



## Alamgir Aurangzeb: A Study Of The Administrative And Military System Of Mughal Emperor

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### Abstract :-

In this research paper, the administration of Mughal Empire in Delhi by Alamgir Aurangzeb and its military system is studied. The purpose of this research paper is to provide scholars with information about the vast Mughal Empire created by Alamgir Aurangzeb, its administration and its military system. Aurangzeb as the emperor of the Mughal Empire in Delhi ascended the throne in 1658 AD. During his almost 50-year tenure from 1658 to 1707 AD, it is evident that his administration and military system were excellent. Because he seems to have brought almost the whole of India under his rule during this fifty year reign. By 1690 AD, Aurangzeb's Mughal Empire had under his control a vast territory from Kabul to Chittagong and from Kashmir to Kaveri. Aurangzeb's army numbered around One Lakh. In battle, when prowess and weapons were lacking, he used the policy of 'Sam-Dam-Dand-Bhed'. Aurangzeb himself was appointing administrative and military officers. He also used to transfer them. But his scepticism towards the end of his reign shows that his administrative and military systems are disorganized and weak.

**Keywords :-** Legacy, visionary, industrialist, market leader, military organizer, religion, kingdom, succession, emperor, imperial, administration, monstrosity, empire, visionary, dynasty.

### Introduction :-

Mughal Emperor Shahjahan and Mumtaz Mahal had a total of seven children. Mohiuddin Mohammad Aurangzeb, who sat on the Mughal imperial post of Delhi as the first Alamgir, was his sixth son. Aurangzeb was victorious in the war of succession. He became the sixth Mughal Emperor of the vast Mughal Empire and assumed the title 'Alamgir'. The word Alamgir means '**Lord of the World**'. The word 'Alamgir' was inscribed in Persian on the sword which Shahjahan gifted to Aurangzeb. From childhood, Aurangzeb was very intelligent, sharp minded and shrewd. Emperor Shahjahan arranged his education with a good teacher. He received religious and military education at an early age. It is seen that he successfully completed the military achievements achieved during the reign of Emperor Shahjahan. Hence, he became famous as an excellent soldier, successful administrator and military organiser.

### Objectives of Research Paper :-

A comparative study of Aurangzeb by informing the readers about his administrative and military prowess.

### Research Methods :-

Research methodology has to be followed to ensure quality of research and objectivity of research. Historical research method was used in this research paper.

### Tools of fact gathering:-

Various books, reference books (primary and secondary reference books), periodicals etc. were consulted while writing the said research paper. Instruments are used as fact gathering tools. Secondary instruments have also been used in this research paper.

### Administrative and Military Qualifications of Aurangzeb :-

Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was an experienced administrator and general. He never waited for his enemies to be alert or ready. He performed many military feats during his tenure and was successful in them. But he came from the north to the south to conquer the Shia Muslim kingdom in the southern region and the Maratha Swaraj of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. But he could not return alive from the south. In the south Aurangzeb's military system and his administration can be seen to have declined. As the saying goes, 'In war and love everything is forgivable', the cruelty, deceit, treachery, monstrosity done by Emperor Aurangzeb for the expansion of the empire were all forgivable. Even so, it is seen that this attitude in his administration led to the destruction of the Mughal Empire. Aurangzeb had many good qualities, but he does not appear to have been a successful administrator. He was a great soldier, but he was not a visionary ruler as well as a solid politician. In

short it can be said that he did not have the political genius that we see in Emperor Akbar.

Although Aurangzeb had many such vices, the famous historian Khafi Khan evaluates him as follows, "Not among all the emperors of the Timur dynasty, but in all the empire of Delhi, no one has been more famous for severity and justice than Sikandar Lodi." It is clear from this that even though Aurangzeb was cruel and treacherous, he was a just ruler.

Aurangzeb was a devout Muslim ruler. He was a complete follower of the injunctions in the Quran Sharif. Once during a war in Central Asia, he got down from his horse and laid a mat on the blood-stained ground to the sound of swords and horses. Therefore, the army of the enemy side feared him and considered him as the devil incarnate. Here it is seen that only a mighty warrior can do this adventure.

Aurangzeb appears to be an enterprising, practical Mughal emperor. He was constantly busy with work. He did not like to relax at all. So, he once said to his son Shahzada Muazzam, "An emperor should never like comfort and he should never dislike work. Because this is the reason for the downfall of the vice empire and the decline of imperial power. Always work as much as possible. It is not proper for the emperor and for the water that they should stay in one place. By doing this, the water rots and the royal power slips away." From this it is clear that if we indulge in even the slightest laxity or indolence in our administration, it can backfire and be fatal to our empire.

Aurangzeb was a very sceptical emperor. So he really didn't trust anyone and he couldn't win anyone's trust. So he was never relaxed and lazy. Even at the age of 90, he was running the army himself. Aurangzeb During his tenure as Subhedar of the South between 1652-1658 AD., he made his army's old and unfit soldiers undergo marksmanship tests and dismissed those who could not hit a single accurate shot. Old age and disabled soldiers were given pension considering their previous service. Thus, he had increased the efficiency of the army by saving 50 thousand rupees per annum. Even after becoming emperor of the Mughal Empire, his army was equally efficient and powerful. Emperor Aurangzeb frequently transferred the officers of the army to prevent them from increasing their weight unnecessarily by staying in one place. But during the last 25 years of rule in the south, the Mughal army had become inefficient and sluggish. While Aurangzeb was in the south, his army increased in number. But they were so unruly that they lacked discipline. Bazarbungis were the most numerous in their army. Aurangzeb used to induct such people into his army if the generals or soldiers of the enemy side left his side. Hence their army, which was large in size and extent, was inferior in quality. As he

could not even regularly pay wages to the huge army that grew in numbers, his army was extremely ineffective and inactive. Aurangzeb's Maratha chieftains were not loyal. Many times they used to leave the Mughals. Their existence was seen not as a symbol of the growth of the Mughal Empire, but as a symbol of its decline. Also, military officers who were well intelligent, brave and had great work force were viewed with scepticism and gradually became demotivated and inactive. It is because of this that Aurangzeb's tenure marks the beginning of the decline of the Mughal Empire.

Historian Jadunath Sarkar writes, It seems that Aurangzeb gained everything, but in reality he lost everything and this is where his end began. Napoleon first says, "The Spanish Ulcer destroyed me just as the Southern Ulcer destroyed Aurangzeb". From this it is clear that it was really the war with the Marathas in the south that saw the destruction of the Mughal Empire.

#### **Conclusion :-**

Aurangzeb's administration and his military prowess can be seen to have been disrupted and weakened by his scepticism. Although his army was larger than that of his father Shahjahan, Aurangzeb's army was found to be undisciplined and weak. He ruled the Mughal Empire in India for nearly 50 years, despite many flaws in his administration and military system. Such an adventurous, brave and mighty Mughal Emperor died on 20th February, Happened in 1707 AD at Ahmadnagar.

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