

## Administrative Set Up Of The Deccan Under The Early Nizams\*

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**ABSTRACT:** Administration is the device through which the Mughals controlled their territories efficiently and it evolved gradually. The credit for the centralized government and administration goes to Akbar who made significant changes in the existing system and give it a new dimensions. It was Akbar who divided his Empire into 12 provinces for the better administration and the governors of these provinces look into the maintenance of the administrative machinery. Nizam-ul Mulk Asaf Jah who became the governor of Deccan thrice is said to have established an independent rule there but a study of the regional sources shows that even after taking the possession of the Suba Nizam followed the set pattern of administration as evolved by the Mughals, he only introduced some reforms needed due to the geographical and political conditions. The Early Nizams followed the same administrative machinery until the British domination became more and more in the region during the later phase.

### Administrative Division of the Subah:

For convenience of administration and effective control, the Mughals divided the *Subah* into administrative division like; *Sarkar* (district), *pargana* (smaller division), and the *Deh* (villages). As the representative of the Mughal emperor, the Nizam followed the same pattern in the Deccan. Another division *Mahals* was for the fiscal purpose.

When Aurangzeb was appointed as the viceroy of the Deccan for the first time in 1636, the Deccan consisted of the following four *Subas*.<sup>1</sup>

1. Daulatabad
2. Telangana
3. Khandesh
4. Berar

The name of Daulatabad was changed to Aurangabad and that of Telangana to Zafarabad or Bidar in the later period as can be inferred from a *Parwancha* to the period of Shah Jahan<sup>2</sup> from a *Siyah-i-Waqia* of the period of Aurangzeb.<sup>3</sup>

The name of the two other *Subas* remained unchanged. Further with conquest of Bijapur and Golkonda added the fifth and the sixth *suba*. Bijapur was renamed *Darul Zafar*<sup>4</sup> and Golkonda was renamed *Darul Jihad* Hyderabad.<sup>5</sup> Thus the territory upto Rameshwaram came under Mughal rule.<sup>6</sup>

The number of *subahs* in the Mughal Deccan stood at six with slight adjustments under Nizam-ul-Mulk's viceroyalty. The six *subahs* were as follows:

1. Khjista Bunyad Aurangabad

2. Muhammadabad Bidar
3. Khandesh
4. Berar
5. Darul Zafar Bijapur
6. Farkhunda Bunyad Hyderabad

Each of these six *Subas* was sub-divided into a number of *Sarkars*. Each *Sarkar* was further sub-divided into *parganas* also called *Mahals* from the fiscal point of view. Each *Pargana* or *Mahal* consisted of several smaller territorial divisions called *Deh* or *Qasba* or *Mauza*. This *Deh* was the smallest administrative unit.

The source *Sawaneh-i-Deccan* written by Munim Khan in 1782 gives the detailed information of the administrative division, on which Nizam-ul-Mulk's administration was based.<sup>7</sup>

The provincial administration of the Mughals to a great extent was a small replica of the administration of the central government. But the administration of all the provinces of the Mughal India was not exactly the same. The different political problems and local conditions were responsible for some variations in the administrative set up from one province to the other.

As far as the Deccan *Suba* is concerned, it had a special feature besides its diverse political problems geographical and local conditions. It was distinguished for its vastness. During the period of study the entire Deccan *Suba* which was quite large in extent had six sub-ordinate provinces, thus it need a large number of officers to look into the administrative responsibilities.

The head of the province was the governor, styled *Sipahsalar* in the days of Akbar and *Subahdar* or *Nazim* under his successors, but better known as *Nazim* under Aurangzeb and the later Mughals.<sup>8</sup>

The English Records call this officer both *Subah* and *Nabob*. He was the vice-regent of the sovereign in the province and was responsible for executive action, defense criminal justice and general supervision of the province. The Mughal provincial administration may therefore be divided into two parts, the executive and revenue.<sup>9</sup> The principal officers in the Deccan were organized in three tier system viz.

- (i) Headquarters of the Deccan (Hyderabad after Aurangabad).
- (ii) Headquarters of *Subhas* (Bijapur, Aurangabad, Bidar, Berar, Khandesh and Hyderabad). The personal here were the exact replica of the Deccan headquarters and
- (iii) The lowest administrative level was the *Pargana/Mahals* under the *Shiqdari*.<sup>10</sup>

Administration has its importance in the study of a country's history. The integrity of the state and its preservation, with the maintenance of law and order and looking after the material prosperity of the people are the objectives of any good system of administration. It is an ever developing process based on the existing institutions and also innovated by the new expedients. Additions and alteration are made according to requirement and needs of the time.

