

Udgir Town : Head quarters of the *taluk* of the same name in Bidar District, Hyderabad State, Situated in 18°24' N. and 77°7'E. Population (1901), 5,984. The fort belonged to the Bijapur kings, and was besieged by Shah Jahan's general in 1635, and surrendered to him. In 1760 a great battle was fought here between the Nizam and the Marathas. Nizam Salabat Jang and his brother occupied Udgir with 7,000 cavalry, but were surrounded by 60,000 Marathas. Desperate fighting continued for days, and the Nizam was forced to agree to the terms of peace imposed by the Marathas. The fort was built about 1493, and has a ditch all round. Two palaces are situated inside, and two outside, but all are in ruins.

### ESTATES

Paigan Estates : A group of estates in Hyderabad state, comprising 23 *taluks* dispersed over the Districts of Bidar, Nander, Osmanabad, Gulbarga, Medak, Atraf-i-balda, and Nizamabad, and a few scattered villages in Aurangabad, Warangal, Mahbubnagar, and Nalgonda. They consist of 1,273 villages and towns, with an aggregate area of 4,134 square miles and a total revenue of about 40 lakhs. These estates belong to the representatives of three deceased noblemen, Sir Asman Jah, Sir Khurshed Jah, and Sir Vikar-ul-Umara.

The following table shows details of the estates according to the Census of 1901

Names	Number of <i>Taluks</i>	Area in square miles	Number of villages	Population 1901
Sir Asman Jah	7	1,232	396	265,194
Sir Khurshed Jah	8	1,512	468	268,902
Sir Vikar-ul-Umara	8	1,390	409	240,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4,134</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>774,411</b>

The history of the Hyderabad *paigah* nobles dates back to the reign of Akbar. *Mulls Jalal-ud-din*, the founder of the family, came to Shikohabad from Lahore during the reign of that emperor. His son, Muhammad Baha-ud-din Khan, was appointed head of the treasury of Akbarabad (Agra) in Aurangzeb's reign. Muhammad Abul-Khair

Kahn, the founder's grandson, attracted the attention of Nawab Asaf Jah, with whom he came to the Deccan, and, after having served as deputy-Subahdar of Malwa, finally settled at Hyderabad. In 1743 he was sent against Babu Naik, a Maratha chief, who was levying *chauth* in these territories, and defeated him. Subsequently he held the deputy-Subahdarship of Khandesh and Aurangabad. He died at Burhanpur in 1749, leaving an only son, Abdul Fateh Khan, who received the title of Tegh Jang from Nawab Nizam Ali Khan. Further distinctions and titles were bestowed upon him, among them being that of Shams-ul-Umara, which became the family title. He commanded 10,000 cavalry, which formed the beginning of the *paigah* forces, for the maintenance of which the estates were originally granted. Abdul Fateh Khan died at Pangal while accompanying the expedition against Tipu, and was succeeded by his son, Muhammad Fakhr-ud-din Khan, who received his grandfather's name of Abdul-Khair Khan. In 1800 he married a daughter of the Nizam, and thus the family became allied for the first time to the ruling house of Hyderabad. In 1827 the title of Amir-i-Kabir, or 'premier noble,' was bestowed upon him. Fakhr-ud-din Khan was a great patron of learning, and a good mathematician, being the author of *Sittai-shamsia*, a work on physics, mechanics, astronomy, &c. He built the Jahan-numa and many other palaces, and died in 1855, leaving five sons.

The third son, Rafi-ud-din Khan, who succeeded his father as Amir-i-Kabir, was appointed co-regent with Sir Salar Jang on the death of the Nizam Afzal-ud-daula Bahadur in 1869, the present Nizam being then only three years old. This office he held till his death in 1877, when his younger brother Rashid-ud-din Khan succeeded him as co-regent, receiving the titles of Shams-ul-Umara and Amir-i-Kabir. The *paigah jagirs* and estates were subsequently divided between two branches of the family, one represented by Sir Asman Jah, a grandson of Fakhr-ud-din Khan, and the other by Rashid-ud-din Khan, who died in 1881, leaving two sons, Sir Khurshed Jah and Sir vicar-ul-Umara.

