

## CHAPTER XII

### LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

THE maintenance of law and order is the primary task of the police administration in the district. Prior to 1859, the police work formed part of the revenue administration of the district. In that year, the Police Department was separated from the Revenue Department and placed on a new footing. Since then, the police force in the district has been under the superintendence and control of the District Superintendent of Police who is assisted by necessary staff.

It was believed by the Vijayanagara kings that the State had to preserve society and prevent and reconcile conflicts. Their rule was based on principles of *dharma*, which conformed to time-honoured values and principles of social justice and welfare. It is stated that certain specific laws such as the law of treason, the law of limitation and the law governing the enjoyment of service *inams* were in force in the Vijayanagara days. Treason against the State or the king, associations or community was considered a heinous offence. The punishment for such treason was execution. Mortgaged lands could be enjoyed by the mortgagees only for a period of twelve years, after which they had to be restored to the original owners. Lands granted by the State as service *inams* could neither be sold nor mortgaged by the parties who received them. Those who violated this law were severely punished. Earlier period

The Vijayanagara king was the chief judge of the realm. There were also judges at different levels in the kingdom who administered justice on behalf of the king. The governors presided over the provincial courts. The village assemblies, temple trustees and caste elders had courts of their own, which were presided over by their leading men. These courts had the judicial and magisterial authority of a regular court. There were also special officers appointed to supervise the working of the temples, who conducted enquiries and decided disputes. Questions in regard to social and religious practices of the people

were decided by the recognised leaders of respective religious communities. The Nayakas of those days, who ruled over various territories under the overall supervision of the imperial authority, enjoyed very substantial powers of police and judicial administration.

Under the Vijayanagara rule, civil cases were generally decided by the popular courts, more by way of arbitration. But when the regular courts tried such cases merits and demerits were considered; witnesses were examined and documents were looked into and then decisions were reached. In respect of criminal cases also, the village assemblies, the temple authorities and officers of government had the authority to try the cases. They examined the evidence and pronounced judgements. It appears that the normal code of punishment was generally severe under the Vijayanagara kings. While certain offences were punishable with imprisonment irrespective of the status of the offender, certain other offences were punishable with fines. Injustice done to the individuals by the State was also compensated by it.

Police organisation received great attention in the Vijayanagara empire and security administration was generally rigorous. There were two kinds of police force—one maintained by the State and the other by the people in the local areas. The former was responsible directly to the government and the latter to the local people. There was also a special force at Vijayanagara and provincial capitals. The policemen were held responsible for preservation of peace and order and detection of crimes within their jurisdiction. The safety of person and property was entrusted to the provincial governors who had appointed *kavalgars* (watchmen) to do police duties. The latter had charge of groups of villages and controlled the *talavars* who were appointed to each village.

After the downfall of the Vijayanagara empire, the *palayagars* continued to employ the *kavalgars* and *talavars*. Haidar Ali, who annexed the district to Mysore, retained the *talavars*, placing them under the tahsildars. The *talavars* formed the backbone of this police system. During Tipu's time, this system was reduced to chaos owing to his weak control. Later, the Nizam's Government did nothing to remedy this chaotic situation. Any man, who could collect a following, could live openly by crime with only a remote risk of punishment. Thereafter, when the district came into the possession of the East India Company, Munro who pays a high tribute to this old system, reverted\* to it and the duty of detecting offences devolved on the village *talavars* and the peons of the tahsildars. In Bellary and Hospet

Post-Vijaya-  
nagara period

\* Madras District Gazetteers (Bellary), 1904, page 189.

towns, there were, in addition, police officers called *kotwals*, with a separate body of peons under their command.

By Regulation XI of 1816, the *talavars* were placed under the immediate control of the headmen of villages, and this system continued until the Police Act XXIV of 1859 which brought the regular police force into being. The provisions of the new Act were introduced first in Hospet taluk and afterwards gradually enforced in other parts of the district. The *talavars* survived all these changes and continued under the control of the village headmen and the revenue authorities. In 1898, they were given brass badges and *lathis* as insignia of their office.

