

SHAR SHAH SURI ADMINISTRATION

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Abstract

Sher Shah was one among the best administrator and rulers of the mediaeval India .The purpose of this paper is to spotlight Sher Shah Suri contribution to the Sur administration .Sher Shah Suri original name was farid. He was the grandson of Ibrahim Sur and therefore the son of Hasan Khan

.Sher Shah Suri grandfather come to Indian search of employment within the time of Bahlol Lodhi and joined service within the Punjab . After farid birth ,both his grandfather and father entered within the services of Jamal Khan within the Punjab. Sher Shah was great king. a brief span of five years (1540-1545) during which Sher Shah extended his rule over the massive a part of the Northern India , he left a reputation which the later generations have honoured as that of great Administrator and a just ruler .Sher Shah Suri was assisted by the heads of the civil ,military and ecclesiastical departments . The coins and century reforms of Sher Shah Suri were one among his most outstanding achievements .Sher Shah Suri issue an outsized number of latest silver coins which subsequently become referred to as "Dum ". Sher Shah name and title and place of mint were invariably inscribed on the coins in Arabic characters. Sher Shah Suri had very great good administrative skills as a result he was appointed by his father to manage his Jagar ,but thanks to some reason he left and join the service of Mughal Empire Babar . during this time during Babar given the title of Sher Khan for Sher Shah Suri. Sher Shah was the founding father of the Suri empire within the Northern a part of subcontinent with it's capital at Delhi . In 1545 he was accidental died accidental died and his son Sultan Islam Shah Suri was become his successor. Sher Shah Suri was one among the best administrator also as a capable commander.

Sher Shah Suri was benevolent ruler and was one of the greatest administrators of mediaeval India. Sher Shah Suri introduce many reforms and on that basis Akbar built a superstructure of Mughal administration. He was the first Muslim ruler of India who displayed a real aptitude for civil Government. Zahiruddin Muhammad Babar founded the Mughal empire in India after defeatir Ibrahim Lodhi in the battle of Panipat in 1526.When Babur attacked Bihar ,Sher Khan rendered him very valuable service , as a reward , Jagir was given to him .Sher Khan spent his more time in Mughal administration and military organisation. During this time Sher Shah studies the weakness of Mughal politico military machines and economic system with insight and in depth. Sher Shah defeated Humayun in the battle of chausa (26,june1539) and again in the battle of bilgram (17,may1540).Humayun meet sher Khan 240 kilometres (150 miles) of east of agra at the battle of kannauj on may 17,1540. Humayun accordingly marched with s hundred thousand hourse and crossing the ganga, near kannauj to meet sher Shah army, which consisted of only fifty thousand man. Meanwhile, Mohammed Sultan Mirza and his sons, who were distinguished for their treachery and integratitue went over to the enemy with all their adherents ¹. In after this battle Sher Shah established the Sur dynasty in Delhi. Humayun son of Baber ,lost hope and left India and went to Persia. Sher Shah occupied the throne of Delhi for not more than 5 years ,but his reign proved to be a landmark in the Indian sub -continent .Athought Shar shah ruled only five years he remained so much successfull his polities had of followed Mughals and British rulers .The Sher Shah founded the second Afghan empire in India in the short time of five years, sher Shah had rule

and extended the territory of provided a proper administration system. Sher Shah was the architect of a brilliant administrative system.

Central administration:-

The central government was ran by a Council of four Ministers namely Wakil Vazir ,Ariz -i-Mumalik and Diwan-i-insha . The four Minister were the four pillars of the empire .Abbas Khan Sarwani quotes the statement of Sher Shah about Wakil and Vazir, saying

A king should not have corrupt
wakil and Vazir.²

At the time of Sher Shah Suri ,the office of Wakil and Vizir were held by one and the same person .

1. Deewan -i-wazirat:- The head of this department was the wizard .He was,primarily the finance minister and looked after the income and expenditure of the state though.

2. Diwan -i-Arz:- This department was under the Arz-i-Mumalik who was the army Minister this department work looked after the requirement ,Organisation ,discipline, disbursement of the salaries of the soldiers and officers and all sorts of supplies to the army. Arz-i-Mumalik look the various officers of the army he appointed a well constituted military department and officers ,such as for requirement ,payment ,mastering,branding, arming ,transports, provisions ,compiny and others connected with the discipline and administration of the military organisation ³ .

3. Diwan-i-Rasalat:- This department worked as foreign minister of the state .

4. Diwan -i-Insha :-(Dabir -i-Khas)This department worked the royal proclamation and dispatches were sent by him to Governor and other officers .He received their Communications as well and reported them to the Sultan .

