



Odisha Under British Rule

Capsule Course on Odisha History

Mediaval Odisha History

The Imperial Gangas

2. Anantavarman Chodagangadeva (1077-1147 A.D.)
3. Anangabhimadeva III (1211-1238 A.D.)
4. Narasimhadeva I (1238 – 1264 A.D.)

- **Anantavarman Chodagangadeva (1077-1147 A.D.)**

- Anantavarman Chodagangadeva was a prominent king of the Ganga dynasty. The initial phase of his reign was critical because of his infancy.
- But as the king grew up to adulthood, he proved his ability as a ruler and ruling over Odisha for a long period of seventy years.
- In fact, he founded the Gangas dynasty in the Odishan soil, which ruled till 1435 A D.

- ***Subjugation of Utkala***

- The weakness of the Somavamsis of Utkala brought the attention of Chodagangadeva to subjugate it under his suzerainty.
- The Corni copper plate grant of Chodagangadeva mentions that Chodagangadeva waged war against the kings of Utkala and Vengi simultaneously.
- He first defeated the king of Utkala whose name appears as Karnadeva in the Ramacharita of Sandhyakaranandi.
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- It is a fact that Karnadeva or Karnakesari, the last ruler of the Somavamsi dynasty was defeated by Chodagangadeva.
- After that, the Ganga empire extended upto Utkala in the eastern direction.
- After the annexation of Utkala, Chodagandadeva had annexed Vengi as is suggested by the above mentioned copper plate grant.
- The year of occupation of Odisha by Chodagangadeva might have taken place around 1110 A. D.

- In the field of art and architecture, Chodagangadeva has contributed a lot.
- He had started the building of the great temple of God Jagannath at Puri which was completed by Anangabhimadeva III.
- However, it is controversial that Chodagandadeva started the construction of the temple of God Jagannath.

- The Dasgoba plates of Rajaraja III states that the construction place of Purusottama (God Jagannath) abandoned by earlier kings was taken up by Gangesvara (Chodagangadeva).
- Chodagangadeva was also instrumental in building several forts in several strategic places for the protection of his vast empire from the onslaught of the enemies.
- The glorious career of Chodagangadeva came to an end with his death in 1147 A.D

Narasimhadeva I (1238 – 1264 A.D.)

- With the succession of Narasimhadeva I to the Ganga throne in 1238 A.D., the Ganga Empire reached its zenith. His twenty-six years of glorious rule witnessed extraordinary achievements in every aspect of the Ganga administration.
- His aggressive and offensive military policy created panic in the minds of the Muslim rulers of Bengal and Oudh.
- This led the imperial Gangas to the pinnacle of power, glory and splendour.

- For the first time, he bore the title Gajapati exhibiting the vast possession of elephants and this title was borne by the later Ganga rulers occasionally and by the Suryavamsi kings invariably.
- The Sun temple at Konarka was the magnificent creation in the field of architecture that brought Narasimhadeva.
- He was popularly known as Langula Narasimhadeva among the people of Odisha.

- Narasimhadeva's achievement as a builder was unparalleled.
- The outstanding Sun temple at Konarka bears the testimony in the field of art, architecture and sculpture.
- Though the main temple has been ruined, Jagamohana (Porch) is still standing.
- The marvelous art, architecture and sculpture of the temple allure the attention of millions of tourists all over the world who visit the Sun temple of Konark.

The Suryavamsis Gajapatis

- 1. Kapilendradeva (1435-1467 A.D.)
- 2. Purusottamadeva (1467 – 1497 A.D.)
- 3. Purusottama-Padmavati Episode
- 4. Prataprudradeva (1497 -1540 A.D.)

- The [Gajapati Empire](#) was established by [Kapilendra Deva](#) in 1435, after the fall of the last Eastern Ganga king, Bhanudeva IV.
- The dynasty is also known as a [Suryavamsi](#) dynasty.
- In about 1450, Kapilendra Deva installed his eldest son, Hamira, as the governor of Rajamundry and Kondavidu.
- Kapilendra Deva managed spread his kingdom from Ganga in the north to as far as [Bidar](#) in the south by 1457.

- During Kapilendra Deva's reign, [Sarala Das](#), the [Odia](#) poet, wrote the Odia Mahabharata and his other works.
- When Kapilendra Deva died in 1467, a civil war occurred to capture the throne, among his sons.
- In the end, [Purushottama Deva](#) succeeded in securing the throne in 1484 by defeating Hamvira.
- But, during this period significant southern parts of the empire were lost to [Saluva Narasimha](#), the ruler of [Vijayanagara](#). By the time of his death, he had managed to recover some these territories.

