

## **Historical Perspective of Coins and Currency During The Nizams Period**

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### **Abstract**

*The history of coins and currency during nizams period particularly Asaffah I to Asaffah V, they are continued the use of the Mughal coinage in the Deccan and incorporated the names of the Mughal emperor on the coins minted with in the state at the mints 'During Nizams period made several efforts to organize private bankers to set up a banking company ,the Indian princely states to issue paper currency .The currency was designated the 'Osmania Sicca' one and five rupee notes were subsequently issued in the year 1919 and one thousand rupee notes were issued in 1926. The Hyderabad state continued to mint its own coins until 1948. The Hyderabad rupee became the main circulating currency although the Hyderabad rupee was not demonetized until 1959. This paper should covered the Mughal coins , Hyderabad coins ,particularly Nizams period coins historical perspectives and also paper currency's in Hyderabad state.*

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## **Introduction**

Hyderabad was as a part of Deccan was under the Mughal rule. Later Asaf Jahi came to power in the Hyderabad region and ruled between 1724-1948 A.D. The Hyderabad state comprised regions of Karnataka and Marathwada.

The state of Hyderabad is located on Deccan Plateau between two rivers, River Godavari and river Krishna. Under Asafjahi's rule, Hyderabad state has seen all-around development and created its own identity in India in the fields of culture. The Hyderabad state which was formed by the Nizam after the death, of the last Mughal Emperor, was reduced to a subsidiary feudatory state, covering an area of about 83,000 square miles under the British, after the cession of Berar of 'Maharashtra area' and the coastal and the ceded districts of Andhra area to the British. The Hyderabad state consisted of three linguistic areas. The eight Telugu – speaking districts with Hyderabad city, the capital of the state consisting of the Telangana area, Five Marathi-speaking districts in the northwest of the state, consisting of the Marathwada region, and three Kannada speaking districts in the South – Western part. From the time of Asaf Jahi – I till that AsafJahi-V, the Nizams continued the use of the Mughal coinage in the Deccan and incorporated the names of the Mughal Emperor on the coins minted within the state at the mints.

## **Currency and Coinage**

A mint Dar-ul-Zarb was established in Hyderabad during the reign of Sikander Jah AsafJahi – III. The coins were hand-made by dies at Sultan Shahi in 1803. These were minted privately by private persons on contract and authorization by the Government. There were private mints scattered all over the Deccan. The Noble and businessmen also had their own private mints. Each and every coin had its own die, weight, size there was no uniformity in the coins. Many noblemen and big businessmen used to run their own small private mints at different places in the state, with the permission of the government. Now a days Gold, Silver, coins were minted. The coins minted during the reign of Sikander Jah – III, have the initial of his name seen and that of Nasiruddaula Asaf Jah – IV's period have the initial 'Nun'. They bore the name of the reigning Mughal Emperor and his regional year.

The inscription is abbreviated in order to accommodate spacing, hence initials were incorporated. On the top over we have 'Akbar for Mughal Emperor Muhammad Akber Shah Badshah Ghazi. The letter 'nun' is initial for Nasiruddaula, Nizam-IV. The reversed side had an inscription reading in the center 'Farkunda buoyed for Hyderabad. On the top, 'Maimanat' is in abbreviation. At the bottom, too short lines indicate reign year. There were generally called 'Halli Khulna coins – Salar Jung began his currency reforms in 1856 and established a regular

mint in Hyderabad. In 1857 Salar Jung closed all private local mints. The Hyderabad government mint received silver from nobles Merchants and minted silver coins on their behalf on payment of Sri King Charges. The old method of manufacturing of coins by hand continued up to 1893 and there were about 24 kinds of rupees in circulation in the state.

### **The Halli Sicca of the Nizams**

After the Mughal Empire in the north in 1858 and the closure of the Mughal mints in the Deccan, and on the persuasion of the British the Nizam Afzaluddaula – V agreed to drop the name of the Mughal Emperor from the coins and introduce his own coins with the royal for man issued on 1858 August 29, the Nizam's halli sicca, were Introduced with the name of 'Nizam – ul – Mulk for the first time. In 1895 machines were installed at Hyderabad to make coins and the practice of Manufacturing coins by hand was discontinued. The Machine made and milled-edge coins were of intricate design and were generally called 'Charqi' coins as they were perfectly like a wheel. The inscriptions were observed at Nizam-ul-milk with the initial letter 'meem' of the ruling Nizam-VI and his date (1312 Hijrah) in 1895. On the reverse are the regional year of the Nizam. During Mir Mahaboob Alikhan issued the Silver and Gold coins has the initial 'meem' with the inscription 'Nizamul Mulk Asafjah'. The silver coin denomination is one anna to one rupee. Gold coins denomination is two and four annas, respectively. Machine-made silver coins of Nizam – VI of denomination two, four and eight annas. The inscription 'Nizamul – Mulk Asafjah' has been suffixed with 'Bahadur' to the title. In 1930 the Hyderabad mint was shifted to the saifabad palace garden adjoining the finance office, close to Hussain Sagar and installed with English machines imported for the manufacture of the coins.

