

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

General law and order situation was peaceful in the district, though crimes and offences were said to have been relatively more. Land disputes were frequent and caused numerous agrarian offences. It is also said that the rich class were abetting murders. They were earmarking one man (strong and sturdy) as bodyguard. In the pretext of bodyguards, they were utilised for criminal offences. Sometimes, pressure of creditors caused grievous hurt, robbery, murder, mainly for revenge. During the period from 1874-1882, there were 161 murders, 52 culpable homicides, 245 cases of grievous hurt, 452 gang and other robberies and 25,512 other offences recorded. The yearly average offences in these nine years was 2,936, or one offence for every 294 of the population. The number of murders varied from 23 in 1874 to 13 in 1881 and 18 was the annual average; culpable homicide varied from two in 1876 to 13 in 1877 and the average was six; grievous hurt varied from 16 in 1878 to 43 in 1881 and the average was 27; gang and other robberies varied from 2,277 in 1874 to 3,786 in 1881 and the average was 2,835 or 26.56 per cent. The percentage of convictions among the prosecuted varied from 47 in 1874 to 68 in 1877 and 58 in 1881.

The percentage recovery of the stolen property varied from 79 in 1878 to 35 in 1881. The number of offences from the year 1902 to 1911 are given in the table.

During the next decades, the reported cognizable crimes were 1,161 in 1934 and 999 in 1935. The number of serious crimes per lakh of population in 1935 was 51 (3 murders for 1,00,000 population). In 1950, there was a case of embezzlement of cash (Rs 63,000) from

Table showing the offences in Belgaum district between 1902-1911

<i>Offences</i>	<i>1902</i>	<i>1905</i>	<i>1908</i>	<i>1911</i>
	<i>(Persons convicted)</i>			
Offences against public tranquility	17	6	53	61
Murder	24	4	10	10
Rape	1	1	1	2
Hurt, criminal force and assault including grievous hurt	115	157	149	170
Dacoity and robbery	88	39	18	6
Theft including cattle theft	355	163	164	218
Other offences (IPC)	305	196	198	202
Bad livelihood	245	54	24	61
Under Police Act	86	381	310	391
Salt Law	15	1	—	—
Excise	70	54	49	34
Forest	36	22	44	85
Municipal Act	52	38	8	30
Other offences	234	318	452	618
Total	1,643	1,434	1,480	1,888

the office of the Executive Engineer, Ghataprabha Gokak Treasury. There was a decrease under dacoities and there were 2,878 criminal cases pending with the Magistrates in 1950.

After 1956

The general law and order situation in the district was however under control. There were instances of communal trouble and disturbances. The police force also increased and voluntary agencies like Homeguards, Sevalal, VDP, etc, were supplementing the police force. A brief note on the different types of disturbances during the years 1974-1983 has been given here.

Social and Communal Disturbances: Three cases in 1977 at Khadabazar, Camp area, Market area at Belgaum two instances in 1981 and one at Saundatti and another at Ramdurg in 1982.

Other disturbances: The Belgaum city Maharashtra Ekikarana Samiti Unit supported by Shivasena were agitating and keeping the agitational activities alive, for reasons like 'enforcing' Kannada in so-called Marathi speaking areas, demand for the transfer of such areas to Maharashtra, etc. With the implementation of the Gokak Committee Report the agitation intensified affecting law and order situation. In 1983, there were disturbances when well-known matinee idols of the Kannada screen led the agitation for the implementation of this report and for making compulsory the passing of Kannada examinations for recruitment to Class 'C' and Class 'D' posts. In another instance police resorted to firing in 1981, at Nipani to combat the farmer agitators who turned violent. The tobacco growers blocked the NH4, for their demands in respect of tobacco production.

Police Firings: In 1975, the police had to open fire at Nipani and at Marihal to recover the stolen property. In 1978, police opened fire when the mob caused obstruction to vehicular traffic, and there was firing during Matka raid at Ghataprabha in 1979. Again in September 1979, while stopping a vehicle carrying sandalwood, in Kakati Police Station limits, police opened fire. In 1980 police opened fire at Tenginakai Koot, Gokak Town while dispersing unruly mob. In 1981, during 'Rasta Rokho' agitation by the ryots at Nipani (10 persons were killed), at Dharanatti Village to disperse the unruly mob and near Bhatranatti in anti-dacoity operations firing was resorted to, by the police.

Other Offences: The following table shows the different kinds of offences reported in the district from 1974-83;

<i>Nature of crimes</i>	1974	1976	1978	1980	1982	1983
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agrarian situations						
Labour troubles	15	3	16	10	26	33
Students strikes	2	—	5	2	22	46
Crimes under IPC	1,929	2,247	2,812	3,550	4,120	4,137
Murder	159	128	137	122	211	147
Dacoity	4	5	9	19	10	18
Robbery	5	13	17	11	45	29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Theft	40	29	46	103	102	47
Cognizable crimes	1,998	2,227	3,009	3,317	3,623	3,770
Rape	1	2	2	7	3	6
Rioting	76	76	205	377	526	512
Counterfeiting of coins	1	1	—	4	—	3
Suicide	200	204	198	187	130	200

The following are the crime figures of all types of offences for the years 1984 and 1985 in Belgaum district. The figures shown are for the years 84 and 85 respectively: Murder 128/92, culpable homicide 2/2, attempt to murder 18/19, dacoity 10/16, robbery 24/19, house breaking theft 349/357, theft in house 79/75, other thefts 518/624, cattle thefts 22/13, cheating 94/98, criminal breach of trust 63/33, kidnaping 20/30, rioting 628/468, hurt 608/591, motor vehicle accident 540/607, fatal accident 175/193, other IPC cases 877/914, counterfeiting of coins and currency 8/17, total 4,164/4,168. The crimes under preventive sections for the same years were: Section 107 Criminal procedure code 417/381, Section 109 Criminal procedure code 321/268, Section 110 Criminal procedure code 156/219, Section 96 of Karnataka Police Act 604/650, Section 98 of KP Act 21/36, Motor Vehicle Act 1,510/1,657, total 3,029/3,211. Crimes under special and local laws for the same years were: Excise Act 80/87, Gambling Act 231/301, Arms Act 15/27, Essential Commodities Act 89/40, Section 160 Indian Penal Code 29/26, Untouchability Act 15/20, Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act 86/237, Explosives Act 5/nil, Irrigation Act 16/6, Other Acts 27/16, Forest Act 5/5 and the total 598/765.