When the present Nizam attained his majority, he conferred the title of Amir-i-Akbar on Sir Asman Jah. This nobleman became minister of Hyderabad in 1888, and after six years of office retired in 1893, being succeeded as minister by Sir Vikar-ul-Umara. Sir Asman Jah died in 1898, leaving as only son, Nawab Muin-ud-din Khan Bahadur, who is

now the sole representative of this branch of the family. Sir Vikar-ul-Umara resigned the office of minister in 1901, and died early in 1902, leaving two sons, Nawab Sultan-ul-mulk Bahadur and Nawab Walfud-din Khan Bahadur. Sir Khurshed Jah, who survived his brother for only a year, has also left two sons, Nawab Shams-ul-mulk Zafar Jang Bahadur and Nawab Imam Jang Bahadur.

**Salar Jang Estate.**- An estate comprising six *taluks* situated in various Districts of the Hyderabad State. It consists of 333 villages, and has an area of 1,486 square miles, with a population (1901) of 180,150. The *taluks* and Kosgi in Gulbarga, Ajanta in Aurangabad, Koppal and Yelburga in Raichur, Dundgal in Medak, and Raigir in Nalgonda. The total revenue is 8.2 lakhs.

The present representative of the family is Nawab Salar Jang, grandson of the late Sir Salar Jang, G.C.S.I., the great minister of the Nizam<sup>1</sup>. The family claim descent from Shaikh Owais of Karan, who lived in the time of the Prophet. Shaikh Owais the second, his tenth descendant, came to India during the reign of Ali Adil Shah (1656 - 72), and settled in Bijapur, where his son, Shaikh Muhammad Ali, married the daughter of Mulla Ahmad Nawayet <sup>2</sup>, minister of the Bijapur kingdom, by whom he had two sons who rose to high rank. Mulla Ahmad having joined the imperial service about 1665, his successor ill-treated the two brothers, who eventually left Bijapur during the reign of Sikandar Adil Shah and entered the service of Aurangzeb. One of these, Shaikh Muhammad Bakar by name, was appointed Diwan of Thal-kokan, and after retiring from active work settled at Aurangabad, where he died in 1715. His son, Shaikh Muhammad Taki, served under Aurangzeb, Bahadur Shah, and Farrukhsiyar. Asaf Jah, the viceroy of the Deccan, appointed him commander of the garrisons of all his forts. Shams-ud-din Muhammad Haidar, son of Muhammad Taki, continued in the service of Asaf Jah, and was promoted by his successors. Under Salabat Jang his command was raised to 7,000 foot and 7,000 horse, and he received the title of Munir-ul-mulk, with the appointment of head steward. He was subsequently made Diwan of

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1- *Memories of Sir Salar Jang*, by Syed Hossain Bilgrami (1883).

2- Vide *History of Nawayets*, by Nawab Aziz Jang, published at Hyderabad, 1313 Fasli (1904).

the Deccan *Subahs*, and finally retired to Aurangabad, of which city he was governor.

He left two sons, the elder of whom, Safdar Khan Ghayur Tang was appointed Diwan of the Deccan *Subahs* in 1782, with the title of Ashja-ul-mulk. The third son of Ghayur Jang, from whom the present members of the family are directly descended, was Ali Zaman, Munir-ul-mulk II. After his death his eldest son became the third Munir-ul-mulk and was married successively to two daughters of Mir Alam (Saiyid Abdul Kasim). Mir Alam, who was thus the maternal great-grand father of Sir Salar Jang, belonged to the Nuria Saiyids of Shustar in Persia. His father, Saiyid Razzak, came to India when quite young, and settled at Hyderabad, where Nizam Ali Khan bestowed *jagirs* upon him. Mir Alam acted as *vakil* between the British envoy and the Hyderabad minister in 1784. Two years later he went to Calcutta as the Nizam's representative and in 1791 he was sent to Lord Cornwallis to discuss the peace proposals between Tipu Sultan and the allies. He commanded the Nizam's troops in the campaign of 1799 against Tipu, and in 1804 was made minister after the death of Azam-ul-Umara. After his death in 1808, he was succeeded as minister by his son-in-law, Munir-ul-mulk III.

