were injured in the fought.

There, in Barmulapass, Major Forbes Compelled the Maratha troops to retreat to Nagpur and it was captured by 2 November 1803 and the entry of the Maratha troops to Odisha was vanished forever. Barabati Fort and Cuttack was captured by the British by ending the Maratha rule. A commission including Harcourt, Melville and Earnet (the Magistrate of Midnapur) was appointed by Wellesly to deal with the local chiefs, who were the feudatories of the Maratha Chief of Nagpur. The Rajas and Zamindars of Khurdha, Kujang, Kanika, Aul, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Hindol, Darpan, Sukinda, Midnapur etc. were agreed upon to acknowledge the British suzerainty and to pay the annual tribute to the British Authority.

Conquest of Balasore

The strategy for the conquest of Balasore was planned by Captain Morgan. He planned to reach Balasore through water and marched with vessels namely Alexander, Anne,

George, Fairdie, Lizard, Scourage and an ammunition boat under his command. He reached Balaramgahri, a small Maratha Port through river Budhabalanga and entered Balasore town without any resistance. Progress of his total troop through water route became very slow due to heavy rain and Morgan heard a rumour that Maratha troops were there to oppose the British Army. So he moved with two small canon boats and three hundred soldiers in small boats into Balasore town. The resistance of the Marathas was feeble. Captain Morgan's British troop created fear among the Marathas who fled away from the town on 21 September 1803 C.E. night. Balasore was fully occupied by Captain Morgan on 22 September 1803 C.E. After one week Captain Morgan sent a troop under the command of Slye to capture Soro. The Marathas were defeated and fled away from Soro towards Bhadrak. The path from Balasore to Cuttack was now clear for the British. By the order of Colonel Fenwich, Captain Lamb began his operation on the north-east of river Suvarnarekha and captured Pataspur, Kamarda, Bhogarai, Shahbanda, Jamukunda etc. and brought the Zamindars under British control. By the treaty of Deogaon on 17 December 1803 between Raghuji Bhonsle and the British. Cuttack and Balasore came under the East India Company.

Occupation of Sambalpur

After Baramula Pass was occupied by Major Forbes on 2nd November 1803, Harcourt wrote conciliatory letters to the Rajas of Baud, Sonapur and Sambalpur to acknowledge the British authority and they accepted it by paying annual tributes. Sambalpur was not included in the treaty of Deogaon. So Major Broughton in January 1804 captured Sambalpur by defeating Maratha Governor Tantia Pharnavis. He signed a friendly treaty with queen Ratnakumari of Sambalpur and the local chiefs of Gangapur, Raigarh, Bamra, Bonietc. But Sambalpur was not handed over to the British. So Wellesly got Sambalpur from Raghuji Bhonsle by threatening for war. But after Wellesly's departure, Sambalpur was restored to the Marathas by Governor-General Barlow. Thus, Marathas ruled again on Sambalpur from 1806 C.E. to 1817 C.E. They were again driven out from Sambalpur in 1817. The Chauhans ruled Sambalpur from 1818 to 1849 C.E. Later on 1849 C.E. Sambalpur was annexed to the British by the Doctrine of Lapses policy of Dalhousie.

3.4 EARLY COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION

Lord Wellesly, after Odisha was occupied in 1803, the then Governor-General of India appointed John Melville to accompany Colonel Harcourt as "Commissioner for setting affairs at Cuttack". They tried to win people's faith on the East India Company for setting good administration. But it took two years for them to drive the Marathas totally out of Odisha.



James Hunter was appointed as the acting Collector of Puri. He was given the authority and jurisdiction over all the revenue matters. He was responsible to the Commissioner to submit proper accounts of revenue collection. Cuttack Province was divided into Northern and Southern divisions with river Mahanadi as dividing line. Balasore was the head quarters of Northern Division and Puri of the Southern division. Captain Morgan was the first Collector and Magistrate of Balasore, who handed over charge to Charles Grome at Puri. Charles Grome acted as the first Judge, Magistrate and Collector. By the Regulation –XIII of 1805 C.E., the office of the Commissioner for setting affairs at Cuttack was abolished.