Besides these ministers and secretaries ,there were other high officials and functionaries in the central structure of the Sur Afghan administration .

Sadr-i-Sudur was minister incharge of the religious affairs and charitable endowments .The sader enjoed great power as the spiritual guide of the monarch .Sher Shah was great respect of sader and was even prepared perform menial personal services for him in public .In matters relating to religion and grant to religious and learned persons and educational institutions ,he aduised the king .

The chief Qazi was incharge of the judicial administration of the empire .The Quranic law and the Muslim traditional formed the criminal public law of the land and the qazi was its Chief Interpreter ,his authority could only be challenged by finding another exponerat of the law who would publicity questions the chief Qazi interpretation Thus as long as Qazi was in office his authority was unchallenged ⁴ .

Provincial administration:- The outline of the provincial administration under Sher Shah is some what according to doctor Qanungo:-

There were no provinces
during sher Shah time and
the empire was divided in Sarkar.

Even during Sher Shah time there were many provinces of subs which were called Iqtas .According to them ,Sher Shah brought about two new experiment in the provincial administration but they were not so successful as to be implemented in other provinces. His first experiment was in Bengal in AD1541.When Khizr Khan after becoming its Governor started behaving like a Sultan ,Sher Shah got his imprisoned and after subdividing Bengal into many parts , appointed separate officials for each .An official was appointed so as to maintain peace and order in the province .

Sher Shah this system was implemented in Malwa , Punjab and Rajputana as well .Sher Shah Suri other experiment was the appointment of deputy governor.Haibat khan is under appointed teo sub Deputy Governors in Punjab .Sher Shah Suri time the provincial Governor was probably called Hakim or Faujdar or Amin. Sher Shah kept a strict control over the provincial governors and from time to time supervised their military and administrative activities. Sher Shah ideal to given in smaller units ,as the provinces,was more useful for an afficient centralized. administration .

Sirkar administration:-Sher Shah Suri organized the local administration at the district, paragana and village level. According to Dr. Ishwer Prasad

Sher Shah had sub divided his empire into forty ,seven parts, each comprising man paragana. This part or unit was called a sirkar.

The highest unit of the local administration was the district or the sarkar. In Sher Shah Suri period the sarkar, like the modern division, was the intermediary between the paragana and provinces. It was mainly governed by two officials, one military and other civilian, respectively known as Shiqdar -i-Shiqdaran or chief Shiqdar and Munsif -i-Munsifan or chief Munsif ⁵ . The Munsif -i-Munsifan was primarily a judge and tried civil cases.He also supervised the work of Admins.As regards the Shiqdar -i-Shiqdaran ,his duty was to maintain law and order with in the Sarkar and put down those who dared to revolt. He was also to supervise the work of the Shiqdars of the paragana .

Paragana administration:-

In Sher Shah Suri period Sarkar districts was subdivided into many paraganas .The important officials in a prangana were a Shiqdar , an Amin,a Treasurer, a Msifi a hindi writer and a person writer for accounts .At Sher Shah Suri time the head quarter of the pargana is 'qasbah' or the biggest market village ,some times a rural town.Moreland identifies the pargana with the qasbah in its order meaning of an aggregate of villages ⁶.Beside these there was one treasurer and two karkuns or Munsims kept the case of the paragana. The Munsif was responsible for the collection of the revenue of the whole paragana and also its land measurment .

village administration :

At time Sher Shah Suri the smallest unit of the administration was the village called Mouza. Sher Shah appointed muqaddam or the village headman who were held responsible for the commission's of offenses in the village and required to produce the offenders before the proper authority. Muqaddam was responsible for maintaining peace and order in the village along with collecting the renenve .In village Patwari ,Chaudhari and the muqaddam Who acted as intermediaries between the people and the government. The Amin was a civilian whose duty was the assessment and collection of land revenue .Sher Shah did not interfere with the work of the paragana officer .Villages were allowed to work with the help of their Panchayats .Patwari was the important official in the village . His duty was to keep an account of expenditure and income of the village. Abul Fazal given an idea of his position and duties ,

The patwari is a written employed on the part of the cultivator. He keeps an account of the receipts and disbursements, and no village is without one ⁷.

In Sher Shah time Chaudhry was a semi government local officer who represents the ryot in the measurement of land was paid some fees by produce of the the cultivators.

