Introduction

Civil and military administrations play an important role in deciding the fate of its country and people. Dynamics of secular and welfare system is closely linked with good governance. It should be appreciated and remembered that credit of establishing ‘secular state’ in India goes to Akbar alone.

Dynamics of central administration of Akbar and Mughal military system has multiferous importance in annals of history. It is the organization and direction of human and material resources to achieve desired ends. Administration as E.N. Gladden says is ‘a long and slightly pompous word’, but it has a humble meaning. The word administrator derived from the Latin word ad+ministration, means to care for or to look after people to manage affairs”¹

In wider perspective administration is a process permitting all collective effort, be it public or private, civil or military, large scale or otherwise and is thus of universal nature. It is a comparative effort directed toward the realization of a concisely laid down objective. Administration being characteristic of all enterprises in pursuit of conscious purposes is not a peculiarity or speciality of a modern age alone. Indeed its glimmerings could well be perceived quite early in growth of civilization. Building the pyramid was an astonishing administrative feat. So was the running of the Roman Empire.²

History abounds in examles of tyrants who regarded themselves as superior to all and felt that their life and character unique. It is a feeling of self glorification. He following passage from annals of assurbanipal (885-860 BC) vividly illustrates this attitudes of self glorification.

“I am the king. I am the lord. I am the sublime. I am the great, the strong, I am the famous, I am the prince, the noble he war lord. I am a lion. I am God’s own
appointment. I am the Unconquerable weapons, which lays the land of enemies in ruin. I captured them alive and stuck them on poles; I gloured the mountain like wool with their blood. From many of them I tore off the skin and covered the walls with it. I built a pillar of still living bodies and another pillar of heads. But in the middle I hung their heads on vives, I prepared a colloral picture of my royal personage and inscribed my might and sublimity on it. . . . . my face radiates on the ruins. I the service of my fury I find my satisfaction.  

Invested with the divine trust, the emperor was not a man as other men. But in the last resort the emperor was not God, he was only his instrument.  

During Akbar the Great regime the mughal empire was one of the largest centralization status known in pre modern world history. The political and administrative development during the muslim rule in sub continent of India and Pakistan was undistributed and the continuous.  

The mughal empire emerges from the Indian historical experience. Undoubtedly it was the end product of millennium of muslim conquest colonization and state building in the Indian Sub continent.  
The mughal emperor’s unified practically the whole of north India and much of the deccan and built up an empire such as had not been seen the days of Gupta.  

The mughal rule is distinguished by the establishment of a stable government and other social and cultural activities. He art of life flourished. During the mughal age (1526-1803) the Hindus formed the vast majority of country’s population and included the jain’s the Buddhist and the Sikhs.
It was an age of profound change seemingly not very apparent on the surface but it definitely shaped and moulded the socio-economic life of the country. The period was specially famous for its wealth and splendour as no other Islamic state in the world could boast of. Akbar was a man of untiring industry and personally supervised every branch of administration.  

Mughal period defer from Sultanate period in one important respect. During these one hundred and fifty one years it was one dynasty that ruled in the realm. It is true that Death of monarch was often a signal for civil war but the contestants were scions of the same family and they fought for themselves. They were not puppets in the hands of ambitious nobles.

The mughal government was called a Kaghzi Raj or paper government, as a large number of books had to be maintained. The emperor was the fountain head of all honours, sources of all administrative power and the dispenser of supreme justice, implying that the mughal emperors did not regard the Khalifa as their normal overlord. But they were not despots as they kept the interest of the people uppermost in their mind.

The mughal nobility was a heterogenous body, composed of diverse elements like Turks, Tartars, Persians and Indians and therefore it could not organize itself as a powerful baronial class. It was further not hereditary but purely official in character.

Several factors contributed to the success of mughals. The good governance that the mughal gave their empire was not small a factor in minimizing the affection of the people. As the entire administration was centered in the monarch who looked into every detail himself, in person came to embody the hopes of peaceful existence; justice and prosperity.
The mughal empire was de jure as well as de facto an independent state. Though the mughal kings enjoyed absolute powers, they were not pure despots. They always kept the interest of the people in mind and did not resort to unnecessary repression.

The first two mughal kings Babar and Humayun were so much emgrossed in their political struggle that they could hardly get any time to effect improvement in the administration.

It was the genius of Akbar the great who laid the foundation of the mughal system of administration which continued under his successors without much modification. According to Edvard and Garret “the reasons which helped Akbar to established administrative machinery which differed widely from Sultan of Delhi were two fold. First the example of Shershah who in his own territory in Bihar and during his stormy reign of five years at Delhi Display a remarkable aptitude for civil government and secondly by the fact that at the commencement of the sixteenth century the muslim population of India had sufficiently increased by the triple method of immigration, conversion and birth, to admit of the employment in the civil offices of the state of far larger numbers than had been possible during the earlier days of the sultanate”.

At this crucial juncture it is pertinent to mention here that the central administrative system of Akbar had met with severe criticism at the hand of certain scholars. It is alleged that the mughals Administration was essential foreign in character and gave preference to the Persians. However, it is difficult to accept this allegation.

