

## Origin of Delhi Police - A Geographical Study

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**Abstract**

*The word **police** or policeman is supposed to be derived from the term 'Peelman', who had been appointed in Britain for the first time by Sir Robert Peel in the 19th century. But the nature and functions of the police is very old in India.*

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## **Introduction**

Delhi has been India's first city, Delhi Police too has been emerged as India's first police organization. It is not only the world's biggest metropolitan police force with a staggering strength of over 70,000 but is India's most elite, modern and well equipped police organization.

Some traces of the growth of Police organization in ancient India are available during the age of laws and philosophy (800-300 B.C.) when the law was codified by eminent sages like **Manu, Gautama, Narada** etc. They laid the responsibility for investigation of crimes on the judges –Dharamapalakas. For Sukraniti lays down, “Foresters are to be tried with the help of foresters, merchants by merchants, soldiers by soldiers and in the village by persons who live with both parties” (**Sarkar 1972,**)

### **Police System in the different periods:-**

The police system in the different periods (pre-independence & after independence) has been discussed below:-

#### **The Concept of Kotwal:-**

Thus, we see that **Kautilya's Arthashastra** may be treated as the first authentic record which throws light on urban police administration and Nagarika (**City Administration, Sthanic-Incharge of a Division and Gopa-Incharge of a Beat**). The officers named Choraddharmikas, Dandapasikas and Purapala used to perform the same duties what Nagrika and Durgpal performed during the Mouryan days. Of course, by then Durgpal, Purapala or Nagarpala found their identity in Kottapala or Kothpal and later on Kotwal who continued till British Administration. Even today, the city police head is recognized by the old timers as Kotwal Saheb. Earlier Gulmas or Gumti (Police Post) used to be established at every crossing called chaturshakha or chowki on its strategic points. Thus, the word Kotwal is not given by the Mughals but it was in practice prior to them also. Ain-e-Akbari of Abul-Fazal Fazi at the court of **Akbar** describes in detail the duties of the kotwal, who was responsible for the maintenance of law and order in various towns of India, his terms of appointment and the type of staff he was expected to maintain. Kotwal used to be appointed directly by the ruler. Later on, this responsibility was transferred to the governors of the provinces. (**Chandra, 1997**).

#### **The obligations and powers of the kotwal are summarized as under :**

1. Watch and ward of the town.
2. Control and regulation of the markets to check profiteering and hoarding.
3. The care and legitimate disposal of heirless properties.
4. Care of peoples conduct and prevention of crimes.

5. Prevention of social abuses, such as, prostitution by keeping them in separate mohalla, gambling, committing sati forcibly etc.
6. Regulation of the cemeteries, burial grounds and slaughter houses.
7. Duties of municipality and keeping detailed register of all the people of the town.
8. Spying and control of sarais (modern hotels)
9. To prevent manufacturing of spurious liquor.

#### **Police in the Sultanate Period:-**

The kotwal in Sultanate period who got prominent position used to be identified as *Sahibi Shurtah*. During this period of office known as *Diwan-i-Mazlim* performed police function with the help of *kadias*. The local inhabitants used to assist him. The kotwal used to act as a committing Magistrate and used to administer the rural area also and sometime as Military Commander of a Fort. The other officer used to be *Mohtasib* who was the censor of public morals. Both the officers i.e. *Kotwal* and *Mohtasib* were under the control of Amir-i-dad.

Malikul-Umra-Faqrudin went to a personal attendant of Sultan Bulban and is said to be the first Kotwal of Delhi. He became the Kotwal at the age of 40 in 1237 A.D. and was also simultaneously appointed as the *Naib-e-Ghibat* (Regent in Absence). He has as such, the authority to also issue orders concerning the affairs of the state without even waiting for imperial sanction. Because of his integrity and sagacity, he had a very long tenure as a kotwal and continued to hold the post even during the reign of kaikuabad or kaikhusrav. It is presumed that the Kotwali or Police Headquarters was then located in Mehrauli.

#### **The Mughals and Police:-**

A lot of details regarding police organization during the Mughal's time can be obtained from Abul Fazal's *Ain-e-Akbari* which furnishes the detailed account of the duties of the kotwal which correspond to the Modern Police Commissioner. He was responsible for watch and ward duty in the city and the controller of social levels like prostitution, distillation of liquor and regulation of public gathering. Kotwal acted as a Magistrate as well as a Superintendent of Police during the Mughal Administration. The kotwal retained his important position in this setup but he was basically an urban officer. The kotwal, during the reign of Mughals maintained a big establishment to carry out his police-cum-judicial duties (**Gazetteer, 1987**).

