INTRODUCTION

Travancore is the anglicised form of 'Thiruvithamkur' a word derived from 'Thiruvithamcode'¹ which in Malayalam² is interpreted as Thiruvithamkur and in Sanskrit Srivadhanapuri or Srivazhumkode, meaning the seat of prosperity. The state was also known as Venad and Thiru-Adi-Desam. The former means the land of treasure or the land of bamboos while the latter is probably derived from Tiru-Adi-Kal, one of the titles of the Chera Kings³.

Travancore, the southernmost Indian State, situated on the South West region of the Indian Peninsula forms an irregular triangle with its apex at cape Comorin between 8°4' and 10° 22' North Latitude and between 76° 13' and 77° 38' East Longitude. It is bounded on the North by the state of Cochin and British District of Coimbatore on the East by the British District of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnelvely and on the West and South lie the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean⁴. The state has an area of 7625 square miles and its extreme width 75 miles. Travancore was divided into three districts, namely, Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam⁵. Padmanabhapuram, the former capital of Travancore is situated about 33 miles South of Trivandrum and a mile East of Thakkalai on the main Southern road to Nagercoil. Till about 1790 A.D. Padmanabhapuram was the capital of Travancore. But, the seat of the Government was transferred to

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¹ The Travancore Almanac and Directory for 1936, p.1.
² Malayalam – Mala Signifies a mountain and Alam a district or country. It means therefore the mountainous country (Ward and Conner, Geographical and Statistical Memoir of the Survey of the Travancore and Cochin States, Vol. I, Travancore, 1863, p.1.)
⁴ C.S. File No: 714 of 1929, Memorandum on Travancore Administration.
⁵ Sadasivan, S.N; Aspects of Kerala Administration, Trivandrum, 1980, p.12.
Trivandrum during the time of Maharajah Dharmaraja⁶. Trivandrum, the capital of the state, could well be described as a city built on hills like Rome.⁷

**Flora and fauna**

Richness of soil, heavy rainfall and damp climate have given rise to a flora of great variety. The hills and forests yield the wild flora and the cultivated crops contribute to the agricultural productions.⁸ The state reserved forest covers an extent of slightly less than a third of the entire area and are well timbered with teak, blackwood, ebony, jack and anjili⁹. The forest region is divided into four classes according to their characters, namely, heavy moist forests of evergreen trees, land originally covered with moist forest, but now overspread with trees of various ages, deciduous forests with grass growing under the trees and rock land covered with short grass and useless for any purpose, except pasture.¹⁰

The soil and climate of the state favoured the production of a great variety of crops such as paddy, pepper, tea, coffee, ginger, tapioca, arecanuts, rubber, timber, turmeric, coconut and cardamom¹¹. But rice is the main food crop of traditional cultivation. The fields are mostly at a lower level than the backwaters. In the beginning of the agricultural season, water is pumped out form the low-lying fields by water wheels operated physically. Tapioca is cultivated almost everywhere in the lower levels.¹²

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⁷ *Travancore Cochin the Treasure land of the East*, Department of public relations, Trivandrum, 1951, p.11
⁸ Ramanatha Iyer, S; *Brief Sketch of Travancore the Model State of India*, Travancore, 1903, p.44.
⁹ *T.A.R.*, 1942 –1943, p.2
¹² C.S. File No: 714 of 1929, Memorandum of Travancore Administration.
forest and hilly regions abound in a large variety of fauna. Mongoose, hedgehogs, rats, mice, bats, porcupines, squirrels and hares are some of the fauna found in the plains. The leopard is very common. Elk, horned antelope, wild dogs and monkeys are found in the forest. The birds common to the plains are fowls, geese, and turkeys. Crow, owl, horse, sparrow, little honeysucker, the golden beaked wood pecker, kite, pigeon, snipe, parrot, and dove are also some of the birds found here. Birds life is most abundant in the forest area.\(^\text{13}\)