Both the Northern and Southern division were amalgamated by the Regulation of 1805 with the head quarters at Puri. The Board of Revenue at Fort William of Calcutta was vested with the revenue matters. The civil suits prevailing in Bengal was extended to Odisha by by the Regulation –XIV of 1805 C.E. George Webb, by this new arrangement took over the charge of collector from Charles Grome and Robert Ker became the Judge and Magistrate of the whole province.

The British treasury in Odisha was located at Cuttack .So it was difficult for the collector to supervise the treasury from Puri. The office of the Commissioner was established at Cuttack as per Regulation of 1818 C.E. He was vested with the powers of the Revenue Board, Board of Trade, Provincial Court of Appeal and Circuit Court. The Collector of Cuttack Province was appointed as the Collector of Balasore, Wilhinson of Cuttack and R. Hunter as the Magistrate and Collector of Puri. Cuttack was declared as the 19th Commissionership of Bengal Presidency having jurisdiction over Puri, Cuttack, Khurdha, Balasore, Midnapur, Nuagan, and Hijiliby the Regulation -1 of 1829 C.E. The Commissioner also functioned as Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals.

3.5 LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENT

It was not possible on the part of Colonel Harcourt and John Melville to wipe out the Maratha land revenue policy after they were entrusted with the duty of revenue collection. British administration introduced one year revenue settlement in 1804 C.E. and the triennial settlement was conducted from 1805 to 1808 C.E. bore no satisfactory result. The Regulation -12 of 1805 was the first important step of the British Administration for revenue collection. The tenure of this temporary settlement was 11 years and there was a provision of permanent settlement after the expiry of 11 years to issue Pattas to the ryots. Rent-free sanands were provided to the Jagirdar of Malud as he helped the Britishers to occupy Odisha. Engagements were made accordingly with the Rajas of Narsinghapur, Athagarh, Baramba, Talcher, Tigiria, Hindol, Khandapada, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Ranapur, and Nilagiri. The Zamindars of

Aul, Kujanga, Sukinda, Darpana, Madhupur, Malud, Haripur, Marichpur and Bhisampur were also dealt as per the settlement.

Zamindari System

By 1803 C.E. when Odisha was occupied by the British, Zamindari system had already been introduced under permanent settlement in Bengal. The Zamindars of Odisha were brought under the Regulation-12 of 1805 C.E. A fixed *Jama* in perpetuity was to be paid to the company. The Bengali Zamindars had access in Odisha to purchase land. As they stayed away from the estate, they appointed amlas to collect revenue. The peasants were ignorant about the regulations. These amlas collected more amount than the legal rent. A thirty years settlement was introduced in 1837 C.E., as the proposal of permanent settlement was rejected by the British Royalty. This thirty years settlement was made after a careful survey and field investigation and to provide individual rights of each land holder and under-tenant. The Zamindari was subject to change for non-payment of the amount fixed by the British authorities. The new Zamindari system was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793 C.E. and was prevalent in Odisha after British occupation. The Zamindars were the intermediaries who collected land revenue from the tenants and paid a fixed amount to the British authorities as per their regulation.

Demerits of Zamindari system

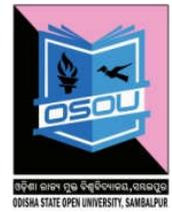
The Zamindari system was an oppressive system for the village cultivators. The rent paid to the Zamindars was so high. Their rights on the land was not secured. There was no relaxation of rent in case of bad harvest or crop damage. The system was also inconvenient for the Zamindars as they faced difficulties to pay the fixed amount to the British authorities as the amount was huge.