When Emperor Shahjahan shifted his capital from Agra to Delhi a formal inauguration ceremony of ground city of Shahjahanabad was performed on April 8th, 1648. On this occasion Shahjahan appointed Ghaznaba Khan as the first kotwal

of the city, and also gave him the very important position of *Mir-e-Aatish* (Chief of Artillery). Ghaznaba Khan soon made a mark as the chief of police in 1654. Shahjahan showed his royal appreciation by elevating Ghaznaba Khan to the rank *Fauzdar* of *Doab*. The institution of the kotwal came to an end with the crushing of the 1857 mutiny by the British and, most interestingly, the last kotwal of Delhi, who was appointed just before the eruption of the mutiny was Gangadhar Nehru, father of Pt. Moti Lal Nehru and grand father of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister.

#### **Police in the British Period:-**

The traditions of medieval times were carried forward by the British but the close rapport which the police that was supposed to be maintained with the people during the medieval times was necessarily missing in British times.

In August 1860, the Government of India appointed a commission to enquire into the whole question of Police Administration in British India and recommended that security should be withdrawn from police duty and the law and order should be the civil power. The second recommendation was that there should be separate police for each province on the pattern of British and Irish Police. Other several recommendations were also accepted by the Government. Thus, an organized form of Police was established after the Mutiny of 1857 with the adoption of the Indian Police Act, 1861. Delhi being a part of the Punjab province remained a unit of the Punjab Police even after becoming the capital of India in 1912. Prior to this under police system *Lambardars* looked after the police function. The chief Headman used to be the *Lambardars* of *Ala Lambardars* (Superior Headman). In 1878-80, such *Lambardars* were mainly in villages and out of 810 villages, 455 were covered by *Ala-Lambardars* or *Lambardars*. But this arrangement could not work well because of jealousy among the *Lambardars*. Therefore, both were made jointly responsible and a supervisory officer designated as *Zaildar* or *Inamdar*, who was bound to report crimes, assist in investigation, prevention of crime and arrest of criminals. They used to get the salary but later on such posts were abolished owing to financial constraints and low utility.

The Police force of the Delhi district was under the command of a Superintendent, whose immediate subordinate was Assistant Superintendent and a Deputy Superintendent. This district was in the Ambala Range and was under the control of a Deputy Inspector General of Police with his Headquarters in Ambala. One Deputy Superintendent of Police was for the Delhi city. The total composition of the force in 1912 was two Inspectors, 27 Sub Inspectors, 110 Head Constables, 985 Foot Constables and 27 *Sawars*. Reserved Armed Police was located at Civil

Lines where there were spacious barracks. Recruits were accommodated at this place. Rural police was the special charge having Inspectors with their Headquarters at Sonapat and Ballabgarh. The district was distributed in 10 *Thanas* or police stations, i.e. Larsauli, Sonapat and Rai in Sonapat *Tehsil*; Alipur, Nangloi and Najafgarh in Delhi *Tehsil*; and Mehrauli, Faridabad, Ballabgarh and Chhasa in Ballabgarh *Tehsil*. Each police station had a sub-inspector, two Head constables and 10 foot constables. Larsauli, which was the most popular *thana*, was having an extra Sub-inspector and two Constables. In addition, there were seven outposts located at Muqarba, Tihar, Fatehpurberi, Pali, Dahuji, Manjhaul and Badarpur. There were also four 'road posts', one each at Sarai Sita Ram, Safdarganj, Nizamuddin, and Sikri. The Police force was recruited locally and included a fair proportion of Punjabi Muslims. The police force in 1879-80 was as shown in below table—

**POLICE FORCE OF THE DELHI DISTRICT (1879-80)**

Class	Inspector			Dy. Inspector			Sargent			Ct.M	Ct.F	Ct.	Total	
	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	M	F	I	II	
Imperial	-	-	2	3	5	7	10	22	34	30	327	102	542	
Municipal	2	-	-	1	-	3	6	17	33	-	327	202	591	
Cantonment	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	3	-	-	2	11	
Others	(Details not given)												13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>1157</b>	

**Source :** Bedon, H.C. "Final Report of the Third Regular Settlement of the Delhi District, 1906-10 Lahore, 1950.

In 1878-80, Delhi *Tehsil* consisted of the Police areas of Subzi Mandi, Alipur, NangloiJat, Najafgarh and Paharganj which maintained law and order in the rural areas. SubziMandi was having outposts near Mukbara-Park in Badli, Nauli, Bankauli, Sanghaura and Nathupura; Nangloi-Jat was having Sarai Sita Ram in BasaiDarapur and GorluMiran; Najafgarh was having outposts near Mukbara-Park in Badli, Nauli, Bankauli, Sanghaura and Nathupura; Nangloi-Jat was having Sarai Sita Rai in BasaiDarapur and GorluMiran; Najafgarh was having Mundka and Tikri, while Paharganj was having Tihar, and Nizamuddin in Ghyaspur.

