CHAPTER I
EARLY POLICE SYSTEM

The police force has played a major role in the preservation of law and order in the history of human societies ever since early times. A study of the growth of human societies shows that man slowly emerging out of the state of nature, had to take steps for the formation of some sort of government. The government thus formed had to frame certain rules and regulations for promoting the welfare of the people and restraining the activities of the lawless elements. Thus from the beginning itself the police force in some form or the other served as the agency through which the enforcement of laws and maintenance of internal peace and order was restored. For this task of law enforcement, the police waged a constant battle against crime and criminals, a task which was difficult, hazardous and unbelievably thankless.¹

The word ‘police’ is derived from the Greek word “polis” which means a city and the Latin word “politia” which means the condition of a State or Government. The term ‘police’ connotes a system of administration or regulation, but the word is now generally used to indicate the organized body of civil officers in a place whose particular duty is the preservation of good order, the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the laws.² Thus the term ‘police’ designates the executive civil force of a country.³

The earliest forms of law in any country were merely expressions of folk justice and fair play.\(^4\) The King was the supreme head of the State but local administration was entrusted with the hands of hereditary nobles and the people submitted to the existing social order.\(^5\) In the Chera territory the king's power was restricted by five councils, known as five Great Assemblies.\(^6\) It consisted of the representatives of the people, priests, physicians, astrologers and ministers. The council of the representatives looked after the police.\(^7\) For administrative conveniences the country, was divided into nadus or districts. At the district level, the chief was called 'Naduvazhi' or chief of the nadu or district, who was the chief police officer of his district.\(^8\) Below Naduvazhis the petty chiefs like Madampimars and Prabhukanmars helped their chiefs Naduvazhis, to perform police duties.\(^9\) The districts were subdivided into several villages, which were brought under the control of Desavazhi. In police matters he was assisted by a chief called Pramani. The Pramanis were neither appointed nor hereditary but generally drawn from the Namboothiris and Nairs.\(^10\)

The village was the lowest self governing unit. Each village had its own Desavazhi, Pramani, the hereditary village servants, panchayats, kuttam, police (kaval) and watchmen.\(^11\) In the village, kavalcars acted as a police force. It was a voluntary association of people which provided some sort of protection to the people. The

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\(^7\) *Silapadikaram*, *Arumpathaurai*, on line 157, canto v.


government encouraged such voluntary ventures with gifts and offers of land. It is evident from this that in the beginning a system of voluntary policing alone was in existence in the land and the rulers felt the need for an organized police force to safeguard the State from onslaughts. But the government did not take any step to create a well-organized police force till the period of Dewan Ummini Tampi in 1809.

**Kaval System:**

The village assemblies could not solve all problems. Communal feuds, plunder, theft and other disturbed conditions called for security arrangement. To maintain peace and order, the *kaval* system was created. The word 'kaval' means watch and the person who looked after the function was known as *kavalar*. The important functions of the *kavalars* were to watch and protect the houses in a village at night, to protect the travellers and merchants, to obtain information of suspicious characters and to send reports to the authorities.\(^\text{12}\)

Even during the Sangam age, the *kaval* arrangements were done by the villagers themselves in their respective areas. During those days regular policing was not in force.\(^\text{13}\) *Maduraikanchi* mentions that the kings prescribed certain qualifications for the *kavalars* such as able physique, capable of keeping awake throughout the night, being fearless like a tiger even at midnight and not caring for personal comforts during his duty time.\(^\text{14}\) *Silapathiharam* mentions that he must know the art of self defence and offence and must have thorough knowledge of the art of detection.\(^\text{15}\) Such qualifications were

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\(^{12}\) Fifth Report of the Select Committee on the affairs of the East India Company, Vol. 11, 28\textsuperscript{th} July 1812 pp. 368-369.

\(^{13}\) Kurinchippattu, Verse 240.

\(^{14}\) Maduraikanchi, Verses 635 - 647.

