CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1. Historical Backdrop:

The expansion of the Mughal Empire in the south right from the period of Akbar to the end of the reign of Aurangzeb is not merely military operations, victories and annexation of territories to the empire; but it was in fact the history of almost 100 years of Mughal diplomatic skill, political moves, military power and strategy and introduction of mansabdari and jagirdari system and revenue administration in the Deccan.

After the fall of the Bahmanis the five following small kingdoms came into existence in the Deccan.

(1) Kingdom of Barar:

The province of Barar was the first to break its relation with the Bahmani Kingdom. The dynasty founded by Fathullah in 1484 came to be known as the Imad Shahi dynasty because the founder held the title of the Imad-ul-Mulk. The capital of this kingdom was at Elichour.
This dynasty lasted for a period of 90 years and it was annexed by Ahmadnagar Kingdom in 1574.

(2) **Kingdom of Bidar**

Qasim Berid got himself independent of Mahmud Shah Bahmani in 1492. However, Ali Berid the third Sultan of this dynasty assumed the title of Shah. This dynasty came to an end when it was annexed by the Kingdom of Bijapur in 1609.

(3) **Kingdom of Ahmadnagar**

(4) **Kingdom of Bijapur**

(5) **Kingdom of Golconda**

In addition to the above-mentioned five kingdoms there was a small kingdom of Khandesh in the Deccan. Babur, the founder of Mughal dynasty in India extended his conquests in India from the Punjab, to the frontiers of Bengal and from the Himalayas to Cualiar. He had hardly any time to consolidate his empire as he lived for only a year after his last victory. Humayun lost
his kingdom and recovered it after a period of 16 years but his second reign lasted hardly for seven months.

In this way the first two Mughal rulers had no real opportunity to consolidate their position in the North and divert their attention to the South.

It was Akbar who converted the insecure and precarious situation of the Mughal empire into strong and consolidated position and conquered the whole of North India. Having firmly established his authority in the North, it was difficult for Akbar, a determined imperialist as he was, to resist the temptation of turning his victory march towards the South. His adventurous design led to the annexation of the Kingdoms in the Deccan. The dynastic quarrel among the Muslim states of the Deccan provided the ground for Akbar to extend his authority to the provinces of the Deccan.

In the beginning Akbar tried to bring the rulers of the Deccan states under his control through diplomatic mission. He sent emmissaries to Khandesh, Bijapur and Golconda to persuade the respective Sultans to recognise his over-lordship and to pay tribute.
Akbar received allegiance from Mian Mubarak Shah of Khondesh in 972 H/1564 and from Murtuza Nizam Shah I from Ahmadnagar in 981/1573. Akbar sent a force under the leadership of Shahabuddin Ahmad Khan in Isfandiar, 984/1577 with instruction that mild diplomatic discourse should be tried first to subdue the rulers of the Deccan and force should be used in case of resistance by them and even while doing so the security of the people of the Deccan should be taken care of.

2. Ibid., Vol., III, pp. 77-78
3. Ibid., p. 190
Akbar used this diplomatic method of deputing eminent persons for tendering their Councils to the rulers of the Deccan to submit their allegiance to the Mughal Emperor. This political strategy constituted a series of diplomatic missions which continued till 1592 and by that time the war drums were not sounded. The representatives of Akbar on such mission were preaching the gospel of the Mughal authority in the Deccan but their efforts could not produce the desired results. Having been unsuccessful in his peaceful endeavours Akbar decided to resort to military operations against the kingdoms of the Deccan and turned his arms first against Ahmadnagar. The time was favourable for Mughal invasion as there were internal disputes in Ahmadnagar and one of the factions sought the interference of Akbar.

In the year 1002/1593 Raja Man Singh was deputed in the Deccan. Prince Murad who was already in the Deccan was ordered to be ready to lead Campaign. The Mughal forces moved towards Ahmadnagar on 5th Isfandar, 1004/1595. Murad laid siege to Ahmadnagar which was gallantly defended by Chand Bibi. But it was difficult for her to resist the attack for longer period and she was compelled to

1. Ibid., p. p. 647-648
accept a treaty by which she agreed to cede Berar to Akbar in April, 1596.

Chand Bibi once saved the city of Ahmadnagar from Mughal attack and had the correct estimate of the strength and power of the Mughals. As such she wanted to avoid any clash with the Mughals in future but the dispute regarding the boundaries of Berar and court intrigues again involved her in a conflict with Akbar against her wishes. Prince Daniyal was sent with an army to besiege Ahmadnagar. Chand Bibi, realising the strength of her forces and finding herself under the clutches of intrigues entered into negotiations with the Mughals. But the conspirators murdered Chand Bibi as her policy was not liked by them and in 1600 the imperial troops captured the city and the young king Surhan Nizam Shah was sent as a state prisoner to Gujjar. The greater part of this kingdom had allegiance to Murtuza Nizam Shah II who was set up by the nobles of Ahmadnagar to succeed Surhan Shah. The portion occupied by the Mughals was enough to form a province of the empire.