Sir Salar Jang, the grandson of Munir-ul-mulk III, succeeded his uncle Siraj-ul-mulk of Hyderabad in 1853. For thirty years the story of his life is the history of the HYDERABAD STATE, to the article on which reference should be made. For his eminent services he was made G.C.S.I., and during a visit to England in 1876 he received the D.C.L. degree at Oxford and the freedom of the City of London. In 1884 the Nizam appointed the elder son of Sir Salar Jang as minister, who, however, resigned in 1887, and died two years later, leaving an infant son, Nawab Yusuf Ali Khan Bahadur Salar Jang, who is now the only direct representative of this distinguished family.

**Amarchinta (or Atmakur) :** A *samasthan* or tributary estate in the east of Raichur District, Hyderabad State, consisting of 69 villages, with Atmakur (population, 2,330) as its head-quarters. It has an area of 190 square miles, and a population (1901) of 34,147. The total revenue is 1.4 lakhs, and the tribute paid to the Nizam is Rs. 6,363. Amarchinta is an old *Samasthan*, but no historical records are available. The fort of

Atmakur, the residence of the Raja, is in a good state of preservation. The Kistna river flows along the southern boundary, separating Amarchinta from the Gadwal *samasthan*; its waters are not available for irrigation, owing to the height of the river banks. Amarchinta and Atmakur are noted for fine muslins of excellent quality, woven in the shape of hand-kerchiefs, *dhotis*, and turbans with gold and silk borders.

**Gadwal Samasthan (or Keshavnagar) :** A *Samasthan* or tributary estate in the east of Raichur District, Hyderabad State. It contains one town, GADWAL (population, 10,195), and 214 villages, and has an area of 864 square miles, with a population (1901) of 968,491. The total revenue is 3 lakhs, and the tribute paid to the Nizam is Rs. 86,840. Gadwal existed long before the foundation of the Hyderabad State. It formerly issued its own coin, which is still current in Raichur District. Nothing is known regarding the early history of the *Samasthan*. The fort at Gadwal town, the residence of the present Raja, was commenced about 1703, and completed in 1710 by Raja Somtadari. The present Raja is a minor, and the estate has been under the control of the Court of Wards since 1902. The Kistna and Tungabhadra water the northern and southern portions of the *samasthan*, and the land bordering on these rivers, being alluvial, is very fertile. The remaining portion consists of *masab* land and uncultivable waste. Most of the cultivation is of the 'dry-crop' description. There being very few tanks, little 'wet' cultivation is possible, and well-irrigation is carried on only to a limited extent. Silk *saris*, scarfs, turbans, and *dhotis* with gold borders of a superior kind are manufactured at Gadwal town. Ten factories are at work, and about 2 lakhs' worth of these articles is exported annually to Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Raichur, and other places in the neighbourhood.

**Jatpol :** A *samasthan* or tributary estate in the south of Mahbubnagar District, Hyderabad State, consisting of 89 villages, with an area of 191 square miles, and a population (1901) of 31,613. The total revenue is 1.9 lakhs, and the tribute paid to the Nizam is Rs. 73,537.

From inscriptions it appears that in 1243 Annapota Nayadu took possession of the estate, and captured PANGAL and other forts. His dominions extended on the east as far as Srisil, on the west of Kotta and Sugur, now belonging to the Wanparti *samasthan*, on the north to

Devarkonda, and on the south they were bounded by the Kistna river. His descendants ruled for several centuries. In the last quarter of the eighteenth century Raja Jagannath Rao, having no male issue, adopted Lachma Rao, a scion of the Rao family of Pakhal. In 1831 Lachma Rao obtained the Jatpol *pargana* from the Nizam on a fixed rental of Rs. 70,000. The present Raja, Venkata Lachma Rao, who is a younger brother of the Raja of Venkatagiri in the Madras Presidency, also succeeded by adoption. He has cleared off debts amounting to nearly 2 lakhs, with which the estate was encumbered. The Raja resides at Kolhapur (population, 2,204), though until eighty years ago Jatpol was the head-quarters.