- He was succeeded by his son, [Prataparudra Deva](#), in 1497.
- Immediately, he had to face the armies of [Alauddin Husain Shah](#) of Bengal.
- During his reign, Alauddin Husain Shah attacked again in 1508, this time the Muslim army marched up to Puri.

- In 1512 [Krishna Deva Raya](#) of the [Vijayanagara Empire](#) invaded Kalinga and defeated the forces of the Gajapati Empire.
- In 1522, [Quli Qutb Shah](#) of [Golconda](#) ousted the Odia army from Krishna-Godavari tract.
- Govinda Vidyadhara was a minister under, Gajapati king, Prataparudra Deva.
- But, he rebelled against him and succeeded in ascending the throne in 1541, after murdering the two sons of Prataparudra Deva.

Bhoi dynasty

- The [Bhoi dynasty](#) was founded by Govinda Vidyadhara who came to throne in a bloody coup, in 1541.
- The dynasty was short-lived and during this period the kingdom came under conflict with neighbouring kingdoms and reeled with civil wars.
- First, Raghubhanja Chhotray who was the nephew of Govinda Vidyadhara, became a rebel.

- Govinda was succeeded by his son, Chakrapratap, who was an unpopular ruler.
- After he died in 1557, a minister called Mukunda Deva rebelled.
- He killed the last two Bhoi kings and squashed the rebellion of Raghubhanja Chhotray.
- After that, he declared himself the ruler of Northern Odisha.

Suryavansh Sankara dynasty

- Vishwanatha Deva 'Gajapati' was the grandson of Raja Vinayaka Deva of [Nandapur](#) who was the descendant of 'Dev' suryavanshis of [Kashmir](#) and one of the chief feudatories of the [Gajapatis](#).
- The sudden death of [Prataprudra Deva](#) in 1540 and the assassination of his two sons in 1541 left a political vacuum in the region of Odisha.

- Vishwanath ruled over the territories in the southern region of Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh up to the region lying in the center of the two rivers [Krishna](#) and [Godavari](#).
- Following the decline of the Gajapatis, he declared sovereignty and sent his general Mukunda Harichandrana of Krishnakota to subdue the power of the Bhois and force them to accept the suzerainty of the Suryavanshis.

- He founded the city of [Rayagada](#) and made it the capital of his empire.
- The fifth report on the affairs of the company describe him as "the last prince to have united under his scepter all the ancient domains of the kings of [Kalinga](#) and restored them from the confines of [Bengal](#) to those of [Telangana](#) in south, which contained in his fold innumerable feudatories that paid homage to his royal seat." He adopted the title of 'Gajapati' a term only used by the sovereign kings of Odisha.

Mukunda Deva

- Mukunda Deva (also known as Mukunda Harichandana) came to throne, in 1560, in a bloody coup.
- According to the [*Madala Panji*](#) (temple records), he was a [Chalukya](#).
- During this period, Odisha was going through many internal conflicts. Mukunda struck an alliance with [Akbar](#), that he made him a foe of [Sulaiman Khan Karrani](#), the ruler of Bengal.
- Sulaiman sent his son, [Bayazid Khan Karrani](#) and his infamous general, [Kalapahad](#), to conquer Odisha, in 1567.

- Mukunda met the forces in the north but had to withdraw to stop a rebellion after signing a treaty with the Sultan's son.
- Mukunda was killed in a battle with the rebel forces led by Ramachandra Bhanja.
- Ramachandra Bhanja was a feudal lord under Mukunda, who had rebelled. He himself got caught up in the conflict and was murdered by Bayazid.

- Akbar was preparing for the invasion of [Chittor](#), so he was unable to respond.
- Kalapahad ran across the kingdom in a plundering spree and destroyed several temples. By end of 1568, Odisha was under the control of Sulaiman Khan Karrani.
- During this period, Ramachandra Deva I, who was the son of a general and had been imprisoned by Mukunda, escaped from prison and fled to [Vizagapatam](#)

Bengal (Karrani) rule

- In 1568, Odisha came under the control of Sultan [Sulaiman Khan Karrani](#) of the [Karrani dynasty](#), who was the ruler of [Sultanate of Bengal](#).
- The Sultan assigned Ismail Khan Lodhi of [Prithimpassa](#) as the governor of Orissa.

- In the [Battle of Tukaroi](#), which took place in modern-day [Balasore](#), [Daud Khan Karrani](#) was defeated and retreated deep into Odisha.
- The battle led to the Treaty of Katak in which Daud ceded the whole of [Bengal](#) and [Bihar](#), retaining only Odisha.
- The treaty eventually failed after the death of [Munim Khan](#) (governor of Bengal and Bihar) who died at the age of 80. Daud took the opportunity and invaded Bengal. This led to the Battle of Rajmahal in 1576, where Daud was defeated and executed.