--- 4. Ibid., pp. 647-48 ---
In the beginning of Deccan Campaign, Khandesh had submitted to Akbar but afterwards the new rulers withdrew their allegiance which made Akbar invade Khandesh. After taking its capital Burhanpur the Mughal forces laid siege to Asirgarh. It fell to the Mughals in 1601 after offering strong resistance for a period of one year and Khandesh ceased to exist as a State. After the capture of fort of Asirgarh the military operation of Akbar in the Deccan came to an end.

The newly conquered territories by Akbar in the Deccan were divided into three Subas and prince Daniyal was appointed as Subadar of those Subas.

Akbar himself was present in the Deccan and after the capture of the fort of Asirgarh and organisation of the administration of the Mughal Subas in the Deccan he left for Agra as his eldest son Salim was in rebellion.

Jahangir was also eager to enforce his authority in the Deccan and his campaigns in the Deccan lasted throughout his reign but without much success, Jahangir had been sending his re-inforcement to the Deccan right from
1018/1609 and had entered into negotiation with Ibrahim Adil Shah II in 1019/1610 by sending Mir Jamaluddin Husain Inju. According to Jahangir himself Mir Jamaluddin Husain Inju was sent to the Deccan at the request of Adil Shah and other rulers of the Deccan. He reached Bijapur on 22nd Shaban, 1019/1610 and was given a reception at a distance of a few miles from the city by Adil Shah himself.

Prince Daniyal died in early 1604 in the Deccan and since his death a state of war had almost continuously prevailed between the remnant of Ahmadnagar kingdom and the Mughal officers holding command on the Southern frontiers of the empire. Here the Mughals were suffering a setback because of the internal rivalry and quarrels of the Mughals generals. Other factor contributing to the failure of the Mughals was the presence of Malik Ambar, the able minister of Ahmadnagar State. In 1610 Malik Ambar retrieved Ahmadnagar. He then forced the Mughal troops to retire to Surhanpur and harass them by frequent attacks. The subsequent reinforcements sent by Jahangir were also of no use. Then Jahangir realised that the Deccan strategy could not be carried out successfully by Prince Pervez and therefore he entrusted the Deccan

1. Jahangir, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, pp. 85-89
Campaign to the Prince Khurram in 1616.

Prince Khurram handled the Deccan situation with such diplomatic tact that he succeeded in receiving allegiance from the rulers of the Deccan without drawing his sword against them. The peshkash collected by Khurram was so enormous that such a huge peshkash was never offered to any contemporary rulers.

By 11th Shauwal, 1026/2nd October, 1617 Khurram entered Mandu with peshkash offered from Adil Shah, Qutb Shah and other rulers of the Deccan. Prince Khurram was received warmly by Jahangir and favoured not only with an enhancement but also with the title of Shahjahan.

The situation was quiet in the Deccan for a short period. Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golconda kingdoms entered into an alliance and Malik Amber organised a huge army with Marabtha Cavalry. The allied forces could give a retrieve to the Mughal upto Burhanpur and Ahmadnagar and both Balaghat and Painghat were taken over by Malik Amber. Jahangir says that by the end of 1029/1620 he deputed Shah Jahan again to lead the Deccan

1. Ibid., pp. 195-196
Campaign who in the middle of the year 1030/1621
subjugated the allied Deccan forces and forced Malik
Ambar to execute a treaty according to which he had to
pay a tribute and reparations of war.

Shah Jahan was occupied for some months in reorgani-
sing the administration of the recovered territories and
on receiving the news of serious illness of his father
he left the Deccan.

In 1622 Nurjahan manipulated to get Pervez declared
as heir-apparent which led Shahjahan to turn a rebel
against Jahangir. It was by this time that the health of
Jahangir was deteriorating. Under such circumstances the
Mughal hold over the Deccan became weak at least till 1626
when Shah Jahan withdrew his rebellion, submitted his
apologies to Jahangir and was again at the helm of affairs
in the Deccan. The other important factor due to which
the Mughals could not get strong hold on the Deccan was
Malik Amber. They could not make much headway in the
Deccan as Malik Amber effectively opposed their progress
till his death in 1626.

1. Ibid., p. 337
With the accession of Shah Jahan the Mughal campaign in the Deccan got fresh momentum and new vigour. Shah Jahan in his Deccan policy was more successful than Jahangir and Akbar.

When Shah Jahan came to the throne he confirmed the services of Khan Jahan as the subadar of the Deccan and ordered him to recover the old territories. But the latter did not comply with the orders and so he was replaced by a more efficient officer Khan Zaman.

Murutuza Nizam Shah II of Ahmednagar extended warm welcome to Khan Jahan who turned to be a rebel against the Mughal empire and reached the Deccan from the North. Murutuza Nizam Shah conferred fiefs upon Khan Jahan and upon his principal followers. This reinforcements enabled Murutuza Nizam Shah to expel the Mughal officers from their posts in the Belaghat. The situation was so serious that Shah Jahan himself had to proceed to the Deccan. He arrived at Burhanpur on 1st March, 1630.