**Rivers**

The state of Travancore is blessed with a number of rivers. They mostly originate from the Western Ghats and flow through high banks and rocky beds, which make the region fertile. Some of the rivers were navigable for some distance inland. The most important of these rivers was Periyar which offered a course of 142 miles\(^\text{14}\) and the Pamba which offered a course of 90 miles. The Kallada, the Kulakada, the Muvattupuzha, the Ravamana, the Thamiraparani, the Neyyar, the Minachill, and the Vamanapuram were other important rivers which flowed through Travancore.\(^\text{15}\)

**Mountains**

The country is bounded on the East by a chain of mountains 200 miles long, generally spoken of as an uninterrupted continuation of the Western Ghats. These are however separated by the Palghat valley. The course of the mountain is very irregular. It breaks into hills of various heights. The average altitude of the summits is 4000 feet. The mountain chain bears different names in different parts. The Northern portion is

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\(^{14}\) General File No: 68 of 1923, *A Short Note Sketch of Travancore*.

known as the High Range or the Anamalai. Further South are the Cardamom Hills and Peermed plateau. The Southernmost peak of the Travancore Ghats is Mahendragiri. The loftiest among them is the Anaimudi peak, which is 8136 ft. above the sea level. So it is a beautiful country full of sparkling streams, wide lakes, large backwaters, abundant vegetation, rich forest and tall mountains.

Society

Generally, the society in Travancore was feudal and caste ridden. The social ladder was a long one composed mainly of Brahmins, Nairs, Ezhavas, Chettis, Nadars, Mudaliars, Kammalas, Ambalavasis, Parayas and Pulayars. The Brahmins stood at the top of the social hierarchy and even among them the Namboothiris were considered the highest in ranks. Next to them, the Nairs were considered as martial class who served as warriors. As they were privileged classes, they had their own rituals and deities like Siva and Vishnu. The Nanchilnad Vellalas are mostly found scattered all over Travancore though their chief centre is Nanchilnad, which comprises the taluks of Thovala and Agasteeswaram. They add the title pillai to their name. A group of Antharalajathis consisting mainly of Ambalavasis were placed below the kshatriyas. These people were attached to the temple and attended to duties pertaining to worship and adoration.

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16 Ramanatha Iyer, S., op.cit., p.5.
18 T.A.R; 1944 – 1945, p.2.
20 Thurston, E; Caste and Tribes of South India, Vol. V, Delhi, 1975, p.241.
The Nadars and Ezhavas constituted the highest division of the low caste\textsuperscript{22} in those days. Among the polluting caste, Kammalas enjoyed the highest status. They are divided into endogamous sub castes of Marayasari (Carpenter) Kollasari (Mason) and Kollan (Blacksmith). All of them enjoyed the same status with no intermarriage among them\textsuperscript{23}. Other polluting castes were Parayas, Pulayas, Vaniars, Ambattans, Kavathis, Mukkuvas and Paravas. The Paravas were a class of fishermen who collect bi-valve shells and make lime from them. Mat-making was their subsidiary occupation. They were largely found in the Taluks of Vilavancode, Kalkulam and Chirayinkeezh\textsuperscript{24}. The Kanikkars were a strong and sturdy race well fitted for the wilds they inhabited. As they were nomads, they did not put up permanent dwelling places.

The Mala Pandarams were a nomadic tribe who did not remain in a place for more than a week and lived in families of two or three in a locality. They considered themselves superior to the Kuravans and Vetans. In case of pollution by any of these two castes, they would re-enter the jungle only after a purification bath\textsuperscript{25}. A unique feature of the social organization of the state was the joint family system organized on the matrilineal principle. According to this system important position in the family was given to women\textsuperscript{26}.

