



DEVELOPMENT OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA DURING BRITISH RAJ

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ABSTRACT

This study's objective is to get an understanding of the police system and its growth during the British era. This is because the structure of the police force that exists in India now was inherited in its current form from the British. The fundamental structure setup and operational procedures of the police force in independent India have not undergone any significant changes.

The administration of law and order in India dates back to the dawn of Indian civilization; nevertheless, the modern police force is mostly a legacy of the British colonial era. Because of this, an investigation into the growth of the police force throughout the time of the British Raj is required in order to comprehend the current structure of the police force in India. When captain Howkins Merchant of the East India Company arrived at Surat in 1609, it was the first time that British people had set foot in India. Before the firm started to play a role, it was happy to compete for trade concessions, to build up its ware houses and commercial colonies, and to fight for favors at the courts of the Mughals and smaller rulers of the interior. This took more than a century and a half. Throughout the course of a century, beginning in 1757 and ending in 1857, attempts were made to find institutional solutions to the challenges of governing a rising colonial empire.

It was a moment of experimentation for the business as far as the administration of the police was concerned. As an imperial ruler, the company had to deal with the challenges of maintaining law and order and collecting taxes. The corporation was in the process of building an efficient administrative system by adopting the police system that was in place at the time with just a few minor changes. During that time, the policing system was split up into village and town police departments. The majority of the cities and towns used a more complex structure, with a figure known as 'Kotwal' serving as the head of the local police



administration. The state of law and order was precarious, and the rate of criminal activity was becoming steadily higher by the day. The organisation gave careful thought to the logistics of managing the police force in each of its three presidential provinces: Madras, Bombay, and Bengal. In December of 1772, the East India Company assumed control of all of the administration of the police force and, after making some adjustments, built their own version of the police force that had previously existed. In the year 1792, Lord Cornwallis, who was serving as Governor-General of India at the time, formed a police force that was accountable to company agents. With this particular arrangement for the administration of police, Darogha was in command of the police administration system for the villages, while Kotwar was in control of the cities. Jamadar, together with his Barakandazes (Constables), and Clerk, launched an attack on Darogha. The District judge was the one who held him accountable.

The 'Darogha' system did not live up to the lofty standards set for it. The number of crimes committed continued to rise, and the social climate got even more unstable. It was impossible for 'Darogha' to maintain control over the rural police. Maybe it was because the 'darogha's' arrogance and oppression were so plainly visible to any district official, and hence he was burdened with the full responsibility for the worsening circumstances in the country side. The darogha arrangement came under fire from a slew of special commissions, minutes, and heavy reports, all of which were published rather quickly. In the year 1814, the company issued a formal order that the system be done away with and a restoration to the ancient practise of village policing be implemented. The British government swiftly came to the conclusion that the darogha system should not be eliminated but rather changed in its current form. Under the new system, the village police were controlled by the collector, the chief executive, and the revenue officer in each district. In Madras and Bombay Provinces, there was no darogha to oversee the village police. In Bengal, the collector who was in charge of supervising the local police was required to operate via darogha. There were no miraculous results from the ineffective abolition and reform of the darogha. Crime, particularly dacoity, civic instability, and a general sense of insecurity persisted without letup.

The "clacoits" and "thugs" ramped up their criminal operations in a significant scale. In 1829, Lord William Bentinck organized a special police force to destroy them. F.C. Smith



and Colonel H. Sleeman were in charge of the group, and they were led by Lord William Bentinck. During the years 1826 and 1835, this anti-gang operation was active. This surgery was carried out with a great deal of success. A branch known as the "Thagi and Dacoity branch," which was founded in 1835 and has since been renamed the "Intelligence Bureau of India," was also formed. 5 Charles Napier established a police force in the province of Sindh in the year 1843. He differentiated between the city police and the local police. This police force is made up of 240 constables, some of whom are pedestrians and some of whom ride horses. The responsibility for providing direction over the whole region rested with an Inspector General of Police and, within each district, with the caretaker. Since the Collector remained the highest-ranking company official in each district, the Superintendent was responsible not only to the Inspector General but also to the Collector. So, the duty for law and order was ensured by the government via the collector; nevertheless, the mechanics of police administration were committed to an entirely new department that was functionally unique. In the same year, 1847, the Bombay Police Department was also established. After annexing Punjab, the British created two distinct branches of the police force with distinct names: the "Military Preventive Police" and the "Civil Detective Police." Up to the year 1857, the majority of the police force was made up of inn workers. In the year 1856, the judicial system and the police were split apart. In the past, the judicial and police powers were both delegated to a single individual, particularly in the cities of Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta. After the events of the Mutiny of 1857, the governance of India was taken straight from the East India Company and given to the British government.

Police under the Crown

The Indian Police Administration underwent further reorganization after the British took control of the country. The Government of India established a Committee, known as the Police Commission, in the year 1860 with the purpose of reorganizing the Police Administration. While making recommendations for various different improvements, this Committee underlined how important it was to boost the morale of the workers in the police force. This committee advised that the policies of recruiting, promotion, scales of compensation, educational requirements, and training to the employees should all be amended in light of the aforementioned considerations. The Indianization of the Police Administration was another recommendation made by this group. The Police Act of 1861



was enacted into law as a direct result of the suggestions made by this committee.

"entire police-establishment under a State Government Shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be one police force, and shall be formally enrolled; and shall consist of such number of officers and men, and shall be constituted in such manner, as shall from time to time be ordered by the State Government," as stated in the Police Act (Act V) of 1861.