1. Abdul Hamid Lahauri, Badshah Nama, Vol., 1, p.199
After imprisonment and murder of Murtuza Nizam, Shah II Shah Jahan asked Fath Khan, son of Malik Amber, to surrender all the jewels and elephants of Nizam Shah. When Fath Khan made delay in complying with the order, Shah Jahan ordered Rustam Khan and Vazir Khan to capture Daulatabad. Fath Khan realised the alarmed situation and send his apology for his conduct.

Soon after Abdul Basul son of Fath Khan arrived at court and presented to the Emperor 30 elephants, 9 horses and jewellery worth of Rs. 8,000/-. When Fath Khan agreed in reciting Khutba and striking coins in his name Shah Jahan was satisfied and left Burhanpur.

The Mughals occupied the fort of Daulatabad under the command of Mahabat Khan on 17th June, 1633. The Mughal operations were protracted and sometimes complicated by the treachery of the officers in the Mughal army. Mahabat Khan overcame very difficult situations and got success under unfavourable circumstances. The campaign against Daulatabad and its occupation marked the second stage in the annexation of Ahmadnagar Kingdom.

1. Ibid., p.402
2. Ibid., pp.409-10
3. Ibid., p.422
4. Ibid., pp.496-531
The capture of Daulatabad, the great fort of the Nizam Shahi dynasty was an important success for the Mughals but it did not bring peace and order in the newly conquered territories. In addition to it the Nizam Shahi officers either continued to govern over a large portion of the kingdom or transferred their allegiance to Bijapur. It means that Shah Jahan's 1st Campaign in Deccan, and the capture of Daulatabad fort did not prove a real success.

So Shah Jahan left Agra on 21st September, 1635 with the intention of visiting Daulatabad and completing the subjugation of Ahmadnagar. From Handiya on the nerbada he despatched envoys to Adil Shah and Qutub Shah to warn them of disastrous consequences if they attempted to interrupt or refuse to cooperate with him in his attempts to restore peace in the country annexed by him. Abdullah Qutb Shah sent a submissive reply which was regarded as satisfactory. But Muhammad Adil Shah who had annexed some of the southern districts of the Kingdom of Ahmadnagar did not submit easily. The imperial army took the field against Shahji and Muhammad Adil Shah. The Mughal armies caused great devastation in Bijapur

1. Ibid., Vol., I, Part II, pp. 104-5
2. Ibid., p.130
State and compelled Adil Shah to sue for peace. Shortly after hearing this Shahji who lost many forts offered to enter in the imperial service. The young prince of Ahmadnagar was sent to Gwalior and Muhammad Adil Shah after accepting the position of a vassal and promising to pay tribute regularly was allowed to retain some of the Northern Districts of the former kingdom of Ahmadnagar. The rest of the Nizam Shahi dominion was declared annexed to the Mughal empire.

The deed of submission concluded by Abdullah Qutb Shah in May, 1636 rendered him absolutely submissive to the Mughals. A few salient features of the deed of submission were that (1) the name of the Iranian monarch should be replaced by the name of the Mughal Emperor in the Khatiba, (2) the gold and silver coins would be struck with dies sent by the Mughal Emperor, (3) A tribute of 2 Lakhs hons equal to Rs. 8 lakhs would be remitted to the imperial treasury from 9th regnal year of Shah Jahan and (4) Abdullah Qutb Shah would prove a sincere friend to the friends of the Mughal empire and enemies to its enemies.

1. Muhammad Salih Kamboh, Amal-i-Salih, Vol., II, pp.188-190
After restoring peace in the Deccan Shah Jahan left in July, 1636. The Mughal Deccan was divided into four provinces and the Viceroyalty of these provinces was conferred on Aurangzeb.

Soon after the beginning of the first Viceroyalty of Aurangzeb the forts of Udgir and Ause were captured and afterwards Baglane was annexed. In addition to this there were some minor operations during this period.

Aurangzeb's policy during his second Viceroyalty was to encroach upon if possible to conquer the kingdom of Bijapur and Golconda in order to enrich himself with their resources to strengthen his position to contest the war of succession.

On the excuse of imprisonment of Mir Jumla's family Aurangzeb attacked Golconda in 1656. The forces of Prince Muhammad Sultan plundered Hyderabad and Abdullah Qutb Shah field from his capital to the fort of Golconda. Aurangzeb then appeared on the scene and prepared to open the siege of Golconda but Abul Qutb Shah's agents succeeded.

in securing the support of Dara and Jahanara, who persuaded their father to issue orders to Aurangzeb to quit the kingdom of Golconda.

The turn of Bijapur came after Golconda. There was disorder in the state and so Aurangzeb got permission to invade Bijapur. Mir Jumla was sent to his aid. Bider and Kalyani were taken by the imperialists and Ali Adil Shah sued for peace. The peace was concluded on the condition of the cession of the fortresses of Bider, Kalyani and Parenda and the payment of indemnity of ten millions of rupees.