The history of administration of the Deccan is an interesting and thought provoking one. It has witnessed several good and bad governments and administrative machinery of the region was altered, modified and overhauled according to the need of the time.<sup>11</sup>

The documents published by Zahiruddin Malik, show that in the Deccan, a twofold policy was followed. The interior, or Telangana was left to be dominated by powerful local chiefs and Magnates often descendants of the class who had controlled the locality under the Qutb Shahi rulers of Golkunda.

It was in the late 1720's 1730's that Nizam-ul-Mulk concentrated his efforts in those areas Ibrahimpattan, Devarkonda, and the Coastal districts of Srikakulam, Masulipattan and Nizampattan.<sup>12</sup>

#### The Provincial and Local Officials with their Power and Functions are Mentioned as Under:

##### (i) Subahdar:

The *subedar* was the provincial head of the administration. He was also known as *Nazim*, *Sahib-i-Suba*, *Faujdar-i-Suba*

etc. The emperor directly appointed him. Generally, the appointment in this post was made from amongst officers holding the highest ranks or mansab, or the princes were preferred. He was to hold office only for two or three years and transferred to some other positions.<sup>13</sup>

The essential duties of the *subedar* were to maintain law and order and to help the smooth and successful collection of revenue and to execute the royal decrees and regulations sent to him. He has to see that the strong army might not oppress the weak. He collected the tribute from the vassals. He was dispenser of civil justice as well. He could recommend worthy officials for promotion, and reported every fortnight the occurrences of his *Subah*.<sup>14</sup>

Occasionally an absentee subedar sent an agent to represent him in the Deccan while he retained his other position at the centre or any other post.<sup>15</sup>

The Mughals at the height of the Empire supervised and controlled the activities of the *subedar* and his minister through a system of intelligence extending throughout the Empire to watch the loyalty and devotion of its officials. Yet owing to weak communication, the exercise of control by the central authority on the provincial government was at best a difficult task.<sup>16</sup>

#### List of the Subedars served in the Deccan from 1707-1748 A.D.<sup>17</sup>

S.No.		Years
1.	Ghaziuddin Khan Firoz Jang (father of Nizam-ul-Mulk)	1707
2.	Prince Muazzam, Shah Alam I	1708
3.	Zulfiqar Khan Deputy Daud Khan Panni	1709-1713
4.	Nizam-ul-Mulk	1713-1715
5.	Husain Ali Khan, Deputy Alim Ali Khan	1715-1720
6.	Nizam-ul-Mulk, (Reappointed) Deputy Iwaz Khan	1720-1722
7.	Mubariz Khan	1724
8.	Nizam-ul-Mulk (Reappointed)	1724-1748

Thus in 1724 after the battle of Shakar Kheda, Nizam became the subedar for the third time and now he tried to

restore the administration and started working for that, he retained that position till his death in 1748. During his second and third viceroyalty Nizam made various appointments on various posts and brought some changes in the administration.

With his victory over Alim Ali Khan in 1720, Nizam became the viceroy of Deccan for the second time and proceeded to Aurangabad, the capital of the suba at that time to organize the administration.<sup>18</sup>

Mubariz Khan was transferred from Aurangabad to Hyderabad as *Subedar*. Iwaz Khan was appointed *naib-nazim* of Aurangabad. In 1722 when Nizam-ul-Mulk left Deccan to take the responsibilities of *Wizarat*, he appointed Iwaz Khan as his *naib* or deputy in the Deccan with all powers to act on behalf of him. He appointed Diyanat Khan as *Diwan* of the Deccan and in place of Muhteshim Khan, he appointed Sadullah Khan as *Mir Bakshi* of the Deccan.<sup>19</sup>

The same course of appointments and promotions was followed by Nizam-ul-Mulk after his victory over Mubariz Khan in the battle of Shakarkheda in 1724. When Iwaz Khan, his uncle and *Nazim* of Berar died in 1731, Nizam-ul-Mulk appointed in his place the son of Mubariz Khan, Jamal Khan.<sup>20</sup>

On June 4, 1743, Nasirud-Daulah *Nazim* of Aurangabad died, his son Mujahid Khan was appointed in his post as he was minor at that time, Ali Akbar Khan was made his guardian but due to frictions between them Nizam-ul-Mulk dismissed Mujahid Khan and appointed Ali Akbar Khan as the governor of Aurangabad.<sup>21</sup>

While Nizam-ul-Mulk was busy in all these arrangements, Anwaruddin Khan arrived from Delhi. He had just then been dismissed from his appointment of *Faujdar* of Kora and Jahanabad in the Allahabad *Suba*. Nizam-ul-Mulk glad to secure his services, appointed him to be deputy governor of Hyderabad. His efforts to subdue opposition were very successful at Sikakol and other places and he brought up the revenue collection to the proper standard.<sup>22</sup>