Within the jurisdiction of the Railway Police in the district, one murder each was reported in 1983 and 1985, three robberies (two in 1981, one in 1982), one house breaking theft in 1981, 45 ordinary thefts (eight in 1981, 11 in 1982, seven in 1983, 16 in 1984 and three in 1985) and 157 other offences (16 in 1981, 50 in 1982, 41 in 1983, 44 in 1984, 6 in 1985). From 1981-1985 there were in total 208 offences reported.

Table showing information in respect of Motor Vehicle offences from 1982 to 1985

<i>Offences category-wise</i>	1982	1983	1984	1985
Over speeding	1,649	851	377	1,420
Dazzling lights	163	157	299	256
Defective lights	27	—	2	19
Violation of traffic sign boards	91	120	1,198	130
Defective vehicles	—	12	—	1
Driving without licences	591	938	1,684	130
Without permits	77	164	160	110
Unauthorised carrying of persons in goods vehicles	1,860	1,666	1,741	1,980
Carrying persons in cars without permit	239	78	139	101
Non-payment of tax	27	60	7	12
Over-loading	257	280	291	136

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The King was the administrator of law and order and justice in ancient times. So far as the judicial administration was concerned, he was assisted by Dharmadhyaksha and Rajyadhyaksha. The main functions of these two officers were to review the judicial administration, to condemn the seditious activities, etc. Inscriptions reveal that Dharmadhikarana or Dharma Karanika were examining the the revenue disputes and awarding judgements. There was not much difference in respect of decisions between civil and criminal offences. The legal disputes were generally decided in the village assemblies or the town assemblies by taking the evidence of local leaders. The judgement or *jayapatra* was recorded by the Senabova in the village. The transfer of immovable property had to take place in the presence of relatives and other village elders. Generally the land was transferred only for agricultural purposes. In the absence of any documentary evidences, the parties had to take an oath, and undertake a method of proof called *divya pramana* or ordeal. In offences like fraud, unauthorised occupation, etc the *divya pramanas* like Samatolanadivya, Agnidivya, Jaladivya, Vishadivya, Phaladivya, etc, were

adopted. These *divyapramanas* had to be performed in a temple. Around 1180 A D there was a dispute in respect of a land between the *acharya* by name Shivashakti of Sri Kalleshwara temple of Attibhavi near Kittur and another *acharya* by name Kalyana Shakti of the Moolasthana temple. Shivashakti was pleading that the land originally belonged to God Kalleshwara, but Devarasi, father of Kalyanashakti got it written in his name against the usual code. The dispute was referred to one royal officer Eshwaradandanayaka. He in turn sent them to the Mahajanas of Deganve for justice. Both the plaintiff and the defendant were subjected to *phaladivya pramana*, wherein they had to hold a red hot iron rod in the presence of all citizens in the Mallikarjuna Temple. It is said in the inscriptions that Acharya Shivashakti was not affected by the heat of the rod and the *jayapatra* was given to him.

Under the rule of the Muslims separate courts for the Hindus and Muslims were instituted for personal law suits, and for Muslims, the kazi was the judge. In State Courts, Hindu *pandits* assisted the Muslim judicial officers. With the advent of British rule, the Cornwallis system introduced by Regulation II of 1802, on the pattern introduced by him in Bengal Province in 1793, was in vogue in this district. This system was similar to the system introduced in Madras area. By 1827, the judicial system in this area was as follows: a) Native Commissioners appointed for each district were to decide cases of Indians only of the value above Rs 5,000. The local Government was competent to effect changes in the number of judges and also their jurisdiction. b) Ordinary pecuniary jurisdiction of Senior Assistant Judge was Rs 5,000. On special authorisation, it could be upto Rs 10,000. c) All the Civil cases with unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction were vested with the District Diwani Adalat, It had appellate power against Native Commissioners and Junior Assistant Judges. d) Sadar Diwani Adalat consisted of three or more judges being the highest court of appeal, review and revision, exercised supervisory functions over the lower courts. European Judges were authorised to take assistance of Panchayats or jury consisting of respectable natives. The final verdict however was of the Judge. By Regulation XVII exclusive jurisdiction about disputes relating to possession of land tenures and rent, boundaries, use of wells, etc, was conferred on the Collectors. Their decision was subject to appeals to the District Diwani Adalat.

After 1818, under the British the Principal Collector and the

Political Agent exercised the functions of Chief Judicial, Police and Revenue Officer. The Southern Maratha Doab was divided into 21 sub-divisions. A Mamlatdar assisted by three or four group managers or Zilledars, conducted the revenue, magisterial and police administration. In the initial stages of British rule, petty civil claims and disputes were disposed of by the village officers, claims of more importance were entertained by the Mamlatdar and referred for trial decision to Panchayats or juries. The major cases were filed before the Principal Collector and were referred by him to juries for decision, and on appeal for final trials. By 1820, a separate judicial officer called 'Adalat Peshkar' or court clerk was appointed to each sub-division. As his position was little more than a Clerk to Mamlatdar, his office was abolished and gradually Munsiffs were appointed. The Principal Collector was assisted by a Judicial Assistant under the title of Registrar. Though Belgaum was formed into a separate district in 1836, it remained under the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Dharwad till 1869 when it was made a separate judicial district. In 1870 the number of courts in the district was five. The number of suits settled was 3,421, and the average duration was 80 days. In 1875, the number of suits settled was 4,733 in the same number of courts with the average duration of 93 days. In 1883, there was a District Judge and four Sub-Judges. The four Sub-Judges were : (a) First Class Sub Judge at Belgaum who had ordinary jurisdiction over Belgaum and Khanapur Sub-divisions and Special Jurisdiction above Rs 5,000 over the whole district. (b) Second Class Sub Judge at Chikodi who had jurisdiction over Chikodi and Gokak Sub-divisions. (c) Second Class Sub Judge at Saundatti over Parasgad and Sampgaon Sub-divisions. (d) Sub Judge at Athani over Athani Sub-division. The administration of criminal justice was done by 24 officers in the district by 1882. These 24 officers were, one District Magistrate, five First Class Magistrates, seven Second Class Magistrates, and 11 Third Class Magistrates, two were covenanted European civilians, two were uncovenanted civil officers and also called Deputy Collectors and one Cantonment Magistrate. The District Magistrate had the general supervision over the whole district. The Huzur Deputy Collector had Magisterial charge of the town of Belgaum and the Cantonment Magistrate, the charge of Cantonment. All the 18 Second Class and Third Class Magistrates were Indians. There were 902 hereditary police patils or village heads entrusted with magisterial powers under Section 14 of the Bombay Village Police Act (VIII) of 1867. The District Court was usually presided over by the European Judges.