The administration of the Mughal provinces in the Deccan improved considerably during Shah Jahan's reign particularly during the second Viceroyalty of Aurangzeb. The Mughal Deccan was divided into two portions i.e. Peinghet and Belaghet with its own Diwan for the purpose of revenue administration. Murshid Duli Khan accompanied Aurangzeb when he came to Deccan for the second time as the Subadar. Murshid Duli Khan, who was the Diwan of Belaghet in the beginning became the Diwan of the entire Deccan afterwards. He was very able, honest and hard-working.
officer. The land revenue reform introduced by Murshid Quli Khan in the Deccan yielded very good results.

Aurangzeb made various improvements in other branches of administration also. He increased the number of the officials considerably and provided the budget for this purpose. He dismissed old and incompetent persons or removed them to minor posts. He selected a number of officers of proven ability and gave them important posts. He left able officers undisturbed in their old Jagirs if they were good or gave them better ones if they were unproductive.

Aurangzeb came to the throne on 21st July, 1658. As his attention was engaged in North India during the first half of his reign he left the Deccan to his Subadars. There were only a few successes but no decisive results were achieved by the Mughals in the Deccan during the first half of Aurangzeb's reign.

1. Ibid., Vol., I & II p.173
2. Saqi Mustaid Khan, Maasir-i-Alamgiri, p.4 (M.A.)
When Jeheudr Khan, the Subadar of the Deccan left for the court in early September, 1677 during the nineteenth year of Aurangzeb’s reign, the Mughal gains were the forts and districts of Paranda in November, 1660, Sholapur in July, 1668, Belburg in May 1677 and Kulbarge in July, 1677.

Aurangzeb came to the Deccan with the main intention and aim to watch and check the activities of his rebel son Akbar, Sambhoji the Maratha King and the rulers of Bijapur and Golconda.

For a period of four years after the failure of Diler Khan in 1680 nothing decisive was done by the Mughals against Bijapur as they were busy opposing Sambhoji and Akbar.

The first Mughal siege began in April, 1685. Due to discord and mutual jealousy among the Mughal Commanders the desired result could not be achieved early. So Aurangzeb himself went to Bijapur and pressed the siege vigorously.

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1. Aurangzeb, Vol. IV, p.168
Bijapur was captured on 12th September, 1686. It was made a regular Suba of the Mughal empire and Mullah Khan was appointed nazim (Viceroy) of Bijapur.

Aurangzeb was unhappy with Abul Hasan of Golconda for many reasons. A letter from Abul Hasan against Aurangzeb to his agent in the imperial camp was intercepted during Mughal siege of Bijapur. It added to the displeasure of Aurangzeb and so he sent on a strong force to seize Hyderabad in July, 1685. After the fall of Bijapur the Mughals were free to deal with the kingdom of Golconda with full force.

On 14th January, 1687 Aurangzeb started for the conquest of Golconda. Here also there were bitter personal jealousies among the Mughal officers which delayed the capture of fort of Golconda.

1. M.A., p. 172
2. Richard Burn (ed.), The Cambridge History of India, Vol. IV, p. 266
3. M.A., p. 176
The Qutb Shahi Kingdom of Golconda fell to the Mughals on 21st September, 1687. It was annexed to the Mughal empire and it turned into an additional suba of the Deccan. After the annexation of Golconda the number of subas of the Mughal Deccan increased from four to six, the fifth being Bijapur.

Soon after the conquest of Golconda the Mughal campaign was directed against Pam Nayak of Sagar, who submitted and gave up his fort on 20th November, 1687. His country then was annexed to the Mughal empire.

Shivaji's possessions of Konkan remained intact till his death in 1680. But by the end of 1689 all northern Konkan and much of South Konkan passed into the hands of the Mughals.

When Zulfiqar Khan conquered Jinji on 6th Shaban 1109H/7th February, 1698 the Poligars accepted Mughal suzerainty. Thus the territory upto Rameshwaran came under the Mughal rule by the end of 17th century.

1. Ibid., pp. 182-183
2. Ibid., p. 186
3. Aurangzeb vol., V, pp. 150-151
4. m.A., p. 238
It is true that till the death of Aurangzeb the Mughals were busy in capturing forts in different regions of the Deccan. But towards the closing years of Aurangzeb the Mughal grip was beginning to loosen and a see-saw battle with the Marathas started for establishing supremacy over the forts. A fort captured by the Mughals used to be recaptured by the Marathas from the weak Mughals garrison. The Mughals used to regroup and lay siege of the forts grabbed by the Marathas after a year or so.

2. SOURCES

The sources of this research thesis may be broadly classified in the following main categories:

1. **Primary Sources:**

   1) Persian documents preserved in the archival institutions.
   2) Unpublished rare Persian manuscripts preserved in various institutions.
   3) Published contemporary Persian books.
   4) English translation of contemporary Persian books.

