

EVOLUTION OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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Abstract

Kanyakumari District is located at the southern tip of Peninsular India. It has been fifty-one years since the district merged with Tamil Nadu from the Travancore province of Kerala in 1956. Kanyakumari, as the full district initially, was administered by only one Deputy Superintendent of Police. Madras state got the prestige of having a police force for the first time in India. The police system was formulated in 1858, the Indian Police Act was enacted only in 1861. In 1858, the police department was formed when Madras was a province. The police force enriches the district further with peace and amity. The law and order of Kanyakumari district are maintained by the police by having their wings. The administration of the Police in the district is under the immediate control of the District Superintendent of Police, who is under the general control of the District Collector. The District Crime Branch wing comprises a Deputy Superintendent of Police, an Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, four Head Constables, and Policemen. The Special Branch CID wing is created by the government to inform it, through some wings are at the district level, this wing directly contacts the government about regarding the problems of law and order, the matters concerning with political, religious ones. The Prohibition Enforcement Wing is functioning under an Additional Superintendent of Police (ADSP) and the direct supervision of a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). This wing is functioning at Nagercoil, Thuckalay, and Kuzhithurai. Each unit has an Inspector, two sub-Inspectors supported by seventeen Policemen. The Economic Offences Wing was started in the district for the first time on 01-07-2000. It has a DSP an Inspector, Two Sub – Inspectors, seven Head Constables, three Grade I constables, and two Grade II constables. The function of Police administration is the yardstick for the smooth functioning of the state and executive. A sincere political will is essential to meet the challenges of making a model Police force for the Kanyakumari District.

Key words: Kanyakumari District - Police administration - Superintendent of Police - Police system - Crime Branch - government - Prohibition Enforcement Wing - Economic Offences Wing - Inspectors - Head Constables - Police force.

Introduction:

The word 'Police' is derived from the Greek word, politeia which means 'government'. It refers to that segment of government, which deals with the protection of life and property, preservation of public tranquility and maintenance of order, and the prevention and control of crime. The law and order are maintained by the Police by having their wings. The common belief is that police system in India is a British creation. Tamil Nadu special Police, Armed Reserve Police, and the Law and order maintaining stations. Madras state got the prestige of having a Police force for the first time in India. In 1858, the Police department was formed when Madras was a province. Mr. Thomas was the first IG of the Police. At that time, Inspector-General (IG) was the highest post held. During that time, not only Tamil Nadu, but also some parts of Karnataka and Andhra were under the control limit of Madras Police.

Kanyakumari District:

Kanyakumari District is located at the southern tip of Peninsular India. It has been fifty-one years since the district merged with Tamil Nadu from the Travancore province of Kerala in 1956. Kanyakumari, as the full district initially, was administered by only one Deputy Superintendent of Police. The land areas and coastal areas from Kalliakavilai to Kanyakumari were administered and controlled peacefully at first. As Nagercoil is the capital of the district and the center part of the district as well as the District Head Quarters Office was functioning at a building located on the South towards the entrance of the Nagaraja Temple. Now, the building was demolished and a new terrace building was constructed and that is functioning as the office of the Superintendent, and the district crimes Archives. In the due course of time, as the increasing number of crimes, a Superintendent was appointed for the district on 28-10-1956 to maintain the law and order situation well in the district.

Origin of Police Administration:

The Police system was formulated in 1858, the Indian Police Act was enacted only in 1861. It is a matter of pride to say that the system has been functioning so successfully for more than 146 years since its inception. And that system in India is the Police System. Indian Police Act was enacted at Common Wealth in England. The Police, in the last decades, faced several achievements and agonies. After the Independence of our Country, the Union minister and the iron man of India Sardar Valabai Patil said that an efficient and energetic person could be appointed straightaway at the top levels to make the department more effective. He believed the department should be full of discipline and decorum and make India modern and protect the interest of this person at any cast. Accepting his ideologies, the Indian Government introduced the Indian Police Service (IPS) a high-ranking Police Service. Now the Police are at a 1:1000 ratio. There will not be any peace in society, peace in normal life if there are no Police in the country. Action is needed to be taken up against those who violate the law, mistake the law, and against the antisocial elements. The Police do as much as the farmers weeding out in the fields. So the action taken by the Police is only for the benefit of society. The Police are your friends. Their Office is Just like his office of another department. The public can lodge their petitions, with the Police without fear. Once people were afraid of the Police but now they feel friendly towards the Police. Police department is created after enacting' many laws and schemes. It is main duty is to kill the social atrocities.

