

DEPICTION OF JAGANNATH TEMPLE OF PURI ON THE PORTUGUESE PAPER CURRENCY

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Over the years many kingdoms ruled different parts of India and issued numerous variety of coins in various metals. These coins were under circulation and used as a medium of exchange till the reign of the kingdom. The availability of coins in various regions indicates that the area was under their sway or the people of that region had trade or social contacts with the other parts of India. Sometimes literary and other evidences do not provide all kinds of historical information about the names of all the rulers of all the dynasties, however numismatic evidences enable us to provide information on the names of quite a number of rulers. In India, for the first time the Indo-Bactrian rulers placed the portraits of the kings on the obverse. Subsequently, the name of the king and his title is noticed on the obverse of the coins and the royal insignia, portraits of kings, gods and goddesses, auspicious symbols, figures and statues minted on the reverse of the coins. The same trend was also continued by the Muslim and European rulers in India and is being continued till date with some changes. Metals such as gold, silver, copper, lead and their alloys were used for minting of coins from the beginning of coinage till the European rule in India (Gupta, 1969). In addition to this coinage, Europeans also introduced paper currency in India in 1882 AD.

India had trade and cultural contacts with other countries since early times. However, in the 7th century AD, the sea borne trade passed into the hands of the Arabs and slowly they dominated the Indian Ocean and Red Sea. In the 15th century the Europeans started coming to India. The Portuguese were the first European factors to come. They were followed by the Dutch, the Danes, the British and the French for commercial ventures in various parts of India. All of them subsequently indulged in local politics.

The Portuguese first landed on Indian soil in 1498 AD. Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa in November 1510 AD and for almost two centuries they remained the dominant foreign power in Indian soil. The territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli were added, subsequently as a cession from the Peshwas but the importance of Portuguese started falling considerably by the 18th century AD, when they controlled Goa, Daman and Diu.

Portuguese in Orissa

Among the Europeans the Portuguese were the first who started trading settlement on the coast of Orissa. After occupying Goa, Portuguese came to Madras coast for trade settlement but due to the bitter relationship with the locals, the Portuguese were forced to move towards north and settled by establishing a trade centre at Pipli in 1514 AD in Orissa (Fig. 1). Pipli is situated on the bank of river Suvamarekha in Balasore district. It was the place where Europeans set up their factories for the first time and rose up as a great centre of Portuguese trade. Bruton (1961) mentions that the Portuguese trade continued for more than hundred years from Pipli port, subsequently they became the residents of Pipli (Sila Tripati, 1997). Again in the year 1636 AD the Portuguese obtained permission from Mutaqad Khan, the Nawab of Orissa to establish an additional residency at Pipli (Raut, 1992). The Portuguese even turned the Pipli port into a slave market where the Arakanese pirates brought their prisoners. The Portuguese proceeded further northwards and established another settlement at Hijli in West Bengal, which was a port. Though it is not known clearly when the Portuguese came to Hijli, in later period the Portuguese made Hijli an important centre for trade and commerce. They were expelled from Hijli in 1636 AD. The Portuguese also had their trade settlement at Balasore on the River Barabalanga in Orissa in 1625 AD (Campos, 1919). However, Balasore never played any important role as a trading centre as Pipli did. Monopoly on trade by the Portuguese continued on Orissa coast and subsequently the Dutch, the French and the English came to Pipli for trade. In the beginning of the 17th century AD, the Portuguese settlement at Pipli was deserted (Das, 1978). From Master's account it is known that on 15th December 1676 the English leased out the land where the Portuguese houses were situated at Balasore.

The principal articles of export from Pipli port were saltpetre, turmeric, cloth, sugar, rice, cotton yarn, muslin, taffetas raw silk, iron, stone dishes, stone cups, copper pipes, salt, ginger and sandalwood. Orissa was an excellent and extensive cloth manufacturing area. Balasore was also the main centre for the export of such commodities collected from various parts of Orissa. The Principal articles of import into Orissa were lead, quick silver, vermilion, tin, woollen cloth, copper, alum, cowries, coral, dried fish, tobacco, elephants, elephant tusks and various articles of luxury. From Malacca the Portuguese also brought cloves, nutmegs and mace and from Borneo the highly prized camphor and cinnamon from Ceylon, pepper from Malabar, silks, coffers, chests, boxes and pearls and jewels from China and cowries brought from Maldives (Raut 1988).