   It may be noted that well-known Persian works (either Persian text or English translation) such as Akbar-nameh, Ain-i-Akberi, Tuzak-i-Jahangiri etc. have not been included in the discussion. Only important and less known books which exclusively pertain to the period under study are discussed here.

5) European sources.

6) Catalogues and calendars of Persian documents.
II - Secondary Sources:

1) Modern Works

I. Primary Sources:

1(a) Persian documents pertaining to the reign of Aurangzeb preserved in A.P. State Archives:

The Andhra Pradesh State Archives is a treasure house of valuable records of enormous volume ranging from the medieval period to this date. So far Persian records are concerned this is one of the richest repository of Persian records.

Among the various categories of records preserved in A.P. State Archives the category of the Mughal record is the oldest one. It is true that the category of records "Farman and Senads of the Deccan Sultan" contain still older documents but these are a disjoined lot of about hundred individual documents which do not form part of any series. On the other hand the number of documents in the category of Mughal records is much larger and the documents have link, with one another and they are running in chronological order. As such they form series of records.
The Mughal records mainly pertain to the reigns of Shah Jahan (1628-1658 A.D.) and Aurangzeb (1658-1707 A.D.). The number of documents pertaining to the reign of Shah Jahan is about 5,000 and quantum of documents pertaining to the reign of Aurangzeb is more than 1,50,000.

These valuable documents became a part of the treasure of this Archives in an interesting manner. In the year 1916 the then Accountant General of Hyderabad, in one of his tours of inspection discovered that a large fund of old documents was dumped in one of the halls in the fort of Arcot of Aurangzeb (Headquarters of the Mughal Deccan), in which the Subadar (a regional Commissioner's office) was housed. He took interest in their preservation and he reported the matter to the then head of the Department of Daftari-Divani. Immediately steps were taken to salvage and transfer these records to the Daftari-Divani in Hyderabad which gradually turned into A.P. State Archives.

These valuable records were in chaotic and pull pull conditions in unsorted bundles without any reference media. The Government of Andhra Pradesh keeping the
importance of these documents in view and to cater to the need of the research scholars sanctioned the scheme of compiling the catalogue of documents pertaining to Aurangzeb's reign in 1975.

The classification and arrangement in chronological order and the work of compiling the catalogues are being done simultaneously. More than 10,000 documents covering 1st to 6th regnal year of Aurangzeb's reign have been catalogued, out of which 2 catalogues pertaining to 1st to 5th Regnal years have been published and the press copy of third catalogue pertaining to the 6th regnal year is ready for publication. Nearly 3/4 work of classification and arrangement has also been completed and the remaining work is in progress.

The examination of these documents show that the paper used is hand-made and is of a strong fabric. That is the reason why the records are generally in good state of preservation withstand the ravages of time. The experts are of the opinion that the records being created now in the country under different agencies may perish after a period of 100 years whereas these archival
records have a much longer life.

Regarding the physical features of these documents, they are written in Persian language in 'Shikista' a style of writing very difficult to decipher, on Indian hand made paper of average size of 8"x4½" and the ink used black indelible Indian ink. Each document generally contains chronology in terms of Arabic months and regnal years or in terms of Islamic month and regnal years. In many cases the names and days are also indicated. Most of the documents bear impression of seals. The nature of the documents is given on the top of beginning of it as 'ferman, nishan, siha-i-huzur, 'parwana, parwancha, roznamche-i-uaqai, qabzul wasul and arz-o-chehra, etc.

Some of the historians are of the opinion that Mughal Government was a paper Government. They mean to say that every action was recorded on paper. Their statement has been substantiated by going through these documents e.g. after the verification of trooper or branding of a horse a yaddasht (Memorandum) was issued to that effect and it contained the extract of the
dastak (Orders) issued for verifying the trooper
or branding the horse with all other details very
 minutely.

These documents throw flood of light on various
aspects of the Mughal administration in the Deccan such
as administrative organisation, revenue and military
administration. The subject dealt with is broadly
classified as below:-

1) Grant enhancement, decrease, termination and
 transfer of jagirs.
2) Grant, promotion, reduction, and termination
 of mansab.
3) Reports on the hal hasil of the area held by
 the jagirdars.
4) The reports of the Mughal jagai movia from the
 kingdom of Golconda.
5) Memoranda containing imperial orders.
6) Diaries of the courts.
7) Posting and attendance of mansabdars.
8) Verification of troopers and branding of their
 horses.
9) Descriptive rolls of troopers of Mansabdar and Jagirdar.

10) Cash payment to Mansabdar and payment of salaries to other Government officials.

11) Report about the strength of Anahara present at the cheukis of various forts.

For presenting a true picture of any aspects of history nothing can be more reliable than the documentary evidence. Hence the present day historians fully recognize the extreme importance of records and documents in reconstructing the history of the past.

A good number of standard books on different aspects of Mughal history have been brought out so far. But majority of these books have been based on the contemporary history books and the archival documents have been seldom used.

