

Administration under Begums with special reference to Princely State of Bhopal

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Introduction

The history of Bhopal is the history of the rule of women. There were no four female rulers anywhere in the world. They are so progressive and so secular. The history of Bhopal is 240 years old, out of which 107 years it was ruled by women. Women ruled the most in any state of India, in Riyasat-e-Bhopal, and after Britain's Victorian rule, it became the world's longest-running one-man rule run by the Begums here. Bhopal, a princely state of the Nawabs, enjoys a place which is not held by any other state or princely state in the world except the United Kingdom. Bhopal was the second state or princely state in the world where four women ruled. These women Nawabs held the power of the princely state of Bhopal for 107 years.

The princely state of Bhopal was founded in 1708 by Sardar Dost Mohammad Khan. Gohar Begum Qudsia of the historian Syed Akhtar Hussain assumed power in Bhopal from 1819 to 1837. She was the first woman Begum of Bhopal. After this, three women Nawabs took over the reins of Bhopal from 1844 to 1926. In Bhopal, the construction of mosques and most other buildings was done during the construction of the dam on the pond. Those were the 107 years of the 240-year-old history of Bhopal when the Begums ruled here. Over the years, the princely state received four consecutive Begums, who not only decorated the city with their architecture but also protected the princely state with the help of their intellects; the first ruler of those Begums was Kudesia Begum. It was he who built the Qudsia Mosque.

Administration under Begums

This list of names makes the Nawabi princely state of Bhopal, which is truly inhabited by the Begums. Those were the 107 years of the 240-year-old history of Bhopal when the Begums ruled here. During these years, the princely state got 4 Begum continuously, who not only decorated the city with their architecture but also protected the princely state on the strength of their intellect. Between 1819 and 1926, four brave women ruled over the princely state of Bhopal. These were Kudsia Begum, Sikander Begum, Shah Jahan Begum and Sultan Jahan Begum.

Qudsia Begum Rule (1819-37)

In the context of India, the princely state of Bhopal is the first instance where 'Begum' took over the reign of Bangladesh. It is a matter of 1819 AD, when the first female ruler in Bhopal, Qudsia Begum took over the throne. He is also known as GauharMahal. Queen Victoria was the crown prince in Britain 15 years after Qudsia's rule. Begum Qudsia ruled from 1819 to 1837 in Bhopal. She was very calm by nature and that is why the boundaries of Bhopal also remained calm. Neither any enemy came nor did any one go out. His love for architecture was so great that he built many rare buildings under his rule. In 1820, he built GauharMahal, from where the view of Bhopal's beautiful lake was clearly visible. This palace was called the first palace of the princely state of Bhopal. They incorporated Indian and Islamic architecture. It is said that there were no differences between the two religions during the reign of Qudsia. Rather, people from both communities worked together to understand everything from food to dress and other aspects of life.

Qudsia proved himself as a visionary ruler with a special focus on development and education. He connected Bhopal to the Indian railway network with his personal donations. English engineer Mr. With Watt's services, he provided water for Bhopal. In his palace, he installed a large bell that could be played by anyone seeking justice. So she proved to be a fair and intelligent ideology ruler. '

Qudsia took many clever steps to guarantee her position: she made deals along with her rivals for power, approached a British agent to legitimize her reputation and garnered guide from religious government to combat the broadly held notion via Muslims that women could not rule. The kingdom Qazi (judge) and Mufti (jurisconsult) signed a file acknowledging ladies' right to political power.

Qudsia Begum turned into the first girl in South Asia to correctly assert the right of Muslim ladies to legally be the ruler of a state. Being a religious Muslim herself, Qudsia confirmed that Islam does now not exclude ladies from gaining political power. She commanded the army and would be at the leading edge of battles.

Sikandar Begum (1847-68)

After the arrival of Kudsia Begum, her daughter SikandarJahan Begum of power came to power. During her 21-year tenure, SikandarJahan expanded the mother's architecture. Actually, at that time

where the whole country was turning against the British. At the same time, SikandarJahan supported the British openly. This is the reason that differences between him and Rani LaxmiBai of Jhansi remained. However, he supported the British only so that they could treat him out of the princely state of Bhopal. SikanderJahan Begum is credited with reopening the Jama Masjid. In fact, after the revolt of 1857, the British closed the Jama Masjid of Delhi. In such a situation, it was only Sikandar who persuaded the British to open the mosque again and also cleaned the courtyard of the mosque itself first. After the Revolt of 1857, the British implemented a system of double control over many princely states including Bhopal. In this way, apart from SikandarJahan, his maternal uncle FaujdarMahomed Khan also started interfering in political issues. Then Sikandar Begum wrote a letter to the Governor General of India and said that people come to my door for their problems, but your imposed system has made governance difficult. After this, the system of double control ended from Bhopal for the first time and from 1847 to 1868 only the rule of SikandarJahan remained on the princely state of Bhopal.