Hinduism was the religion of the two third population of the state including the ruling family and the high castes like the Brahmins and Nairs. Christians,

\textsuperscript{22} Samuel Mateer, Land of Charity, London, 1971, p.38.
\textsuperscript{25} Krishna Iyer, L.A; The Travancore Tribes and Castes, Vol. I, Trivandrum, 1937, p.8
\textsuperscript{26} Kondoor Krishna Pillai, Travancore and its Ruler, Travancore, 1941, p.7
Mohammedans and a small body of Europeans and American residents formed the rest of the population. Christianity obtained a footing in the state as early as the first century A.D. The Orthodox and Conservative Hindus strictly observed the ancestral norms of conduct and religion. Any deviation from the established system was looked upon with suspicion and superstitious dread. The low castes worshipped special deities like Madan, Bhuthathan and Kali. They were even not allowed to touch the outer walls of the Brahmin Temples. But Travancore was noted for its religious tolerance. Christian missionaries and Muslim Mullahs freely preached their faith. Malayalam is the main language of the people, but in the border districts Tamil, Canada, Tulu and Konkani are spoken.

Revenue

For the purpose of Revenue administration, the then state of Travancore was divided into five divisions, thirty three taluks and four hundred and twenty eight villages. Each division was put under the control of an officer called Peishkar, taluk under the control of Tahsildars and the village under the control of proverthicar. Travancore had a different system of land tenure, such as Jenmies, Sircar Brahmaswom, Dewaswom and Madambimaravaha. The revenue of the state is derived mainly from a system of direct

28 Kondoor Krishna Pillai, op.cit., p.8.
30 Thurston, E., op.cit; p.121.
31 Nilkan Perumal, The Truth About Travancore, Madras, 1939, p.5.
33 T.A.R; 1910 – 1911, p.2.
taxation, indirect taxation, commercial services and levies in connection with specific services. There were only two sources of revenue for direct taxation namely land revenue and income tax. Various authorities conferred by various statutory enactments collected the taxes.\(^{35}\) The system of taxation was highly irregular and unfair. The unjust taxes imposed upon the poor plunged them into abject poverty. The indirect taxes were purushadram\(^{36}\) and the poll tax.\(^{37}\) Some of the families migrated into the neighbouring district to avoid this tax. In such cases the administration compelled the relatives of these families to pay the tax on their behalf.\(^{38}\) Moreover, fees were levied on low castes for marriage. Besides, the labour classes had to pay tax for the hair they grew. However the various Missionary endeavours created an awareness among the oppressed to react against the repressive measures. Consequently, in 1865, the state abolished hundred and ten such unjust taxes imposed upon the poor.\(^{39}\)

Export and import activities progressed. Articles like Cotton, coir, salt, sugarcane, tobacco and indigo constituted important export items. Import articles included spices, liquors, glassware, dyed clothes and the like. The state maintained commercial residences at Colachel, Alleppey, Alwaye and Trivandrum to develop trade and commerce.\(^{40}\) However, the state did not pay much attention to the development of industry. Though Travancore was blessed with abundant natural resources and

\(^{35}\) \text{T.A.R; 1932 – 1933, p.12} \\
\(^{36}\) Purushadram - A tax of 25% nominally levied by the Government on all inheritable property (Gladston, J.W; Protestant Christianity and Peoples Movement in Kerala 1850 – 1956, Trivandrum, 1984, pp. 29 – 30. \\
\(^{37}\) Poll tax – was a capitation tax first imposed in 1754 on the Nadar by Raja Marthandavarma to meet the increased military expenditure. \\
\(^{39}\) \text{T.A.R; 1865 – 1866, p.25.} \\
manpower, its industrial growth was limited because the government did not encourage them.\textsuperscript{41} The real industrialization happened only in 20\textsuperscript{th} century.

The budget was framed annually and assigned most of the income for education, public health, medical relief, the protection of person and property, the administration of justice and the provision of communication and irrigation facilities consume the bulk of the revenue.\textsuperscript{42} In revenue Travancore ranked after Hyderabad, Mysore and Kashmir\textsuperscript{43}.