**Table - POLICE STRENGTH UPTO 1912**

Sl.No.	Rank	Strength
1.	Superintendent of Police	1
2.	Assistant Superintendent of Police	3
3.	Deputy Superintendent of Police	3
4.	Inspector	6
5.	Sub-Inspector	26
6.	Sargent	15
7.	Foot Head Constable	122
8.	Head Constable (mounted)	5
9.	Foot Constable	1099
10.	Constable (mounted)	45

**Source :**Report of Police Administration in Punjab for the year 1911-12, Lahore.

The administrative setup of Delhi has undergone substantial change from time to time as per the growth of population, crime and process of urbanization. Upto 1912 there was no Deputy Inspector General (Table 3.2). After the separation from Punjab in 1912, a change was introduced in the Police system of Delhi. It was now vested with the powers of the Director General of Police also. More posts of Superintendent and Deputy Superintendents of Police were created when Delhi police was reorganized in 1946. In the wake of partition in 1947, a large influx of refugees population, rolled in and there was a sharp rise in crime in 1948.

### **Police after Independence**

The basis of Delhi Police organization are territorial and administration. After Independence, whole Delhi was grouped into three areas, i.e. Old Delhi, New Delhi and Rural Delhi, each under the charge of a Superintendent of Police. A crime investigation agency under the charge of Deputy Superintendent of Police was established to deal with special matters affecting more than one police station.

**Table - EXPANSION OF POLICE FORCE**

S.No.	Items for Comparison	Pre-partition	Post-partition
1.	Strength of GOs	12	33
2.	Strength of N.G.Os	3453	8027
3.	Total No. of P.Ss	18	18
4.	Total No. of P.Ps	14	32
5.	Total No. of Armories	1215	4926
6.	Transport Fleet	43	145
7.	Wireless Transmitting Sets	3	25
8.	Annual budget (Rs.)	3287340	6021133

**Source :**Gazetteer of Rural Delhi, 1987, p. 347.

There were only 18 Police stations as on 31st December, 1951. Their number rose to 38 in November, 1962. In 1971, the number of Police stations were 45 and in 1981, and 1991, and 2008, they rose to 66, 105 and 128 respectively.

The Police strength since 1951 has been shown in the following table:-

**Table- TEMPORAL TREND OF DELHI POLICE**

S.No.	Rank	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2008
1.	I.G./D.G./C.P.	1	1	1	1	1	23
2.	D.I.G./Addl. C.P. -	-	1	4	7	10	12
3.	S.P./A.S.P./D.C.P./A.D.C.P.	9	15	24	37	53	63
4.	Dy. S.P./A.C.P.	21	34	81	116	187	247
5.	P.R.O.	1	1	1	1	1	1
6.	Insp.	54	84	257	386	678	1192
7.	S.I.	228	456	1392	2289	3938	4160
8.	A.S.I.	378	632	1146	1726	4074	6124
9.	H.C.	1132	1686	3082	5658	11488	15809
10.	Ct.	6202	9226	11664	15936	30516	32814
11.	L.Ct.	-	-	15	45	612	-
12.	Class IV	-	-	519	888	1533	2000

**Source :** Compiled by the researcher, based on Delhi District Census Handbook, 1961, p. 27 and record of Police Headquarters, Delhi Police, 2008.

It is in this context that in the year 1966, the Government of India constituted the Delhi Police Commission headed by Justice G.D. Khosla to go into the problems faced by Delhi Police and it was on the basis of the Khosla Commission Report (1968) who recommended that Delhi Police should be put under the Police Commissionerate System. Ultimately, the suggestion was accepted and was implemented in the capital with effect from the 1st July, 1978, and it is still functioning under that system. Under this system, the Delhi state has been treated as one unit for the purpose of Delhi Administration and whole Delhi was divided into nine district i.e. South, South-West, West, Central, North, North-West, New Delhi, East and North-East.

A large expansion took place by 1991 from the territorial as well as administrative points of view. The territorial boundaries of police stations were further changed as the number of police stations rose upto 105, sub-division 35 and district to 9. These are being administered by three ranges.

