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Administrative Changes introduced by Alauddin Khilji

Although the major administration remained same but certain changes were brought by the Khilji rulers according to their convenience and need of the time

Central Administration

Diwan-i-Riyasat : This department was established by Alauddin and the ministers of this department were incharge of economic measures. Their duty was to check the smooth running of market and price control policy adopted by Alauddin Khilji.

Provincial Administration

The empire was divided into number of provinces. According to Barni 'beside the centrally administered Khalsa there were eleven provinces like Gujrat, Multan, Samana, Ujjain, Chittor, Chanderi, Badayun, Awadh and Kada. Each province was administered by a governor who was the chief executive and provincial incharge of revenue collection. He was also the incharge of provincial army. He was directly responsible to Sultan who appointed and transferred him. New leaders were appointed by the Sultan, who function independently of the governor and were directly responsible to the king.

Pargana Level /District Government

The major change that took place during the end of thirteenth century was the decentralisation of administration at local level. Almost all the provinces were divided into Sikh but this was not true in every case. Apart from this Alauddin appointed officers to collect taxes in Pargana known as Amils. According to Ibnbatutah, another administrative unit at local level was Sadi, which was a group of 100 villages. To solve the village dispute there used to be village panchayat. In

every village there was a village head(Chaudhari/Muqqadam), a Patwari and revenue officers.

Army

During the Khilji period Alauddin introduced many changes such as :-

- i) He was the first Sultan to have a permanent army at the centre.
- ii) He introduced the system of Daag and Huliya in the army.
- iii) He organised his army on the Decimal System.

According to Barni, the smallest unit of army based on decimal arrangement was Sarkhail and the highest authority was the Khan. The classification was as follows :-

10 Sarkhail (100 horseman) :- Sipahsalar

10 Sipahsalar (1000 horseman) :- Amir

10 Amir (10,000 horseman) :- Malik

10 Malik (1 lakh horseman) :- Khan

10 Khan (10 lakh horseman) :- Sultan

iv) He started paying the salary of the army in cash. Soldiers with one horse got 234 tankas and those who kept two horses were paid 312 tankas yearly.

v) Alauddin also constructed local army.

vi) The army at local level was directly appointed by him.

vii) All the records of revenue and salary related to the army were maintained in a register named Daftar-i-fazilat-i-hasan.

viii) He appointed a special army for the frontiers.

Financial Administration

Apart from the regular taxes two new taxes were enforced by Alauddin. One was Charai tax, whereby the number of cattles were fixed and taxes were collected on

them. The next tax was Gharai tax. It was kind of house tax which the house owner had to pay. Although the amount of taxation on these two sectors was not very high but it counted on the people as they had to pay other taxes also.

The rate of Kharaj was increased by half the produce (50 percent). Alauddin was the first Sultan to do assessment of land on measurement theory which is known as Paimaish. According to measurement system the state demanded its revenue on the basis of the standard produce per Biswa. He also established a new department known as Diwan-i-Mushtakraj, to keep an account of the unpaid taxes and their proper and timely collection.