It is fact that utilization of the Mughal documents preserved in the Andhra Pradesh State Archives will add in great measure to the research value particularly where the research concerns the history of the Mughal Deccan.
I (b): Inayat Jung Collection preserved in National Archives of India, New Delhi.

This Collection was purchased by the National Archives of India, New Delhi in 1961 from Inayat Jung Bahadur, the 2nd Wazir of Hyderabad in the late 18th century. There are about 1,50,000 documents pertaining to the period from 1680 to 1761. This collection may be broadly divided into 2 groups viz. (1) Mughal Imperial records 1680 to 1724 and (2) Asafjahi records from 1724 onwards. There may be nearly 15,000 documents pertaining to the period of Aurangzeb i.e., the period under study. This is the 2nd biggest collection of documents pertaining to the reign of Aurangzeb, A.P. State Archives being the first one.

Reports, fiscal papers and various types of Memoranda were sent regularly by the provincial Diwans and Bakshis of the six provinces to the Diwan or the Bakshi of the Deccan. The collection in National Archives consists of the copies of these documents which were kept in the Imperial Chancellory at Aurangabad.
The brittle documents of this collection have been treated with Chiffon, placed in a docket containing the summary of their contents along with its accession number.

The documents are in Persian language. The script is 'Shikiets', very difficult to read and decipher. Some documents have marginal endorsement in Modi language. Mostly these documents bear the official seal and the dates and years have been expressed in Hijra month and the regnal year. The papers used is handmade and the script of the document has been written in black indelible Indian ink. The form of each type of documents was standardized (proforms) and it was being adhered to rigidly. It is true that these documents by themselves are very difficult to decipher, but the standardisation helps us to make out the content and purpose of each of the documents.

In this collection most of the papers are those which were originated in the office of the Diwan of a province or in the office of the provincial Sakhshi. As such they are fiscal papers or they deal with payment of salaries etc. But these documents throw enough
light on the revenue administration in the Deccan during the period under study. The revenue papers include: (i) order to provincial Divans to furnish revenue account of the area under their jurisdiction for royal perusal (ii) revenue account of the parasanas and sarkars of the Subhas of the Deccan, (iii) List of Zamindars, (iv) parasanas granting rusum and inam to Zamindars of the Deccan, (v) taahud-namas of the intermediate Zamindars accepting to deposit pashkash, (vi) petition of Zamindars for relaxing the terms of realising of pashkash, (vii) inam to Zamindars who have supported the imperial cause, (viii) Orders for confiscating lands on which Zamindars had taken possession without making payment of pashkash (ix) Order to Government official to avoid delay in depositing the revenue in the treasury, (x) Order to deposit the entire revenue illegally realised from the Khelisa land (xi) Orders to follow the pattern of Hindustan in maintaining the revenue records of the Deccan.

2) Unpublished rare Persian Manuscripts preserved in various institutions:

Rare Persian contemporary manuscripts have been
utilised for the preparation of this monograph.
Some of the important manuscripts are discussed below:

(e) Deh-ba-shi:
Persian manuscript of Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad No. 373.

The administrative division of the six subas of
the Deccan with their revenue account for the period
of Aurangzeb is available in this manuscript preserved
in A.P. State Archives. It appears that it was completed
soon after the period of Aurangzeb. This manuscript
is yet unpublished and it runs into 476 pages.

The entire book is devoted to the statistical
details of the provinces of the Deccan. In the beginning
the abstracts of the revenue of six subas of the Deccan
have been furnished. It also furnishes the number of
the mahals in each districts and the no. of district in
each suba with total revenue figure of the suba. It
further supplies information about the revenue of the
certain number of mahals, the accounts of which have
already been received and the revenue of the
remaining mahals, the accounts of which have
not been received. On this basis a statement has been prepared and placed under Appendix of the revenue administration.

(b) Sauanih-i-Deccan:

Persian manuscript of Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad No. 22.

This work was compiled by Mumim Khan in 1197H./1782. It describes the administrative divisions and revenue of the Mughal Deccan which is based on the records prepared during the last years of Aurangzeb's regime. It seems that all official records were made accessible to him for the compilation of this manuscript. He has divided the book into two parts. The first part deals with the history & topography of the Deccan and he has allotted more than half the number of pages to the statistical details of the six provinces of the Deccan. He has taken up each province separately under that particular province he has furnished the list of sarkars (districts) mahalls (parganah) and villages along with their revenue.

The material furnished in Sauanih-i-Deccan is more
comprehensive than 'Dinba-Dahi'. As such it has been utilised in the chapter of the monograph "Administrative division of the Mughal Deccan." At several places the information supplied in Sauanah-i-Deccan has been collected from the material of Dinba-Dahi.

(c) Shah Jahan Memah:

This is a complete history of Shah Jahan's reign compiled by Muhammad Sadiq Khan. He was a Nangai Nauja under Shah Jahan. He claims to have written from personal knowledge. Some historians are of the opinion that he has concealed himself under fictitious name and the details of his life he wrote are not real. Khafi Khan has taken pages together from this book without giving any acknowledgement or without disclosing the source.