Formerly, the Bellary district had its full share of grave crimes in the

past. Several factors contributed to this state of affairs. The railways had deprived some of the people of their employment. Many of the wandering Korachas and Lambanis, who were trading with the west coast, had lost their occupation and were driven to the low means of livelihood and they became responsible for much of the crime in the district. Donga Dasaries and some of the Boyas were also committing offences. The proximity of the Nizam's territory also favoured criminals, as they could escape across the border and sell their loot there with less chance of detection. More than all, the district was mainly dependent on local rains for its crops without much of any irrigational facilities and the existing industries were not in a prosperous state. A bad season or two soon drove its poorest classes to crime through actual necessity.

Later, the Lambanis, to a considerable extent, settled down to agriculture, cattle-grazing and selling of fire-wood and grass. Now comparatively, few of the Lambani *tandas* were on the black list of the police. But the criminal sections of the Korachas continued to commit offences. The most notorious were the Koracha gangs round Tekkalakota and Sirigere in Bellary taluk. Many stories are told about their capacity to disguise themselves and of their cleverness in evading the police. Wandering gangs also passed through the district. In 1898, 80 such gangs comprising more than 2,000 persons were reported. Each such gang was accompanied, wherever it travelled, by a specially deputed constable, who was provided with a complete list of the members. On the gang leaving the district, it was handed over to the surveillance of the police of the district into which it was moving.

Dacoities, cattle-lifting and burglaries were the favourable forms of grave crimes. A section of the Korachas specialised in dacoities, while another section in house-breaking. Some of the Lambanis were known for cattle-lifting. The speciality of Donga Dasaries was petty theft at markets and other gatherings.

Dacoities were common during the months from February to June and those months were known as "the dacoity season". During that season, the roads were at their driest, the Tungabhadra was fordable and cultivation was almost at a standstill. Torch-light dacoities of houses were less common. The perpetrators often disguised themselves by smearing their faces with ashes, paint or powdered charcoal. Guns were sometimes used or the victims were frightened into submissiveness by the discharge of 'dimmis', a sort of firework made by ramming powder into an iron cylinder. Some of the Korachas were notorious for their brutal methods of extracting from their victims information as to where valuables were concealed. The cattle-dealing Korachas were mixing the stolen bullocks with their own and selling them with small risk of detection. Burglaries were usually committed by breaking through the roof and not the side walls of the house, since the roofs were of faggot and mud, while the walls were of stones and mud. After India attained Independence, the categorisation of certain classes as criminal tribes was done away with. The old type criminal gangs have been now mostly rehabilitated by engaging them in gainful occupations. Criminals from outside continue to visit the district occasionally and commit offences. Wherever they are active, complaints of serious crimes often pour in. Petty thefts, cattle-lifting and pick-pocketing are not uncommon.

**Law and order  
situation**

In 1957, the law and order position at Hospet gave room for some anxiety, when tension arose between two groups in connection with the centenary day celebrations of the first war of Indian Independence. When a procession was taken out in the town on the occasion, it was obstructed by a group of people, raising objection against playing of music in front of a place of worship, where some had gathered armed with deadly weapons. Stones, brick-bats, etc., were thrown on the processionists and as a result, some officials and several others in the procession sustained injuries. The police had to intervene to bring the situation under control. In this connection, a case was registered against 47 persons and they were charge-sheeted; 41 of them were convicted for several offences.

The law and order situation was normal during the years 1958, 1959 and 1960. But in the year 1961, two major disturbances, one at Hadagalli and another at Bommanahal village, occurred. During April—May 1961, some residents of Hadagalli wanted to sacrifice a buffalo in connection with the observance of *Uramma Jatra*. But the police, as per the Prevention of Animal Sacrifices Act, advised them not to do so. In spite of this, a buffalo was sacrificed. When the police seized the head of the buffalo, a crowd of people that had gathered became unruly and started pelting stones at the police. Several policemen on duty

were injured and the police opened fire on the mob, as a result of which two persons died and some were injured.

In November 1961, the police conducted a prohibition raid at Bommanahal village, seized contraband articles and arrested ten persons. Enraged by this, a group of unruly villagers, numbering about a hundred turned violent and assaulted the policemen on duty. As a result, the police resorted to a lathi-charge which proved ineffective; thereupon, fire was opened on the crowd, in which one person was killed and a few were injured.

