ADMINISTRATION
AND POLITY

कस्मोहेपक्षीय सत्तावांस वहयानुष्ठाने।

कामान्दाक्या
Chapter Seven
ADMINISTRATION AND POLITY

The Yadava state was fundamentally the same as other early mediaeval monarchies in India. It was essentially a continuation of the Rashtrakuta and Later Calukya pattern, acquired by the Yadavas. It was a monarchy superimposed upon a number of feudatories. So it was a feudal empire but also having certain centrally administered countries.

The State and Society:

In the study of ancient India, the crucial concept of sovereignty, which also holds good during our period, must be first of all appreciated. It must be noted that though the state held all the power over its subjects, it was not the ultimate source of sovereignty. On the contrary, it was the society that was sovereign and the state was only one of the agencies to enforce its authority. The laws, religious and secular, were prescribed by the smriti-writers and their commentators and they were accepted by the society and the state as having divine sanction. So in fact, tradition was often the real sovereign and confirmity to it was obligatory.

This meant a considerable decentralisation of power in two ways. On one hand the power was shared at various levels — imperial, provincial and local — and on the other hand it was distributed among different agencies — political, religious, social and so on. So the state never controlled life as much as it does to-day.
This had one more vital implication. The recurrent wars which constitute the major content of the political history were only dynastic struggles and not wars between peoples. So these wars never had those serious implications as they would have to-day. An appreciation of these facts would save one from drawing misleading lessons from history.

The Government:

Our sources do not give us clear picture of the government and its administration. But we know that the actual government was conducted by the king, the Yuvaraja, a group of ministers, viceroys and the feudatories. There does not seem to be any hard and fast arrangement in this respect. The feudatories were kings in their own fiefs and the influential ones were as good as ministers of the centre.

The ministry of Seunacandra is known from his Vaghali inscription (App.Insc.no.5). It consisted of only seven members. The number must have increased under the later rulers. In the case of Simghana a number of Mahapradhanas are known. But we do not know how the ministry was constituted and how it functioned. Some of the feudatories also had their own ministeries. Jaitugi under Bhillama V and Tikkamadevarasa under Ramacandra, for example, had their own ministries. Here we may discuss the known ministers, feudatories and other officers.

Officers and Feudatories:

The working of the government depended upon the officers and feudatories. The highest officers were the ministers and vice-roys. They could be distinguished from the feudatories only as being of more recent origin and more directly under the control of the
central government as observed by Dr. Altekar. Otherwise many of them enjoyed the status of the feudatories. One person often combines in him many offices of a feudatory, minister, general and so on. Here we may discuss the designations known from the sources.

1. **Mahapradhana**: He is one of the important ministers if not the chief minister. A number of Mahapradhanas of various Yadava rulers have been noted. The term *mantri* is rarely used. Hemadri is once called the mantricudamani (App.Insc.no.386) which only meant an influential minister.

2. **Mahamatya**: He must be the revenue minister as distinguished from the mahapradhana, as pointed out by Dr. Altekar. Vasudeva under Seunacandra (App.Insc.no.6) and Ekadeva under Ramacandra (App.Insc.no.451) were mahamatyas.

3. **Mahapracandadandanayaka**: (App.Insc.no.6) This was the title of the war minister. The post is known by different terms among various dynasties of ancient India.

4. **Sandhivigrahi**: (App.Insc.no.6) He was the foreign minister, an important post in the days of constant dynastic struggles.

5. **Patalakarani**: (App.Insc.no.6) He is analogous to the chief secretary to the king.

6. **Karanadhipa**: He is the secretary in charge of the secretariat. Hemadri graced this post and brought it into prominence. Other Karanadhipas are also known. Karanikas were clerks under them.

7. **Rajaguru**: (App.Insc.no.6) The royal priest or Purohita must have held considerable importance under the Yadavas.
8. **Koshadhipati** : (App.Insc.no.451) He must be the same as the Bhandagarika or the Treasurer. One Anantabhatta was Koshadhipati under Krishnadeva.

9. **Mahamandalesvara** : The Mahamandalesvaras also known as Mahasamantas were crucial officials of the Yadava empire. They were the highest feudatories and generals. Most of them were influential statesmen and even learned scholars.

10. **Manneyas** : They were seigniories or lesser lords under the mahamandalesvaras. They occur in many records (App.Insc.nos. 226, 258, 323, 481, 500).

11. **Dandanayakas** : These military officers were also known as Dandadhipas, dannayakas, dandanathas or Senapatis. Sridhar-dandanayaka was commander of the Enkai fort (App.Insc.no.4).

12. **Sahani** : He is the commander of the cavalry. Raya Peyaya Sahani and Malleya Sahani were Bhillamas generals. Their title was Ghodeyaraya (App.Insc.no.12).

13. **Dalavayamukhya** : (App.Insc.no.503) also known as Dalavaya (App.Insc.no.265) are also army officers probably commanding some unit of infantry.

14. **Karivahinipati** : is the commander of the elephant corps which formed an important wing of the army. Dada and his successors upto Jalhana graced this post (Suktimuktavali).