This book is very important and valuable contemporary source relating to the period of Shah Jahan. The land revenue reforms introduced by Murshid Quli Khan in the Deccan just before the period under study have been described in this book in detail and this material is
essential for our study of the revenue administration of the period. Khafi Khan has supplied the same information in his books on the above issue with slight variations here and there.

(d) **Kalimat-i-Iyyibat:**

Persian manuscript of Salarjung Museum A. N. 232. It is a collection of letters and notes written by Aurangzeb. These letters and notes were collected and edited by one of his secretaries, Inayatullah Khan Kashmiri in 1719.

(e) **Akham-i-Alamiri:**

Persian manuscript of Andhra Pradesh State Archives No. 421. Mir Husaini, an officer of Golconda having joined the Mughals received the title of Ali Marad Khan.

The above manuscript is a collection of official letters addressed to Ali Marad Khan when he was feujdar of Hyderabad Karnatik and later Subadar (Governor) of Berar. These letters furnish important material for the study of political and administrative history of these regions.
(f) Adab-i-Alemairi:

Persian manuscript of Saler Jung Museum Hyderabad No. 2. It is a collection of letters and documents pertaining to the period of Aurangzeb. The letters of Aurangzeb were written by Abul Fath Qabil Khan, Munshi-ul-Musalik (Chief Secretary) for his master. This work was edited during Aurangzeb's life i.e. in 1115/1703 by Muhammad Sadiq of Ambala.

3. Published contemporary Persian literature:

(a) Alemair Hamah:

The tradition of preparing official history was established by Akbar in the Mughal dynasty like so many other things he innovated. Abul Fazl wrote Akbarnameh under the Command of Akbar. Since, Jahangir himself wrote 'Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri', no official history had to be written for that period. Bedshahnameh was written to record the events pertaining to the reign of Shahjahan.

In the same manner the work of compiling official history was taken up during the period of Aurangzeb. The history of the 1st ten regnal years of Aurangzeb.
was written by Muhammad Kazim under the orders of
Aurangzeb with the title 'Alamgir Namah'. When
Muhammad Kazim completed the history of 1st ten
years of the period, Aurangzeb ordered him to
discontinue it at this stage. The reason for stopping
this work was that when Aurangzeb was curtailing the
State expenditure he ordered to close down, the
department of preparing official history as it involved
heavy expenditure. Afterwards this work was never
taken up again during his reign.

Some Persian author known for his polished prose
style was selected by the Emperor to work and write
official history. He had access to the official records
of the period. The portion of the book written by the
author was read to the Emperor who himself made some
corrections. After one or two trial hearing the Emperor
delegated the work of revision to the Vazir. It means
the official history was revised and approved by the
Emperor or Vazir before it was brought out. The official
histories contain some serious defects. The Emperor was
flattered by the author and the credit often given to the
Emperor was not deserving. The major defect of these histories is they are absolutely silent about the economic and social aspects of the time known as 'Living conditions of the people'.

_Alemgiri Watan_ is a very comprehensive and detailed history of the first decade of Aurangzeb. It comprises of 1107 pages. The details and dates of the incidents given or mentioned are very valuable for the study of the first ten regnal years of Aurangzeb.

(b) _Miftat-i-Ahmadi_

_Miftat-i-Ahmadi_ is the most important authority for the history of Gujarat as a province of the Mughal empire. The author of this book is Ali Muhammad Khan whose father was a civil officer attached to Aurangzeb's Deccan army. After the death of Aurangzeb he went to Ahmedabad in 1708 along with his son. The author of this book was appointed _Divan_ of the Gujarat in 1159/1746 and continued to be _Divan_ till the Mughal rule was put an end to in Gujarat in 1755. When he assumed office the provincial administration was in state of disorganisation. Due to
constant civil war and of Marathas attacks there was great anarchy throughout the province. It was difficult for him to collect and preserve the necessary records. However, he was not disappointed with the situation and with the available material he started writing the history of Gujarat dating from 1,000 to 1760. The pre-Mughal period is very brief but from the period of Akbar onwards this book occupies an unique place among the Persian histories in India as Ali Muhammad Khan has included in it the full text of official documents in a large number, such as farman, parwancha and Mashur-ul-Amal. We find very valuable information and material of social and administrative history of Aurangzeb in this book. Jadunath Sarkar is of the opinion that the Miret-i-Ahmadi is the only work of class after Abul Fazl's Ain-i-Akbari as a source of accurate information and of diverse kind relating to the Mughal empire.

(c) Hisar Nama-i-Munshi:

This book was compiled in 1095/1683 by Malikzada with the help of his son Meghraj. It is a collection of private letters, official correspondence and appointment
orders. This book is very useful for the study of revenue administration during the period of Aurangzeb. It contains the ferman of Aurangzeb issued to Rasikdas. This ferman is very important so far as the revenue regulations are concerned. In addition to it this book contains other valuable material which throws light on the working of the land revenue administration of the Mughals.