Mughal rule

- In 1590, Qutlu Khan Lohani, an officer of Daud,^[85] declared himself independent and assumed the title of "Qutlu Shah". [Raja Man Singh](#) who was the Mughal governor of Bihar, started an expedition against him. Before facing Man Singh, Qutlu Shah died.
- Qutlu Khan's son Nasir Khan, after little resistance, accepted Mughal sovereignty and paid homage to Man Singh on 15 August 1590. Nasir Khan was then appointed Governor of Odisha and signed a treaty which ceded the region of Puri.

- Nasir Khan remained faithful to the Mughal empire for two years but after that he violated the conditions of his treaty by laying siege to the [Jagannath Temple](#) of [Puri](#).
- Man Singh attacked Nasir Khan and decisively defeated him on 18 April 1592 in a battle near the present day [Midnapore](#) town.
- By 1593, Odisha had passed completely to the Mughal empire and was a part of Bengal Subah.

- **Under Akbar**

- Raja Ramachandra Deva, the king of [Khurda](#), had accepted Akbar's suzerainty.^[85] Akbar mostly followed a policy of non-interference in the local chieftains' matters.
- After Akbar, his son, [Jahangir](#) came to power, who followed a different policy.
- Under him, Odisha was made into a separate Subah and a governor, titled [Subahdar](#), ruled in the name of the Mughal emperor.

- **Under Jahangir**

- Quasim Khan was appointed the governor of Odisha in 1606. During this period, the king of Khurda, Purusottam Deva was attacked by Mughal armies led by Kesho Das.
- He was defeated, and had to offer his sister and daughter along with dowry to buy peace.
- In 1611, Kalyan Mal, son of [Todar Mal](#) came to be the governor of Odisha.
- Kalyan Mal also attacked and defeated Purusottam Deva, who had to send his daughter to the Mughal harem.
- In 1617, Kalyan was recalled to the court.

- In 1617, [Mukarram Khan](#) became the governor of Odisha. He also tried to attack Purusottam Deva. But, Purusottam Deva fled from Khurda.
- In 1621, Ahmad Beg was made the governor of Odisha. Purusottam Deva died in exile in 1622 and was succeeded by his son Narasimha Deva.
- According to the [Madala Panji](#) (temple chronicles), prince [Shah Jahan](#) had visited Odisha in 1623, which was just after his rebellion. Ahmad Beg remained governor until 1628.

- **Under Shah Jahan**

- In 1628, [Shah Jahan](#) became the Mughal emperor and Muhammad Baqar Khan was appointed the governor of Odisha. He extended his influence well into the kingdom of Golconda. In 1632, he was recalled.
- [Shah Shuja](#) was appointed by Shah Jahan as the Subahdar of Bengal from 1639 until 1660.

- From 1645 onwards, a deputy of Shuja called Zaman Teharani was the governor of Odisha.
- Orissa was the first [subah](#) (imperial top-level province) added to Akbar's fifteen by [Shah Jahan](#).
- It had [Cuttack](#) as seat and bordered Bihar, Bengal and Golconda subahs, as well as the remaining independent and tributary chiefs.
- In 1647, Narasimha Deva was beheaded by a Mughal general called Fateh Khan.

- **Under Aurangzeb**

- In 1658, Shah Jahan took ill and [Dara Shikoh](#) took on as the royal regent. This led to a war of succession in which [Aurangzeb](#) emerged victorious in 1659. He imprisoned his own father, who later died in 1666.
- During this period of instability in the Mughal empire, several chieftains in Odisha had declared independence.
- Khan-i-Duran was appointed the governor under Aurangzeb and his reign was from 1660 to 1667.
- During this period, he crushed several rebel chieftains and subdued Mukunda Deva I, the then king of Khurda

- **Under Murshid Quli Khan**

- In 1707, Aurangzeb died and the control of Mughals over Odisha began to weaken. [Murshid Quli Khan](#) was made governor of Odisha in 1714.
- In 1717, he was also made the [Nawab of Bengal](#). He swore fealty to the Mughal emperor but he was an independent ruler for all purposes. He took several measures to increase revenues and create several new [Jagirs](#).

- In 1727, on his death, his son-in-law, [Shuja-ud-Din](#) became the Nawab of Bengal. Before that he was a deputy of Murshid in Odisha. During his time, several tracts of land were lost to neighbouring kingdoms.