**Paloncha :** A *samasthan* or tributary estate in the south-east of Warangal District, Hyderabad State, consisting of six sub-*taluks*, with an area of about 800 square miles, and a population (1901) of 38,742. The revenue is said to be only Rs. 70,000, and the tribute paid to the Nizam is Rs. 45,875. The estate further receives an annual sum of Rs. 4,716 as *deshmukh's* fees from the Nizam, and the Raja owns the estates of Bhadrachalam and Rekapalli in the Godavari District of Madras.

The estate appears to have existed before the reign of Pratap Rudra of Warangal, who conferred the title of Ashwarao on the Raja in appreciation of the latter's horsemanship, *ashwa* in Sanskrit meaning 'horse.' After the capture of Warangal by the Musalmans, the king of Delhi bestowed the *parganas* of Hasanabad and Sankargiri (Paloncha) upon Anappa Ashwarao in 1324, and these remained in possession of the family for eighteen generations till 1698. In 1769 Narsinha Ashwarao was killed in battle by Zafar-ud-daula, who plundered the Raja's treasury and took possession of all the documents and ancient *sanads* engraved on copper-plates. In 1798 the Nizam granted a *samad* to Venkataram Ashwarao, with the stipulation that he should maintain 2,000 cavalry and 3,000 foot soldiers; but this condition did not long remain in force. Internal feuds and dissensions between the two principal branches of the family now commenced and continued till 1858, when Sir Salar Jang, the minister of Hyderabad, put an end to them by granting a fresh *samad* to Raja Sitaram Chandra. At the same time the two *taluks* of Bhadrachalam and Rekapalli, situated along the left bank of the Godavari, were taken over by the British Government.

The Raja, who had contracted heavy debts and had mortgaged the *samasthan* to a banker, died without issue. The banker collected the revenue of the State for twelve years, and at the end of that period filed a suit and obtained a decree for 6 lakhs. The Nizam paid the banker 3 lakhs in cash, sanctioned the transfer of the two *taluks* of Mallur and Ramanjavaram in lieu of the balance, and confiscated the estate. The Raja's mother died in 1875, but before her death she had adopted the present Raja, who was her daughter's son. After a prolonged inquiry, the British Government restored the two *taluks* of Bhadrachalam and Rekapalli to the Raja, who also received 6 *taluks* from the Nizam on payment of the 3 lakhs advanced to the banker. From 1324 to the present time twenty-eight Rajas have ruled in succession. Paloncha was originally the head-quarters of the *samasthan*, after which Bhadrachalam was for some time the residence of the Raja, but Ashwaraopet has now become the capital.

The *samasthan* is very unhealthy and malarious, owing to a large portion of it being covered with thick jungle. The Godavari river crosses it from the north-west to south-east, dividing it into two portions, that along the right being in the Hyderabad State, and that along the left in the Madras Presidency. The bed of the river is so deep that its waters cannot be used for irrigation.

**Wanparti.**-A *samasthan* or tributary estate in the south-west of Mahbubnagar District, Hyderabad State. The villages number 124, and are scattered over the Nagar Karnul, Jedcherla, Mahbubnagar, Kalvakurti, and Amarbad *taluks* of Mahbubnagar District. The area is about 450 square miles, and the population in 1901 was 62,197. The revenue is 1.5 lakhs, and the tribute paid to the Nizam is Rs. 76,883. Up to 1727 Sugur was the seat of the Raja, and gave its name to the *samasthan*, but subsequently Wanparti was selected as the capital. The Kistna river flows through the south-western portion for a distance of 16 miles, but owing to the depth of the bed its waters are not utilized for irrigation. The town of Wanparti contains an oil-mill for extracting castor oil, which is exported to Raichur and also to Kurnool in the Madras Presidency. Cloth and *saris* both of cotton and silk are made here, but their texture is not so fine as those of Amarchinta and Gadwal.