\(^{15}\) Silapathiharam – Kolaikazha Kathai, Verses 175 - 179.
prescribed because during the Sangam period, pearl, ivory and silk were dumped in important trading centres. For their maintenance, they were remunerated both from the villagers and the government. Moreover, the King paid adequate attention to remunerate them by assigning tax free land.\textsuperscript{16} Usually from one “\textit{ma}”\textsuperscript{17} of wetland, one \textit{kalam}\textsuperscript{18} of paddy was collected as ‘\textit{kaval} tax’. The \textit{mutarfa} tax was originally a \textit{kaval} tax.\textsuperscript{19} It was a duty on articles transported through the roads. This \textit{kaval} system was called ‘\textit{urkaval}’ or ‘\textit{padikaval}’.\textsuperscript{20}

The \textit{kavalcars} watched the movements of foreigners who passed through their territory. They even protected the foreigners till they crossed their respective territories. If a theft occurred in a locality, the \textit{kavalcars} had to trace the footprints to apprehend the culprits. It was established that, if the thief went out of the limits of the village, then it was the duty of the \textit{kavalcars} of the next village to follow it up. The last village to which the thief was clearly traced, was made answerable for the stolen property which would otherwise fall on the village where the robbery was committed. The \textit{kavalcars} were required to restore the stolen property to the owner.\textsuperscript{21} This type of \textit{kaval} system prevailed only in South Travancore during the later period. This right was a part of community responsibilities of the \textit{urar} or village assemblies.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{16} Epigraphic Report, 1913, p. 9.
  \item \textsuperscript{17} Ma- one Ma in equal to 14400 Sq.ft of land.
  \item \textsuperscript{18} Kalam – one Kalam in equal to three measures.
  \item \textsuperscript{19} Mahalingam, T. V., South Indian Polity, University of Madras, 1967, p.24.
  \item \textsuperscript{20} Hunter, W.W., The Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. IX, London, 1886, p. 76.
  \item \textsuperscript{21} Srinivaschari, C.S., Village Organization at the Time of British Rule in Madras Presidency, Madras, 1932, p. 55.
\end{itemize}
The village kavalcars even helped to find out the culprits, who escaped from
neighbouring territories. One Veerasoora Perumal who indulged in highway robbery in
the British limits retreated into Kumarapuram a village in South Travancore. The
Inspector incharge of Rathapuram division reported the matter to the officers at
Moockoodel, the nearest Travancore station. Enquiry was conducted and Veerasoora
Perumal was arrested at Kumarapuram. A village kavalcar of that place aided in the
arrest of that person. Subsequently, the culprit was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment
for ten years.22

In order to safeguard themselves against the attack of the thieves, the kavalcars
possessed offensive and defensive weapons like matchlocks and pikes. Frequently they
carried a kilukkuthadi23 and a valaithadi24. The work of the kavalcars was such that they
always carried with them weapons for their defence.25 Further they carried a ladder of
yean (among lamb) kept around their waists. On occasions usually at night they carried
sharp sword to attack the enemies26. After the reorganization of the police department in
1854, the kavalcars were put under the control of the police department. They were
utilised by the Extra Police Officers for prevention and detection of crime in the village
to which they belonged. The Extra Police Officers were given the power to punish the

22 Copy of the Report No: 34 from the Joint Magistrate Shermadevi, dt. 8th June 1866, Papers regarding
Extradition between Travancore and British India.

23 Killukkuthadi – A long stick with numerous bells attached to it. The kavalcars used it as a warning
device to the thieves and robbers.

24 Valaithadi – A Crescent shaped weapon made of hard grained wood or iron. It was twenty four inches
to thirty inches along the outer curse and eighteen inches along the chorare. When it was hurled with a
tremendous force against the enemy, the whirling motion brought it back to the spot from where it was
thrown unless it got stuck on the enemy. (Thurston, E., Ethnographic Note in Southern India, Madras,
1906, p. 556.)


26 Madurai Kanchi, verses 645 – 647.
kavalcars if they failed in their duty. They also communicated the same to the revenue authorities for record in the revenue register. These kavalcars were even allowed to work as subordinates to the Tahsildars and were utilised for the royal trips and for escort duty. After 1883, changes were made and if the kavalcars were required for revenue purpose, they were allowed only with the knowledge of the local Police Inspector, who was given the power to see where and how each kavalcar was employed. These kavalcars were now put directly under the control of the Superintendent of Police.