In 1953 Judiciary was separated from Executive and started functioning independently. Prior to 1964, there were three cadres of Judicial Officers viz, the Civil Judge, Junior Division, the Civil Judge Senior Division and the District Judge. When the Karnataka Civil Courts Act 1964 was enacted and brought into force from 1-10-1964, uniform cadres of Judicial officers were introduced, and the posts of Munsiffs and Civil Judges were created. The District Judge is also appointed as the Sessions Judge and he presides over the combined court designated as District and Sessions Courts. The Munsiffs are also conferred with the powers of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) and almost in each taluk, criminal and civil powers are exercised by single officers who are designated as Munsiff and JMFC. The Civil Judge also functions as Chief Judicial Magistrate. The Civil Judges working outside the District Headquarters are conferred with the powers of JMFC.

The following are the courts of different judicial officers located in Belgaum District as in 1985.

Belgaum: 1) Principal District Judge, 2) I Additional District Judge, 3) II Additional District Judge, 4) Principal Civil Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate, 5) I Additional Civil Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate, 6) II Additional Civil Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate, 7) III Additional Civil Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate, 8) Principal Munsiff, 9) I Additional Munsiff, 10) II Additional Munsiff, 11) III Additional Munsiff, 12) JMFC, II Court, 13) JMFC, III Court and 14) JMFC, IV Court.

Chikodi: 1) Principal Civil Judge, 2) Additional Civil Judge, 3) Principal Munsiff and JMFC, 4) Additional Munsiff and JMFC and 5) JMFC. *Bailhongal*: 1) Principal Civil Judge and 2) Additional Civil Judge (sitting at Saundatti). *Saundatti*: 1) Munsiff and JMFC, Saundatti and 2) Musiff and JMFC, Bailhongal. *Gokak*: 1) Civil Judge, 2) Principal Munsiff and JMFC and 3) Additional Munsiff and JMFC. *Athani*: 1) Civil Judge-cum-JMFC and 2) Munsiff and Additional JMFC. *Raybag*: 1) Munsiff and JMFC. *Ramdurg*: 1) Munsiff and JMFC. *Hukeri*: 1) Principal Munsiff and JMFC and 2) Additional Munsiff and JMFC. *Khanapur*: 1) Munsiff and JMFC.

The District Judges try original suits arising under the Trade Marks and Copy Rights Act, administrative suits, petitions for grant

of Probate and Letters of Administration. The District Judge is also an appellate authority to hear appeals against the judgements and orders passed by the Civil Judge in suits the value of which is less than Rs 20,000. The Revision Petitions filed against the order of the Munsiffs under Karnataka Rent Control Act, appeals against the order of the Deputy Commissioner, passed under the Karnataka Village Officers Abolition Act, and appeals against the orders passed by the Authorised Officers under the Unauthorised Eviction of Public Premises Act, are also heard by the District Judge. The District Judge also acts as the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, and he is also designated as Chairmen of Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals under the Karnataka Private Institutions (Discipline and Control) Act. The Principal District Judge also hears the petitions under Section 24 of Civil Procedure Code for withdrawing and transferring of cases from one Subordinate Court to another.

The Principal District Judge is the Administrative Head of the judiciary for the Belgaum District and supervises the work of all subordinate courts, and he is the appointing authority of staff for all the posts upto and including Sheristedar. He is also designated as Member of Advisory Committee of Central Prison, Belgaum and he is also empowered to inspect all the records of Notary Public under the Notaries Act. The two *Additional District Judges* also exercise the same powers as that of Principal District Judge. The District Judges at Belgaum are also designated as Principal Sessions Judge, I Additional Sessions Judge and II Additional Sessions Judge. They also hear the applications filed for Bail under the Criminal Procedure Code.

The Principal Sessions Judge, Belgaum is also designated as Special Judge to try offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and under the Essential Commodities Act.

The Principal CJM also acts as the presiding officer of the juvenile court. The Civil Judges try all suits of value more than Rs 10,000 and hear appeals against judgements and orders passed by the Munsiff. They also try matrimonial cases, arbitration cases, land acquisition cases, Guardian and Wardship Act cases etc. They try small cause suits and execute decrees of their courts which are transferred to their courts. *The Judicial Magistrates First Class* try all offences other than those which are exclusively triable by Sessions

court. They deal with applications for maintenance and exercise the power of presiding officer of the Juvenile court. *Munsiff's* courts try suits of civil nature and their pecuniary jurisdiction is limited to Rs 10,000. They also execute decrees passed by them and decrees which are transferred to them. They deal with Rent Control matters and try election disputes under Village Panchayat and Local Boards Act.