Above all the principal provincial departments at the headquarters of the six *Subas* at Daulatabad was the office of *Nazim* Nizam-ul-Mulk, called *Diwan – Khana-i-Aali* and *Diwan-i-Khas* or the *Darbar*.<sup>23</sup> The officers of these offices were *Mushrif-i-Diwan Khana* and *Munshi, darogha, arzbeigi*, these four were very close to the *subedar*.<sup>24</sup>

#### (ii) Diwan:

He was second important official in the *Subah*. On the recommendation of imperial *Diwan*, the emperor appointed him. He was responsible for all revenue matters and controlled a hierarchy of officials down to the *patwari*,

exercised a measure of control over the *subedar*, who was the head of a similar range of services from the *Faujdar* down to the village *chaukidar*. The *Diwan* however lower than the *subedar* in rank.<sup>25</sup>

#### (iii) Bakshi:

The *Bakshi* or paymaster was saddled with various functions and duties. They included the recruitment of the army and maintenance of several registers such as the list of high officials i.e., *mansabdars*, the list of officers paid in cash. Whenever a battle was planned, it was his duty to place the complete muster, roll before the emperor for his personal and orders. The *Bakshi* had also to assign posts to several commanders' command.<sup>26</sup>

*Mirat-i-Ahmadi* has furnished some valuable information about the duties of the *Bakshi* of the *Suba*.<sup>27</sup>

#### (iv) Kotwal:

He was essentially an Urban Officer, being the chief of the city police. At midnight he patrolled the city. He also had the duty of arresting thieves and criminals, to punish them or on the order of the *Qazi*, execute the sentence. He should necessarily keep knowledge of every house and inhabitant of the city. He deployed watchmen and sweepers to get information from every street.<sup>28</sup>

#### (v) Khansaman:

The *khansaman* managed the imperial establishment. He was responsible for looking after the *karkhanas* and Royal store houses and the day to day need of the imperial household.<sup>29</sup>

#### (vi) Darogha-i-Dak Chauki:

There are four types of news reporters called the *Waqi-Navis, Sawaneh-Nigar, Khufia Navis* and the *Harkarah* worked in the *Suba* under the direct control of *Darogha-i-Dak Chauki*. They regularly kept informed the emperor about the occurrences in the *Subah* and the activities of the staff deployed.<sup>30</sup>

Nizam-ul-Mulk brought to an end the system of diarchy with the appointment of Diyanat Khan as *Diwan* of the Deccan in 1721, before he left for Delhi to take the office of *Wizarat*. After he came back he dismissed Diyanat Khan and appointed Iradat Khan as *Diwan* of the Deccan.<sup>31</sup>

Same was the case with appointment of *Bakshi* Nizam-ul-Mulk appointed Muhteshim Khan as *Bakshi* of Deccan. Consequently a new administrative system evolved in which the provincial officers were not subordinate to the central officers. The *subedar* could appoint and dismissed them at his own will, thus they became sub-ordinate to the *subedar*.

Another important feature of the *Suba* administration was that, to the principal offices were attached the part of *peshkar* or secretary. As Lala Mansaram, the author of the two important works *Masir-i-Nizami* and *Risala-i-Darbar-i-Asafia* was the *peshkar* of the *Bakshi* of the Deccan. The *peshkar* was also attached to the office of *Sadrath* which was held by Ganesh Pandit.<sup>32</sup>

#### Local Administration:

At the second level of administrative organization at each of the six *Subas*, the officers were the exact replica of the headquarters. However, at the lower level of administration, at *Sarkar* and *pargana* level, the administrative set up differed. The executive head of a *Sarkar* was called the *faujdar*. Next to him was *Amil* also called *Amalguzar*, he was revenue officer. Then there were *kotwal*, *bakshi* and *Qazi*.<sup>33</sup>

At the *Sarkar* level, the head of the administration was a *faujdar*. He washed under the direct control of subedar. The safety of roads and highways was his prince concern. His duty includes, the prohibition of exaction of illegal *abwabs* (taxes), to forbid the privatization of making of arms and ammunitions, prevent the construction of new forts and repairs of the old forts by the powerful *Zamindars*, to suppress local rebels and criminals, to maintain law and order and to supervise the *thanas* of the *pargana*.<sup>34</sup>

It is evident from the study of *Risala-i-Darbar-i-Asafia* that the office of *taluqdars* also existed and accounts of the *tahsil* from the *Sarkars* and *pargana* were submitted to Nizam-ul-Mulk.<sup>35</sup> *Amils* were in charge of the *taluqa*.<sup>36</sup>

Besides the *faujdar* and *Amalguzar*, there were *Qazis* and *Kotwals* who were in charge of justice and religious affairs.