4. English translations of contemporary Persian books:

(a) Maasir-i-Alamgiri:

After the death of Aurangzeb Inayatullah Khan Kashmiri, one of his secretaries asked Saqi Mустаid Khan to write the history of the deceased Emperor as official history of the first decade only was available. For the compilation of the book or history, the official records were made accessible to him and he took extract of the necessary material to be used in his book. Saqi Mustaid Khan completed his book in 1710 and gave the title as Maasir-i-Alamgiri to this book.

The Maasir-i-Alamgiri is very abridged where
compared to Almsgir-Nama. The source of the first ten years of Mustaid Khan's work is Almsgir-Nama and for the remaining periods he referred and consulted the official records made available to him.

It is true that their book is brief when compared to other official histories yet it is the only book which exclusively covers the complete reign of Aurangzeb compiled in the basis of official records. Khwaja's book is mainly confined to the Deccan. He has avoided the traditional style of Persian prose writing. As a result the information in their book looks like a dry list of official postings, promotions etc. But it becomes interesting and readable when we find the personal observation, and reflections of the author on events. There is no doubt that it contains very important valuable information and exact dates of the important events for the entire period.

(b) Tarikh-i-Dilkahe:

Shem's Tarikh-i-Dilkahe is one of the most important contemporary sources of Aurangzeb's period. So far as this study is concerned this work not only
certain to the period under study but also to the area and the region, as it narrates the Mughal campaigns for the entire period in the Deccan.

Bhem Sen belonged to Uttar Pradesh and he held minor but important office either in Mughal Government or in the service of nobles posted in the Deccan. He was in the Deccan throughout his services. After his retirement at Datia and Gwalior he wrote his memoir in Persian and gave the title of Tarikh-i-Dilkahe to his book.

This book has two great merits. It is free from the defects of the official histories and it contains the narration of the social and economic conditions of the country in Deccan. The Deccan became the centre of attraction when Aurangzeb arrived in the Deccan in 1681. During the period of last 25 years of Aurangzeb, Bhem Sen was in the service of the Mughals. He was present in the Mughal camp for most of the time and he had access to high officials. So it was possible for him to record all the details what he saw and heard during this period. He has not given the details of the sieges of the forts and other important events.
but he has also drawn the sketches of the characters of Aurangzeb, Prince Muazzam, Shivaji, Sambhaji, Mirza Faja Jai Singh, Diler Khan, Tare Bai etc. He also described the various places that he had visited. Shkim Sen is very accurate in his observation and very correct in narration of events. Unlike the prose of other official histories his prose is simple and lucid and he has avoided indirect expressions. The material supplied by Shkim Sen is very valuable and useful for study of economic conditions of the Mughal Deccan during the later part of Aurangzeb.

Tarikh-i-Dilkasha is divided into two parts. The first part of the book furnishes the details of Mughal operation in the Deccan upto 1687 while the second part contains the story of Mughal Maratha struggle till the death of Aurangzeb i.e. 1707.

(c) Muntakhab-ul-lubab:

It is one of the standard histories of the Mughal period. It covers the period from Babur to end of Muhammad Shah i.e. from 1526-1748. The author of this book is Muhammad Hashim Khafi Khan. He was contemporary
to Aurangzeb like other few historians such as Muhammad Kazim, Saqi Mustaid Khan, Dhimân and others. Though he has compiled the history of the Mughal empire of more than 200 years but as he was contemporary to Aurangzeb, the history pertaining to the period of Aurangzeb is comparatively comprehensive and authentic. We also find in it many authentic important events which the contemporary historians have not furnished. As Khafi Khan was the resident of Hyderabad he has specifically furnished detailed and accurate information about this province.

As Khafi Khan was a contemporary to Aurangzeb, it is generally believed that he wrote this book during Aurangzeb's life time. Even Professor Dowson also asserts that Khafi Khan compiled the account of the reign of Aurangzeb during his life time itself and kept it suppressed. But there are strong internal evidences in the book itself which prove that it was compiled after the death of Aurangzeb contrary to the general belief.

(d) Nasair-ul-Usara:

It is a remarkable and well known biographical
dictionary of the Mughal nobles. It was compiled by Shah Nawaz Khan, Aurangabad in 1742-1747. This work was completed by his son Abdul Haq. This work is not only voluminous but very valuable, informative and unique. It is regarded as very useful work of reference to the Mughal History. The details of career and achievements of important Mughal nobles are available in this book. When the authors wrote about the careers of the important nobles in detail they naturally furnished information about rebellions, conditions of particular areas, administrative set up and administrative changes in different region of the country. In this way it is an important and valuable source for the political and administrative history of the Mughal Empire.

In addition to the above mentioned works the foreign traveller accounts and the catalogues and calendars of Persian documents have been consulted under primary sources. Standard modern books also have been made use of under secondary sources for the preparation of this research monograph.

A detailed bibliography covering the entire sources on which this thesis is based is appended at the end.