The Judicial Officers are classified in the district in accordance with their status. The Principal District and Sessions Judge, Additional Sessions Judge, Civil Judge, (Chief Judicial Magistrate), Additional Civil Judge, JMFC and Munsiffs. Besides there are Executive Magistrates who are Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate Executive), Headquarters Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner (Additional District Magistrate, Executive), Assistant Commissioner (Sub-Divisional Magistrate Executive), and Tahsildars (Taluka Magistrate, Executive). The main function of the Executive Magistrates is to maintain law and order and to take preventive measures in that behalf. The orders of the Executive Magistrate are however subject to the revisional jurisdiction of District and Sessions Judge.

Criminal cases are tried by Sessions Judges and First Class Judicial Magistrates. There are three District and Sessions Judges ; of which, two are Additional Judges and 20 Magistrates in the district. There were 8,671 cases pending at the beginning of the year 1984-85 and 11,811 cases were instituted, of which, 71 were transferred to other courts. Of the 20,411 cases for disposal, 13,686 cases were disposed of leaving 6,725 cases pending. The average duration of the cases disposed off was 119.76 days and the number of witnesses examined was 4,106. The number of persons pending for trial in the year 1984-85 was 12,259 and 20,736 persons were brought to trial. Of the 32,995 persons brought to trial, 138 persons were transferred to other courts and 18,603 persons were disposed leaving 14,254 persons pending trial. Of the 18,603 persons disposed, 38 died, 290 discharged, 5,681 acquitted, 113 found guilty and placed on probation, 11,593 convicted, 439 committed, 541 were struck off and eight were dealt with under Sec 562 Cr PG. The following table shows the different cases instituted, disposed off, etc, in Belgaum district for the years from 1980-81 to 1984-85.

Table showing the different suits in the Courts of Belgaum district from 1980-84

Cases	1980		1982		1984	
	Dist.	Munsiff	Dist.	Munsiff	Dist.	Munsiff
Original Suits :						
Instituted	511	1,913	699	2,180	689	2,485
Disposed	404	1,781	328	1,588	629	2,430
Small Cause Suits :						
Instituted	227	56	245	69	214	59
Disposed	265	128	179	75	234	53
Execution Cases :						
Instituted	1,123	649	1,828	561	1,816	643
Disposed	3,278	705	1,149	519	1,283	518
Miscellaneous Cases :						
Instituted	1,881	605	3,867	1,671	3,955	841
Disposed	1,136	803	2,520	1,452	2,711	2,325
Cases/Appeals :						
Instituted	3	—	1	—	2	—
Disposed	3	—	1	—	1	—
Regular Appeals :						
Instituted	354	—	310	—	421	—
Disposed	370	—	217	—	344	—
Miscellaneous Appeals :						
Instituted	871	—	774	—	802	—
Disposed	1,040	—	444	—	610	—

Statement showing the number of cases instituted, disposed of, value, etc in various courts in Belgaum during 1984-85

Particulars	District Judge including Additional Judge's Court	Civil Judge's Court	Munsiff's Court
	1	2	3
No. of original suits	5	858	2,485
Miscellaneous suits	579	2,132	2,325

1	2	3	4
a) Appellate regular suits	57	287	—
b) Miscellaneous	487	128	—
Total receipt of courts	Rs 1,14,506	19,10,166	9,68,236
Total charge of the courts	Rs 12,44,578	24,50,942	46,29,176
Total suits pending at the year	26	1,730	6,469
No. instituted during the year	73	616	2,530
Total	99	2,346	8,999
Total disposed including transfer to other courts	73	629	2,433
Balance	26	1,717	6,566
Total value of suits disposed	Value cannot be estimated	Rs 1,91,80,678	Rs 34,57,400

Statement showing the details of small cause suits in the courts of Belgaum during 1985-86

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>District Judges Court</i>	<i>Civil Judges Court</i>	<i>Munsiffs Court</i>
No. of suits pending at the beginning of the year	Nil	243	60
Instituted during the year	Nil	214	59
Total	—	457	119
Total No. of suits disposed off	—	234	53
a) Without trial	—	37	19
b) Without contest	—	119	22
c) With contest after full trial	—	78	12
Balance	—	223	66
Total value of suits disposed off	—	Rs 3,80,737	Rs 12,572

Table showing the number of sessions and other cases in Belgaum district from 1980-81 to 1984-85

Year and Courts	Number of cases decided				Trial of criminal cases			Average duration	Number of witnesses examined
	Original		Appeallate		Total for disposal	Disposed off	Balance		
	Regular	Miscellaneous	Regular	Miscellaneous					
1980-81 :									
Sessions	87	108	67	—	119	87	32	7-20	1,325
Other	21,743	1,492	—	—	28,764	21,743	7,021	187-12	11,378
1981-82 :									
Sessions	85	94	138	—	150	85	65	75-00	1,475
Other	19,511	842	—	—	17,795	16,324	1,471	46-94	5,246
1982-83 :									
Sessions	90	181	63	—	176	90	86	82-00	1,663
Other	13,735	711	—	—	19,789	13,735	6,054	345-83	11,718
1983-84 :									
Sessions	183	206	165	—	326	183	143	98-00	1,285
Other	13,549	1,085	—	—	20,229	13,549	6,671	145-53	14,071
1984-85 :									
Sessions	162	1,291	63	—	332	162	170	96-00	1,915
Other	13,686	NA	NA	—	20,411	13,686	6,725	149-21	12,743

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The police force was used mostly for internal security since olden days. Even under monarchical rule, the police provided safety to the people and maintained peace. In rural areas, the village officers were looking after the internal security with the assistance of local militia. In capitals and in border areas, the security was looked after by the royal army. The *gaunda* in every village looked after the police duties with the help of his *talvars* or village militia. Later, the *gaunda* was called Patel or Patil under the Muslims and the Marathas. Under the British, he was known as Police Patil, and the militia *talavars* and *shetsanadis*. They kept watch on new visitors to every village and engaged themselves in night patrolling. Upto 1849, in the Bombay Presidency, the police administration was conducted under the superintendance of Faujadari Adalat. By 1855, the police was separated from the judiciary.

