

POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA UNDER THE NIZAMS

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Abstract:

The Nizams were the rulers of Hyderabad from 18th to 20th century. Nizams of Hyderabad was the title of the monarch of the Hyderabad State later on Hyderabad was divided between the state of Telangana, Marathwada region of Maharashtra and Kalyana-Karnataka region of Karnataka. Nizam means administrator of the Realm, was the title inherited by Asaf Jahi. He was the former suzerain of the Great Mughal in the Deccan, the premier courtier of Mughal India until 1724, the founding of an independent empire as the Nizam of Hyderabad. The present paper revealed about Police administration in Hyderabad Karnataka under the Nizams.

Keywords: Hyderabad-Karnataka, Nizams, Metropolitan, Suburban, Sarf-i-Khas, and Mufassil Police.

Introduction

The Asaf Jahi dynasty was founded by Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah, a distinguished general of Aurangzeb. After a long service in the Delhi Empire, distinguished alike in war and in political sagacity, he was appointed Subedar or Viceroy of the Deccan in 1713 A.D. In 1719 A.D., he was sent to Malwa as its Subedar. But the Sayyid brothers who were influential at the Court in Delhi, appointed Sayyid Dilawar as Subedar of Malwa. At the same time, the Subedar of the Deccan was instructed to move northwards in order to attack Nizam-ul-Mulk. The Nizam first defeated Dilawar at the battle of Ratanpur in 1720 A.D. Then he defeated the Deccan Subedar at Bijapur. By this time the Sayyid brothers had fallen from grace¹.

Nizam-ul-Mulk was appointed wazir at Delhi, growing weary of the intrigues at court. He resigned his post and returned to the Deccan, reaching Aurgabad in July 1724 A.D. The Emperor now appointed Mubariz Khan as the viceroy of all the areas of the Mughal Deccan. The Nizam had to defeat this new

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rival in October 1724 A.D., before he could take possession of Hyderabad and settle down as the master of the Deccan. He began to function virtually as an independent ruler from now on. He was given the title of Asaf Jah.²

Prior to the ministry of the late Sir Salar Jang, there was no organized police in the State, and the arrangements made in the different Divisions depended to a great extent on the revenue official. In 1886, when Districts were first formed, a regular police force was also raised and placed under the revenue authorities, but the system did not work satisfactory. In 1869, a special Sadar-ul-Maham or Police Minister was appointed with full powers over the police. A year later Sadar Mohtamims were appointed one for each Division; but their appointments were abolished in 1884, and an Inspector General of Districts police was appointed. The designation of Sadar-ul-Maham being changed to Muin-ul-Maham or Assistant Minister, Police department³.

The head of the police has always been the Kotwal, he was not only the powers and privileges of the police head, but also was in enjoyment of certain judiciary and civil powers. He was the Chief adviser to the monarch in all police matters. A Moulvi was appointed to assist him in trying cases.

In 1865 the whole of the Police administration throughout the Dominions was reorganized, a separate police force was created for the suburbs and the city, and a Mohtamin or superintendent was appointed to each of the districts.

The Department of Police had been placed under the control and supervision of the Board of Revenue upon the abolition of the Board of Revenue in 1277 Fasli (1867 A.D.) a separate office of "Sadar Muhtamin Kotwali or Inspector General of Police was established, upon the reorganization of the police force in 1277 fasli (1867 A.D.) The Inspector-General of police was also charged with the duties of secretary to the prime minister in the Department of Police.⁴

Later on in 1279 Fasli, (1869 A.D.) when a departmental reorganization was effected, the office of Sadar-ul-Miham Kotwali or Minister of police was created, having control over the entire police administration, whether in the metropolis or the Mufassil. In 1279 Fasli (1869 A.D.) the office of secretary the prime Minister in the police Department was separated from that of the Inspector-General of Police and was joined to the office of secretary to the prime minister in the Department of Justice.

In each district the executive management of the Police is chiefly under the control and direction of the Muhtamim or District superintendent of police. The superintendent of Police is invested with magisterial powers, but his jurisdiction is limited to departmental offences. Similar powers are conferred upon the

Divisional superintendent. He also exercises magisterial powers in the preservation of peace, the prevention of crime, and the conduct of proceedings preliminary to trials.⁵

A superintendent of Police was appointed to every district, having the power of supervising its entire police administration and the conduct of the inspectors of talukas who were subordinate to him. Every district was provided with a sufficient number of constables and sowars constituting the police force of the district. The police was also charged with the duty of keeping guard upon the Government treasury in the district and the talukas and other public offices, as well as the district prisons. An Inspector of Police was appointed to every two talukas, but where the number of talukas in a district happened to be an odd number, an additional Inspector was appointed to the largest talukas.⁶

The Superintendents were divided into three grades, and the Inspector into two classes, each class having three grades. The following table will show the salaries of each grade.⁷

Table 1: Details of Superintendents salary of Nizams rule.

Name of office	Class	Grade	Salary Rs.
Superintendent		1 st	200
		2 nd	170
		3 rd	140
Inspector	1 st	1 st	110
		2 nd	100
		3 rd	90
	2 nd	1 st	80
		2 nd	70
		3 rd	60

- One Amin, or inspector, for each Taluk.
- One Jamadar, or Chief constable, for each thana or station.
- One Dafadar, or head constable, for each Chowky or post.
- Eight men for each Thana.
- Six men for each Chowky.