The coins manufactured in gold, silver and copper had the initial letter 'Meem' for Mahabub Ali Khan the Sixth Nizam. These coins were called 'Mahabubia Sikka'. Mahaboob Alikhan introduced Charminar coins of gold and silver in 1904 placed the Hyderabad metallic currency on a sound footing. The main feature of Charminar coins was the utilization of the historic building Charminar on one side of the coin, the other side having the inscription in Arabic which replaced the earlier Persian writing. The gold coins were called 'Ashrafis'. The rupee design was changed to Charminar, the minting of one-sixteenth 'Ashrafis' was discontinued and coining by machinery this denomination was 'Full Ashrafi' one – half one – one quarter and one – eight Ashrafis'.

The gold coins bear the same inscription of the observe and reverse as the silver coins with the word rupee changed to Ashrafi. The Ashrafi was not a legal

tender coin but was very popular and freely used by the public for ornamental and freely used by the public for ornamental and ceremonial purposes. The Silver coins were in the denomination of rupee, one-half, one-Quarter and one – eight. The weight of the rupee was 172.5 grams as against 180 grams of the British rupee. The rate of Exchange between the Halli Sicca and the British coins was 100 to 116/10/8. The exchange was regulated by an act. Along with the old hand-made coins and not a mixture of lead and copper was also in circulation. They were 1, 2, 3 pie coins of the Sixth Nizam's times.

The accession of Mir Osman Ali Khan as the seventh Nizam, the initial 'ain' for Osman was incorporated in the coins denomination 'o', new values of 2 – pie and 6-pie coins were introduced. In 1919 a nickel one-anna coin was introduced. These coins value was also indicated in four languages called, English, Kanrese, Telugu and Marathi in four corners. During World War II (1939-1945), there was a great demand for Hyderabad silver coins and their market value was enhanced considerably. During the 1940's when the rectangular one-anna coin was minted in copper instead of nickel, in the two-pie coin a central hole was made to facilitate differentiation between the two types of coins.

### **Paper Currency**

Seventh Nizam Mir Osman Alikhan was a great currency reformer. In 1918 a paper currency department was established under the act of 1918. This act was providing for the issue and regulation of a paper currency. The first notes to be placed in circulation were one hundred rupee and ten-rupee notes on 17 and 23 shareware respectively. This was followed by five rupee notes in 'the following year 1919. The latter was not very popular and were subsequently withdrawn from circulation, but were introduced later. During his period one thousand – rupee note was issued in 1926. The circulation of the currency increased steadily, the one-rupee currency notes were printed on Hyderabad manufactured paper in Hyderabad with an output of three lacks daily.

The special feature of the paper currency designs is that they have the Nizam's crest, an emblem with the crescent and the star within it and the denomination in five state languages – like Urdu, English, Marathi, Telugu and Kanarese, both in figures and letters. The inscription in Urdu reads "Currency note SAR – Kar – I – Aali".

### **Conclusion**

During Asafjahi's time from I<sup>st</sup> Nizam to VII<sup>th</sup> Nizam introduced the new coins. Mir Osman Ali Khan was the last Nizam of Asafjahi he issued gold, silver,

nickel, copper and bronze coins from Hyderabad mint. These coins were struck in the denomination of Asarafi, rupee, pain and Anna in a round and square shape. The Gold Ashrafi of Mir Osman Ali Khan was minted at Hyderabad. Not only VII<sup>th</sup> Nizam but also the all the Nizams minted the different coins. Nowadays only minting of different coins. Nowadays only the minting of different coins is called Gold and Silver coins. From the time of Asafjahi – I to Asafjahi – VII, the Nizams continued the use of the Mughal coinage in the Deccan and incorporated the names of the Mughal Emperor on the coins minted within the state at the mint.

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