With the advent of British rule, the police administration underwent many changes. In Chikodi, Gokak and Athani subdivisions there were village watchmen (*gastis* or men of rounds), trials or Mahars who were attending travellers and Kolkars or messengers. They were mostly either Dhangars (Shepherds) or Nayaks (Bedas) by caste and were paid in the form of land or both land and cash. The number of militia or Shetsandis varied according to the size of the village. In the Belgaum and Khanapur area, a class of hereditary village police called *gadkari* footmen stood on an entirely different footing from the militia or Shetsandis. They were the descendants of the garrisons of the three hill forts in the Khanapur area. They were doing duty in neighbouring villages and towns also. In 1881, Belgaum district had 3,556 police Shetsandis or militia. Their duties were chiefly confined to looking after the safety of their villages and aiding the district police in tracing crime, guarding and escorting criminals. By 1855, the strength of Belgaum district Police Force was 693 (579 policemen and 114 officers). There were police stations in each taluk head-quarter and there were 44 outposts. By 1911, the police force was 770 including four Inspectors, 25 Sub-Inspectors and 137 Head Constables. By 1935, the total police force was 764, with one Superintendent of Police, one Assistant Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, three police prosecutors, three Inspectors, 26 Sub-Inspectors, one Sergeant, 155 Head Constables (Foot) and 573 Constables. There were 18 police stations, 14 police

outposts. The total number of crimes investigated was 935. By 1951, the police force was 1,413, with one Superintendent, one Assistant Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent, four Inspectors, 39 Sub-Inspectors, 296 Head Constables (Foot), 1,071 constables. There were 24 police stations and 30 police outposts. The number of cognizable crimes investigated were 5,742. In addition, there were 365 men in the temporary and additional police force.

After Integration, the police administration was brought under the control of the Karnataka Police Department. Presently (1986), the police administration in the district is headed by the District Superintendent of Police who is working under the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Northern Range, Belgaum. There are four sub-divisions, 11 circles, 38 police stations and 24 outposts. Besides, there is one Police Central Motor Transport Workshop with one Police Inspector, two Police Sub-Inspectors, one Store Keeper and 68 Tradesmen. The police staff as in July 1986 were one Superintendent of Police, 4 Deputy Superintendent of Police, 13 Circle Inspectors, 59 Sub-Inspectors, 10 Reserved Sub-Inspectors, 15 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 273 Head Constables (Civil), 86 Armed Head Constables, 1,143 Civil Constables and 421 Armed Police Constables bringing the total to 2,034. Besides, there were two women Head Constables and eight women Police Constables. The number of Police stations including outposts and Railway Police Stations was 62 with taluk-wise figures as follows: Athani 5, Belgaum 14, Chikodi 7, Gokak 7, Sampgaon 6, Hukeri 5, Khanapur 6, Raybag 3, Ramdurg 3 and Parasgad 6. There was one police for every 2,290 population and 10.24 sq km area. The total expenditure of the department for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 was Rs 3.86, 4.57 and 4.70 crores respectively. The district is divided into four sub-divisions viz, Belgaum, Chikodi, Gokak and Bailhongal. In addition there are special squads like National Highway Squad, etc.

The field administration of the police in the district consisted of different units viz, Special units, Police Training, Intelligence, CID, Criminal Intelligence Bureau, Civil Rights Enforcement Cell, Food Cell, Forest Cell, District Scientific Aid Units, Wireless Unit, Karnataka State Reserve Police, Dog Squad, Railway Police, etc. The Special Units are supervised by the District Superintendent of Police, Belgaum. There is one KSRP Training School at Khanapur

imparting training to the Reserve Police personnel. KSRP units are located at Belgaum and Khanapur. It is under the administrative control of the Special Inspector General of Police, KSRP, Bangalore. In the year 1985, 645 Police Constables were trained under the basic course for Civil Police Constables at this training school.

Police Intelligence Bureau: There is a District Special Branch Unit headed by Police Inspector at Belgaum covering the entire intelligence network in the district. There are one Police Inspector, seven Sub-Inspectors, eight Head Constables and nine Police Constables attached to this unit. Besides this, there is a State Intelligence Control Unit controlled by the Superintendent of Police. This unit also covers intelligence.

Civil Rights Enforcement Cell

There is a separate Civil Rights Enforcement Cell (CRE), an effective machinery for collecting intelligence and investigate and report to the Government, instances of 1) Violation of Government Orders pertaining to reservations of posts to SCs and STs, 2) Violation of Government Orders pertaining to earmarking and utilisation of 18% of the funds of the local bodies to be spent exclusively on schemes aimed at the socio-economic betterment of the SCs and STs, 3) Violation of the Provisions of Karnataka Land Grant Rules pertaining to reservation of 50% of the Government lands, surplus lands and excess *gomal* lands to the SCs and STs, 4) Violation of directions of Government relating to eviction of the marginal and insufficient land holders from encroachments made by them on the *gomal* lands, confirming the rights of occupancy of the *gomal* lands by the insufficient land holders and landless people belonging to the SCs and STs, 5) Cases of production of false certificates by people belonging to other communities claiming the benefits of SCs and STs and various atrocities on SCs and STs and other similar cases infringing on their constitutional and civil rights, etc. The Deputy Inspector General of Police (CID and CRE Cells) at Bangalore is the administrative head of this cell. At Belgaum, there are (as in 1986), one Deputy Superintendent of Police, two Circle Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables, ten Constables and two Armed Constables working in this cell. The number of cases of atrocities and other offences in the district reported by the cell were 19 and 21 in 1982, 10 and 2 in 1983, nil and 3 in 1984, 8 and 18 in 1985 and 9 and 10 in 1986 respectively.

Food Cell: This unit is working under the control and supervision of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (CID Food), Bangalore. This cell is entrusted with the work of dehoarding and prevention of black marketing of essential commodities, etc. There are one Deputy Superintendent of Police, two Police Sub-Inspectors, three Head Constables, two Police Constables on the staff of this cell in the district.