It is important to note here that the definition of *Faujdari* with regard to its territorial jurisdiction in the Deccan assumed new dimensions probably unprecedented elsewhere in the Mughal Empire.

Nizam-ul-Mulk was appointed with the *Faujdari* of Karnataka, which comprised an area of almost a *suba*, along with the subedari of Deccan. Thus a *Faujdari* might comprise a *pargana* a number of *pargana* and in many cases a *Sarkar*. A *pargana* generally constituted an administrative unit whether it comprised a *Faujdari* or formed a part of the *Faujdari*.

Thus the *subedar* it seems designated as *Sadr-Subedar* as he had six *subedar* under him. Likewise the *Diwan* of the Deccan had six other *diwans* under him. Each of these had a *Naib subedar* and *Naib Diwan* under them.<sup>37</sup>

In certain cases when a *jagirdar* was appointed as *Faujdar* of his own *jagir*, his territorial jurisdiction as *faujdar* was

limited to the area of his *jagir* alone. One such instance is of Raja Inder Singh who was appointed *Faujdar* for his own *jagir* of *pargana* Mehari Deonagar. It was granted to him as *tankhwah jagir* in 1720-21.<sup>38</sup>

In the case of posts in the lowest categories, like *Darogha*, *Futahdar*, *Karori*, *Tahwildar*, *Chaudhri* etc. some variations are found in the area of operation of different officials holding the same category of post.

For instance, Mir Ghulam Muhiyuddin was *darogha* of *mandwi sabzi* and *Kotah* of tobacco of the city of Aurangabad,<sup>39</sup> while Hazarimal Daya Ram was *darogha* of *baramda* for the entire city.<sup>40</sup> Md. Ibrahim was *darogha* of the entire *Mahals* of *Sair*. Another *darogha* had 12 *mahals* of *Sair* under him.<sup>41</sup>

The *Shiqdar* was the chief officer of the *pargana* in whom the duties of both the *faujdar* and *kotwal* were combined. The revenue administration was carried on by the *Amil*. He was the chief officer for the assessment and fixation of land revenue. In the case of an *Amil* as in the case of a *Faujdar*, the territorial jurisdiction or the area of operation was not restricted either to a single *Sarkar* or *Pargana*. In the Deccan the area of operation assigned to each *Amil* varied considerably to suit local needs.<sup>42</sup>

When the area assigned to an *Amil* was a few *dehats* or *Mauzas*, less than *pargana*, the *Amil* was designated as *Amil-i-Dehat*.<sup>43</sup> In the *mahals* of the *Khalisa Sharifa* there were revenue personnel too like the *Tahsildar*, *Amin*, *Waqia Navis* etc. They were appointed by the *taluqdars*.<sup>44</sup>

Besides all the above discussed departments, there were other minor departments with their personnel, namely, department of Buildings under a *Darogha*, both at the headquarters and the individual *Suba* level, that is *Darogha-i-Deccan* and *Darogha*. Department of *Baghats* under a *Darogha*.<sup>45</sup>

There were several other small category posts in all the executive offices, that is *Amil*, *Amin* and *Darogha*. The office of *Amin* was common in all the provincial departments. The chief *Amin* was called *Amin-i-Kul*. There were different categories of *Amin* and these are *Amin Mahal-i-Sair*, *Amin-i-Paibaqi*, *Amin* for *Mal Amin* for the *Khazana-i-Amira*.<sup>46</sup> There was *Amini* of *Bulgur Khana*. There were *Amins* for *Baghats*, *Bazars*, *Chabutra-i-Kotwali*, *Imarat* etc.<sup>47</sup> There was an office of *Naib Amin* as well.<sup>48</sup>

Similar was the case with the post of *Darogha*, there were *Daroghas* for *Mahal-i-Sair*, *Bulgur Khana*, *Kotah Parcha*, *Mandvi Sabzi*, *baramda*, *Topkhana-i-Deccan*, *Ganj-i-Kan* and *Kardwi*, *Baghat-i-Diccan*, *Kachehri-i-Diwani*, *Dagh-wa-tashiha* of *Ahsham*, *Kirana*, *Imaarat*, *Javhari Bazar*, *Ahshams*, *Chitra Pan Khana*.<sup>49</sup>

There was subordinate to *Darogha* called *Darogha-i-Nisf*. There were *Nirakh Navis* for fixing rates of grains every week. They informed the *chaudharis* of the fixed prices. There were *puradars* who patrolled the *pura* at night and reported to the *chabutra-i-Kotwali* of the municipality.<sup>50</sup>

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