Sikandar Begum controlled as official for the initial 13 years of her rule, subbing for her nine-year-old girl Shahjehan and afterward as a completely fledged ruler throughout the previous eight years. Her rule started after the passing of her better half, Nawab Jahangir Muhammad Khan Bahadur, who had the option to manage for a long time. It shows up as though destiny was on the Begums as Sikandar acquired Bhopal's standard the hands of ladies by and by.

Since adolescence, Sikandar Begum had been brought up in a way with the goal that she could endure being a lady of intensity in a man's reality. She was prepared in combative techniques and, similar to her mom, never watched purdah as she trusted it was a deliberate demonstration. Prior to her rule, she had just endured because of men, with her significant other having arranged a deadly plot against her. As a ruler, she was a savvy and intense lady.

Sikandar Begum set out to demonstrate she was similarly as able as any male ruler by forcefully declaring her quality in open life. She played polo, went chasing and was a swordswoman, bowman and lancer also. She would by and by go to towns to investigate the government assistance of individuals and the condition of her agrarian changes.

She additionally instructed the military and would investigate region workplaces, the courts and the treasury herself to ensure that the state was running easily. In addition, Sikandar Begum established the Victoria School with the goal that young ladies in Bhopal would get specialized preparing in exchanges, for example, painstaking work and procures information on fundamental scholarly subjects.

During the First War of Independence, Sikander Begum allied with the British for which she was threatened by her own troops. She suppressed mutinies at Sehore, Saugor and Bundelkhand. Based on her loyalty to the British during the mutiny and, after the restoration of order, Sikander Begum urged that she should be regarded as the ruler of Bhopal, not as the Regent. On 3rd March 1860, Sikander Begum was formally recognised as the chief of Bhopal by the British Crown. In the year 1864, Sikander Begum went on a pilgrimage to Mecca and became the first woman ruling chief to do so. After her return, she fell ill and died on October 30th 1868 at the age of 51. She was buried in the FarhatAfza garden, Bhopal. Sikander Begum's daughter, Shah Jahan Begum was invested as the ruler of Bhopal on 16th November 1868.

Shahjahan Begum (1868-1901)

When the TajMahal is named, we see only the art made by Shah Jahan in Agra. Today's generation may be unknown from the second TajMahal in Bhopal. This TajMahal was built by Shah Jahan Begum, the third female ruler of Bhopal and daughter of SikandarJahan Begum. Shah Jahan, Begum who was the Begum of the princely state of Bhopal from 1861 to 1901, carried forward the architecture given to his ancestors. Apart from getting the buildings that started construction under his mother's rule, Shah Jahan Begum was known for the construction of the TajMahal. It took 13 years to build the seventeen acres of TajMahal. At that time, Shah Jahan Begum spent three lakh rupees to build this palace and the construction of the palace was celebrated until three years after it was built. There is another history associated with this naib building and Begum. Actually, colored glass was used in door carving. The glare of sunlight falling on the glass caused the eyes of those who entered. Begum did this experiment in such a way that if anyone enters her leisure, her eyes are bent. This thing was disturbed by an English officer. He ordered Begum to remove the glass, although Begum did not mind. He gave the officer 10 opportunities to break the glass. The officer

reached there with his cannon and fired 10 times at the glass one after the other. However, not a single shot of his could hit the glass. Begum knew that the glass could not be targeted in the dark and the light of the sun during the day would create such brightness that one would not be able to see the glass properly.

17 days after her mom Sikandar Begum's demise, Shahjehan turned into the following Begum of Bhopal and her then ten-year-old girl, Sultan Jahan, turned into the beneficiary. This was viewed as an amazing move as Shahjehan was 30 could in any case produce male beneficiaries later on. In any case, Sikandar had tied down a guarantee from the British government to have her granddaughter's entitlement to be a ruler secured. As per Shaharyar M. Khan, the British needed to keep the Bhopal administration inside Dost Muhammad Khan's heredity.