From the records it was found out that this type of kavalcars served in Nanjinad region even after 1907 A-D. In 1907 Shenmukham, a member of the Srimulam Popular Assembly said that Desakavalcars of Nanjinad were people originally appointed and even paid by the ryots for protecting them from the inroads of dacoits from Tinnelveli, but it was a matter of grievance that while they still continued to pay and maintain these functionaries, they were placed by the government not under the control of the people themselves, but under the police. The present arrangement, though it was in one way beneficial, was a fruitful source of evil to them. The member said that the Desakavalcars might be taken back from the control of the police and made independent, in which case they would serve the interests of the villages better. Their appointment might be vested in the Taluk Tashildars and the Dewan promised to consider the matter and pass orders.

Another type of kavalcars was called kudikavalcars. They were also known as people’s kavalcars or people’s watchmen. When the king utilised the services of the police officials for the purpose of war as and when war broke out, the robbers, making

27 Cover File No: 15722 of 1883, Appointment of village kavalcars under the Police Superintendent,

28 Letter No.15722 of 1883, dated 2nd November 1883, Letter from the Superintendent of Police to the Dewan of Travancore,

29 Proceedings of the Third Meeting of the Srimulam Popular Assembly of Travncore, Trivandrum, 1907, p.72.
use of these opportunities, looted the houses of the villages, lifted their cattle and stole the haystack. Hence in some villages, the people themselves appointed kavalcars called the kudikavalcars. It was this village police force in Travancore which formed the nucleus of the present day police organization of the State of Kerala.

Chaver Army

During the Chola-Chera period, war took place between 988 to 1120. So the Cheras formed the famous Chaver army which consisted of Christians, Nairs, Ezhavas and Brahmins. The Chaver army had three functions, those of the standing army, of the police and of the scout. Besides they rendered help to travellers who travelled from one place to another without receiving any remuneration. In the case of any death of a Chaver in an encounter, his family was given land free of taxes to be enjoyed for all time for their sustenance. But towards the end of the 11th century A.D, the name of the Chaver army was converted into Nair Militia, as the soldiers were mainly recruited from the Nair community. The whole Nair community formed the militia of the land liable to be called for active service by the feudal chiefs at any moment. Thus soldiering became the traditional occupation of the Nairs especially after 11th century A.D to the


31 'Chaver' army – means one who bound oneself to death for the honour of one’s country. The Malayalam term for the chaver army or suicide squared is chavettupada. The word 'chaver' itself has been used by Castenheda (a manuscript account of Malabar) to denote a member of the suicide squad. The Suicide squads are called Amouocos or Amochi in the Portuguese accounts and this word has been explained as a corruption of the Sanskrit word Amokshya. The Amochi had vowed not to return from the battle field without victory. If the prince is slain the Amochi who were numerous would avenge him deliberately. These soldiers swear to defend the king’s life with their own. (Krishnan Nadar, G., Socio Economic Background of the Military History of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1993, pp. 89 – 90.)


34 Ibid.
beginning of 18th century A.D. The duties of the soldiers were not only military but police duties too. In addition, the Nair Militia collected revenue, performed inferior police duties, watched over the prisoners and everybody and operated for the defence of the country from internal and external attacks.

In 1830, Lieut. Col. E. Cadogan, the Resident wanted to purify the Nair Militia by separating the non-military service performed by it and by reducing its strength. The discharged men were absorbed into the revenue and police duties. The name was also changed from Nair Militia to Nair Brigade. This was done for the better defence of the country from internal and external attacks. Even though the Resident separated the non-military service, the Nair Brigade was employed as police guards at Trivandrum pagodas, palace, fort, treasury, prisons and as detachment guards to out-stations and to escort the Raja and his family members during ceremonial and other religious processions. This Nair Brigade continued to help the police until 1903, when the Pangod Battalion was formed under Commandant Major F.W. Dawson.