**Political History**

Travancore, one of the princely states of India, had traced its direct and unbroken descent from the old Chera dynasty, of the Sangam Age.\textsuperscript{44} Until almost the end of the eighteenth century, the administration of Travancore was under the control of chieftains and local lords and was formulated on the basis of the norms of Catur -Varnya which emphasised the superior claims of Brahmins and Kshatriyas. The King was the supreme head of the state but local administration was in the hands of hereditary nobles.\textsuperscript{45} Under this feudal set-up the smallest administrative unit was known as Desam or Village, constituted by a handful of joint families. The Brahmin village was called Gramam and that of the non Brahmin village was known as Tara, Pitaka, Ceri, and Muri. Each Desam had a body of elders which practically constituted the government of that unit under a Desavazhi. Two or more Desams constituted a Nadu under a Naduvazhi. Desavazhis and Naduvazhis were responsible for the administration and for the defence of the area.
under them. Usually they were assisted by bodies like Kuttam and Sabha which consisted of the influential personalities of the locality. Up to the accession of Martandavarma in 1729 Travancore was only a minor principality and did not count as a factor in the general politics of Travancore. He had suppressed the rebellion in the state, uprooted all elements which had so long rendered the kingdom impotent, annexed Quilon and Elayadam defeated Dutch and established unquestionable power from Kayamkulam to Cape Comorin.

Kingship in Travancore, as elsewhere in ancient India, was an institution which exercised tremendous influence on every aspect of the life of the people. It comprehended every state activity and was absolute. The Ruler (His Highness the Maharaja) of Travancore was the source of all authority Judicial, Administrative and Legislative.

The Dewan, next to Maharaja, was the most powerful and exalted dignitary of the state. He was the intermediary between the Maharaja and the subjects. The Dewan’s tenure also depended on the will and pleasure of the Maharaja. The Dewan was assisted by an organised Secretariat under a Chief Secretary. He was the channel of communication between the secretariat and the various departments. It was based on the model of British Administration. The Directors of departments were held responsible for

46 A Judicial History of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1932, p.2.
49 Ibid., p.242.
50 T.A.R; 1929 -1930, p.9.
the proper administration of matters entrusted to them. They addressed their proposal to the Government and the Dewan examined them with the support of the offices of the secretariat.\textsuperscript{52} The King promulgated Regulations and proclamations and he was the recognised fountain of law and Justice.

At the time of the accession of Martanda Varma (1729 – 1758) utter confusion prevailed in every part of the state. Every chieftain in the state acted independently.\textsuperscript{53} Therefore, he suppressed all his enemies and effected an amalgamation of all the petty principalities and made himself the Adipathi of Venad. He not only created a strong army with three divisions but he himself controlled one of the three divisions and the other two divisions were left under Ramayyan Dalawa and Delanvoy who was taken as a captive at the battle of Colachel\textsuperscript{54} in 1741\textsuperscript{55}. The army enlisted by Ramayyan Dalawa consisted of a group of local Nairs and was called Kunjukkuttam.\textsuperscript{56} The King brought changes in the social and economic structure of the society of Travancore. As a result, the social privilege of the Nairs as a military class ended. He modified the army on the British model, it liberated the Nairs from their traditional occupation of compulsory military service under the immediate feudal lords.\textsuperscript{57} In addition he ordered a revenue

\textsuperscript{52} T.A.R: 1929 – 1930, p.9.


\textsuperscript{54} Battle of Colachel was the first maritime war fought between Travancore and the Dutch on 10\textsuperscript{th} August 1741. In the war Travancore became victorious and it is said that it was the first victory of India in a sea battle against a western power.

\textsuperscript{55} Shungunny Menon, P., History of Travancore form the Earliest Times, Madras, 1878, p.138.

\textsuperscript{56} Patavidya bhyasam, No: T.2105, A manuscript, Oriental Manuscript Library, Trivandrum.