In December 1961, a serious breach of peace was apprehended at Kottur in connection with the management of the Gurnubasa-veshwara temple of that place. The trouble was overcome by the promulgation of an order under Section 40 of the Mysore Police Act by the District Magistrate. In March 1962, a group of 28 persons attempted to enter the Kottureshwara temple by force. The police had to disperse them by resorting to a mild lathi-charge. In August 1962, the police, by their timely intervention, averted an anticipated breach of peace at Hospet, which was due to difference of opinion between two sections of the Muslim community about Independence Day celebratio

In September 1964, some local political leaders of Bellary had organised a "Bellary Bundh" agitating against the scarcity of foodgrains and soaring prices of food-stuffs. A procession was taken out on 25th September 1964. On the occasion, a crowd of people attacked a hotel and a police station, in spite of promulgating orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting meetings and processions. Several godowns and shops of foodgrains were looted and some police personnel on duty were injured. Warnings had no desired effect and the police had to open fire in which two persons were injured, one of whom died at the hospital while under treatment. In 1965, when a person accused in a theft case committed suicide in the police lock-up at Kudligi, on hearing a rumour, a crowd of about 200 persons attacked the police station and the sub-jail by pelting stones and brick-bats and also attempted to attack the sub-treasury, whereupon fire was opened, in which one person was killed and two were injured.

In 1966, there was an agitation by the Karnataka Kriya Samiti of Bellary against re-opening of the Belgaum question by the Central Government by appointment of the one-man commission. A peaceful hartal was observed on the occasion. When the agitators tried to stop the trains and traffic, the police managed to bring back the situation to normalcy. On 1st November 1966, a "Bellary Bundh" was observed demanding the

location of the fifth steel plant in Bellary district. The apprehended breach of peace was averted by precautionary measures.

On 2nd January 1968, there was a tense situation at the Ujimi village owing to differences between the followers of two Veerashaiva *Mathas*. Several thousands of them from the surrounding villages had gathered near about Ujimi and a violent clash was feared between them. There was a lathi charge and use of tear-gas shells by which the crowds were dispersed by the police. On 23rd January 1968, the students of the Veerashaiva College, Bellary, abstained from the classes in connection with an anti-Hindi agitation. They also took out a procession shouting slogans and visited various other educational institutions where they were joined by students of the latter also. Some signboards of post offices which were in Hindi and many street lights were damaged. The passenger and goods trains were stopped by the students for about half an hour. Orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code were promulgated and the situation was brought under control.

On 12th September 1969, there was a vociferous protest against enhancement of rates of admission by the proprietor of a cinema theatre at Kottur. A crowd of about 400 persons had gathered in front of the theatre, demanding reduction in the rates of admission and screening of only Kannada films. Stones were pelted at the theatre and its screen was also damaged. The police intervened and averted further damages to the theatre. In October 1969, there were some personal assaults between partisans of two village parties at Tekkalakota. As a result, both the rival groups armed themselves with sickles, lathies and stones and were hurling stones at each other. Further clash was averted by the police by opening fire in the air and scaring away the crowds. The Tekkalakota village has been the scene of frequent troubles owing to village party feuds. Since 1968, constables of the District Armed Reserve Police have been stationed here and vigilance is being maintained.

On 26th December 1970, a procession was taken out in Hospet town protesting against the stand of the Central Government in regard to the Mahajan Commission Report on the boundary disputes between Mysore and Maharashtra and Mysore and Kerala. It began to swell as it passed through the roads and some persons in the procession started pelting stones and damaged public property like the street lights and telephone poles. The police then resorted to a lathi-charge and brought the situation under control, and several police officials including the Superintendent of Police, Bellary, sustained injuries due to stone-pelting. The grave crimes coming to the notice of the police are murder, house dacoity, robbery, house-breaking and theft and

cattle theft. In 1958, there were 26 murders and there was an increase of one during the next year. The figure came down to 19 in 1960. During the years 1966, 1968 and 1969, there were a large number of murders. There were 32 murders in 1966, which figure came down to 26 in 1967. Again it went up to 36 in 1968 and then came down to 32 in 1969.