Sher Shah Army administration:-

Sher Shah knew very well the importance of the local army .According to the contemporary write Abbas sherwani ,there were about 1,50,000 infantry .25,000 cavalry, 5,000 elephants and artillery in his army .Sher Shah once again introduce the system of branding horses or ,Dagh ,and ,Chehra or the preparation of descriptive rolls of the soldiers . Thus he was in a position to check fraudulent musters . Shershah give a lot of employis on the covalry . He armed his infantry with muskts. Sher Shah Suri divided the army into a number of divisions.Each divisions was under a commander secret supervision and discipline was maintained along the solder for the moment of the army transport and communication were made Every army soldiers salary was paid in cash. Soldiers and officer promotion was given their ability and working capacity .Sher Shah made arrangements for supplying good quality guns to his soldiers .Sher shah maintained a strict discipline in his army .

Police administration:-Sher Shah Suri time period in in the Sarkar the chief the Shiqdar ,in the paragana the shiqdar and in the villages muqaddam used to perform police duties and hand over the criminal to the law courts .Abbas sherwani wrote ,during the time of Sher Shah Travellers were free from the botheration of keeping a check over their belongings .Even in the desert region they had no fear they could camp freely in a locality weather it was deserted or not .During the time of Sher Shah , the police officers had to keep a strict watch over thieves and robbers . According to the Abbas Sherwani ,

In Sher Shah rule a decrepit
old woman could place a
basket full a gold ornaments
on her head and go on a
journey and no their or
robber would come near
her, for fear punishment
which Sher Shah inflicted .

Revenue system:-

During Sher Shah time ,one third of the produce was taken as the land revenue. There were two well established methods of assessment in Sher Shah period , of which sharing of crops (Ghalla Bakshi) and Muqtai or compounding .The Ghalla Bakshi in the original system where an actual division of crops was divided between the cultivator and state ⁸.On the evidence of Ain ,professor Irfan Habib has described there forms of Ghalla Bakshi system .

1. Batai is a division on the thershing ground , just after the thershing . Here one has just to take 1/3 or whatever share of the government from the ground .
- 2.Khat Batai the division of standing crops in the field . The muhassil would come to the village , and whatever cultivated, he would take the share of the standing crop .It would be take directly from the field say 1/3 of the standing crops .
3. Lang batai This is when he division is made after harvest but before thrashing when the crop is stacked on the ground for threshing.

Sher Shah saw the defects of of the prenailing system. He appreciated the jarib or zabti system .According to the Ain , the system of Ghala Bakshi a replaced by the jarib during the reign of Sher Shah .The characteristic feature of the jarib was the measurement of land and the fixing of the rai or schedule of corp -rate The Ain traces the Gaz to Sultan Sikandar Lodhi and shows that Sher shah used a gaz of 32 figures for purpose of

measurement. 60 gaz in length and 60 in breadth made a jarib . It was equivalent to 3,600 square Gaj and would form a bigha . The rope was used in the measurement of land.

Abul fazl writes:-

Sher Shah and Salim Khan,
under whom hindustan was
released from the custom of
dividing the grain and its
apportionment ,In
measuring land used this
gaz (Sikanderi gaz)⁹.

Sher Shah gave strict introduction to his officers to show leniency at the time of assessment but strict at the time of collection of revenue. In during Sher Shah time the peasants paid in cash or in kind though the state preferred the cash payment .He effected many reforms in the sphere of land revenue administration . He evolved a system of land revenue rates called Rai , where in there were separate rates of land revenue in different part of the empire for a different kind of produce .Every village the chief mukhiya collected the revenue from the farmers and sent it to the treasurer of Pragna . Muqaddam was responsible for maintaining peace and order in the village along with collecting the revenue. So that Sher shah paid great attention towards land revenue system and land administration. conclusion :-

Sher shah Suri was a great king and reformer .The coin and currency reforms of Sher Shah are one of his most outstanding achievement .Sher Shah took steps to issue a large number of new silver coins which subsequently become known as Rupaiya . In work of public utility Sher Shah had erected Sarais at the distance of 2 miles . in these sarais food both raw and cooked was kept ready for the use of Hindu and Muslim travellers . Sher Shah Suri special interest in the construction of roads ,sarais . Sher Shah Suri was appointed by a Daroga -i- Chauki .His work a large number of news writers and news carriers were employed and the King got daily reports regarding what was happening in various parts of the country. Sher Shah Suri was great Road maker . He built for big roads. The first road was from Sonargaon in Bengal to the Indus .This road was known as the Sarak-I-Azam and was 1500 miles in length . In the time of British period it can be identified Grand trunk Road .Despite his short reign ,Sher Shah administrative measures were remarkable in their scope. Sher shah successor Islam shah maintained his father administration rigour .In the short period of five years, Sher Shah rule and extended the territory of the empire and provided a proper administration .

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