Keeping in mind the concept of secular and welfare state Akbar abolished jazia and pilgrimage tax and forcibly conversion of prisoners of war. He built an Ibadatkhana
at Fatehpur Sikri to discuss religious matters. He invited many distinguished person at the Ibadatkhana. To curb the dominance of Ulema Akbar introduced a new Khutba, written by Faizi and proclaimed mahzarnama in 1579 which make him the final interpreter of Islamic law (Mugtahid Imam-i-Adil) in case of any controversies. It made him Amir-ul-momin (leader of the faithful) and Amir-i-Adil (a just ruler). His religious liberalism is reflected again in Din-i-Ilahi, Which propounded Sufi divine monotheism.

The centre of the whole structure of government was sovereign. Before the Soverign all important matter’s relating to appointments, increments, jagirs, Mansabar, government grants, order of payments, petition of princes, governor Bakhshis, diwans, Faujdars and private petitions sent through nobles were submitted even when the sovereign was on the move, the daily routine was observed.

Akbar was wise to leave wide and full power’s to his wazirs. Wazir was the most important functionary. The unrestricted use of powers of wazir by Bairam Khan was a warning against the appointment of an all powerful wazir. The office of the vakil was retained but none of the vakila after Bairam Khan exercised the powers and influence of a Prime Minister. The administrative agency in the provinces under the mughal was an exact miniature of that of the central government. The provincial administration was based on the principles of “Uniformity” and “check and balance”. Right and duties of provincial officials were distributed in a way which prevented the misuse of offices and promoted independence among various officials. The governor of the province, the subedar was the most important person in the province. He looked after the administration with the help of other officers. He diwan kept the records of the revenue from the land. The bakshi sent regular news reports to the capital and attended to the needs of the army in suba.
The relevance of mughal administration is still in existence even today. The name of kotwal is still familiar in the town and villages of northern India. This was the kotwal who was the officer in charge of town administration. Police stations in some northern states are still called Kotwali. The kotwal was responsible for investigating criminals. He also inspected the weight and measures used by the merchants so that no one could be cheated by them. Another job the kotwal did was to keep a register of all the persons living in the neighbourhood including visiting foreigners.

The mughal judicial system was based on the principle of the Arab jurisprudence. Defending upon their nature, the cases were heard at different levels. The qazi-ul-quzat, the chief judicial officer, was assisted by mufti, who would be a scholar of the Arab jurisprudence. In the mughal period, judicial cases were classified into the following four categories:

(i) religious cases
(ii) diwani cases
(iii) fauzdari
(iv) goods related cases

Religious cases were dealt with by the office of the qazi and were related with the interpretation of Shariat. Diwani cases were also heard by the qazi. Criminal cases were dealt with by the subedar, fauzdar and shiqdar. These officials had their own courts. Cases related to goods were heard in the courts of amil. It is clear that the the qazi heard only diwani and religious cases.

The majority of people in medieval India lived in villages and dependend directly or indirectly on agriculture. The fame of a ruler and the popularity of his
government depended on the success of his land revenue policy. The mughal land revenue policy owed its success to Akbar who made several experiments in this field, before introducing the Dahsala system with the help of Raja Todar Mal. Sher Shah Suri, however, was the forerunner of Akbar in establishing a sound revenue administration.

Undoubtedly Babar and Humayun showed preference to the person officials but under Akbar posts were distributed among the muslims as well as the Hindus on the basis of merit. More significant was Akbar’s recruitment of Hindu Rajput Leader’s into the mughal nonility. Akbar’s long reign (1556-1605) had been punctuated by a succession of brilliant and rewarding conquests.9

It has been often said that the scale of natural phenomenon in India, and her total dependence on the monsoon, have helped to form the character of her people.10 Certainly climatic condition of India has been the moral booster impact since the dawn of civilization.11

Akbar was born and bought up in India and never behaved like a foreigner. He openly preached the policy of Sulah-kul and accorded similar treatment to all his subjects. Similarly Shahjahan treated his subject like his children. It is true that under Aurangzeb the non muslims were subjected to discriminatory treatment but most of the muslims who were elevated to high positions were Indian Converts to Islam. Hence keeping every controversy apart, it is admitted fact that mughal administration under Akbar the great on the whole cannot be considered foreign in character.
The military preparedness during the mughal empire was of tremendous importance. Although the emperor maintained his own household troops. The mughal state was an insatiable Leviathan. It was the improved methods of siege operation that Akbar was able to capture the most notable forts of northern and southern India which were till then considered impregnable.

Akbar embarked afresh on his policy of expension. In 1586, he annexed Kashmir; southern Sindh was taken in 1590; Man Singh conquered Orissa in 1592; Baluchistan with Makran coast was taken in 1594; and Kandahar was given up by its Persian governor a year later.