Cognisable offences under the Indian Penal Code have been classified into six separate categories for purposes of investigation, *viz.*, offences against the State, offences against persons, serious offences against persons and property, minor offences against persons, minor offences against property and other offences not specified. The following table gives the number of crimes according to the above classification during the years from 1958 to 1960 and from 1965 to 1969 :—

Class	Nature of crime	Year		
		1958	1959	1960
I	Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety and justice.	41	50	76
II	Serious offences against persons ..	161	145	160
III	Serious offences against persons and property or against property.	169	225	216
IV	Minor offences against persons ..	44	11	76
V	Minor offences against property ..	356	340	338
VI	Other offences not specified ..	26,507	17,113	21,809
	Total ..	27,278	17,884	22,675

Class	Nature of crime	Year				
		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
I	Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety and justice.	50	55	65	100	85
II	Serious offences against persons.	212	241	254	290	327
III	Serious offences against persons and property or against property.	234	298	305	315	310
IV	Minor offences against persons.	66	89	99	93	143
V	Minor offences against property.	379	431	496	491	491
VI	Other offences not specified	19,100	18,956	13,563	9,190	16,761
	Total ..	20,041	20,070	14,782	10,479	18,117

The foregoing table shows a marked increase of offences under the categories from I to IV during the later years. The reason for this is attributed to bad seasonal conditions in the district.

The number of grave crimes reported during the years from 1958 to 1960 and from 1965 to 1969 are given in the following table:—

Sl. No.	Nature of crime	Number of cases during			
		1958	1959	1960	1969
1.	Murder	26	27	19	2
2.	Dacoity	2	4	2	7
3.	Robbery	2	3	9	2
4.	House-breaking and thefts	7	19	9	2
5.	Ordinary thefts	21	10	2	2

Sl. No.	Nature of crime	Number of cases during			
		1965	1966	1967	1968
1.	Murder	21	32	26	36
2.	Dacoity	2	6	1	5
3.	Robbery	4	4	1	3
4.	House-breaking and thefts	12	10	4	7
5.	Ordinary thefts	16	16	25	21

The following is the classification of murders according to motives during those years:—

Sl. No.	Motive	Year		
		1958	1959	1960
1.	Sexual causes	4	3	5
2.	Murder for gain	3	2	..
3.	Family disputes	4	5	4
4.	Faction and feuds	2	4	2
5.	Other causes	13	13	8
Total		26	27	19



Sl. No.	Motive	Year				
		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1.	Sexual causes .. ..	5	2	6	14	3
2.	Murder for gain .. ..	1	3	3	2	2
3.	Family disputes .. ..	5	6	..	..	1
4.	Faction and feuds .. ..	3	..	2	1	1
5.	Other causes .. ..	7	21	15	19	25
	Total .. ..	21	32	26	36	32

The district is not free from local party factions. This has been particularly noticeable in the rural areas. Disputes occurring in land ownership and other rivalries and the consequent ill-will have sometimes led to riots and disturbances. The number of rioting cases reported during 1960 was 67, as against 26 and 47 during 1958 and 1959 respectively. The number of rioting cases during the years from 1965 to 1969 was as given hereunder :—

Riots and disturbances

Year	No. of cases
1965 .. ..	45
1966 .. ..	46
1967 .. ..	49
1968 .. ..	90
1969 .. ..	81

The following statement shows the quinquennial averages in respect of various categories of crimes committed in the district during the period from 1962 to 1965 and 1966 to 1969 :—

Quinquennial yearly averages

Sl. No.	Nature of crime	1962	1966
		to 1965	to 1969
1.	Cognisable crimes .. ..	873	1,583
2.	Rioting .. ..	32	66
3.	Murders .. ..	21	31
4.	Kidnapping .. ..	2	6
5.	Dacoity .. ..	6	4
6.	Robbery .. ..	3	2
7.	House-breaking and thefts .. ..	181	310
8.	Cheating .. ..	10	12
9.	Breach of trust .. ..	22	26

As seen from the foregoing statement, there was an increase in respect of most of the categories of crimes during the period from 1966 to 1969 when compared with those of the previous quinquennium.

### Unnatural deaths

Unnatural deaths have to be reported to the police under the law, so that the real causes can be determined. The police have to send the dead bodies for a thorough *post-mortem* examination. Inquest proceedings are held when witnesses are called to testify to the facts of the case. After these formalities are gone through, the bodies are handed over to the relatives. The following table indicates the incidents under the category of accidents during the years from 1958 to 1960 and 1967 to 1969 :—