Police Administration:

The administration of the Police in the district is under the immediate control of the District Superintendent of Police, who is under the general control of the District Collector. Kanyakumari district has been divided into four sub-divisions such as Nagercoil, Kanyakumari, Thuckalay, and Colachel for administrative purposes and each sub-division is entrusted to a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The Police department is functioning in a hierarchical set up of Superintendent of Police (SP), Additional Superintendent Police (ADSP), Deputy Superintendent of Police (D.S.P.), Inspector, Sub - Inspector, Head Constable, Grade I Constable, Grade II Constable, women constables. Previously the Superintendents of Police were functioning under the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) of Madurai range. Later, after the formation of the Tirunelveli range, they function directly under the control of the concerned DIGs. There are, at present 32 Police stations, four All women Police Stations (Nagercoil, Thuckalay, Colachel, Kanyakumari) four Outposts Stations, besides the Armed Reserved Police force. The Kotticode outpost Station has been upgraded as a fully furnished Station from 26-02-07. Now Thotticode, Palukal, Keel Kothaiyaru, and Upper Kothaiyaru are the outpost stations functioning in the district. Every sub-division is under the control of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. Each DSP has an office annexed with a residence called the camp office.

Each DSP has the right, in his Jurisdiction to allocate the officers working under him for various purposes like maintaining law and order, gathering the intelligence reports on any violence, filing FIR on the reports received from the public, arresting the culprits by taking appropriate actions at right time, and producing them before the court of law, night patrolling. Three days prior and after the no moon day of stringent vigil, para duty on festival days, protecting at time of public meetings, agitations, arresting the culprits during minor or major injuries, road accidents and producing them before the court of law, preventing the crimes and receiving the stolen articles, though the Police have no role in civil disputes such as water, land, give and get matters people seek the help of Police to get relief. The Police, at that time, negotiate the matter with the two parties and make an amicable decision. Maintaining separate records for criminals depending upon the crimes, watching the movements of criminals, crimes against women, child workers, making beggars, etc. The Police should ever be alert on the matters of taking appropriate actions against the anti-social elements, giving protection to human lives, properties belonging to the government, and private parties during the time of communal violence. Making Peace Committee comprising of Revenue

and Police Officials along with the elders of the village, Panchayat president, etc is also the duty of the Police. It is the bounden duty of the Police to discharge their duties what so ever they have hindrances. The culprits should be produced before the Court of law without fear and prejudice. Otherwise, it would no doubt make indelible marks on the reputation of the Police. There is no proper contact between the Police and the public in rural areas. The Police have to face new challenges very often. The problems of communal violence and Naxalites are due to a lack of education. Funds should be allotted to Police in the budget as in the case of education and health. In Tamil Nadu, proper funds have been allocated to the Police. The Police are bounder to do round the clock duty and so they couldn't look after their families. These Police personals who work in urban areas have to face a lot of trials and tribulations. Politics have penetrated the Police. The Police DGP and Commissioner should be allowed to hold the post for a certain period.

The higher officials shouldn't be transferred as others. Now the Police officers discharge their duties with the fear of how long they have to work in service. The supreme court's verdict that a DGP should be allowed to hold the post for a stipulated period should be followed in practice, what is the use in introducing hi-tech in the Police department when there is a frustration of 24 hours of duty, lack of promotion, the uncertainty of service, etc. The Police could be modernized and regularised only by introducing shift methods of working, promotion, the certainty of providing service for a period, increasing the number of Police proportionately to the population, funds allotments, introducing new schemes, etc. The DGP, Commissioners, and District SPs should be appointed as per the norms of their qualifications. Most people never appreciate Police nevertheless the Police do their duty enthusiastically. The Police are human. They also have families, They have a mind in them. They have the same feelings and emotions as others do. It is wrong to see them apart. They have to be hard while doing their duties only because of circumstances. They have to face a lot of difficulties on duty. They have to be duty conscious in trapping the criminals. They have to bear all the problems like serving duty and night, losing the lives, getting damaged of their limbs, injuries, mental torture, indulging in criticism, getting threatened by the public, Superiors, Politicians. The people should understand that they do their service only for the betterment of society. The role of the Police is very important when a government introduces new schemes. It is the Police who face stiff oppositions when the new schemes are opposed by the people. They are the people who help the implementation of the

new schemes whether or not the people support them. It is a proven fact that a good society can be created only by the joint venture of the people and the Police.