Earlier in the 17th century reorganization was effected for the better administration of Travancore. As a result, the whole kingdom of Travancore was

35 Untill the reorganization of the police in 1881 the Travancore Police and military consisted exclusively of people belonging to Brahmin and Nair castes. Others being socially degraded, they were not permitted to join either the military or the police. The Regulation of 1881 only removed this Social barrier and others were allowed to join the police force (Raman Menon, G., Tiruvitamcore Rajya Bharanavivarana (Mal) Quiloni, 1930, p. 18).


divided into three divisions Viz, Vadakamukham, Padinajarymukham and Theckayamukham. Each of these divisions was placed under the control and supervision of a Valiasarvadhikariyakar. Each Mukham was divided into three or four Subordinate Mukhams which were managed by officers called Sarvadhikariyakars. The Subordinate Mukhams were further divided into certain number of inferior districts called Mandapathuvathils and managed by Kariyakars. Each Mandapathuvathil contained seven to ten devisions called Proverties which were under the control of Proverthicars. Each Proverty was divided into Desams or Muries which were under the control of Moolackars. Thus new officers known as Valiasarvadhikariyakars, Sarvadhikariyakars, Kariyakars and Proverthicars were created. These officials were given some military training in the kalaris. They were not only trained but paid and skilled men. The Valiasarvadhikariyakar became the head of the whole administration in the Mukham. In police matters and in the matter of preserving law and order Sarvadhikariyakars helped him. Kariyakars were the principal officers who enjoyed police, judicial and military powers. They had real contact with the people.
Kariyakars were assisted by a Mutalper or a Chief Police officer of the Taluk. Under the Mutalper the Thana Naicks (Station house officers) were appointed. They were in charge of Thanas or police stations. These ThanaNaicks were assisted by village watchmen, who unlike the other police officers, were remunerated by the villagers themselves. The Mutalper engaged himself in the task of preventing offences, detecting offenders and arresting and producing them before the Kariyakar. But important criminal cases were charged by the Valiasarvadhikariyakar and death sentences could be passed by this officer. The Proverthicars also enjoyed police functions in his area. He was given the power to take action in cases of suspected murder. All these subordinate officers were under the control of the Dalawa. But in 1788 the designation Dalawa was changed into Dewan. Accordingly, Raja Kesavadas became the first Dewan of Travancore.

As the first Dewan of Travancore, he effected no administrative changes on police administration and followed the early system. Velú Thampi who became the next Dewan from March 24, 1801 also did nothing for the development of the police. Ummini Tampi who became the Dewan of Travancore in March 8, 1809 found that, as.

47 Judicial History of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1932, p. 7.
48 Cover File No: 6118, 1881, Reorganization of the police department.
49 Dewan – Before the time of Rajakesavadhas the office of Dewan was called Dalawa. Dalawa’s office was a combination of the position of a Prime Minister and a Commander-in-Chief (Sobhanan, B., Dewan Velu Thampi and the British, Trivandrum, 1978, p. 2)
50 Rajakesavadhas – was born of poor parents in the village of Kunnathur in South Travancore. He left his home at the age of twelve due to poverty. He sought service with a Muhammadan merchant at poovar. He soon became a clerk in the palace at Trivandrum. The Raja was pleased with his abilities and soon appointed him palace Sumprethi. He rose to the high office of Valia Sarvadhikariyakar and in 1788 he was appointed Dewan, the highest office in the state (Krishnan Nadar, G., Historiography and History of Kerala, Kottayam, 1992, p. 230.)
the police duties were in the hands of the Judiciary and the protection of life and property was in the hands of Nair Militia, proper administration could not be carried out effectively. Therefore he organized a separate police force with 200 men known as kaval. But this kaval police force was not given proper training and hence it became an irregular police force.53