Sl. No.	Nature of accidents	Year					
		1958	1959	1960	1967	1968	1969
1.	Accidental drowning	81	61	85	69	43	38
2.	Suicidal drowning ..	57	48	55	30	47	32
3.	Hanging .. ..	19	28	14	21	17	10
4.	Snake bites ..	2	2	2	1	2	..
5.	Attack by wild animals	..	1	..	..	..	..
6.	Electric shocks ..	3	1	4	7	4	1
7.	Burns .. ..	18	14	9	15	31	29
8.	Lightning ..	2	..	1	..	..	2
9.	Motor accidents ..	18	13	23	26	42	48
10.	Mining accidents ..	..	..	1	2	3	3
11.	Fall from height ..	8	4	2	7	10	..
12.	Rail accidents ..	..	..	1	3	1	1
13.	Crushed by weights ..	..	3	2	..	5	..
14.	Gun shot accidents ..	..	1	..	..	1	..
15.	Poisoning ..	..	..	1	4	12	17
16.	Other causes ..	19	40	25	59	77	90
Total ..		227	216	225	244	295	271

There was an increase in the number of cases registered under motor accidents, poisoning and other causes during 1967, 1968 and 1969. There was a marked decrease in the number of accidental and suicidal drownings during 1967, 1968 and 1969 when compared with those of 1958, 1959 and 1960. The suicides were mainly due to bodily ailments and family quarrels.

### Motor vehicles offences

Violation of traffic rules is an offence and the various categories of offences have been enumerated in the Mysore Motor Vehicles Act. The number of cases put up for trial by the police

in respect of offences under the Motor Vehicles Act during the years from 1958 to 1960 and from 1967 to 1969 is shown in the table given hereunder :—

Sl. No.	Category	Year					
		1958	1959	1960	1967	1968	1969
1.	Over-speeding ..	96	155	240	35	88	41
2.	Use of dazzling lights	48	64	240	70	76	86
3.	Use of defective lights	35	27	97	42	28	147
4.	Violation of traffic signals.	3	13	23	30	15	18
5.	Defective vehicles ..	..	40	32	290	..	117
6.	Using of routes without permits.	32	97	122	120	123	168
7.	Un-authorized carrying of persons in goods vehicles.	260	383	380	326	217	318
8.	Driving without licence	157	181	61	716	119	896
9.	Non-payment of taxes	19	27	24	5	631	535
10.	Over-loading ..	74	74	107	75	128	134
11.	Miscellaneous :						
	(a) Cyclists going without lights.	837	1,501	1,856	782	696	795
	(b) Others ..	20	114	209	736	687	714

From the above table, it is seen that registered cases in respect of using defective lights, using of routes without permits, driving without licence and over-loading showed an increase in 1969 when compared with previous years.

There are several mines in the Hospet, Sandur and Bellary taluks. Lorries are being used for transporting iron ore from the mines to the railway stations and other places. Hence the incidence of motor lorry accidents is more in this district than in respect of other vehicles. The following statement gives the number of accidents that occurred in relation to various types of vehicles during the years from 1958 to 1960 and 1967 to 1969 :—

Sl. No.	Category of vehicles	Year					
		1958	1959	1960	1967	1968	1969
1.	Motor cars ..	3	2	3	6	5	12
2.	Motor buses ..	12	4	4	9	6	14
3.	Motor lorries ..	42	9	42	58	85	69
4.	Motor cycles ..	..	..	2	4	2	5
5.	Motor vans ..	2	1	3	3	..	2
6.	Jeeps ..	3	2	7	8	5	16
7.	Other vehicles ..	..	..	1	5	14	8

It can be observed that the number of accidents in respect of motor cars, motor buses and jeeps had increased in 1969. The number of persons killed or injured in road accidents during those years were as follows

Category	1958	1959	1960	1967	1968	1969
Killed	19	13	23	23	45	48
Injured	57	37	88	106	109	113

#### Check on motor vehicles

Efforts are made to exercise prompt and effective check on motor vehicles in the district by various ranks of the district police force, particularly by the traffic authorities. A traffic week is observed in the district headquarters town periodically in order to inculcate a road sense among the public. Several steps are taken including lectures by police officers on traffic rules and screening of slides in cinema theatres to impress on the people the need to observe the rules of the road.

