## Negotiating favor's: the office of Amber wakil at Mughal court

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Wakilswere deputy or delegates appointed by the Mughals mansabdars, jagirdars, nobles and princes¹who represented their respective employers at the imperial court. They safeguarded interest against opponents, plead for masters in case of alleged irregularities committed by them, and justified their master's conduct in almost every way. The Raja of Amber sought enhancement of mansabsand aspired for post of subedari ,faujdari of strategic significance, as also lucrative jagirs in close vicinity of Amber. The Amber wakilwas instrumental in negotiating such favors.

Duties of a *wakil* involved his regular presence in the imperial court and assimilation of news items from nobles present at the court as well as from vital elements of bureaucracy likediwan of *kachehri*, the *waqianavis*, and the *khufianavis*. Moreover, he had to attend every session of the darbar. He urged the imperial chancery to use all the titles assigned to his Maharaja. The *wakil* had to be conversant with both Persian and *Hindawi*, which he employed in writing the *wakil's* reports.

The significance of *Wakils*report is that they rest in crucial period of history i.e. the 'decline' and 18<sup>th</sup> century. They assumed importance because in this particular period, a delegate or agent is giving an eye witness account of operative conditions at the court. The vast Mughal Empire far flung in extent was difficult to control. *Wakil*Report embodies the information from various other documents made available to him because of the official capacity. The Raja of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Jagjiwandas served as the wakil of Ajit Singh, Ranaji, Jaisingh and Budh Singh. See supra WR dated *BaisakhSudi* 1, V.S. 1772/7 May 1715, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>WR dated *BaisakhVadi* 12 VS 1771/1714, , R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>WR dated *Baisakhsudi*12, VS 1770 23 April, 1713, R.S.A.B.

Amber had the legal status of *subedar*, *jagirdar*, *faujdar*, *ijaradar*etc due to which he coped with many problems at micro level. The Amber Raja had the backbone of his contingent and a wide network of bureaucracy to buttress him. The contingent helped in curbing the recalcitrant elements in his administration. <sup>4</sup>Code language was used to chalk out military plans and communicate strategy. <sup>5</sup>

The *arzdashts*(petition)of the *wakils* of the rulers of Amber at the Mughal Court are categorized as *Wakil Reports* by the Rajasthan state Archives, Bikaner. These were written in Persian as well as Rajasthani script. These documents cover day to day development in the political, social, economic and administrative spheres of the Mughal Empire. Scholars have utilized the information contained in these *arzdashts*, so that we come across references to these in some of the pioneering works on Mughal India. The *wakil's report* can be treated as news bulletin of the current affairs operative at the Imperial Court and the Empire at large. These are long flowing reports with miscellaneous content within one report.

One of the main duties of wakil was to maintain record of regular correspondence with his employer. This correspondence mentioned in the surviving letters of the *wakils* can be classified into different genre like*akhbarat* (news bullettin), *iltimas* (requests), *siyahs* (records) among others. These were copied from the *akhbarar-i-darbar-mualla* which included every request publicly made, every order issued by the emperor and all enquiries made by him. These documents cover the period from 1676 to 1730 AD. The other category was *arzdasht* to the Maharaja. These related specially to matters of interest for the Maharaja, such as the Emperor's and the other nobles attitude towards the Maharaja. These also contained for counsel given by the *wakil* himself for further action on behalf of the Raja. The documents also contain news of certain administrative political or other facts of more general interest. Some *iltimas* (requests) and *siyahs* (records) bear the name of the *wakil* suggesting that he dispatched these too, to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>AwarizaMutalibaparganaBahatri, VS 1733-1744/AD 1676-1687.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>WR, Sitamau Collection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> These *arzdashts* have become popularly know as 'wakils' reports (henceforth abbreviated WR).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> For example see, Satish Chandra, parties and politics at the Mughal Court, 1707-1740, New Delhi, 1979; V.S. Bhatnagar, Life and Times of SawaiJaisingh, Delhi, 1974; also G.D. Sharma, *Rajput Polity,New Delhi*, 1977.