Portuguese paper currency

Alfonso de Albuquerque ordered minting of coins soon after the conquest of Goa. The Goa mint known as "Casa da Moeda", supplied the bulk of the currency needs of the entire "Estado-de-India". In the beginning, coins were struck with die and hammer and hence those were crude and irregular in shape. The material used were silver, brass, copper, lead, powder, tin and occasionally gold. Machine minting was introduced in later period.

In Goa the Portuguese started issuing gold coins from 1510 AD onwards and this was followed by silver and copper coins. The major denominations include Portuguese Manoel, Leal and the indigenous Pardav, Tanga, Xerafins, Rupia etc. The coins underwent frequent changes in design because of variation in the purity of metal and sudden withdrawal of issues. The coins invariably show the year of issue but local language was never used on the coins. The most common type of coin is the one with holy cross or king and queen on the obverse along with a circular legend and year and coat of arms on the reverse. The other notable types include the St. Thomas coin in gold and silver and the commemorative coin issued on the occasion of the completion of 400 years of Portuguese rule in India.

The first paper currencies were issued in 1882 AD and those were withdrawn in 1896 AD due to deterioration of paper. No specimen has survived and therefore the pattern is not known. In 1896 AD again the paper currencies were issued, which were uniface. These were printed at Nova Goa. However, a single specimen is known. These were withdrawn and another type of uniface paper currency was issued in 1899 AD of which a specimen is known. The Banco Nacional Ultramarino started issuing bank notes from 1906 AD onwards of denominations of 5, 10, 20 and 50 Rupia. Further, *tangas* 4, 8 *tangas* (annas) and also 1 Rupia were issued from 1917 AD. M/s Bradbury & Wilkinson of London printed all these paper currencies. The next issue of denominations of Rupia 1, 2, 2.5, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 were started from 1924 AD. In 1945 AD the new series in Rupia were printed, which lasted till 1959 AD. Escudos were introduced in 1959 AD, which went on till the last possession in India (1961 AD). Even, bank notes under various decrees were issued which continued till 1961 AD. Besides the Bradbury & Wilkinson, London, printed some notes in 1924 AD and 1938 AD by Thomas de la Rua & Co., UK. The currency notes usually show the image of Alfonso de Albuquerque on the right side with a legend Banco Nacional Ultramarino and India Portuguese and denominations on obverse and sea motif on the reverse. The denominations are 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 100, 300, 500 and 1000 Escudos and Rupia. In 1958 AD the currency was changed to a new decimal standard of 100 centavos equalling an Escudo (Jhunjhunwalla 2000).

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Description of the currency

On the obverse (Fig. 2a) of the Rupia paper currency the name of the bank 'Banco Nacional Ultramarino' and 'Nova Goa' have been printed in bold upper character. This side of the paper currency can be divided into three parts such as (i) the bust of a tiger in central part, (ii) the native languages denomination panel in Urdu and Hindi, serial number of the currency '000000' along with a ship on the left water mark side and (iii) serial number of the currency '000000', the native languages denomination panel in Gujarati and Kannada languages, Lisbon along with the date of issue of the currency in Portuguese have been printed on the right water mark side. 'Uma Rupia' in bold upper character is printed below the bust of the tiger and the signatures of the Vice Governor and Governor have also been printed below 'Uma Rupia'. On the extreme left and right side of the currency 1 has been printed in bold in English, Marathi, Gujarati and Kannada languages. It appears that the trade contact and dominance of Portuguese was prevailing in Gujarat and Karnataka and as a number of Muslim merchants were associated with Portuguese trade and traders and Hindi was the main language of India hence, Gujarati, Kannada, Urdu and Hindi languages have been printed on the currency.