District Crime Branch

This wing comprises a Deputy Superintendent of Police, an Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, four Head Constables, and Policemen. Though there are stations to trace out the criminals across the district, some popular cases, cheating cases, cannot be easily traced out. As the number of cases is very high every day and the Police have to concentrate all the matter regarding the law and order, it is not at all possible to find out the culprits who hide behind the cases. So such cases are handed over to this wing to find out a solution to all the crimes, with this view, the state government has introduced this wing in all the districts. This wing is functioning under the direct supervision of the SP. The white-collar crime - a crime which is done by superiors through subordinates, Bank Cheating, Cheating in the name of getting employment passport cheating, misappropriating cash by govt. employees, preparing to begin documents, false currencies, stamp paper cheating are the crimes handled by this wing. The DSP or Inspector enquires the matters and so there is no way for the criminals to escape.

Q Branch

This branch functions in our State with its Head Quarters at Chennai under the Head of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) the IG and DIG are the Officers helping him at the top level. This wing is in all districts of Tamil Nadu. The range in this wing is divided into many divisions. Each division is under the head of a DSP. Our district Q branch is functioning along with Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) under the DSP Q branch at Tirunelveli. In our district, this Office is functioning on a side of the DPO. Here 20 persons an Inspector, three Sub -Inspectors, 14 Head Constables two first Grade Constables are working.

Crime Branch CID

The cases which are not traced by the local Police station and the cases which need to be handled with special care or the cases which are found at fault with the investigations by the local officers or the cases ordered either by the Government or by a court of law are dealt with by this Department. Mostly all the cases have received appreciation from the public at large. All the petitions received from the court, CM cell, Law and Order DGP Chennai, Crime Branch, and Crime Investigation Department are taken action subsequently. This wing has an Inspector, a sub Inspector, two Head constables, a first Grade Constable,

and three II grade constables. The cases of Mondaicaud violence, Bomb throwing at Thengapattinam, Thiruvattar Athikesava Temple case attract people's concentration. All these cases were handled and finalized by this department.

Special Branch CID

This wing is created by the government to inform it, through some wings are at the district level, this wing directly contacts the government about regarding the problems of law and order, the matters concerning with political, religious ones. This wing assures protection beforehand. It functions as a backbone of the government. It analyses the reaction of the public when the new scheme is announced by the government. This is an indispensable wing that has two sub Inspectors, twelve Head constables under an Inspector. There may be a lot of secrets concerning domestic and foreign countries. This wing secretly finds facts about all persons involving in activities against the government. It collects and reports the information to the government.

Prohibition Enforcement Wing

To maintain a society that is honest and free from all troubles, addiction to liquors should be abolished. This wing is created only for that purpose and is functioning very well. This wing is functioning under an Additional Superintendent of Police (ADSP) and the direct supervision of a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). This wing is functioning at Nagercoil, Thuckalay, and Kuzhithurai. Each unit has an Inspector, two sub-Inspectors supported by seventeen Policemen. They find out the place of crime and register the cases. They collect details about illicit liquor. The raw materials for that production and the areas from which they are acquired etc. The vehicles which are used for transporting this illicit liquor are also seized by this wing. This wing numbers the liquor mixed with methanal and other pesticides only to give more intoxication. The spirit which is smuggled amidst the other goods is also confiscated. The spirit caught like this is highly inflammable and so it has to be kept safe. They are sent to a chemical lab at Tharamoni in Chennai. In some Stations, provisions are there to destroy the liquor with proper supervision. Thus they carry on an excellent job.

Economic Offences Wing

This wing was started in the district for the first time on 01-07-2000. It has a DSP an Inspector, Two Sub – Inspectors, seven Head Constables, three Grade I constables, and two Grade II constables. Now, a group is there to Cheat the people by showing alluring advertisements. So many chit funds are also there. They attract the people initially and get a lot of money from them and leave them on the streets at last. The people cheated took asylum with the Police. To get rid of this problem and make sure the people of their right to get back the money, this wing is created. They take all the people to a corner and negotiate with them, go to the places of the offenses. For this purpose, the wing has been given a building with a vehicle. As a result of these wings' hilarious tasks, most of the fraudulent chit funds are closed down. This wing has done its best for the people who lost their hard saved money in chit fund get them back. The chit funds which aimed to ran away with the amount collected was caught at the right time and people's money was saved at the eleventh hour. The chit fund owners were sent to jail. The licenses were canceled. The people have faith in this wing. This wing advises those who tempt to deposit their money with these chit funds. Now, the number of chit funds is very low in the district and the people deposit their money with nationalized Bank though the rate of interest is comparatively low. The Economic wing is functioning under the head of an Additional Director General of Police (ADGP). Each District wing is headed by an Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Single Digit Finger Print Bureau