Maharaja. *Parwanas* were letters and orders issued by the Maharaja to the *wakil*. These included instructions to the *wakil* to secure favours and suggested steps to be taken for the purpose. The *wakil* considered the arrival of a *parwana* to be an honour bestowed upon him. 8

The office of *wakil*often ran in a family for generations sometimes even for four or five generations. We even find close relatives like son in law and brother obtaining the offices of *wakil* simultaneously through the good offices of the current incumbent. Wakils Kirpa Ram, Bakht Ram and Fateh Ram were sons of RaoJagram who was son of known WakilGhasi Ram. Likewise Wakils Panchauli Meghraj and Jagjiwan Das were brothers. Wakil KeshoRai was father of Wakil ParikshitRai.

The *wakils*post had an internal mobilitywithin the bureaucratic positions and he could be recalled to serve in other positions under the Maharaja. As from the *Arhsattas* of *parganaChatsu*, it appears that Megh Raj a *wakil* of Amber at the imperial court, served from 1711 to 1715 as *Amil* of Chatsu and in 1715 as *Amin*. Similarly *Dasturkomwar* show Kirpa Ram and other family members served as *wakil* and later as *diwan*. <sup>13</sup>

The post of *wakil* of Amberwas not reserved for a particular caste or religion .WakilMirza Anwar was Muslim, while others belonged to *kayastha* caste (Hindu)-infact*Panchauli* sect of the *kayasthas*. <sup>14</sup>The scriptural expertise of *Kayastha* is known to history by the famous ones like Todarmal and Bhimsen. Interstingly we have enough documentary evidence to show that *Mahajans* also served as *wakil*. Hence it can be easily said that being wakil is not privilege of particular sect.

For the Panchauli Sept., see W. Crooke, "The Tribes and Castes of the North-Western India", Vol. 3, Delhi, 1975, p. 191.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>WR dated *Mangsirvadi7*, VS 1763/14 December, 1706, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>WR (*Hindawi*) dated *SawanSudi* 11, V.S. 1772/13 August, Wed. 1715, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>WR received on *BhadvaVadi* 13 V.S. 1769/ 1712, R.S.A.B.; also V.S. Bhatnagar, *Life and Times of SawaiJaisingh* (1688-1743), Delhi 1974, p. 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>DasturKomwar bundle no. 21, dated *Mangsirvadi*5, VS 1780/AD 1723, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>WR dated 21 RajanR.Y. 34/20 April, 1690, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>DasturKomwarbundle no. 21, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>WR dated *SawanSudi* 11, V.S. 1772, 13 August 1715, R.S.A.B.

The *Wakils* of Amber received a salary of Rs. 2000.00 annually <sup>15</sup> besides the provision of monthly expenditure at the Mughal court to be spent on payment of *dawab* <sup>16</sup>, sureties for *ijara*, *jagir* and appointments, <sup>17</sup> and salary of *waqianavis*, *Sawanihnavis*, *Mutasaddis*, *harkaras*, *and piyadah*etc. <sup>18</sup> He was expected to send full details of disbursement. <sup>19</sup>

The status of *wakils* of the Maharaja of Amber was as prestigious as that of a noble.<sup>20</sup> The *wakils* enjoyed favours like the title of Rai, *siropao*, elephants, *tambapattar* (copper plate grant), village, *haveli* (house) and orchard in Amber.<sup>21</sup> Besides this they were allowed to use palanquins by the Emperor.<sup>22</sup> The *wakil* married their children with great pomp and grandeur. A perusal of the *wakil* report reveals that the *wakil* maintained contacts not only with the Maharaja but also the nobles, princes and Emperor.