"The Superintendent of the Police throughout a general police district (shall embrace any presidency, state or place, or any part of any presidency, state or place, in which this Act shall be ordered to take effect) shall rest in and shall be exercised by the State Government to which such district is sub-ordinate; and except as authorized under the provisions of this Act, no person, officer, or court shall be empowered by the State Government to supersede, or control an officer of the general p

An officer to be kept in the Inspector General of Police, together with such Deputy Inspector General and Assistant Inspector General as the State Government will think proper, shall be bestowed with the authority to administer the police force over a whole general police district.

The administration of the police throughout the local jurisdiction of the Magistrate of the district shall, under the general control and direction of such Magistrate, be vested in a District Superintendent and such Assistant District Superintendents as the State Government shall consider necessary," the statute reads. "The administration of the police throughout the local jurisdiction of the Magistrate of the district shall be vested in a District Superintendent and such Assistant District Sup

"The Inspector General of Police shall have the full powers of a Magistrate throughout the general police district, but shall exercise these powers subject to such limitation as may from time to time be imposed by the State Government." This provision states that the Inspector General of Police will have full powers of a Magistrate.

In addition to this, there are provisions for specialized police officers as well as extra police force in the potentially hazardous location. The first ever independent Railway Police Service was established at East Indian Railway on January 1st, 1867. This occurred exactly one year earlier.



The Legal Codes:

In 1835, Lord Macaulay was chosen as the head of a Law Commission, which was responsible for codifying for the first time the Indian Criminal Code. This code was subsequently updated by the Second Law Commission in 1853. In addition, the Criminal Process Law was drafted by this Commission. A system that was fundamentally distinct from the one developed by the court of Directors was implemented in Imperial India by the Police Act of 1861. The procedure for its operations was outlined in the Criminal Procedure Code, which was initially enacted in 1861, and the Indian Evidence Act, which was passed in 1872. The Code underwent a number of revisions before finally arriving at what is essentially its final form in the year 1898. In the year 1859, the Code of Civil Process was passed, and in the year 1860, the Indian criminal code was adopted. With the exception of Bombay and Madras, the Police Act of 1861 was implemented across the whole of British India. These two provinces already had police Statutes that were almost equivalent to the Central Act when the Central Act was passed.

At the beginning, a significant number of the officers in the police force were from the commissioned ranks of the indigenous army. Nevertheless, as time went on, those officers began to be nominated for positions in the police administration. The Public Service Commission voiced its opposition to the system in 1893, which led to the beginning of recruiting efforts that included competitive examinations that were conducted in England and the advancement of officers who were already in service.

In the year 1902, Lord Curzon, who was serving as the Viceroy of India at the time, established a new Police Commission with the intention of conducting an exhaustive investigation of the operations of the police. After being put into operation for forty years, this Commission decided to investigate the system and concluded that it had been unsuccessful. They stated that "It is generally believed that the Police Force is corrupt and oppressive, and it has utterly failed to secure that confidence and cordial co-operation of the people. The Police Force is far from efficient; it is defective in training and organisation; it is inadequately supervised; it has a poor reputation; and it is far from efficient.

On March 21, 1905, the government issued directives in response to the suggestions made by the Police Commission in 1902. According to this, the position of village Chaukidar was given to the Nambardar so that the business of the village could be managed without the



need to report trivial concerns to the officials of the police department. The function of dealing with offences has been handed to the village panchayats so that the villagers may realize their individual and communal responsibility for the safety and well-being of the community. The pay scale for police officers with lesser ranks was adjusted to reflect the increase. It was instructed that the Head Constables of the staff be included in the recruiting process for the Sub-Inspector positions. Just ten percent of the available inspector positions were supposed to be filled by individuals who had been promoted from the sub-inspector ranks. In addition, several training facilities were made available to the officers of the police department.

Moreover, a Criminal Investigation Department was established at the provincial level, and the Railway Police were assigned to the same Deputy Inspector General who oversaw the operations of the Criminal Investigation Department. Regarding the administration of criminal justice inside the district, the District Magistrate continued to serve as the Head of the District. Since the suggestions of the Police Commission report from 1902 did not result in any significant changes, "the character and the structure of police administration remained as they had been before."

The first Finger Print Bureau was created in the city of Calcutta in the year 1897. Sir Edward Henry, an Inspector General of Police in Bengal, is credited with developing the Finger Print method that is used all over the globe today. The technology was invented in India. At the same year, 1910, Calcutta also became home to the world's first forensic laboratory.

On April 10, 1941, the first transmission of information via a wireless system was initiated with the sending of an information front to Lucknow. Once some time had passed, the Police Radio Section was established.

Further attempts to more Indianize the police force were made throughout the early part of the twentieth century. Appointments were made to a large number of committees and state police commissions. The next year, 1921, admission examinations for this service were conducted in India in addition to those done in England. This followed the year 1920, when Indians were granted permission to be included in higher ranks in the Police. 11 But, the pace was painfully sluggish. Sir A. K. Sinha was the first Indian to achieve the highest rank before the country gained its independence. That of the Inspector General for the state of Bihar.



The era up to 1947 was characterized by the fight for independence. That was the most trying moment of trial for the cops, and it brought out their worst qualities. During the fight for independence, the police were arrayed against the national movement, and Indian policemen faced off against Indian freedom fighters ".

Police In Independent India:

As it gained its independence, India transitioned into a federal political system, and police forces were established both in the central government and in each of the states. Control of the Central Police Units is delegated to the Minister of Home Affairs. The office of the Inspector General of Police, also known as the Director General of Police, is responsible for exercising control over the State Police. This official, in turn, is answerable to the elected political power in the state via the civil Secretariate. As the country gained its independence, it is apparent that the organisation of the police force did not fundamentally alter. "Independence resulted in profound changes in the organisational structure of the political system of government, but it had no discernible impact on the structure of the administrative system for the police force. Before the country's independence, the three structural traits that now identify the present police system—control by state governments, horizontal stratification, and functional specialization between armed and unarmed police—were formed."

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