Police Force Under Col. Munro

After Ummini Tampi, Col. Munro54 who became the Dewan of Travancore in 1811 decided to protect the life and property of the people of all classes. To carry out this objective the help of the police force was inevitable. But he found that the police force of Travancore was not discharging its duties properly and even the strength of the force was inadequate. Moreover, he was convinced that an efficient police establishment was absolutely necessary for the good governance and development of the country. So he took immediate measures for the reorganization of the police.55

Accordingly, he abolished the office of Valiyasarvadhikariyakar and Sarvadhikariyakar and reduced the powers of the Kariyakars too, who became revenue subordinates. The designation of Kariyakar was changed into Tahsildar.56 This change was described by Munro: “A Kariyakar was retained at the head of every Mandapathuvathil or district with an accountant called Sumprethy Pillai, and having a

54 Col. Munro – Came to India in 1791 and became the captain of the Madras Army. On 23rd March 1810 he was appointed Resident of Travancore, but took charge on Oct. 1810. From 1811-1814 he enjoyed the power of both Dewan and Resident. Later on till 1819 he became the Resident of Travancore. (Ulloor Parameswara Aiyar, S., “Col. Munro”, Some Travancore Dynastic Record, Rajaraja, (ed.) Third series a paper read before Kerala Society on 31-3-1928, Trivandrum, pp. 470-472.)
55 Col. Munro to the Chief Secretary to Govt. Fort St. George, dated Nagercoil, 7th March 1818, Foreign political Proc. Fort William, 17th July 1818, No:20 F: 57.
certain number of Proverthicars under him". He separated the revenue department from the judiciary with much courage. On the ashes of the judicial and military powers exercised by the Karyakars, Munro raised an efficient corps of police. The reason was that in 1809, a revolt was engineered by Velu Thampi, the Dewan of Travancore against Colonel Macaulay, the then British Resident of Travancore. Macaulay succeeded in suppressing the rebellion. The suppression of the rebellion and its consequent dismissal of the troops necessitated the formation of a separate police department. In the words of Munro, “the introduction of a body of police became indispensably requisite in a country occupied by the factious and turbulent population kept in control hitherto by the most despotic exercise of arbitrary power”. The police duties which had till then been discharged by the military were entrusted to a separate police corps independent of both the judicial and revenue departments.

In addition, Munro raised the police force from two hundred to five hundred. A force of Thanadars with Naicks to supervise their work in each Taluk and a superior officer named Daroga attached to the Huzur office with full control of the force was organised in 1812. The police powers performed by the Kariyakars were now passed into the hands of police Daroga and Thana Naicks. But he worked under the head of

58 Ulloor Parameswara Aiyar, S., Kerala Society Papers, op.cit, p. 49
59 Ramanath Aiyar, Progressive Travancore, Trivandrum, 1923, p. 113.
60 Foreign Secret Consultations Proceeding, 12th December 1809, f. 4027.
63 Daroga – Police Officer
Tahsildars.65 The police Daroga and Thana Naicks were in charge of prevention and suppression of offences, investigation of crimes, producing the culprits before duly constituted courts, making the beat (night patrol) arrangements and executing the decrees of the courts.66 Moreover Munro employed the police force profitably to prevent contraband trade which was greatly detrimental to the revenue.67 The whole police department was placed under the direct control of the Dewan. The Daroga was subordinate to the Dewan and functioned according to the orders of the Dewan.68

Many of the duties which the army had been discharging till then were entrusted to the police department. However, the military continued to assist the police force in the prevention of smuggling, detecting robbery and also in shifting prisoners from one station to another.69 Later on, the Dewan realised the inadequacy of the police force and so Munro raised the strength of the police force from five hundred to eight hundred men to maintain law and order in the country. It was completely a civil establishment.70 Also, Munro dedicated himself to the task of improving the police by framing a set of rules of Chattavariyolas.71 In drafting these rules he followed the ethical principles laid down in the Dharmasastras, the established customs and usages in the country and the

65 Section 17 of Chattavariolas, (and also) Shungunny Menon, P., A History of Travancore From the Earliest times, Madras, 1985, p. 277.