Jamadars received a uniform Salary of Rs. 15 a month, and an additional sum of Rs. 7 for pony allowances. The Dafadars similarly were each paid Rs. 10, without any distinction of grade. They were divided into two classes. Each district consisted 25 sowars, one Jamadar, one Dafadar and 23 Men. The Officers

were determined on the basis of cultivated area and the population of the district.⁸

The police force is divided into four divisions, namely The Metropolitan Police, The Suburban Police, Sarf-i-Khas Police, and The Mufassil Police.

The Metropolitan Police:

Metropolis is divided into two divisions for purposes of police administration. A Mohtamin Kotwali or superintendent of Police is appointed to each division. It again divided into two Guzas or Sub-divisions. Sadar Amins or Inspectors of Police is appointed to each Guzar. Sub-Inspectors, Naib Amin, Jamadars and Dafadars were Subordinate to the Inspector.⁹

Suburban Police

The head of the Suburban police came to be called "Sadar Mohtamim" or "Chief Superintendent. Inspector, Sub-Inspector, Naib Amins and lower officers were under him.

Sarf-i-Khas Police

Sadar Mohtamim is head of the entire Sarf-i-Khas Police. For the purpose of Police administration the district of Atraf-i-Balda is divided into six Talukas, and three public roads, and the District palam into five taluks, Inspector is Incharge of the each taluk and road. Sarf-i-khas domains being situate in the Diwani Districts, which were under the protection of the Mufassil Police.¹⁰

Muffassil Police

In the Muffassil Police is similar to civil Divisions of the Diwani territory. Each division and district have a Sadar Mohtamin and Superintendent respectively and each village a police patel.¹¹

In the each village there is a police patel responsible for the performance of the Police duties of the village. There is one set-Sindhi for every fifty houses in each village. He is the village watchman and is Subordinate to the police patel. There are generally two patels in a village, one of whom has the charge of revenue and the others of the police administration. The village police, being the servants of the village. Community. The village watchman is, the eyes and ears of the state in the criminal matters.¹²

The minimum and maximum age for enrollment as police constables has been fixed at 18 and 30 years respectively and the height of recruits at not less than 5 feet 4 inches.¹³ The Sadar Muhtamims, Muhtamins and Amins wear a uniform consisting of a green coat trimmed with silver lace, a green brocaded turban and boots; for arms they carry two pistols and they have to be further provided with a Saddle, a saddle cloth and a bridle for their houses, Jamadars,

Dafadars, constables and the writer who is attached to each Jauk, put on a green coat, with white trousers red turbans and shoes, Each Jauk has collectively, Six Guns with bayonets, manufactured at the government workshop; but the members of the Jauk, including the writer, commonly carry a sword and a baton, called the sota, the latter being used in the day time, and the former being worn at night. The new uniforms are distributed once every three years, and every year an examination is held for the amins and the lower officers and men in the knowledge of their respective duties. The Muhtamin and Sadar Muhthamins are exempted from the examination.¹⁴

The administration of jails are in charge of the Inspector General of Police who is also Inspector General of prisons. Each of the outlying central jails are in charge of a superintendent, controlled by the First talukdars in his capacity of Nazim-i-Mahabis or Inspector of Jails. The Third talukdars or head-quarters tahsildars supervise District jails. The central jail at Hyderabad is also in charge of a Superintendent, who is directly subordinate to the Inspector-General of prisons. Central jails are maintained at Hyderabad, Aurangabad, Gulbarga, Warrangal and Nizamabad.¹⁵

The Jail reforms were first introduced in 1897 by Mr. Hankin, who was the Director-General of prisons of the Nizam's Government. He was the founder of the modern system of prison administration.¹⁶ he organized district jails and compiled a manual for the administration of prisons. Many reforms were introduced during Mr. Hankin's management of the state prisons.

Conclusion:

To conclude this police administration, Inspector- General is not to exercise any Control over the city and suburban Police, both of which are to be amalgamated. The internal discipline and administration of the force will rest entirely with the Inspector-General, who will be directly responsible to Government. A Mohtamim Kotwali or superintendent of police is appointed to each division Inspector or Sadar Amins, Naib Amins, Jamadars and Dafadars were under him.

Endnotes:

1. Srisathyan. B.N. *Mysore State Gazetteer-Gulbarga District*. Pp-53.
2. Yusuf Husain Khan. *Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah I*. Pp-42.
3. *Provisional series Hyderabad State-Bidar*. Pp-102.
4. Moulavi cheragh Ali. (1882). *Hyderabad (Deccan) under Sir Salar Jung*.
5. *ibid*.
6. Kumar Swamy. A. *Community policing in Andhra Pradesh: A case study of Hyderabad police*, Pp-172-174.

7. Moulavi Cheragh Ali, Op. cit. 88
8. Sir Richard temple. *Report on the administration of the Government of his highness the Nizam in the Deccan*, Pp-76.
9. Syed Hossain Bilgrami and C. willmott. *Historical and Descriptive sketch of His highness The Nizam's Dominions*. Pp.188-190.
10. ibid.
11. ibid
12. Moulavi Cheragh Ali, Op. cit. Pp-123.
13. *Imperial Gazetteer Hyderabad State*. Bombay education society's press.
14. Fathulla Khan, M. *History of administrative Reforms in Hyderabad state*.
15. *Provisional series Hyderabad state-Gulbarga*, Karnataka Gazetteer Department. Pp-105.
16. Srisathyan. B.N. Op. cit. 325.

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