One's Fingerprint never agrees with another one. This is the technique used by this bureau mostly in the theft ones, the old thieves get into the field over and over. When they touch a thing their fingerprint is imprinted. With the help of sophisticated technology. These criminals have been nabbed and sent to jails. But in return, they start their profession again. So the criminals when caught once are taken of their fingerprint. Later when occurrences happen they are matched and if found alike, the criminals are caught early. For this purpose, this wing has been created. In the Kanyakumari district, this office is functioning in the old buildings of this Armed Reserve Police force. It has a strength of a Deputy Superintendent, an Inspector, Sub Inspectors. The information of theft occurrences is also sent to this wing. The officer rushes to the spot and collects the fingerprints. On scrutiny, they can find the theft is done by old thieves or new ones. Now, the newly recruited officers are given training in this connection. On retirement, the fingerprints of the Police personnel are taken only to avoid impersonations. By the effort of this wing, a lot of properties

are recovered and restored to the real owners. A vehicle is also allotted to them for their conveyance. The fingerprint is an indelible one that is formed in the fetus. The fingerprint can never be destroyed even by cut or fire injuries. So this is the 100% assured evidence. Even the highly decomposed bodies can be identified with the fingerprint. The person, who is imprisoned, is taken of his fingerprint. In foreign countries, the fingerprint is taken even from babies born. Each district is given a Remote – Query working Station, when a fingerprint is given here, the output is taken in Chennai Head Office. The officers performing this work need not wear a uniform. In Chennai, The Head Quarters of all the districts is known as Finger Print Analysis and Criminal Teaching System (FACTS). Indian level, HQ is functioning in New Delhi by name National Crime and Record Bureau (NCRB) at 66 R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

All Women Police Station

The women Police force was formed in Tamil Nadu in 1973. In 1972, the first women IPS Officer Mrs. Kiran Bedi was appointed followed by Mrs. Thilagavathy and Lathika Saran in 1976 from TN cadre. In 1973, a woman Police force was created for the first time with a sub Inspector, a Head Constable, and 20 women Police Constables. Later in 1975, this force was extended to Coimbatore, Trichy, and Madurai. The woman Police Stations are created only to find out the atrocities meted out to women, to take cases on women, to enquire and help the women legally, and to make them get legal aids from the government. In Kanyakumari District, the post-all-women Police station was formed in a building adjacent to Kottar Police Station. It was inaugurated by the then CM on 06-07-1994. Later it has developed and at present, the WPC Stations are at Thuckalay, Colachel, and Kuzhithurai. These Stations are functioning under the concerned DSP. They Function under the control of the Station Inspectors. The WPCs do escort duties for the women accused along with the men's PCs. In all women Police Station, an Inspector, a sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and two Police Constables are at service. Women helpline 181 and child helpline 1098 are function in all women PS to prevent any atrocities towards women and children. Six women courts are functioning in Tamil Nadu at Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem, Trichy, Madurai, and Tirunelveli. They do their service successfully. Now with the introduction of the women Police station, the women are free to lodge complaints against their husbands and others who harm them intentionally. In Tamil Nadu, the first women Police Station was opened in 1992.

Vigilance and Anti-Corruption

'Avoid Bribery Be Bold', 'Getting and giving bribery is an offense', Procrastination leads to bribery', these are the signs we find on the boards hanging on the Govt. Buildings. Now, bribery enters everywhere. The people who live much Sophisticated than their income are those who are the needed ones here. This department needs them. Those persons who are honest and never give up their mind for anything are selected for this department. In our District this wing is functioning under a Deputy Superintendent of Police, Inspector Sub - Inspectors, Head Constables, and Constables are working here. Previously Tirunelveli was the station for DSP. But now he is at Nagercoil as this office has been elevated, those people working here need not wear a uniform. This is meant to be mingling in the public unidentified. They need to catch red-handed those who work in all the places. It is crime to get anything favour for doing something in a government office. Article 161 provides the punishment for those who try to get bribery for the works done People will be dissatisfied if the bribery enters the fields of government.