The office of *wakil*according to *wakils*' own claim began from Akbars reign <sup>23</sup>and continued till the British period. The *wakil*represented Amber Rulers case, like other *wakils* of different states, his presence was considered a necessity in British period. The *KapadDwara*collection bears testimony to the instrumentality of *wakil*in securing favours.<sup>24</sup>

From the foregoing paragraphs it may be discerned that wakil was an important official who acted as the communication channel between the Maharaja and the Emperor as well as the

In the descrivtive list of wakil report published in Bikaner 1967 no. 630/1014 a persianwakil's report of Megh Raj is listed in which he thanks the Maharaja for increasing his salary to Rs. 4000.00 'per month'. The last seems to be an error for 'per annum'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>WR Dated *PhalgunSudi* 12 V.S. 1767/23 March 1710, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>WR undated, VS 1770/AD 1713, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>WR dated AsarhSudi15, VS 1771/27 June, 1714, R.S.A.B.; WR dated 20 Muharram A.H. 1093/10, January, 1682, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>WR dated *Baisakhsudi*1, VS 1772/4 May, 1715, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>WR dated 21 *Shaban*, 35 R. Y./8 May, 1692, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>WR dated PhalgunSudi 12 V.S. 1767/23 March 1710, R.S.A.B.; also see WRPhalgunSudi 2 V.S. 13<sup>th</sup> March 1710, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>WR dated *MahVadi* 4 V.S. 17671770/1713, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>WR dated *BaisakhSudi* 1, V.S. 1772/7 May 1715, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>WR dated *Phalgunsudi*12, VS 1767/23 March, 1710, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>KapadDwaracollection notes no. 769, correspondence between MajiSahiba and Richard Cavendish, AD 1831; no. 810, draft reply to MajiSahiba to Mr. Martin, AD 1830.

Maharaja and others nobles. It would not be out of place to cite instances revealing his instrumentality in gaining favours. Kanwal Nain in 1981 requested the Emperor through *UmdatulMulk* to grant the title of Maharaja to his master, as well as for addition of Chastu, and Kehrauli to his jagir and the responsibility of guarding Khyber and Jamrud. <sup>25</sup>Bhagwandas, another *wakil* in the same year tried to obtain a jagir in Tirhut worth 43,000.00 dams for the Maharaja. <sup>26</sup> In 1688, the *watan* of Amber and Bahatri amounting to 30,000,00 dams was sought in jagir and this was granted by the Emperor. <sup>27</sup> In 1694 Megh Raj applied for the *jagir* of Basawar instead of Malarna since the *jama*of the latter had been inflated. ParikshitRai obtained *jagir* in Dausa worth 4,15,530*dams*<sup>28</sup> together with exemption from branding of houses for the Maharaja. <sup>29</sup>And finally Jagjiwandas secured for the Maharaja, the title of Mirza Raja and *mansab* of 7000 in 1707. <sup>30</sup> In 1712 he congratulated the Maharaja forthe title of Sawai and his reinstatament at the *watanjagir* of Amber. <sup>31</sup>The *wakil* normally tried to pursue his master's interest such as by the effort to secure *jagirs* and *ijaras* in contiguous areas and that too in entirety (*darobast*). <sup>32</sup> Nevertheless being at the court he tended to see many things from the point of view of the Imperial Court.

Since the *wakil*was regularly present at the courtan important concern was the Emperor(Aurangzeb). His (Emperor) visits, victory, threat, health, death, intrigued the *wakil*. At one instance, we find himreport the closeness of Khwaja (*Mahram*) with the Emperor, who remained with him (Emperor) all the time. <sup>33</sup> In the whole month, only four or five sessions of courts were summoned for a duration of two four *gharis*<sup>34</sup> and sometimes even when the requests were being read out, the court was adjourned. We also gather about ill health of Aurangzeb in his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>WR dated *Shawwal* 1092/6 Oct. 1681, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>WR dated 22 Zilhaj 1092/23 Dec. 1681, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>WR dated 20 *Ramzan* 1099/9th July 1688, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>WR dated 28 *Jamadi* I 1118/27 Aug. 1706, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>WR dated *BaisakhSudi* 10 VS 1764/16 May 1707, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>WR dated *AsarhVadi* 5 1769/9 June 1712, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>WR dated *AsarhVadi* 5 VS 1769/9 June 1712, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>WR dated *Bhadvavadi* 13 VS 1769/22 Aug. 1713, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>WR dated *Phalgunvadi7*, VS 1761/7 March, 1705, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>Ghariequals to 24 minutes., Yusuf Hussain, Selected Documents of Shahjahan's Reign, Hyderabad, Daftar-i Diwani, 1950, p. vii (introduction).