Forest Cell: This is working under the control and supervision of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (CID Forests), Bangalore. Its task is to detect and prevent the smuggling of forest wealth. A special forest mobile squad with one Police Sub-Inspector and six Head Constables is functioning in the district. The quantity of stolen sandalwood traced and its cost respectively for some years are as follows : 1979—110 quintals, Rs 4.14 lakhs ; 1980—16 quintals, Rs 65,000 ; 1981—4 quintals, Rs 23,000 ; 1982—6.5 quintals, Rs 35,000 ; and 1983—60 quintals, Rs 2.55 lakhs.

District Scientific Aid Unit is located at Belgaum and manned by one Scientific Officer who is provided with mobile vans carrying scientific equipments. They assist the investigating officers in collecting and preserving of physical and biological clues from the scene of crimes. There is also a Dog Squad with six dogs.

Police Wireless : The Police Radio Grid covers the entire State. Police Radio Stations function at Belgaum. It is linked with its headquarters at Bangalore. The wireless station at Belgaum is headed by one Assistant Sub-Inspector. Teleprinter links have been provided from Belgaum to Bangalore. The staff on the Radio Grid are one Police Circle Inspector, three Police Sub-Inspectors, eight Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 22 Head Constables. Besides, there is a National Highway Patrol Squad headed by one Sub-Inspector. There is a Motor Workshop at Belgaum for maintenance of Police motor vehicles.

Railway Police

By 1880, there were Greater Indian Peninsular Railway Police Division and BCCI Railway Police Division. Presently (1985), the Belgaum Railway Police Station is situated in the Divisional Headquarters. The jurisdiction of the police station extends to the State border at Shedbal and in the south till Alnavar. The three stations are Belgaum, Londa and Castle Rock. There were

one Inspector, one Sub-Inspector, nine Head Constables and 20 Police Constables on the staff. Smuggling of liquors and contrabands, from Goa, smuggling of sandalwood, firewood, etc, are being checked at all important stations. In addition, escorting of VIPs and investigation of runovers by trains are also done by the Railway Police. The unit is controlled by Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hubli and Superintendent of Police, Bangalore.

Anti-Corruption Branch : As in 1950 and prior to that, the anti-corruption branch in the Belgaum district was in charge of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Belgaum, who was under the control of Inspector General of Police, Anti-corruption Branch having Poona as headquarters. Presently, this branch is supervised by the Superintendent of Police, Belgaum.

Civilian Rifle Training Centres : These centres started functioning in 1981 at Gokak, Saundatti, Athani, Chikodi, Hukeri and Bailhongal. As in 1983, 313 persons have been given training by using .22 rifles.

The police department is mainly responsible for the detection of crimes. The following table gives the percentage of detection of various types of offences from 1974 to 1983.

Table showing the percentage of detection of various crimes in Belgaum District

<i>Type of offence</i>	1974	1977	1980	1981	1982	1983
Murders	63.07	65.20	93.20	79.38	82.62	76.66
Dacoities	33.30	50.00	83.33	50.00	80.00	80.00
Robberies	80.00	16.60	66.66	56.15	55.00	72.22
House break- ing thefts	40.50	29.60	25.66	26.52	32.87	33.64
Cattle thefts	62.50	65.30	63.63	80.00	31.24	65.62
Ordinary thefts	47.70	38.60	78.84	58.03	81.58	65.14

The police have recovered the properties lost by way of crimes

to the extent of 23.83 per cent during ten years period from 1974-1983. The year-wise statistics are as follows.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Property stolen (Rs in lakhs)</i>	<i>Recovered (Rs in lakhs)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1974	6.88	2.57	37.32
1975	7.25	3.52	48.56
1976	12.49	3.09	24.74
1977	15.46	1.96	12.70
1978	30.90	3.13	10.15
1979	13.37	3.04	22.80
1980	24.35	2.69	11.06
1981	21.72	3.68	16.94
1982	26.01	6.77	25.95
1983	27.11	7.68	28.33

The number of prosecutions launched and the convictions made were to the extent of 54.2 per cent for the ten years from 1974-1983. The year-wise figures are as follows.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Prosecutions launched</i>	<i>Convictions made</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1974	3,295	2,176	66.03
1975	3,117	2,176	69.81
1976	2,230	1,494	66.99
1977	2,582	1,779	68.90
1978	3,027	2,098	69.30
1979	2,786	1,435	51.50
1980	4,677	1,092	23.34
1981	2,762	1,347	48.76
1982	3,227	1,281	39.67
1983	2,947	1,115	37.83

Police Welfare

A Police Benevolent Fund has been formed in Belgaum district. The police welfare activities include the maintenance of laundries, saloons, maternity homes, medical inspection rooms, canteen, bakery, library, film shows, kindergarten, primary school, parks, tailoring classes, fair price shops, flour mills and hullers, book banks, TV sets, electrical leather stitching machines, etc. The children of police personnel are provided financial aid from the Police Benevolent Fund for their school and college education. Medical relief is sanctioned to deserving cases from this fund. Tailoring classes are being conducted in the police lines at the police headquarters, Belgaum, City Police lines, Belgaum, Nipani town, Katkol, Khanapur, Saundatti, Aigali and Kagwad. The persons benefited by the Police Benevolent Fund from 1981 to 1985 were as follows. 1981-121, 1982-234, 1983-315, 1984-219 and 1985-176.

Police Medals: In recognition of meritorious services rendered by the police personnel, the following medals were awarded. President's Police Medals for meritorious services: C C Channasetty PSI (1962), S N Salgar RSI (1965), G V Chikkannagowdar PSI (1967), Shankar Balappa Nidasoshi CHC (1968), C K Mathew PSI (1969), G S Salskar CPI (1970), S D Nadodkar CSI (1971), H B Ganji PSI (1974), Sangappa Kalingappa Kajrol CPC (1974), N B Tereni PSI (1975), S B Patti CHC (1980), A I Angadi CPC (1980), I V Patil CPI (1981), M A Kulkarni CHC (1981), D A Ugari HC (1981), G Y Desari CHC (1983), N B Terni PI (1984), A G Malgar PSI (1985). *President's Police and Fire Services Medals*: B B Chippadi CHC (1982), and C S Managari CPC (1982). *Chief Minister's Medals*: M P Naik PI (1984) and A I Pathan PC (1985).