66 Cover File No: 15412 of 1827, Appointments of three Sarvadhikariyakar and the transfer of all Tahsildars.


68 Showcase record No: 412, 1811, Section 21 of Chattavariolas of 1811.


70 Ward and Conner, Memoir of the Survey of the Travancore and Cochin States from July 1816 to 1820, Vol. I, Travancore, 1863, p.116

71 Chattavariyolas – rules for the guidance of local officers.
regulations followed by the East India Company. It came into force in 1811. He imposed discipline in the police force and frequently visited the Mandapathuvathils or districts and gave punishment if they failed in their duty. He also took measures to prevent smuggling. If anyone was caught for smuggling of pepper and tobacco, he was punished. The punishment was that he was ordered to carry a load of sand in his head for three months to six months like a slave or like a servant. If he continued to do the same again, and was captured for the second time the same punishment was given for eight months. If he did the same mistake for the third time, he was given severe punishment.

The police force thus organized by Col. Munro proved to be of great advantage in preventing crimes and in apprehending offenders. Their services were also utilised for preventing the contraband trade and illicit imports and exports of dutiable articles. One of the rules in the Chattavariyolas says that the offenders must be placed under the custody of the police. This measure resulted in obvious appreciable results. It put an end to the practice of the Kariyakars in putting indiscriminately all the accused in irons and subjecting them to cruel treatment.

Eventhough Munro made several changes in the police force, it had some defects too. The police force so created was not given proper training. So it became indisciplined, untrained and was not properly supervised or controlled. Their

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73 Ramesan Nair, K., *op.cit.*, p. 72
74 Ibid., p. 73.
76 Ibid., Vol. IV, Trivandrum, 1996, p.106.
remuneration was not adequate to attract the best men available.\textsuperscript{77} As the Kariyakars were prohibited from levying fines or inflicting other punishments at their own discretion on the accused persons and from keeping persons in confinement under their own custody, there arose a rift between the Kariyakars and the police officials. Consequently the officials who operated as a safeguard against the police, confined innocent persons and extorted money from the people under the pretext of apprehending smuggling or detecting crime.\textsuperscript{78} Moreover, the police force was scattered throughout the State instead of concentrating upon its legitimate work and this impaired the proper and systematic reporting of crimes as they occurred. Except in the southern part of Travancore, there was no village head of police to aid and supplement the regular police force.\textsuperscript{79} There was no regular village organization for reporting and detecting crimes, for apprehending criminals and for watching suspected characters and in short in co-operating in all things necessary for the general security of the country.\textsuperscript{80}

During the regency of Gouri Parvathi Bai in 1821, Tahsildars who were confined exclusively to the revenue department were invested with the jurisdiction to try petty police cases. The first experiment was tried in the outlying Taluk of Shencottah adjoining the British territory.\textsuperscript{81} But the measures did not yield much result as expected.

\textsuperscript{77} T.G.G., Supplement, November 1881, p. 3.

\textsuperscript{78} Yesudhas, R.N., op.cit., pp.23-24.

\textsuperscript{79} Reorganization of the Police, T.G.G., Supplement, Nov. 1881, p. 3.

\textsuperscript{80} Cover File No: 6118 of 1881, Memorandum Submitted by Dewan Ramiengar.

\textsuperscript{81} T.A.R., 1873 – 1874, p. 2.
Reforms Under Swathi Thirunal Maharaja

Swathi Thirunal, the next Maharaja of Travancore, with the help of Cunden Menon reformed the police force by opening Munsiff courts to try petty police cases in 1831.82 During his time in 1835, the Dewan effected certain changes in the police organization. The Dewan not only compiled a code of law for Travancore but also put it in the Statute book. The Maharaja and the Resident approved the code and promulgated the new code as the law of Travancore since 1835. This code of law was called Cunden Menon’s code.83 By the Regulation, the police officers were given the new title of Kotawals.84

The code contained seven regulations.85 This code clearly described the power and duties of the police as well as the judiciary. Regulation VI was meant for the guidance of Tahsildars and the police officers.86 As per the code, the Thana Naicks or the police officers received all complaints from the inhabitants and others. Based on the regulation, they enquired into the cases and disposed them within the specified period. The cognizable cases were sent to the Criminal Court.87 Thus it is noticed that the Thana Naick enjoyed full powers in the disposal of police cases occurring in his district. To