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last years from our *wakils* report. Our documentconveys that' the Khwaja (*Mahram*) is present at the rest room (*khwabgah*)of the Emperor for the whole day. Hafiz Anwarassists the Emperor to sit and stand since the Emperor was paralyzed. Hafiz Anwar has been given the title of *Khidmatgar Khan*. The Emperor was much pleased with him and accepted the enhancement, *mansab* and *naubat* of the nobles on his recommendation.<sup>35</sup>

Similarly war of succession and clashes between the sons was a matter of concern for wakil. The narrative is given in a very chatty language in which heinforms that "....The Emperor Bahadur Shah died on *PhalgunVadi* 1/. Begum Azimushangave away the news of his death on *PhalgunVadi* 6.Amirul Umara and Chin Qulich Khan went to console the princes (*Begs*) and princesses (*Begums*).... Sultan Nazar brought a slab of sandal wood for the coffin.Azimushshan has ordered the *bakhshis* to organize the forces for war of succession. Now that today Azimus Shan will reach (Lahore)."<sup>36</sup>

Wakilinforms thaJahandar Shah, Jahan Shah and Rafi ushshan collectively attacked Azimushshan on PhalgunVadi 10, Thursday 1769/23 March 1712. Canons were used extensively. After the third *pahar* some say (prince) Azim has died others maintain that he has fled away. (His son) Muhammad Karim was killed (in the battle). The news is that Raja Bahadur, Mahabat Khan, Hamiduddin Khan and Shahnawaz Khan have also been killed. Azim's house was looted and the *top-khana* and treasury was taken over by Jahandar Shah. The *naubat* of victory was played at Azim's palace. The news of the night was that the *sawars* are alert, cannons are ready and the city is acknowledging the victory of Jahandar Shah over Azim. Let us see whether the remaining three princes accept some treaty or fight to decide the issue. Whatever the news I will let you know."<sup>37</sup>

At other instances we find information of court proceedings of Farrukhsiyar's court. Wakil informs that 'on the 4 Jamadi I / 10 July (1712) the Emperor held a celebration. In the imperial court BegamImtiazMahal sat near the throne formerly used by Alamgir. Below her

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup>WR dated *Sawanvadi*5, VS 1762/20 August, 1705, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup>WR dated *Phalgunsudi*1, VS 1768/23 February, 1711, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup>WR dated *Phalgunsudi*10, VS 1768/7 April, 1712, R.S.A.B.

stood the nobles. The hall of *diwan-I Aam* had a space that could be covered by a hundred pillars. The tent was of *zar-bakhtar* (made of iron) and pearls. When the Emperor sat on the throne, Nawab Asafudaula Nawab Amirul Umara and all other nobles offered *nazr*. Nawab Amirul Umara presented a jewelled flower made of *muhur*, pearls and *churni*. The Emperor conferred robe of honour (*saropakhas*) on Nawab Asafudaula and Nawab Amirul Umara. A necklace (*smarani*) of pearls was put around the neck of Amirul Umara by the Emperor himself. The Emperor then said to Nawab Asafudaula 'your son is very competent and has fought well in the war of succession (*jang-I sultan*). Khan-i-Jahan Bahadur (Muhammad Muhsin) was also conferred *saropakhas* and necklace of pearls."

Emperors health was a major concern of the *wakil* and he informed that Emperor FarrukhSiyaris suffering from fistula (*Bhagandar*) since long which has been aggravated due to his visit to Panipat in rainy season. He described that a foreigner is treating the Emperor and he bandages one wound and operates on the other. The treatment is good and the Emperor will recover soon.<sup>39</sup> The evidence is corroborated by J.T. Wheeler<sup>40</sup> and Kamwar Khan,<sup>41</sup> and the surgeon was Dr. Hamilton, surgeon to the envoys who treated the Emperor. The ailment is recorded as first swellings in the groin and a threatened fistula.<sup>42</sup>