Some statistics on police set-up in Belgaum district as in 1985 were, Expenditure per day—1.29 lakhs; Civil policemen per 100 sq km area—9.7; average area covered by one police station (including police outposts) in sq km—22.74; police station, population ratio—1:50,516; police, population ratio—1:1,672; volume of crime registered per lakh population all crimes—179.93, murders—3.08, dacoities—0.53, robberies—0.63, riots—15.70, fatal motor accidents—7.48; incidence of crimes reported per 100 sq km: all crimes—39.99, murders—0.68, dacoities—0.12, robberies—0.14 riots—3.48, fatal motor accidents—8.43; magnitude of cases reported per day : crimes—

14.69, murders—0.25, dacoities—0.04, robberies—0.05, riots—1.28, fatal motor accidents—0.61; average number of all types of crimes reported per police station including police outposts : 67.22; average number of all types of crimes handled by one policeman : 2.05.

Besides, the police department, there are certain agencies assisting the police in maintaining the law and order and in other spheres. They are Home Guards, Village Defence Parties, etc.

Home Guards

Home Guards are the voluntary bodies utilised for the maintenance of law and order and also to assist the police. It is a voluntary organisation. Its members are drawn from different walks of life. They place themselves at the disposal of the authorities to fulfil tasks and functions assigned to them during times of emergencies. In accordance with the Bombay Home Guards Act III of 1947, Home Guards were introduced in the district in 1948. In 1985, there were 21 units with 1,092 trained Home Guards. The name of the units and the number of Home Guards trained in each unit were as follows: Belgaum 47, Gokak 64, Saundatti 30, Hunsikatti 117, Mudalgi 24, Kaujalgi 28, Gokak Falls 28, Ramdurg 51, Hukeri 42, Nipani 31, Sankeshwar 35, Nerli 99, Mamadapur 28, Harugeri 19, Chikodi 61, Kanagal 59, Akkatangerhal 95, Mugali 44, Bailhongal 50, Athani 55, and Yamakanmaradi 85. Each unit is headed by a unit officer (voluntary) and the Comandant, Home Guards, Belgaum is the administrative head in the district. He is appointed by the Government and is assisted by officers in the rank of II Commandant, District Quarter Master and Staff Officers. As in March 1986, there were two Company Commanders, four Company Sergeant Majors, 29 Sergeants, 76 Section Leaders, 79 Assistant Section Leaders in this district. In 1986, 12 Home Guards were given cash awards. The expenditure incurred in respect of Home Guards during the five years from 1980-81 was as follows. 1980-81 Rs 3.99 lakhs; 1981-82 Rs 4.23 lakhs; 1982-83 Rs 4.24 lakhs; 1983-84 Rs 4.65 lakhs; 1984-85 Rs 5.73 lakhs; and 1985-86 Rs 27.60 lakhs.

Fire Force: The Fire Force was started in the year 1928. The Fire Force Unit is controlled by the Superintendent of Police. As in 1985, there was one Fire Brigade Superintendent and 16 other staff. There were nine vehicles in the district with four in Belgaum, two at

Athani, two at Chikodi and one at Hukeri. The year-wise number of calls received from 1980-84 were as follows. 1980-149, 1981-150, 1982-106, 1983-149 and 1984-108.

Village Defence Parties: When the posts of Police Patils were abolished, the Village Defence Parties were constituted on 1-11-1965, as per the provisions of the Karnataka Village Defence Parties Act 1964. The Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority for appointing Village Defence Party members and Dalapathis. He is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police having jurisdiction over the village concerned, the Station Village Defence Officer, the Chairman of the Village Panchayat and the Circle Inspector of Police. By 1986, out of 1,278 villages VDPs were organised in 983 villages and 146 Dalapathis were appointed. The average number of members in the VDPs was 36 and the membership was restricted to 24 from 48. The functions of the Village Defence Party are: 1) guarding the village, 2) patrolling for the purpose of prevention of crime, 3) providing protection to persons and property and 4) assisting the police in maintaining public order and peace. The VDPs supplement the police force in maintaining Law and Order in rural areas.

JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

Prisons were an essential part of maintenance of law and order even in ancient days. The prisoners of war were an additional phenomenon. Prisoners were not confined to locked cells. There were men who were confined in Bungalows or forts under surveillance. Records say that Chennamma of Kittur was kept confined at Bailhongal. With the advent of British rule and also the increase in the number of prisoners, lock-ups and jails came to be established in taluk places and district headquarters. By 1880, extra-mural gangs were at work at Gokak and the average number of convicts in Belgaum jail and Gokak jail was 149 and 646 respectively. There was a lock-up at each Mamlatdar's office, one district jail at Belgaum and one subordinate jail at Athani (1880). In 1882, the number of convicts in Belgaum jail was 42 (32 males and 10 females). During 1883, 499 convicts (433 males and 66 females) were admitted and 465 were discharged. The Hindalga jail which was completed in 1924, had 859 convicts (30 females) and of which 587 males and 28 females were transferred from other jails in that year.

The different Acts enacted by the Bombay Presidency viz, the Prisons Act (1894), The Prisoners Act (1909), The Indian Lunacy Act 1912, The Bombay Borstal Act (1929), The Transfer of Prisoners Act (1950) and other Acts of the Bombay Provincial Government were in force before 1956 and the Inspector General of Prisons, Poona was the head of the Department. The Bombay Jail Manual was also in force before 1956. When the Karnataka Prison Rules 1974 and the Karnataka Prison Manual 1978 were passed, they were introduced in this district. As in 1986, there were one Central Prison at Belgaum nine sub-jails (at Gokak, Bailhongal, Khanapur, Ramdurg, Saundatti, Chikodi, Raybag, Athani and Hukeri) and police lock-ups in Police Stations.