Ryotwari System

The Ryotwari system was developed by Captain Alexander Read and Sir Thomas Munro by the end of 18th CE. This system termed the individual cultivators as ryot. These ryots were given full rights regarding sale, transfer and leasing of the land. Under this system land revenue was paid directly to the State by the farmers. This system was prevalent in most of the Southern parts of India.

In Odisha, the Ryotwari system was replaced the Zamindari system in “Ganjam Plains” of Chhatrapur, Berhampur, and Ghumuser in early 19th century C.E. The system ensured the tenants of their rights over land and a fixed amount of annual rent. The peasant was given a land document called “*patta*” mentioning the amount and kind of land the ryot (peasant – cultivator) and also the rent he has to pay.

Merits and demerits of Ryotwari system



The merit of the system was that it eliminated the middlemen who collected heavy amount from the Ryots (peasant-cultivators). The ryot was given a document called “*patta*” from which he was sure of the amount to be paid by him towards land revenue. He was also given the right to sale, transfer, lease his land.

The demerits of Ryotwari system were that the subordinate revenue officials were given much power and their activities were not adequately supervised. The Mahajans or money lenders exploited the peasants and sometimes evicted them from their land.

Mahalwari system

Land revenue collection under this system was not based on individual farmer. One village was treated as “Mahal” or unit of revenue collection. Under this system, the village headman or Zamindar as the case may be, collected revenue from the whole village or Mahal.

In the system both the Zamindars and the village headman played an equal role and class. Devised by Holt Mackenzie in 1822 C.E., the system was prevalent in North Western provinces of the Bengal Presidency, Agra, Awadh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

Mahalwari system was prevalent in Sambalpur district of Odisha. Land revenue collection was vested both upon the Zamindars and village headman. Sambalpur district was divided into two tracts:-*Khalsa Zamindari*. *Khalsa* referred to such land held by village headmen directly from the British Government. The Zamindari was a feudal system headed by the Zamindars. *Khalsa* consisted of 119 *Malguzari*, 870 Gauntia and 16 Ryotwari villages within an area of 1657 sq. Miles. Zamindari was confined to 17 in number within 3,248sq. miles.

The lease of land was granted to Zamindars, Gauntias, Birtias or Umra for collection of revenue. Kinds of land named as *Bhogra*, *Devottara* or *Brahmottara* was tax-free. Benefits of *Bhogra*, was enjoyed by concerned Zamindars, Gauntias, Birtoas or Umra etc. or sometimes to the village chowkidar. However, the amount of tax-free land differed in the cases. *Brahmottara* kind of land was granted to the Brahmins and *Devottara* to the religious Institutions.

Demerits of Mahalwari system

The system had short-term settlements which was expensive and harassing for the tenants. Zamindars or Gauntias exploited tenants. Sometimes the tenants were forced to do “*Bethi*” (forced labour) for these land leasees. They had also to satisfy the Zamindars or landowners by paying *Nazarana* (present) to get the land for cultivation.

3.6 SALT POLICY

After Odisha was occupied by the British, East India Company had its watering mouth on salt production of Odisha. They found it as a considerable source of public revenue. The British authorities passed a Regulation in 1804 to monopolise over salt manufacture in Odisha. After the Regulation, salt manufacture in Odisha was totally under the control of East India Company. Private manufactures of salt were allowed only after obtaining a licence from the Government. They have to pay salt duty of twelve annas per every mound of salt sold by them. James Ing took over the charge of first salt agent in Odisha in 1806. Regulation XXII Of 1817 C.E. increased the company's monopoly over salt. Salt was manufactured in Balasore, Cuttack and Puri districts by the malangis on the land of the Zamindars. James Ing, the salt agent proposed that the salt lands under the jurisdiction of the Zamindars to be transfer to concerned salt department. When the proposal was carried out the

Zamindars were paid 1 ½ annas per each mound of salt manufactured from their land along with certain amount of salt as Khorakee (dietary allowance). The policy gained dissatisfaction of the public. After 1817 C.E. Robert Kar the first commissioner took interest in salt preparation and redressed of grievances of the people.