82 Velu Pillai, P., Swathi Thirunal Maharaja, (Mal) Trivandrum, n-d, p.22.
85 Regulation I Prescribed the general powers and functions of Munsiffs together with rules of general procedure to be observed in the trial of civil suits Regulation II – Provided for adjudication of suits by Panchayats.
Regulation III – Laid down the procedure for execution by Munsiffs of decrees passed by all the Courts.
Regulation IV- Revised the powers and constitution of Zillah Courts.
Regulation V – Created the Appeal Courts.
Regulation VI – Constituted the Tahsildars into police officers and otherwise provided for great efficiency.
Regulation VII – Created Circuit Judges and in addition to defining their powers laid down the procedure to be observed in the trial and commitment or Criminal Cases (T.A.R., 1873 – 74, p.2)
87 Krishna Row, V., op.cit, p. 94.
carry out this work the Thana Naicks were assisted by a Gumastah, an Assistant Gumastah and several Police Peons in the disposal of police cases.\footnote{Folukes, T., \textit{A Class Book of the Geography of Travancore}, Trivandrum, 1871, p. 48}

In 1840, General Cullen who became the British Resident\footnote{Showcase Record No: 190, Vol. III, 1845.} was dissatisfied with the functions of the police. He found that crime was rampant in the urban areas. It induced him to form the Town Police. By the royal order of 1845, the police department was reshuffled and a new Town Police in Trivandrum was established under the control of Tahsildars.\footnote{Show Case Record No. 190, 1845.} Besides, the Kotawals and the Thana Naicks were also brought under the control of Tahsildars. The Town Police were empowered to guard the gate of the fort and Mandapams.\footnote{Neetu Record No: 177, 1022 M.E/ 1846 A.D.} As a result of this measure, most of the cases were speedily disposed and as a consequence, the crime rate also reduced. In 1847, the police Regulation I was passed and it demarcated the police duties of the Tahsildars.\footnote{Regulation I of 1847, p.2.} By such a regulation, the Town Police was given the duty of guarding the visitors who thronged the fort as well as the temple.\footnote{Neetu Record No: 190, 1845.} Sub-officers of the police were appointed to exercise the powers of the police officers (Tahsildar) during their absence for the cases that happened.\footnote{\textit{T.A.R.}, 1873 – 1874, p.3.} With the formation of the Town Police force, the police duties of the Kotawals in Trivandrum town were given to the Town Police. The Tahsildars were also empowered to settle the cases within the fort.\footnote{Neetu Record No. 53, 1022 M.E/1846.}
Police Force Under Utram Thirunal Martandavarma

Utram Thirunal Martandavarma, the King of Travancore was not satisfied with the existing police force. Therefore, with the help of Krishna Row, the Dewan reorganized the police force in 1854. Accordingly, he divided Travancore into two revenue divisions and appointed Dewan Peishkars\(^6\) in charge of it.\(^7\) The Dewan Peishkar discharged his functions as the District Superintendent of Police of the modern days.\(^8\) He was empowered to appoint and dismiss any public servants in his division whose salary did not exceed Rs.20. But he had no right to suspend the Tahsildars but grant leave to Tahsildars who acted as the head of the police in the taluk.\(^9\) The Tahsildar who was the head of the police force in the taluk was its police magistrate. He was assisted in his police functions by a police Gumastah, one Assistant Gumastah, some Police Peons, a Thana Naick and Thana peons.\(^10\) Moreover he was given the power of imprisonment upto one month and to impose a fine upto Rs.5 and six lashes.\(^11\) Besides the Tahsildars, the commercial agent of Alleppey, the Superintendent of Cardamon Hills, the Conservator of Forests and the Superintendent of Central and Southern Coffee Districts were also empowered to look after police duties. They were given the power to award imprisonment for two months, fine upto Rs.25 and whipping of ten lashes.\(^12\)