#### Detection of cognisable crimes

Crime detection involves perseverance, scientific approach and fool-proof evidence. Not all cases put up by the police end in conviction. There was a decrease in the percentage of detection of crimes between 1958 and 1960, while the percentage of detection showed an increase during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969. The criminals who commit offences in Bellary district often belong to neighbouring districts and they make their escape after committing the offences. The following figures indicate the percentages of detection of cognisable crimes during those years:—

Year	Percentage	Year	Percentage
1958	47.4	1967	52.5
1959	42.3	1968	54.7
1960	27.0	1969	61.5

The percentages of detection of grave crimes during the years from 1958 to 1960 and 1967 to 1969 were as given below:—

Year	Percentage of detection		
	Murders	House-breaking and thefts	Ordinary thefts
1958	20.5	14.3	33.3
1959	47.3	11.0	57.1
1960	31.6	10.0	28.0
1967	40.0	44.9	61.8
1968	66.6	40.0	54.0
1969	81.2	47.1	50.0

During 1960, out of 872 cases reported, investigation was refused in 23 cases under Section 137 C1 (b) of the Criminal Procedure Code, while the corresponding figures for 1967 and 1968 were 10 and 16 respectively. But in 1969, investigation was not refused in respect of any case. Great care is taken before an investigation is refused.

*Sessions cases.*—The sub-joined table shows the particulars of sessions cases at the end of 1969 :—

Pending at the beginning of the year	..	..	7
Committed	..	..	32
Disposed of	..	..	24
Convicted	..	..	13
Pending at the end of the year..	..	..	15

The value of property lost and recovered after investigation during the years 1960, 1967, 1968 and 1969 was as given in the following table :—

Year	Value of property		Recovery percentage
	Lost	Recovered	
	Rs.	Rs.	
1960	22,875	6,290	27.5
1967	21,650	55,710	27.6
1968	5,54,482	85,396	15.5
1969	4,05,390	1,45,959	36.0

*Disposal of cases.*—The nature of disposal of prosecuted cases during the years from 1958 to 1960 and 1967 to 1969 is shown below :—

Particulars	1958	1959	1960	1967	1968	1969
No. of cases decided by the courts.	489	428	451	732	824	768
No. of cases which ended in conviction.	271	212	244	330	407	296
No. of cases ended in acquittal or discharge.	171	166	140	269	298	337
No. of cases compounded ..	47	50	64	125	115	122
No. of cases otherwise disposed of.	..	97	269	8	4	13

At the close of 1969, 553 cases were pending trial as against 393 cases that were pending trial at the end of 1960.

#### Security cases

As a preventive measure, on account of factions and consequent possible breach of peace, security proceedings were drawn up under Sections 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code in respect of 107 persons in 1960 as against 71 in 1959 and 105 in 1958. The number of security cases put up in the district during 1967, 1968 and 1969 were 53, 95 and 135 respectively.

#### Habitual offenders

The usual restrictions applicable to habitual offenders are in force in the district. Persons sentenced to substantive terms of imprisonment on not less than three occasions for any of the offences indicated in the Habitual Offenders Act are classified as habitual offenders. The descriptions of the "out-of-view" criminals are published in the weekly crime occurrence sheets and criminal intelligence gazettes for the information of the public. The police conduct also raids to spot out the "out-of-view" criminals. The subordinate police staff are encouraged by rewards for tracing these criminals. There were 16 habitual offenders at the close of the year 1969. Out of them, two were in jail and nine were out of view.

#### Prohibition

Prohibition was first introduced in the district with effect from the 1st October 1946 in accordance with the provisions of the Madras Prohibition Act. Then, there was a separate force in charge of the enforcement of prohibition in the district under a District Prohibition Officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. When the area was merged with the old Mysore State, the Mysore Prohibition Act was made applicable to the district of Bellary from the 1st November 1955. When the district's executive force was reorganised in March 1959, the prohibition staff was merged with the regular police and the post of the Prohibition Officer was abolished. A District Prohibition Bureau was constituted and staffed with one Police Sub-Inspector and six head constables functioning directly under the control of the District Superintendent of Police. In the police stations also, the head constables and police constables were entrusted with the duties in regard to prohibition. However, prohibition was lifted in the district in October 1967, as in other parts of the State.