3.7 JAIL AND POLICE ADMINISTRATION

Odisha was occupied by the British in 1803 C.E. The Maratha judicial and police system was kept intact by the British rule till 1804 C.E. Criminal laws prevalent in Bengal were extended to Odisha by Regulation-4 of 1804 C.E. The Superintendent of police was vested with Magistrate power. He was subordinate to the Board of Commissioners of Cuttack. Cornwallis code was implemented in Odisha in 1805 C.E. Judge-cum-Magistrative Policy was placed. Thanas in Odisha were established by the new Regulation .Darogas were appointed in Police Stations or Thanas. Constables were under the Darogas and Chowkidar was appointed as village police.

The Jail administration was not clear in the early stage of British rule. Jails were there at Cuttack and Puri. At the earlier jail administration Convict officer and warder were appointed in jails from amongst the quaidies. They were treated as public servants. There was perhaps a reformation in jail administration towards late 18th century C.E. Jailors, Jail, Superintendents, warders etc. were appointed for jail administration.

3.8 LET US SUM UP

Maratha Governors in Odisha permitted the British East India Company to set factories at Balasore, Cuttack and Pipli. There prevailed Mal-administration and oppression of peasants in Odisha. The Cunning Britishers played a trick upon the situation. They left no stone altered to bribe the Maratha administrators. The coast of Odisha was another attraction for the Britishers. Initially, they had a little threatening

to the Marathas and signed several treaties for commercial purpose. Odisha was occupied during 1803 to 1804 C.E. after Harcourt; the military officer took over the charge. The diplomat British administration made peoples' faith on God Jagannath a weapon to win the support of Odisha. They did not interfere in the matters of Jagannath Temple administration and favored the priests and other temple men with free-land grants etc.

After the occupation of Odisha, British authorities made Puri as the administrative headquarters. James Hunter was the first acting Collector of Puri. Cuttack Province was divided into two divisions. The Northern Southern division with river Mahanadi as dividing line. Balasore was the headquarters of Northern Division and Puri was of the Southern Division. Captain Morgan was the first Collector and Magistrate of Balasore. By Regulation-XII of 1805 C.E. the office of the "Commissioner for setting affairs at Cuttack" was established.

In order to organize revenue collection in a wise way, the temporary settlement was first introduced. The tenants were given land for cultivation and after 11 years they were issued pattas and were able to sale, transfer the land. Types of land and annual rent was mentioned in the pattas of a land. Ryotwari system and Mahalwari system were also introduced. These systems reduced the oppression of middlemen and the tenants directly paid land revenue to the Government. The commercial eyes of the Company were centered upon salt manufacture in coastal Odisha. It passed a Salt Act and monopolized over salt manufacture in Odisha. The manufactures were not allowed to produce salt without obtaining license from the company, they had to pay 1 ½ anna per mound of salt produced. The producers were given some amount of salt for as khoraki (personal use).

Thanas, Courts and Jails were established to maintain law and order. Officers like Darogas, Constables and Choukidars were appointed in Thanas, Magistrates, Judges, Jail Officers for judiciary and jail administration.

3.9 KEY WORDS

Gauntia : A small land owner next to village head man

Bhogra : Rent- free land given to various revenue collectioners

Devottar : Rent-free land given to the religious Institution

Brahmottar : Rent-free land given to the temple priests and Brahmins

Bethi : Work without wage

Malngi : British field agent to supervise salt manufacture

Patta : A land document



3.10 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. Discuss about occupation of Cuttack
2. Write a short note on occupation of Puri
3. Give an account Early colonial administration in Odisha
4. Write a brief note on British land revenue policy in Odisha
5. Write a note on British salt policy in Odisha
6. Discuss about Jail and Police administration in British Odisha

3.11 ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISE

- 1-See Section 3.3
- 2- See Section 3.3
- 3- See Section 3.4
- 4- See Section 3.5
- 5- See Section 3.6
- 6- See Section 3.7