**Table — CHANGE IN TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION**

Category	1971	1981	1991	2008
No. of Ranges	2	2	3	3
No. of Districts	4	6	9	9
No. of Sub-Divisions	12	22	35	45
No. of Police Stations	45	66	105	128
No. of Police Posts	27	60	72	40

**Source :** Crime Record Office, Delhi Police, 2008.

In 1991, territorially, the entire Delhi was divided into 3 ranges, 9 districts, 35 Sub-divisions and 105 police stations. Each range (New Delhi, Northern and Southern) is under the command of an Additional Commissioner of Police. Each district (East,

North- East, North, Central, North-West, West, South-West, and South) is under the command of Deputy Commissioner of Police. These officers are normally from the cadre of Indian Police Services. In 2008, the Delhi state was divided into 3 ranges, 9 districts, 45 sub-divisions and 128 police stations. Each range is under the command of an Additional Commissioner of Police. Each district (South, South-West, West, Central, North, North-West, New Delhi, East and North-East) is under the command of Deputy Commissioner of Police. Presently, in all the nine districts Additional Deputy Commissioners of Police are also posted to share the work load of the Deputy Commissioner of Police in administration as well as that of the law and order problems. Moreover, other Deputy Commissioners of Police are at Indira Gandhi International Airport and at the Railways. One Assistant Commissioner of Police is also posted in each district to look after the work of administration and special Executive Magistrate to hold the court and decide the matters brought forward by the police to prevent the crime.

### **District Police**

There are several stages of the personal management and police administration in Delhi Police. The cutting edge in police personal management is at the bottom line which is at the constable level. The pattern of the ranks and responsibilities are given in the below table :-

**Table-DISTRICT POLICE AND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**

S.No.	Rank	Area of Responsibility
1.	D.C.P.	District
2.	Addl. D.C.P. I	District
3.	Addl. D.C.P. II	District
4.	A.C.P. (S.D.P.O.)	Sub-Division
5.	S.H.O.	Police Station
6.	S.I./A.S.I.	Division
7.	H.C./Ct.	Beat/Picket
8.	A.C.P. (Operation)	District
9.	A.C.P. (D.C.P.)	District
10.	A.C.P. (P.G.C.)	District
11.	A.C.P. (C.W.C.)	District

### **TRAFFIC POLICE**

**Table-TRAFFIC POLICE AND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**

S.No.	Rank	Area of Responsibility
1.	Addl. C.P.	Delhi
2.	D.C.P.	Delhi
3.	Addl. D.C.P.	Delhi
4.	A.C.P.	District
5.	Inspector	Sub-Division
6.	S.I./A.S.I.	Police Station/Zone



The distribution of work amongst the Additional Commissioners of Police is not absolute because it may be changed as per demand of situation.

**Delhi police is composed of the following personnel as on 2013 :**

- Ø 3 Special Commissioners
- Ø 17 Joint Commissioners
- Ø 7 Additional Commissioners
- Ø 74 Deputy Commissioners
- Ø 272 ACPs

**Delhi police** is divided into twelve branches under the **commissioner of police**. **The main four** among the branches are :

- . Special C.P. Administration
- . Special C.P. Training
- . Special C.P. Security & Armed Police
- . Special C.P. Intelligence

In addition to the **four Special Commissioner** of Police (C.P.), there are **8 Joint Commissioners** of Police. New Delhi police is the **second best Police** in all over **world** after Scotland Yard. The Special C.P. Administration has **three Joint Commissioner** of Police under him and two Additional C.P's. One of them is responsible for Headquarters. Every Joint C.P. and Additional C.P. has a DCP under him. The C.P. responsible for Headquarters is in-charge of Public Relations and has a Public Relation Officer (PRO) under him. The Special C.P. has a Deputy Commissioner of Police (D.C.P.) answering to him. The Vice Principal of Police Training College (PTC) answers to the D.C.P. The Special C.P. Security and Armed Police has three Joint C.P's working under him. Each of them has an Additional C.P. under him. The Additional C.P. gives orders to the C.P's of each Police Battalion. The Special C.P. Intelligence has a Joint C.P. and an Additional C.P. working under him. The Additional C.P. gives orders to an Additional C.P. and to the F.R.R.O. section. He is responsible for registration of foreigners in the Delhi Police region. The Additional C.P. has a D.C.P. working under him. There is an Additional D.C.P. under the D.C.P. The Commissioner of Police directly controls the Joint C.P. who in turn controls the D.C.P's of the North, South and East. The Joint C.P. of N.D.D. also controls the D.C.P. STF and D.C.P. Supreme Court.

Delhi is the centre of wide range of political, cultural, social and economic activities. The Delhi Police has to play a number of roles so far maintenance of law and order is concerned.

**The Delhi Police undertakes the following activities :**

- Investigating crimes
- Controlling criminal activities
- Protection of women
- Control Traffic Problems

Delhi Police is considered to be having the most advanced administrative system in India. It believes in the principle of 'Citizen First'. Traffic control is very important in order to avoid accidents and in this field Delhi police is taking strong measures to assure safety to the people.

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