\textsuperscript{57} Krishnan Nadar, G., Socio Economic Background of the Military History of Travancore, Kerala – India, Trivandrum, 1993, pp. 35 - 37.
survey in the state and authorised Mallan Sankaran of Palliyadi to supervise the work.\textsuperscript{58} On the basis of the settlement each land holder was given \textit{Pattah}\textsuperscript{59} which specified the tax and other particulars of the holdings. To implement the settlement effectively the state was divided into Taluks or Mandapathumvathukals and Villages.\textsuperscript{60}

Maharaja Ramavarma (1758 – 1798) who succeeded Martandavarma had the good fortune of being served by two able chief ministers, Ayyappan Martandan Pillai and Rajakesavadhas\textsuperscript{61}. Both the statesmen reorganized the revenue department, systematised the revenue collection and maintained proper accounts. Moreover, the ruler improved the economic condition of the people by encouraging trade and agriculture. In 1773 a comprehensive revenue survey was made and tenures were classified.\textsuperscript{62} A new port was also opened at Alleppey. Kottar in South Travancore was developed into an important commercial town\textsuperscript{63}. He took measures for the preservation of the state’s territorial integrity in the face of the threat from Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan of Mysore.\textsuperscript{64}

Balarama Varma (1798 – 1810), the next ruler, with the help of Velu Tampi and Ummini Thampi the Dalawas reorganized the revenue department, and carried out land survey, classified the land. New pattahs were issued to land holders.\textsuperscript{65} A new \textit{Ayacut} or

\textsuperscript{58} Padmanabha Aiyar, S., \textit{Revenue Settlement of Travancore, the Final Report 1885 – 1911 A.D.}, Trivandrum, 1913, p.8.

\textsuperscript{59} Pattah – The land register issued by revenue authority on behalf of the Government which contain full details of the land.

\textsuperscript{60} \textit{Report on the Census of Travancore}, Vol I, 1894, p.71.

\textsuperscript{61} Shungunny Menon, P., \textit{op.cit.}, p.187.


\textsuperscript{64} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 277.

settlement register was completed and a regular system of keeping accounts was introduced. Reforms were introduced for the improvement of agriculture, irrigation and commerce. He established four courts for the dispensation of Justice, each court consisting of a Nair Judge and necessary staff and far reaching changes were introduced in the judicial system. Further, a system of watch and ward was introduced and Jails were established in every district.  

Rani Gouri Lekshmi Bai became the ruler in 1810. During her time, Munro was appointed both the resident and Dewan. He introduced in Travancore a system of administration that prevailed in British India too. The Secretariat system was started, and corrupt and dishonest officials were dismissed. An efficient system of audit and accounts was introduced. Judicial administration was reformed. Besides court of Appeal and five Zillah courts, he introduced a Huzur court for the trial and punishment of all Sirkar Servants. He extinguished corruption, enlarged the revenue and gave back complete peace to the kingdom. Hence, his period was called the period of transition. Devaswams were brought under the control of the government. The police department was also enlarged and administrative changes were effected.

During the regency of Gouri Parvati Bai 1815 -1829, Colonel Munro guided the destinies of the state. The Rani gave immense freedom to the British political agent, who naturally became very powerful in the state. He did not take any unfair advantage of his

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66 Ramanatha Aiyar, S., Progressive Travancore, Trivandrum, 1929, p.112.
position or act detrimentally to the wishes of the people. Agriculture and trade had considerable progress during this period. It was an era of administrative change and progress. An Appellate Huzur court attached to the Dewans, Cutcherry was formed for hearing appeals from the decision of the Zillah court which prohibited the judicial officers from holding any kind of private meetings with parties.

The reign of Swati Tirunal (1829 -1847) represented a period of enlightened administration. He reformed the Judicial system by opening Munsiffs court. The Huzur cutcherry and other public offices were shifted within the fort near the palace, which enabled the ruler to exercise an effective control over the details of the working and progress of various departments. A separate public works or Maramath department was organized, as a branch of the Huzur Cutcherry.