In contrast to her mom and grandma, Shahjehan was unmistakably ladylike. She didn't prepare in generally manly expressions as a contender or tracker and rather, needed to be a poetess. She empowered the advancement of expressions of the human experience in Bhopal and under her standard, the state turned into a social and abstract focus. She even belittled various female artists and entrusted a male writer in her court to frame a compilation involving the compositions of female artists. Like her mom, be that as it may, Shahjehan was a solid executive too. She improved the expense framework, constructed numerous royal residences, mosques and landmarks and made striking commitments to lodging, instruction, wellbeing, innovation and ladies' upliftment. Despite the fact that her inevitable union with Syed Siddiq Hassan drove Shahjehan to withdraw behind her better half's choices, her commitments can't be dismissed. Shahjehan likewise composed a reformist manual for ladies titled *Tahzib un-NiswanwaTarbiyatul-Insan* (The Reform of Women and the Cultivation of Humanity). It is viewed as the first ladies' reference book in Quite a while and contained themes on ladies' work and their status in Islam.

Sultan Jahan Begum (1901-26)

Sultan Jahan Begum is known as the last female ruler of Bhopal. She was the only daughter of Shah Jahan Begum. Actually Sultan Jahan was very close to the heart of Mohammad Ali Jinnah's very special Hamidullah Khan. After the passing of the mother, Sultan Jahan kept the work of the

princely state with the help of Hamidullah Khan. She was so dependent on him that on 16 April 1916, he declared Hamidullah Khan as the Chief Secretary. After this, their status in the princely state became even more important. Sultan Jahan is said to have declared Hamidullah Khan as the new ruler of Bhopal on 16 May 1926, and on 9 June he officially became the Nawab of Bhopal. With this, the phase of Begums from Bhopal came to an end and the princely state got its last Nawab. In 1930, Sultan Jahan said goodbye to the world. By then, Hamidullah Khan had better understood the princely state of Bhopal. He did many important things for the development of the city. Road construction, transportation system etc. improved. When India got partition of Pakistan, he moved to Pakistan with Mohammad Ali Jinnah to become Secretary General. After this the princely states merged and the golden Nawabi phase of Bhopal came to an end.

At 43-years of age, Sultan Jahan was the most established Begum of Bhopal. Her years as the beneficiary were spent in huge trouble because of the strain among her and her mom. When of her rule, the court was partitioned in dependability between Sultan Jahan and her mom. In any event, during such a period, Sultan Jahan had the option to build up a fruitful organization under her standard.

Enlivened by her ancestors, Sultan Jahan turned into a reformer and built up numerous instructive establishments, concentrating on open guidance and female training. She is the establishing and just female chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University. Aside from training, she additionally changed tax collection, the police, the military, the legal executive, horticulture, wellbeing and sanitation. In 1914, she turned into the leader of the All-India Muslim Ladies' Association.

The inheritance of her 25-year rule involved a cosmopolitan court and a to a great extent merit-based administration. She was a savvy arbitrator with the British government, guaranteeing her family's advantages. The rule of the Begums of Bhopal finished when Sultan Jahan's child took the crown. Be that as it may, their administration is significant for their accomplishments as ladies, especially Muslim ladies in pioneer India, and helpful for ladies today as we keep on battling in a male-commanded world.

Shah Jahan Begum died on June 16th 1901. She was succeeded by her daughter Sultan Jahan Begum, who was born on 9th July 1858. In 1905, Sultan Jahan Begum met the Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales at Indore and was given the Order of Chivalry, Knight Grand Commander. Sultan Jahan Begum conducted the administration of the State with her eldest son, Nawab Muhammad Nasr-ul-lah Khan.

Conclusion

The palaces built by the Begums still retain memories of the Nawabi era in Bhopal. Some ruins have been destroyed and buildings have been converted into hotels and some have been converted into libraries and government offices. Whatever be the case, the Nawabi phase of Bhopal was inhabited by Mughal Begums and their courage. Bhopal is indebted to the Begums. For everything hospitals and dispensaries, railways, waterworks, postal systems and the municipality. Everything began with the Begums. Even the palaces and the mosques that melded the best architectural idioms of the time. Gohar Mahal, named after Qudsia Begum, is a perfect amalgamation of Hindu and Mughal architecture. Bhopal was the only princely state ruled by women, the second largest state with a Muslim leadership, the Nawab Begums of Bhopal redefined statecraft with their vision and benevolence.

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