15. **Hastipakadhyaksha** : (App.Insc.no.386) He is the in-charge of the elephant ridders and it is a lesser post than that of the Karivahinipati. Hemadri was holding this post along with other portfolios.
16. **Mudraprabhu**: (App.Insc.no.481) He is the officer in charge of the government seal. The post existed even under the feudatories. It had vital importance because on the seal alone depended the validity of government documents.

17. **Sarvadhikarin**: He is an officer to whom powers are delegated by a superior to act on his behalf. The mahapradhanas and the mahamandalesvaras are often referred to as sarvadhikarins of the king.

18. **Sunkadhikari**: He is the custom officer who figures very often (App.Insc.nos.220, 351, 357, 380).

19. **Heggade**: This office-bearer also occurs in many records of Karnataka (e.g. App.Insc.nos.287, 359, 463). But the post is a general term. Sometimes Vokkal-heggades occur, a vokkala being a sub-division in a caste showing a group of families. Once the office of the Heggade of a temple is made as a gift (App.Insc.no.463). Sunka-Heggade was a toll-officer (App. Insc.no.494).

20. **Mahanjans**: They are certain influential persons in the village, having an institutional standing. They settled village disputes, and managed public matters of the village. They often are referred to in the inscriptions and also in the mahanubhava works. (GC lilas 8,173,216).

**Administrative Divisions**:

The Yadava empire extended mainly over Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Yadavas followed the local systems of Administration in the respective countries. So in Maharashtra the various Desas are known which seem to be like modern districts. Desa, Visaya,
Nada, Kampana, and Mandala are the various units but unfortunately we do not know their exact relationship with each other. In Karnataka the peculiar practice of denoting units with numerals continued even under the Yadavas. The problem of numerical appellations is unsolved in history and our records do not throw any specific light on it. Yet the numeral seems to suggest the number of villages or similar sub-units within the unit. Here we may discuss the administrative divisions as known from the inscriptions. The map would show their locations though their exact boundaries cannot be ascertained. These divisions do not cover the entire empire. They are only a known part of the unknown whole.

Administrative Divisions in Maharashtra:

1. **Amra-desa** (App.Insc.nos.116,224):
   It is the country around modern Ambe-jogai, Mominabad taluka, Bhir district. It was adjacent to Dharura desa.

2. **Bhandagara-desa** (App.Insc.no.483):
   It is modern Bhandara in Vidarbha. It is said to have been conquered by Ramachandra.

3. **Dharur-desa** (App.Insc.no.224):
   It is the country around modern Dharur in Bhir district. It was adjacent to Amra-desa.

4. **Kanhairidesa** (App.Insc.no.483):
   It roughly included modern Chalisgaon taluka, and parts Aurangabad and Bhir districts.

5. **Karahada-desa** (or 4000) (App.Insc.nos.122,126,480,481):
   The unit also occurs in the Kalyani Galukya records. It seems to include a large area comprising modern Karhad, Vite, parts of Sangli, Miraj and Athani taluka of Belgam. It fell on the border land between Maharashtra and Karnatak. Kanambade 300 (around Athani taluka) was a sub-division of this unit and Agrahara Kokatnur was in it.
6. **Kheta-desa** (App.Insc.no.483):

   It is the country around modern Khed in Ratnagiri district. The unit is found from the Early Calukya period.

7. **Kollapura-desa** (App.Insc.no.271):

   It is modern Kolhapur. It formed a desa probably after its annexation from the Silaharas in 1215 A.D.

8. **Konkana-desa** (App.Insc.no.386):

   It included Satshasthi visaya (roughly modern Salsette island), Supali (Sopara?), Gharapavali (Gharapuri) and Zadimandala (Zari in Umbargaon peta of Surat district). So Konkana-desa comprised at least parts of modern Thana district and Salsette Island.

9. **Mana-desa** (App.Insc.no.469):

   It was roughly Malshiras taluka of Sholapur district and comprised the land between the Bhima and the Mana rivers.

10. **Mirinj-Visaya** (App.Insc.no.59):

    It is modern Miraj in the Sangli district.

11. **Varadatata-desa** (App.Insc.no.483):

    It suggests the basin of Vardha river. So it must be the country around modern Vardha.

12. **Sangamadesa** (App.Insc.no.483):

    Probably, Sangamesvara taluka of Ratnagiri district formed Sangamadesa. It must be adjacent to Khetaka desa.

13. **Seunadesa** (App.Insc.no.384,403 also Hemadri):

    Seunadesa extended roughly from Nasik to Devagiri and formed the core of the Yadava kingdom. It was adjacent to Kanhairi desa. It included Sindinagara - 2500.


    It is probably Vairagarh in the Chanda district, in Vidarbha.
Administrative Divisions in Karnatak (Karnata or Kuntala):

1. Ankulage-60 (App.Insc.no.72):
   It is modern Akkalkot in Sholapur district.

2. Banavase-12000 (App.Insc.nos.62,74,84,93,131,176,325,358):
   Banavase 12000 formed an important division even under the Later Calukyas. It comprised the Shikarpur and Sorab talukas of Shimoga district. It is described as a beautiful country.