Police Control Room

'Emergency Police 100' is very popular among the people. Getting immediate messages and providing immediate help by rushing to the spot is the main task of this unit. The telephone number of this unit is 100. This is a toll-free call. As this unit is alert as round a clock basis, all the complaints such as eve-teasing, robbery, chain snatching can be reported at any time. Sometimes some people may be stranded on the way who by mistake, can be approached by the anti-social elements, that time, the Police rescue them from the evil elements. If anyone reports to the control room, the Police there will inform the patrol vehicle through Very High Frequency (VHF). So that immediate help can be possible. The people will either be restored to the concerned station or the relatives. This telephone 100, the register is ever functioning one. All the calls to the number, the actions taken are registered in the register. This unit is employed with an Inspector, Sub - Inspector, Head Constables, First Grade Constables with three vehicles. The personnel is doing their service on a shift basis. People get immense benefit out of it.

Special Branch

This branch must investigate the cases secretly. An Inspector, two sub - Inspectors, Head constables, and constables are working there. A constable is attached to every station and the reports gathered by them are informed to his office They exchange the messages, by phone wireless, special reports. They gather the information about the temple festivals, Very Very Important Person visit, Communal violence, great theft,

road accidents, and doubtful deaths and report them immediately. This branch directly contacts the superintendent of Police as they give and report very important matters. Their services are kept secret and confidentially.

Railway Police

The Railway Police wing is functioning under a Director in Chennai. An IG and a DIG are holding responsibilities for the wing. This wing has two head Quarters. One is in Chennai and another one is at Trichy. Chennai is for northern districts and Trichy is for Southern districts. The SPs function as heads of the divisions. There are four Subdivisions. They are Madurai, Trichy, Chennai, and Coimbatore. Each Subdivision is headed by a DSP. Each sub-division is further divided into many circles which have railway Police Stations and some outposts. Each circle is run by an Inspector. In some stations, the Inspector functions as Station House Officer (SHO). In some stations, the sub Inspectors function as SHOs. The outposts are under the head of Head constables supported by four constables. The railway track, Goods Shed, compound wall, the railway station, and the adjacent, areas owned by railways are the jurisdiction of the railway Police station. This is called the railway limit. But the quarters of employees located inside or outside the campus are not coming under the jurisdiction. In the Kanyakumari district, a railway Police Station and a temporary out post are functioning at Nagercoil and Kanyakumari respectively.

An Inspector, two sub Inspectors, one woman SI, Eight Head constables, and Ten constables are working. Plat form Beat Duty and Train Beat Duty are the important duties of the railway Police. The Police Strength has been divided into ABC. The A- Strength men do their duty from 7.00 to 14.00. B men do their duty from 14.00 to 21.00 and C men do their duty from 21.00 to 7.00 on a rotation basis. This is known as Town Beat System. The railway Police take care of the Platforms at Kanyakumari, Nagercoil Junction, Thovalai, Aralvoimozhi, Valliyor, Nanguneri, Nagercoil town, Eraniel, Palliadi, Kuzhithurai. They travel from Nagercoil to Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tiruvananthapuram on duty. Moreover, they give security when VVIP/VIP travels in the trains. Indian Railway Act 1989 replaced the Act of 1890. This act has 16 sections and 200 articles. The 15th Section describes the duties of the Railway Police regarding the crimes and punishments. The railway Police find out the cases of they occur on the railway jurisdiction in retaining, in any govt. of theft murder accidents etc. The death on tracks are enquired by the railway Police and the others are by the concerned station PCs. The area of the railway Police station is wider than that of the

district. The Nagercoil railway station limit is up to Kanyakumari on the south, Tirunelveli on the east up to Thamiraparani river, Parasala on the west.

Conclusion:

The formation of a regular Police force led to the framing of rules and regulations empowering the different Police officials in discharging their duties. The duties and responsibilities of these officials were specified and encouraged with proper awards and medals. The function of Police administration is the yardstick for the smooth functioning of the district and executive. As the scientific invention strengthens the forces on the other side the terrorists also take advantage. So the Police ever need hi-tech equipment to cope with the anti-social elements. The Police administration of Kanyakumari district is the role model to the Police department of other districts. For that, the Police strive still with more vigorousness. A sincere political will is essential to meet the challenges of making a model Police force for the Kanyakumari District. It is the considered opinion of those in the department that provided with the requisite facilities, a sincere and caring government assisted by the goodwill of the citizens, the Kanyakumari Police could be moulded into one of the very best in the country to continue to ensure ever better peace, security, and prosperity for the people of Kanyakumari district.

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