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\(^6\) Dewan Peishkars – He enjoyed the powers of present Collector and District Superintendent of Police.
\(^7\) \textit{T.A.R.}, 1873-1874, p.3.
\(^8\) Reorganization of the Police Department, \textit{T.G.G.}, Supplement, 1881, p. 1.
\(^9\) Cover File No: 338, 1880, Rules for the guidance of the Dewan Peishkar
\(^12\) \textit{T.G.G.}, Vol. XIX, August 1881, p. 9.
Extra Police Officers, Assistant Extra Police Officers and Police Inspectors were appointed to assist the Dewan Peishkars in the work of prevention and detection of crime and apprehension of criminals. In addition, the officials such as the Kotawal, Aminadar, Vicharippu, Police Naick, Jamadar, Havildar and Daffadar were empowered to look after police duties. In some of the taluks, Magistrates, one Police Naick and one to four Mutalopers were appointed to discharge police functions. Moreover, Extra Police Officers were appointed in places where crimes and violence were in large number. In fact, two or three taluks were put under the control of Extra Police Officers. For instance, Pakeer Meah, the Extra Police Officer of Paroor, was to trace the offenders who took part in a case of robbery committed in Cothaachapally Agaram of the Agasteeswaram Taluk and who were supposed to be certain Maravas of Puttapuram in the Tinnelveli district. To help these officers the Naicks, Mutalpers and Sepoys were appointed. They discharged the duties like the modern Criminal Investigation Department. These Extra Police Officers were also allotted to various police stations or Thanas attached to the Huzur and sub magistrates Cutcheries, detached Thanas on the roads, back waters and hills. Some of them were attached to the Cutcheries to look after the serving processes and in apprehending and detecting offenders. Some of them were employed as guards or orderlies at the palaces and Residency, some as guards and wardens in the jail, some were purely for detective purpose and some were appointed for

103 Kotawal, Aminadar, Vicharippu, Police Naick, Jamadar, Havildar and Daffadar — They were like modern Head Constables and Constables. (T.G.G., Supplement, Nov. 1881, p. 1)

104 Sreedhara Menon, A., op. cit., p. 529.

105 Police Naick, Mutalpers — They were regarded as Police Privates.

106 Letter No: 1079, 30th April 1863, letter from the Dewan to the Resident.

107 Ramesan Nair, K., op. cit., p. 90.
keeping order in the bazaars. All these officers were stipendiary police paid exclusively by the state.108

Above these officers, there were the Sheristadar and the Deputy Sheristadar equivalent to the modern Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General of Police. In the offices, clerks and peons were also appointed. Thus after the formation of new revenue divisions, several police officers were appointed.109 Krishna Row, the Dewan, described the duties of the police officers as to receive all complaints made to them by the inhabitants and others and after due enquiry to dispose them according to the regulation, ie, either to hear and settle the complaints by themselves or to make over the parties in such cases amendable by the criminal court.110

Even though Krishna Row, the Dewan of Travancore, made several changes in the police department, his organization of police force was also criticised. Nanoopillai, the later Dewan, observed that the police force; a constituted machinery for the maintenance of order and peace was turned into an engine of oppression and torture. The Thanas or Subsidiary jails were always crowded with prisoners, many of whom were such as who resisted the exactions of the Taluk Police Magistrate. The police force was a tremendous engine of oppression. Prisoners were repeatedly tortured. Real criminals suffered much. Real complaints were unheeded.111

The separate police force which was created during the period of Dewan Ummini Tampi developed during the time of Col. Munro. He issued the first code of law and separated the military and the police. Therefore, he was called the “father of modern

109 Cover File No: 15412, 1827, Letter to the Resident of Travancore dt. 19th July 1827.
110 Krishna Row, V., op. cit., p. 93.
police system” in Travancore. Later on, the police force was developed step by step and in 1854, during the time of Dewan Krishna Row, several officers were appointed, giving due importance to the law and order of the country. Thus the small police force created by Dewan Ummini Tampi developed a lot during the period of Dewan Krishna Row in 1857 which led to the formation of a regular police organization in the subsequent periods.