   Jiddulige Kampana (App.Insc.nos.63,70,74) formed a part of it. It was the area around Udri in the Sorab taluka.

   Nagarakhanda Kampana (App.Insc.nos.64,268,488) in the Sorab taluka formed another sub-division.

   Belagavatti (App.Insc.nos.62,68,77,119) probably Belagutti in the Honnali taluka of Shimoga district was also a part of Banavase.

   Yadanada (App.Insc.no.143) having the fort of Gutti must have formed a part of Banavase.

   Belvola-300 extended over parts of modern Dharwar, Belgaum and Raichur districts. It is found also in the Kalyani Calukya records. Gadaga, Annigeri, Kurtakoti and Nargund from Dharwar, Huli from Belgaum and Kukkanur from Raichur at least were included in it. The agrahara city of Kukkanur was in it. Lokkigundi was capital of Belvola. Bhillama V subdued it but Ballala II had taken it back which Simghana later reconquered.

   Basura-Visava (App.Insc.nos.226,344) from the Haveri taluka of Dharwar district probably formed a part of Belvola.

4. Hagaratage-300 (App.Insc.no.52):
   It is Hagaratgi in Gulburga district and probably equivalent Pagalatti visaya of Kalyani Calukya records. (Dr.Mrs.Mulay,p.99).

5. Halasinge-Nada (or 12000) (App.Insc.no.282):
   It is probably Khanapur taluka and around of Belgaum district. Kottumbagi (modern Kotbgi) is mentioned to be in Halasinge. It is found also in Kalyan Calukya records.
   It seems to include Lingsur taluka of Raichur district and Hungund taluka of Bijapur district.

   Kundi 3000 was a division of Kuntala country. It was under the Rattas who for 300 years ruled as vassals of Rastrakutas and Later Calukyas. Their capital was Saundatti in Belgaum district and later, Venugrama or Belgaum. The last Ratta ruler Laxmideva II was subdued by Simghana's general Bicana in c.1230 A.D. (BG,p.558) in 1259 Mallisetti was ruling it.

   It is the area probably near Koppal in Raichur district.

9. Morota-300 (App.Insc.no.75):
   It was probably in the Manvi taluka of Raichur district.

    It appears to have included parts of Bellary and Raichur districts. It was acquired by Pandyas from the Pallavas and then Yadavas subdued it.

    Bikkiga-70 (App.Insc.nos.301,346) formed a part of Nolambavadi. It was on the banks of Tungabhadra, in the Devangare taluka of Chitaldurg district.

11. Puligere-300 (App.Insc.no.131):
    Puligere is the country around Laxmesvara in Dharwar district. It was adjacent to Belvole and Banavase. Puligere the head-quarters, was a prosperous town.

12. Santalige-1000:
    It comprised Nagar and Tirthahalli talukas of Shimoga district and was adjacent to Banavase. It occurs in Later Calukya records.

    Sindavadi is identical with Sundavatti located in the Alur taluka of Bellary district. But it represents a large unit ruled by the Sinda family under the later Calukyas, Hoyasalas and then Yadavas. It covered parts of Bellary, Dharwar, Bijapur and Raichur districts. Erambrage or Yelburga was the capital. Simghana conquered this country and it was governed by Jogama Rahuta under Krishna.
13. (Contd.)

Kisukad-70 (App.Insc.nos.117,140,152) was a part of Sindavadi. It covered portions of Dharwar district and Yelburga taluka of Raichur district. Vasudevanayaka was governing it from Erambrage in 1230 A.D. (App.Insc.no. 117). Bhillama V conquered this unit from Calukya Somesvara IV.

Kelavadi-300 (App.Insc.no.325) formed a part of Sindavadi and was situated about 10 miles north of Kisukad.


Tardawadi included mainly the Indi, Bagewadi and Sindgi talukas of Bijapur districts. It was bounded by the Bhima in the north and the Krishna in the south. The Kfireindy country (Indi taluka) is often described as a beautiful one. Tardawadi seems to be a prosperous country. The city of Ingaleswara was an emporium of the distinguished Tardawadi. To-day Tardawadi is represented by a small village Taddevadi in the Indi taluka. It was a unit under the later Calukyas and was conquered by Bhillama V.

15. Toragale-6000 (App.Insc.nos.103,224,282,283,351):

Toragale extended roughly over Parasgad and Saundatti talukas of Belgaum district. Toragale is modern Torgal in Ramdurga, on the Malaprabha. It had a famous fort. It was conquered by Kholesvara (SMHD-I,p.70).
References

2. Ibid., p.559.
3. Deshpande, Y.K., Mahanubhaviya Marathi Vangamaya, p.15.
4. The author has taken into consideration the work by Dr. Mrs. Mulay in her thesis (chapter II, p.96 onwards) but has revised the whole tropic with the help of all the Yadava inscriptions.
5. Kuntala by 12th century come to denote the whole of the Karnata country (Yazdani, EHD, p.43).