On the reverse (Fig. 2b) of the currency the name of the 'Banco Nacional Ultramarino' in bold upper character at the top, the Jagannath temple of Puri at the centre and 'Uma Rupia' in bold upper character have been printed at the below of the currency. At a first glance the temple appears like the Konark temple of Orissa. However, a close look indicates that the temple printed on the currency is the Jagannath temple of Puri. The main temple (*shikhara*) and the *Jagamohana* have been shown clearly. The compound wall, steps leading to the temple and two rooms at the main entrance of the temple are also clearly shown. The *bazar* outside of the temple selling *prasad* in clay pots is also depicted on the right side. It is also clear from the currency that the Jagannath temple was depicted on currency before transplantation of the *Arunastambha* which was brought from Konark temple and installed in later period. The Portuguese had trade centres in Orissa. The Jagannath temple of Puri and the Sun temple at Konark were known to the Europeans as the 'White Pogada' and 'Black Pogada' and were served as the landmarks during navigation. During the Portuguese period the Konark temple had lost its glory and probably due to this reason they did not print the Konark temple on the currency. But the Jagannath temple of Puri is the living temple. Since the people of Orissa have more attachment towards the temple, probably due to this reason the Portuguese might have printed the temple on their currency.

Similarly, the Jagannath temple of Puri was also depicted on 2½ Rupia paper currencies. The name of the 'Banco Nacional Ultramarino' in bold upper character at the top, the Jagannath temple of Puri at the centre, on the extreme left and right side of the currency 2½ and 'Duas Rupias e Meia' in bold upper

character has been printed at the below of the currency (Fig. 3). In addition to, the Jagannath temple of Puri, Portuguese had also printed some other temples of India on their paper currencies, which are yet to be identified.

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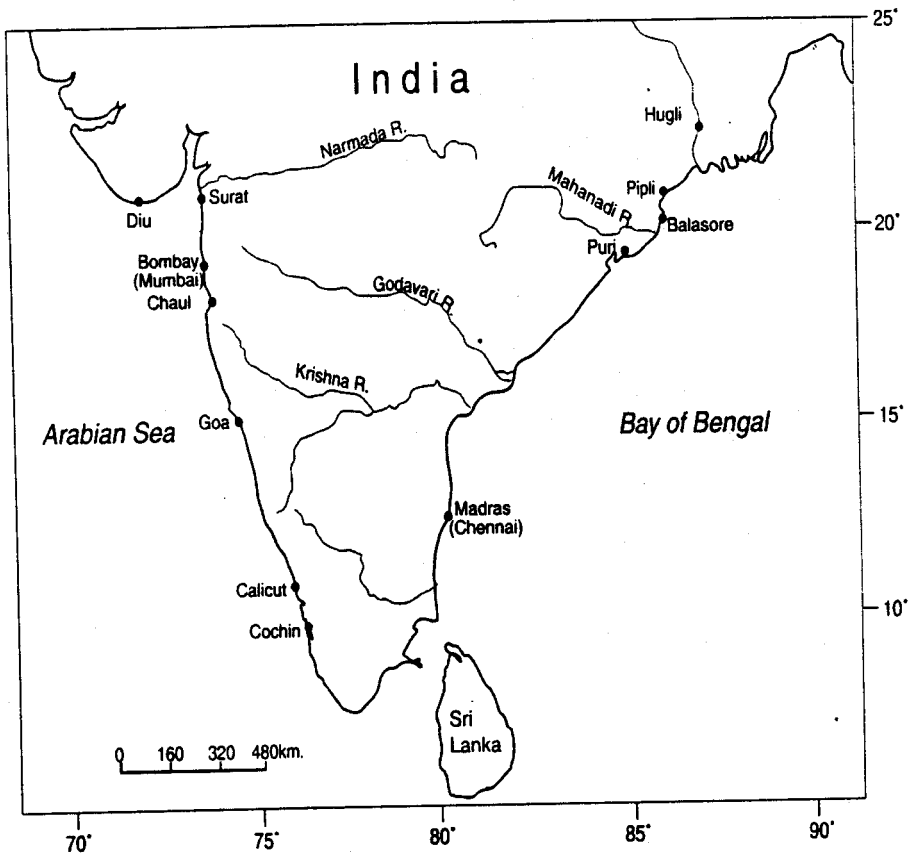


Fig.1. Portuguese settlements and trade centres in India



Fig. 2 a. Obverse side of the Portuguese currency depicts the details.



Fig. 2b. Reverse side of the Portuguese currency depicts the Jagannath temple.



Fig. 3. Depiction of the Jagannath temple of Puri on 2.50 Rupia paper currency.