The movement of treasury was also an important news item. Such information was conveyed about treasury of Peshawar, Jamrud, Bengal,<sup>43</sup> Orissa and Deccan.<sup>44</sup>Reports that the departure of *mutasaddis* of the treasury to Jamrud.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup>WR dated *Asarhsudi* 11, VS 1769/13 July, 1712, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup>WR*Bhadwasudi*12, VS 1772/10 September, 1715, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> J.T. Wheeler, Early Records of British India: A History of the English Settlements in India as told in the Government Records, the work of old travelers and other contemporary documents from the earliest period down to the rise of British power in India, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Delhi, 1972, pp. 176-177.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup>Kamwar Khan, *Tazkirat us SalatinChagta*, ed. MuzaffarAlam, Delhi, 1980.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Fistula was a common ailment of royalty because of riding over horse in expedition. See *Aushadhkhana*documents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup>WR dated *Bhadwavadi*13, VS 1769/15 September, 1712, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup>WR dated 12 *Zilhaj*A.H. 1100, R.S.A.B.; WR dated *Bhadwavadi*13, VS 1769/15 September, 1712, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup>WR dated 2 *Jamadi*II, A.H. 1093/8 June, 1682, R.S.A.B.

The Mughal nobility consisted of well recognised racial groups like *Turani*(Central Asian), *Irani*(Persian), *Afghan, Sheikhzadas*(Indian Muslims) and *Rajputs*. The imperial policy was incorporation of varied elements, so as to counter/ curb growth of a particular faction. Such trajectories were built for smooth conduct of administration. However, this diversity contributed to rifts. In one report the *wakil* feels that Umdatulmulk and Mureed Khan were not on cordial terms. He Earlier, Umdatulmulk had not been happy with the work of Mir Ghulam Muhammad Faqir. The Similarly *wakil* reports that Abdullah Khan had not been pleased with the appointment of Chabela Ram as *diwan* of *Khalisa* hence he was transferred. Abdullah Khan then approached the Emperor and consequently Mu'tamad Khan Azamshahi, the *diwan* of Jahan Shah was granted the *diwani* of the *khalisa*.

Jats formed a formidable force in the close neighborhood of Amber which became a cause of concern for the Amber Raja. This area became volatile throughout 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century as there was tussle between the two powers constantly. The bone of contention was Malarna, Bhusawar, Kaman, Khohri, Kol, etc. The *wakil* reports the brother of the treacherous Jat (Jatbadzat) had spread out in Mevli and Udbai that Sherpur located near the fortress of Ranthambore will be attacked by him, when Gopal Das, servant of late Ram Singh came to know of it. He sent his son Devi Singh with an army of 3000 *sawars*to Malarna in order to guard its frontiers from the Jats. When Devi Singh established his *morchal*in between Sherpur and Malarna, the Jats being unable to trespass the frontier and enter Sherpur attacked the nearby villages. The Emperor took advantage of this situation and promised great honours(e.g. *mashrutjagir*, enhancement of *mansab*, etc.) for the Amber to tame the Jat rebels.

The Mughal Emperor planned the strategy of countering the Marathas with the help of joint force of the Rajput. The wakil reports that the important news of the court is that Bakshiulmulk Ruhullah Khan, along with one of the (captive) sons of the enemy (Maratha) chieftains (sardar-i ghanim) came out of the pass and reached Gulshanabad. Informs that when

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup>WR dated 8 *Jamadi*II, A.H. 1092/2 July, 1681, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup>WR dated 8 *Jamadi*II, A.H. 1092/2 July, 1681, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup>WR dated 20 *Ramzan*, R.Y.32/19 July, 1688, R.S.A.B. for detail see, SumbulHalim Khan, "Agrarian Conditions in Pargana Kaman (C. 1768-1775)," *Journal of Historical Studies*, vol. 2, 1990.

this news reached the Maharaja's servants they entertained Ruhullah Khan; prior to this the royal court was looking after his needs. <sup>49</sup>Reports that a request has been presented at the court that the enemy (Marathas) has reached Gujarat hence Chatsu and Mauzabad be guarded by the contingent. Adds that the *paibaqi*of *Suba*Ajmer is offered to the Maharaja on the condition of maintaining a contingent. <sup>50</sup>Informs that "the Nawab (Hasan Ali) wants that since the three leaders, Maharaja (you), Ajit Singh and Raja Chatrasal united in order to punish the enemy (Marathas) who has come to Malwa and is creating disturbance. By this act of cooperation the Emperor would be very pleased. <sup>51</sup>