With regard to the states in the Deccan, Akbar had been trying since 1590 by diplomatic means to persuade them to accept his suzerainty and pay tribute to him. Excepting the state of Khandesh which agreed to his proposal, his envoys were politely rebuffed everywhere. Military operations started in 1593 and the city of Ahmadnagar was raided but valiantly defended by Chand Bibi, who was compelled to accept a treaty in 1596 by which the provenance of Berar was acceded to the Mughals. War broke out again, soon to be terminated in 1600 after the death of Chand Bibi and the fall of Ahmadnagar city. In the meantime the ruler of Khandesh had second thoughts over his acceptance of the suzerainty of Akbar and resolved not to follow it. Preparing for a fight with Akbar he relied on the strength of his fortress of Asisgarh which was defended by gunners who had deserted the Portuguese. Beside, it was one of the strongest forts of the world at that time and was so amply provided with guns, provisions, water and munitions that its defenders might reasonably hope that they would hold out for years.
Now there was a development which made it possible for Akbar to take charge of the campaign personally which was till then conducted by his sons. Although Akbar had thought of extending empire to Central Asia, he did not do so because of the formidable Uzbeg power. In fact, apprehensive of an attack by the able ruler of transoxiana, Abdullah Khan uzbek, he never went away from Punjab for long. He death of Abdullah Uzbeg early in 1598 freed him from that worry, and he sets out for the Deccan from Lahore late in 1598. About the middle of 1599 Akbar crossed the Narmada and occupied Burhanpur, the capital of Khandesh.

The fort of Asisgarh, however, remained out of his reach, his artillery could do nothing to its walls. Resorting to treachery, he invited the king, Bahadur Shah, to his camp for talks swearing by his own head the safe return of the king. He detained Bahadur Shah shamelessly violating the oath expecting that the leaderless garrison would surrender. But Bahadur Shah, Akbar’s son, had advised his African commander to ignore all orders for surrender. Meanwhile, prince Salim, Akbar’s son, had rebelled in Delhi and it was necessary for Akbar to go there. Yet he siege dragged on. Unable to wait any longer, Akbar restored to bribery and paid the Khandesh officials large amounts. The gates of Asisgarh were opened on January 17, 1601 which ended the last conquest of Akbar.18

Apart from extensive conquests already Akbar greatness rists on the organization of the administration on a sound and stable basis, the brilliance of his court, the enunciation of a sound policy toward the Hindu and above all his remarkable personality.19 The mughal empire, whether bearing the character of ‘a patrimonial
bureaucracy as per the administrative hierarchy, or of ‘a centralized autocracy’ as per the ranking system, was essentially a coercive military machine.\textsuperscript{20} We can not forget the world class strategist walter lippman’s statement that a nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interest to avoid war and if challenged to maintain them by war.\textsuperscript{21} Mughal military organization played a key role in defence mechanism of the state. Cavalry and artillery had increasing importance in the army of mughals.\textsuperscript{22} Manasandari system introduced by Akbar in 1573-74 was the steel frame of emperor’s military policy.\textsuperscript{23} All official civil and military (the role were interchangeable) were called Mansabdar’s as in Persia the word meaning office holder.\textsuperscript{24}

The mughals had a progressive outlook. They were always willing to listen to new ideas and to try them out. They were on the look out for improving their arms. In the beginning they welcomed ottoman engineers to improve their artillery. When they discovered that the Europeans had begun to manufacture better fire arms they began to employ them. There was a gradual improvement of mughal artillery as a result of this policy. Akbar sent a special convoy to the Portuguese to find out what new articles were available in their possessions.

The mughal armies moved slowly; some times when they were obliged to make forced marches, they moved a little more quickly. Akbar once covered four hundred and fifty miles at the head of three thousand horsemen in eleven days and at the end of the journey fought two decisive battles in one day. This was exceptional.\textsuperscript{25}

Stanley Lane poole describes Akbar the noblest king that ever ruled India, a true founder and organizer of the empire.\textsuperscript{26} Prof. Edwards and Garrett says Akbar has
proved his worth in different fields of action. He was an Intrepid soldier, a great general, a wise administrator, a benevolent ruler and judge of character. He was a born leader of men and can rightly claim to be one of the mightiest sovereigns known to history……During a reign of newly fifty years he built up a powerful empire which could vie with strongest and established a dynasty whose hold over India was not contested by any rival for about a country. His reign witnessed the final transformation of the mughals from mere military invaders into a permanent Indian Dynasty.\textsuperscript{27}

The object of the present work is to give multidimensional highlights on central administration of Akbar and mughal military system. The process and techniques that I have applied is purely historical and critical. The writer on history which have given much weight to the writing of European travelers have often been led into errors. In spite of such difficulties survey of literatures related to mughal period with careful objectivity have been adopted in the light of available sources, which would in my thinking and confidence add a new dimension in the study of civil military dynamics of administration during the period of Akbar the great.

References

1. EN Gladden : An Introduction to Public Administration. p.18
5. AL Basham : The Wonder that was India.p.480
6. AL Srivastava : Medieval Indian Culture.p.21
7. RC Majumdar, P.N. Chopra : Main Currents OF Indian History.p.163
8. RP Tripathi : Some Aspects of Muslim Administration.p. 206
10. A.L. Basham : The Wonder that Was India.p.3.
17. Ibid.p.80.
18. Ibid.p.81
19. R.C. Majumdar, P.N. Chopra : Main Current of Indian History.p.159
26. Stanley Lane Poole : Medieval India.p.228.