Central Prison, Belgaum

This was established in 1923, being one of the well established jails during those days. As in 1986, the authorised accommodation was 1,162 and during emergency, 2,650 prisoners could be accommodated. The following are the number of prisoners in this prison during previous five years. In 1982, there were 1,702 convicts and 3,793 undertrials. The respective figures for 1983 were convicts 1,314, undertrials 1,294; for 1984 convicts 1,240, undertrials 1,539; for 1985 convicts 1,037, undertrials 1,617 and for 1986 convicts 1,833 and undertrials 422. The number of female prisoners (out of this) were 83 in 1983, 156 in 1984, 78 in 1985 and 11 in 1986. Among the prisoners, 17 were matriculates and one was a graduate in 1986. The total number of convicts for whom capital punishment was awarded between the years 1977 and 1986 was six (five in 1978 and one in 1983). During the period from 1981 to 1985, 239 prisoners (six females) were released before the expiry of the term for the good conduct, etc. The panchayat system is followed to look after the well-being of the prisoners. There is a Board of Visitors consisting of District Officers and non-official visitors, headed by the Deputy Commissioner. Library, sports and recreation facilities are also made available in the jail. The following are the staff in the Belgaum Central Prison. Superintendent 1, Assistant Superintendents 3, Medical Officers 3, Chief Jailors 2, Jailors 4, Ministerial Staff 14, Teacher 1, Agricultural Assistant 1, Pharmacist 1, Chief Warders 2, Head Warders 51, Warders 74, etc, totalling 174. The annual expenditure of this prison during the previous three years from 1983 was : 1983—Rs 40.22 lakhs ; 1984—Rs 45.66 lakhs ; and 1985—Rs 45.53 lakhs and the cost per

prisoner for the same years was Rs 3,876, Rs 5,059 and Rs 5,774 respectively.

The following are some of the reformatory measures undertaken in the jail: Vocational training in different crafts and trades such as, agriculture, horticulture, weaving, powerloom and carpentry, carpet-making, dyeing and bleaching, tailoring, phenyl and soap-making, smithy work, leather work, etc. is being given to the inmates of jails to make them self-reliant after release. At Ugargol in Saundatti taluk, one open prison was established in 1968. The prisoners were engaged in digging of canals of the Malaprabha Project. This open prison was later closed down.

The Sub-Jail, Bailhongal was established in 1982 and the capacity is 28 including 6 females. There are 10 staff members including one Jailor and two Head Warders. *The Sub-Jail, Khanapur* is a small jail with a capacity for 15 prisoners. *The Sub-Jail, Ramdurg* is an old jail which was in existence in the days of the Ramdurg State. The capacity is 16. *The Sub-Jail, Gokak* was established in 1957 and presently, it accommodates 40 prisoners. There are 10 staff members including one Jailor-cum-Superintendent. *The Sub-Jail, Chikodi* is said to have been in existence prior to 1883. There are four cells with the capacity to lodge four in each. *The Sub-Jail, Hukeri* is having a capacity for 21 prisoners.

District Legal Aid Committee: In order to give a helping hand to the poor to appeal for justice in respect of his property, rights, etc, Karnataka Legal Aid Board was constituted in 1981. The Belgaum District Legal Aid Committee was established in January 1984. The Legal Aid is available to those whose total annual income is less than Rs 8,000 and also to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Widows, Defence Personnel and ex-Defence personnel. The Committee will render aid in the form of court fees, advocates' services, processing fees, fees for obtaining records, etc but not in cash. This committee is headed by the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Director of Prosecutions is its Secretary. Ever since the inception of the committee, 69 applications were received (upto June 1986) for legal aid of which, 37 applicants were provided with advocates, 12 applications were transferred to taluk committees, two applications were closed, and regarding four applications, relevant papers were called for and the rest were rejected.

Directorate of Prosecutions: When a separate and independent Directorate of Prosecutions was established in 1973, Belgaum was under the supervision of Dharwad division. In 1976, office of the Deputy Director of Prosecutions, Belgaum division, Belgaum was established with jurisdiction over Belgaum revenue division. As in 1984 number of judgements and orders in acquittal and discharged cases reviewed by the Deputy Director of prosecutions, Belgaum-29,380; total number of cases in which appeals were recommended-428; total number of cases recommended for filing revision petitions-254; total number of opinions furnished to the investigating officers in the police department and officers of their department during the course of investigation and such other matters referred to the Dy Director, Belgaum-733; total number of cases in which neither appeals nor revisions recommended though opinions were furnished-28,698. As in January 1987 there were three Public Prosecutors, one Senior Assistant Public Prosecutor, three Assistant Directors of Prosecution and 12 Assistant Public Prosecutors in Belgaum district. (See also chapter XIII)

Lokayukta: Lokayukta replaced the State Vigilance Commission in January 1986. This Vigilance Commission with headquarters at Bangalore had three major wings namely the Investigation wing (Technical), Investigation wing (General) and the Enquiry wing. There was one Superintendent of Police with supporting staff under the Investigations wing (General) and one Commissioner of Enquiry with other staff under Enquiry wing in Belgaum. The Lokayukta Belgaum undertakes enquiries into complaints pertaining to Belgaum district against all the government employees and certain other notified public authorities working in the district regarding corruption, misuse or abuse of power or position, etc. There are one District Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, one Police Inspector, one Police Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and two Constables attached to the Lokayukta Belgaum.

Bar Associations

The Bar Association, Belgaum is perhaps the oldest in the District. It was established in 1868. The total number of advocates as in 1985 in the district was 836 of which, 425 were in Belgaum. The Bar Associations are also functioning in the district at all taluk headquarters.

Bar Association, Athani: The civil court at Athani was established in 1861. There are no records to ascertain the date of starting of the Bar Association. However, the Association was in existence in 1935 and the number of members was 33. In 1985, the strength was 76 including one lady advocate. The present strength (1986) of the *Bar Association, Chikodi* is 110 and is getting a grant of Rs 2,000 per annum. *The Raybag Bar Association, Raybag* is having a strength of 26. The strength of the Bar Associations, *Hukeri* and *Saundatti* (1959) are 33 and 24 respectively. The annual grant for both these bars is Rs 600.