Utram Tirunal Martanda Varma (1847 - 1860) the next ruler too followed a liberal policy. During his time Krishna Row became the Dewan of Travancore. The king issued a royal proclamation for the emancipation of slaves in 1853 and he abolished all restrictions imposed on the women of lower classes in 1859. His Highness was a warm patron of education and literature and the progress of the free school at Trivandurm engaged his earnest attention, besides female education. Successful students in the school examinations were liberally encouraged by prizes and by the offer of good appointments in the Sirkar service.

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71 Shungunny Menon, P., History of Travancore from Earliest times, Madras, 1878, p.413.
72 T.A.R; 1873 -1874, p.2.
73 Shungunny Menon, P., op.cit, p.413.
Sources of Information

The present study is largely based on the primary source materials preserved in the State Archives of Kerala, Trivandrum; Central Archives, West fort, Trivandrum; Legislative Library, Travandrum and Tamil Nadu Archives, Madras. The published works found available in the Archives and in various libraries served as the secondary source of information.

The records of the Travancore Government kept preserved in the State Archives, Trivandrum furnished a wide range of information. All the important changes and reorganization effected at various times to maintain law and order were kept under a single head called 'Judicial Files'. It contains proceedings of the Government such as orders, notifications and some instructions given to the Police and Magistracy to maintain law and order. The political developments and the agitations which happened in various times are put under ‘Confidential Sections Files’. The most important among these are the confidential reports from the police department which include Travancore police daily reports and weekly notes. The report gives glimpses of information about the arrest of criminals, detention, method of committing crime and punishment given to them, various committees and conferences conducted by the State Congress and the communist, the measures taken by the Government to suppress the move, confiscation of objectionable materials from the houses of the political leaders. The Cover Files mainly helped to form an idea on the creation of the proper police department in Travancore and some of the powers enjoyed by the police officer and punishment given to the culprits in early Travancore and also about the early detection of crime. The General Files also provide description about the powers of various offices. Copies of the reports sent by Assistant Inspector General, District Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of
Police and the officers of various departments within the police unit also gave ample evidence to form a clear cut idea of police administration.

Letters of the Resident to the Dewan, letters of the Chief Secretary to the Inspector General of Police, Commissioner of Police and letters from the Inspector General and Commissioner to the Chief Secretary helped to know the actions taken by the police officers from time to time in maintaining law and order. The annual publication of the Travancore Administration Report dealt elaborately with the administrative policies pertaining to the department of police, Judiciary and the prison. Besides, the proceedings of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, Sri Chitra State Council and Sri Mulam Assembly also provided information. The discussions and the adjournment motions among the members of these assembly helped to know important merits as well as demerits in the police department. The Acts and Proclamation, the Regulations and Proclamations, the Travancore Police Manual, the Travancore and Cochin Police Manual and the Kerala Police Manual, supplied enough information pertaining to the functions and working of various departments in the police. The Travancore Government Gazettes also supplied much ideas about the various reorganization and changes in the police department. The Neetu records and the Show case records found in the Central Archives, Trivandrum also gave much information about the early police system and the punishment meted out to the culprits.

Besides the primary sources, the Sangam literature, the State Manuals, Land Revenue Manuals, Hand books, Census reports, Gazetteers, Directories and other publications of public and private agencies provided much information about police administration. In addition, the newspaper and reports and Journals also supplied much information. The Information department of Travancore also published a monthly
bulletin, Travancore Information and Listener. It helped to know about the role played by women in the police force.