Likewise he reports that as per Maharaja's request to NawabQutbulMulk for the despatchment of an army to suppress the rebels (Marathas) at Shahjahanpur*hasbulhukums* are being despatched to Raja ChatarsalBundela, RaoRam Chand, Muhammad Raza, Raja Badan Singh the *zamindar* of Rampur, Iltifat Khan, Raja Durjan Singh, *Zamindar*Chanderi, Shyam Singh, Raja Udot Singh, Izzat Khan, Rai Sahib Singh, Muhammad Zaman Beg, Arjun Singh. <sup>52</sup>

Subaof Kabul was a prestigious subedariwhich was assigned to high ranking nobles and Amber Raja was entrusted with the responsibility to protect North-West frontier. He planned intelligent strategy in which he tactfully employed the turbulent Afghan tribes, the Yusufzai, Khataks, Hazaras, Ghilzai, Shinwaris, Afridis, Urqzais and Sherzadfor smooth conduct of administration of Kabul. Several initiatives were taken by the Raja to manage the frontier which included safety of Khyber and Attock ferry and passes, commuting of treasury and important officials, and supply of security. <sup>53</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup>WR dated 10 *Jamadi*II, A.H. 1094/6 June, 1683, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup>WR dated *Mangsirvadi7*, VS 1763/14 September, 1706, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup>WR dated *Asarhvadi*12, VS 1770/6 July, 1713, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup>WR dated *Baisakhsudi*4, 1771/18 April, 1714, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup>WR dated 29 *Shaban*A.H. 1096/21 July, 1685, R.S.A.B.; WR dated 6 *Ramzan*A.H. 1096/27 July, 1685, R.S.A.B.; WR dated 1 *RabiulAwwal*A.H. 1093/18 February, 1683, R.S.A.B.; WR dated 3 *RabiulAwwal*, A.H. 1093/2 March, 1683, R.S.A.B.For detail see, SumbulHalim Khan, "Taming the Dragon in Kabul: Mughal Rajput Policy 1676-88," *The Journal of Central Asian Studies*, vol. 18, no. 01, 2009.

Wakilreport provides a detailed insight into the extent of impact the Sikh uprising exercised over the Mughals. The area of Sirhind, Batala, Kalano, Lahore was worst effected endangering the imperial treasury and the local population. Some areas were depopulated. Administration of area was in total chaos. The Jagirdar (Mohammad Amin Khan), faujdar (Ali Ahmad Khan) and Ijaradar (Taqarub Khan) were alarmed. A military contingent comprising of many powerful nobles like Mohammad Amin Khan, Muzaffar Khan, Khan-i Dauran, Afrasiyab Khan, Udot Singh, Rao Ram Chand Bundela, Kalan Singh Bhadoriya, Ajit Singh and Jai Singh Sawai was employed to crush the uprising. 54

Wakilinforms the Gujars had raised a sedition in environs of Narmada and Chanderi. The zamindarsand faujdarsof neighbourhoodwere invited for succour. Enhancement in rank of nobles were also made to motivate them. 55 Wakilalso conveys details of civil war between Durjan Singh and Anirudh Singh over gaddiof Bundi. 56

We can thus conclude that the office of Amberwakil was very vital in context of Mughal court politics and diplomacy since he represented the Raja for all practical purpose. The *wakilhad* the privilege to incorporate varied official documents and interact with top most nobles to expedite matters and collect information. There was considerable amount of subjectivity involved in his communication of related news in the wakilreportswhich differentiates it from official histories of the period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup>WR dated *Kartiksudi*6, VS 1768/2 November, 1711, R.S.A.B.; WR dated *Chaitrvadi*10, VS 1771/9 April, 1714, R.S.A.B.; WR dated *Bhadwasudi*12, VS 1772/10 September, 1715, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup>WR dated *Asojsudi*10, VS 1771/18 September, 1714, R.S.A.B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup>WR dated 10 *Jamadi*II, A.H. 1094/6 June, 1683, R.S.A.B.