- The [Marathas](#) started raiding Alivardi Khan's territory starting in 1742, aided by Rustam Jung and his allies.
- These raids used quick hit-and-run tactics and were called [bargis](#).
- Alivardi Khan unable to check the raids ceded Odisha to [Raghoji I Bhonsle](#) in 1751.
- During this period, the idols of [Jagannath](#) and other deities were removed from the temple several times, and hidden to save them from [iconoclasm](#).

Maratha rule

- The river [Subarnarekha](#) served as the border between Bengal and Maratha-controlled Odisha.
- Marathas used to collect a pilgrimage tax at Puri, which was exempt for paupers.
- In 1803, the British conquered the region during the [Second Anglo-Maratha War](#), when most of the Maratha forces were engaged elsewhere.

ODISHA UNDER BRITISH RAJ

1800 CE - 1947 CE

14 October 1803

[Fort of Barabati](#) falls to the British

1817

The Paika Rebellion

1866

The [Great Famine](#) of 1886 (*Na Anka Durvikhya*)

1 April 1936

Orissa became a separate province

15 August 1947

India becomes independent



Colonial era

- **1600–1803**
- The [Portuguese](#) were the first Europeans to build factories in Odisha. They had a settlement in Pipili in Puri district.
- The British had established a settlement in Hariharpur (modern-day [Jagatsinghpur](#)), with the permission of the Mughal administrator, as early as 1633 to trade cotton goods. But it could not be maintain long because of the harsh climate, and Portuguese [pirates](#).

- In 1765, [Lord Clive](#) acquired the *diwani* of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha from titular Mughal emperor, [Shah Alam II](#).
- But, only the [Midnapore](#) district was meant by Odisha, as rest of it had passed on to the Marathas.
- Lord Clive had tried to negotiate the acquisition of Odisha from the Marathas.
- His successor, [Warren Hastings](#), had also tried negotiating with the Marathas.

1803–1900

- A Colonel Harcourt of the British Army sailed from [Northern Circars](#) on 3 August 1803 and landed on 25 August.
- He marched from [Ganjam](#) with 5000 men on 8 September, to flush the Marathas out of the region.
- On 18 September, Harcourt took control of Puri.
- On 21 September, a second force had landed at Balasore and after taking control of the region, it sent reinforcements to Cuttack to help with the siege of the fort.
- On 14 October, the fort of [Barbati](#) was stormed and captured.

- On 17 December 1803, [Raghoji II Bhonsle](#) of [Nagpur](#) signed the Treaty of Deogaon (also Deogarh) in Odisha with the British after the [Battle of Laswari](#) and gave up the [province of Cuttack](#) (which included *Mughalbandi*, the coastal part of Odisha, *Garhjat* the princely states of Western Odisha, Balasore port, and parts of [Midnapore](#) district of West Bengal).

- Jaya Krushna Rajguru Mahapatra, known to the people as Jayee Rajguru, the royal preceptor to Mukunda Dev II (who was a minor) mobilised an army of Paika warriors and raised a revolt against the British in 1804.
- This is the first uprising against the British rule in Orissa.
- The Britishers, ultimately with the help of some treacherous natives ruthlessly suppressed the rebellion.
- Both Jayee Rajguru and the Raja were made prisoners.

- Later Jayee Rajguru was convicted and on 6 December 1806 hanged heinously by his legs tied to two different branches of Banyan tree and released to tear him to two parts at Midnapore.
- The Raja was released in 1807 since Jayee Rajguru had taken the entire responsibility of the uprising on him.
- Thus Jayee Rajguru is said to be the first martyr of the early freedom struggle against British rule.
- His sacrifice, however, did not go in vain. It laid the foundation of a major revolt 13 years after his Martyrdom.

British Administration of Odisha

- The British occupation of Odisha in 1803 created a new chapter in the history of Odisha.
- Before that, Odisha had been under an alien rule for such a long period.
- They introduced British administration in Odisha which brought far-reaching changes in Odisha.
- In fact, the British administration had changed the life of the people of Odisha to a great extent.

- Odisha was divided into three administrative units under British administration.'
- 'Province of Cuttack' was under Bengal Presidency, Ganjam and Koraput were under Madras Presidency and Sambalpur was under Central Provinces. Besides, there were princely states. The administration under such conditions naturally could not become uniform.
- Further 'Province of Cuttack' was divided into two divisions viz., Northern and Southern with head quarters at Balasore and Jagannath (Puri) respectively in 1804.

- Subsequently for administrative reasons, head quarter at Puri was shifted to Cuttack in 1816.
- Cuttack also became the seat of the Commissioner, the Board of Revenue and the Provincial Appeal Court in 1818.
- The Commissioner became the Superintendent of Feudatory States. Cuttack Province was divided into Balasore, Cuttack and Puri districts in 1828.