The secondary sources such as Antony V. Bouza, Police Administration Organization and Performance; Achyutha Menon, K, Ancient Kerala; Balakrishnan Nair, A; Land Marks in the Administration of Kerala; Curry, J.G; The Indian Police; Desayar, M; Temples and Social Integration; Sir Edmund Cox C; Police and Crime in India; Ghosh, S.K; Police Administration; James Forbes, Oriental Memoirs; Krishna Murthi, K; Police Powers and Duties; Krishna Ayyar, K.V; A History of Kerala; Krisha Murthi, S; A Handbook of Criminal Law; Koshy, M.J; Genesis of Political Consciousness in Kerala; Madhava Menon, T; A Handbook of Kerala; Pillai, K.K; The Suchindrum Temple, Ponnambalam Pillai, D; Handbook for the Travancore Police; Padmanabha Menon, K.P; The History of Kerala, Ramasen Nair, K; Kerala Police Nuttandukalilude (Mal), Ramanujan, G., A Handbook of Criminal Law; Sankarsen, Police Today; Shungunny Menon, P; History of Travancore from the Earliest Times; Sreedhara Menon, A; Survey of Kerala History; Thurston, E; Caste and Tribes of South India; Ward and Conner, Memoir of the Survey of the Travancore and cochin States from July 1816 to 1820 and Yesudhas, R.N; Colonel John Munro in Travancore provided glimpses of information pertaining to this study.

Organization of the thesis:

With the help of above sources the thesis is framed into seven chapters in addition to an introduction and conclusion. In the Introduction, the area, flora, fauna, rivers, mountains, society, revenue and political history of the State before 1857 are briefly described and they give glimpses of information on Travancore.
The first chapter ‘Early Police System’ deals with how the police system came into force in the early days and the various methods adopted to maintain law and order. In the early days kings and their nobles maintained law and order, by means of kavel system, and later by the Chaver army. However after the end of 11th century the term Chaver was changed into Nair Militia which performed the police duty too. However, in 1809 under Dewan Ummini Thampi a separate police force known as kaval was created. Subsequently, Col. Munro appointed police officers and framed certain rules for effective administration. In 1854, during the period of Dewan Krishna Raw various officers like those of modern Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police and District Superintendent of Police and other officers were appointed.

‘Police Organization’ which forms the second chapter provides a brief history of various reorganizations effected from time to time in the police department. Consequently in 1881 a separate police department was created which bifurcated judiciary from police. Moreover, the minimum qualification prescribed for police recruits, their training, salary and promotions are graphically explained. For instance the reorganization of 1919 not only changed the designation of certain categories of police officers but created various new ranks. Similarly, the reorganization of 1938 effected some changes in their designation and prescribed varied educational qualification and their mode of dress.

In the third chapter entitled ‘Police Force : Rules and Regulations’, an attempt is made to portray the various Regulations and Acts passed from time to time either to modernise the police or to equip them with proper training and privileges. Here the Police Regulation VI of 1834, the Amending Regulation of 1847-1848, the Regulation I of 1881, the Regulation IV of 1919, Proposal of 1938 and certain Acts such as

The fourth chapter ‘Functions and Duties of Police Force’ furnishes a clear account of the functions and duties allotted to various ranks of officers, who were appointed in different periods. Similarly some of their problems during agitation, non-co-operation of the public with the police force, liberal conditions of bail and the misuse of police powers are discussed.

‘Crime Detection and Punishment’ is the title of the fifth chapter describing various kinds of crimes such as murder, theft, dacoit, adultery, communal clashes, land dispute, kidnapping, forgery and other crimes that occurred during the period under study with suitable examples. So, the method used for detecting crime and the mode of punishment given to the culprits in various period are given.

Chapter six entitled ‘Branches of Police Department’ gives a detailed account of the General Police, Reserve Force or Armed Reserve, Railway Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Special Branch Enquiry, Criminal Intelligence Bureau, Political Records, Special Branch, photography, Traffic Section, Hackney Carriage, Fire Service Unit, Police Training School and Women Police and also the temporary committees such as Village Vigilance Committee and the Sri Chitra Guard.

Chapter seven entitled ‘Police in Judiciary and Prison gives a clear picture of the involvement of police in other areas of administration such as the Judiciary and Prison. Here the role of the police in the Judicial administration and Courts during the study
periods explained. Moreover, the role of police in keeping the suspects in prison and bringing them to the Courts and other duties is narrated.

The concluding chapter provides an overall summary of all the chapters, besides the research findings in a critical way.