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 gave 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.¹

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 Jahan² from a Siyah-i-Waqia of the period of Aurangzeb.³

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 Zafar⁴ and Golkonda was renamed Darul Jihad Hyderabad.⁵ Thus the territory upto Rameshwaram came under Mughal rule.⁶

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.⁷

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.8

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.9 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, Bijor, 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.10

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.11

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.12

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.13

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.14

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.15

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.16

List of the Subedars served in the Deccan from 1707-1748 A.D.17

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

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.18

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.19

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.20

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.21

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.22

Above all the principal provincial departments at the headquarter 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.23 The officers of these offices were Mushrif-i-Diwan Khana and Munshi, darogha, arzbegi, these four were very close to the subedar.24

(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.25

(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., mansabdar, 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.26

Mirat-i-Ahmadi has furnished some valuable information about the duties of the Bakshi of the Suba.27

(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.28

(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.29

(vi) Darogha-i-Dak Chauki:

There are four types of news reporters called the Wagi-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.30

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.31

Same was the case with appointment of Bakshi Nizam-ul-Mulk appointed Muhthesim 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-Asafta 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.32

**Local Administration:**

At the second level of administrative organization at each of the six Subhas, 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 Qozi.33

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.

It is evident from the study of Risala-i-Darbar-i-Asafta that the office of taluqadar also existed and accounts of the tahsil from the Sarkars and pargana were submitted to Nizam-ul-Mulk.35 Amils were in charge of the taluqa.36

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 Faujdar 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 Faujdar of Karnataka, which comprised an area of almost a suba, along with the subedari of Deccan. Thus a Faujdar 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 Faujdar or formed a part of the Faujdar.

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.37

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 Mehar Deonagar. It was granted to him as tankhwah jagir in 1720-21.38

In the case of posts in the lowest categories, like Darogha, Futaahdar, 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 mandvi sabzi and Kotah of tobacco of the city of Aurangabad,39 while Hazarimal Daya Ram was darogha of baramda for the entire city.40 Md. Ibrahim was darogha of the entire Mahals of Sair. Another darogha had 12 mahals of Sair under him.41

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.42

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

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.45

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-Paiabqi, Amin for Mal Amin for the Khazana-i-Amir.46 There was Amin of Bulgur Khana. There were Amins for Baghats, Bazars, Chabutra-i-Kotwali, Imarat etc.47 There was an office of Naib Amin as well.48

Similar was the case with the post of Darogha, there were Daroghahs for Mahal-i-Sair, Bulgar Khana, Kotah Parcha, Mandvi Sabzi, baramda, Topkhana-i-Deccan, Ganji-i-Kan and Kardwi, Baghatar-Dicc, Kachehr-i-Diwani, Daghwa-tashiha of Ahsham, Kirana, Imaarat, Jawhari Bazaur, Ahshams, Chitra Pan Khana.49
There was subordinate to Darogha called Darogha-i-Nisf. There were Nirkh Navis for fixing rates of grains every week. They informed the chaudhars of the fixed prices. There were puradar who patrolled the pura at night and reported to the chabutra-i-Kotwali of the municipality.\textsuperscript{50}

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