The following table shows the number and nature of cases booked under prohibition during the years from 1958 to 1960 and 1965 to 1967 :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Illicit distillation</i>	<i>Possession of liquor</i>	<i>Drunkenness</i>	<i>Total</i>
1958 ..	1,014	2,923	4,749	8,686
1959 ..	457	2,140	4,237	6,834
1960 ..	562	2,758	4,478	7,798
1965 ..	788	3,121	4,021	7,930
1966 ..	1,069	3,323	3,160	7,552
1967 (upto October)	529	2,139	1,711	4,379

The amounts of fines levied and recovered under prohibition during 1965, 1966 and 1967 were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Fines levied</i>	<i>Fines recovered</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1965 ..	9,002	7,477
1966 ..	15,027	13,942
1967 ..	5,908	5,898

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, is in force in the district. No separate or special staff have been appointed to deal with the offences under this Act. The Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police are the special police officers who deal with such offences. The particulars of cases booked under the Act in the district during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 were as given below :—

**Suppression of immoral traffic**

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of cases booked</i>	<i>No. of cases ended in conviction</i>	<i>No. of cases acquitted</i>	<i>No. of cases pending trial</i>
1967 ..	65	64	..	1
1968 ..	59	53	6	..
1969 ..	257	256	1	..

The police force in the district was reorganised in January 1959. The Superintendent of Police, Bellary, is in charge of the police administration of the entire district. He works directly under the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, North-East Range, Gulbarga. Both of them are responsible to the Inspector-General of Police in Mysore, Bangalore. The District Superintendent of Police is responsible for all matters relating to the department's internal management and economy, for the maintenance of discipline and regular and punctual performance of all preventive

**Organisation of District Police**

and executive police duties in the district. He has to see that the staff posted under him are properly trained and kept efficient.

For purposes of police administration, the district is divided into three sub-divisions, *viz.*, Bellary, Hospet and Harapanahalli sub-divisions, each under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bellary Sub-Division, is also the Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police, besides being in charge of Bellary and Siruguppa circles. While the Hospet and Kudligi circles are under the charge of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hospet, the Harapanahalli and Hadagalli circles are administered by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Harapanahalli.

Each of the six police circles mentioned above is under the charge of a Circle Inspector of Police who is responsible for the administration of his circle. The Circle Inspectors have to guide investigations by giving timely instructions to the Station House Officers (*i.e.*, officers in charge of police stations). They have to investigate personally grave crimes occurring in their respective circles. The Sub-Inspectors in charge of police stations are responsible for their efficiency, working and management. They have to detect crimes and preserve peace in their jurisdictions. There were, in 1969, in all, 33 Sub-Inspectors of Police, and the break-up of this number was as follows :—

In Charge of Stations	..	..	..	29
Traffic	..	..	..	1
Special Branch	..	..	..	1
Intelligence Section	..	..	..	1
Prohibition	..	..	..	1
				<hr/>
		Total	..	33
				<hr/>

There were, in all, 120 head constables and 576 constables in the permanent establishment in 1969. Posts of two Police Sub-Inspectors, 18 head constables and 36 constables were sanctioned for work connected with food control in the year 1969 on a temporary basis. These temporary posts were subsequently abolished in the year 1971. There were, in 1971, 28 police stations in the district, which were located at the following places :—

*Bellary Circle.*—(1) Brucepet, (2) Gandhinagar, (3) Cowl Bazaar, (4) Bellary rural and (5) Moka.

*Siruguppa Circle.*—(1) Siruguppa, (2) Sirigeri, (3) Hatcholli, (4) Kurugodu and (5) Tekkalakota.

*Hospet Circle.*—(1) Hospet town, (2) Hospet rural, (3) Kampli, (4) Gadiganur and (5) T.B. Dam.



*Kudligi Circle.*—(1) Kudligi, (2) Kottur, (3) Hosahalli, (4) Gudekota and (5) Sandur.

*Harapanahalli Circle.*—(1) Harapanahalli, (2) Arasikere, (3) Halavagal and (4) Ittigi.

*Hadagalli Circle.*—(1) Hadagalli, (2) Hirehadagalli, (3) Tambrahalli and (4) Mariyammanahalli.

There were ten out-posts attached to the stations as noted below :—

- (1) Cantonment out-post attached to the Central Police Station.
- (2) Kudathini out-post attached to Central Police Station.
- (3) Chitwadigi out-post attached to Hospet town.
- (4) Kamalapur out-post attached to Hospet rural.
- (5) Ujjini out-post attached to Kottur.
- (6) Choranur out-post attached to Gudekota.
- (7) Deogiri out-post attached to Sandur.
- (8) Teligi out-post attached to Hawagal.
- (9) Hampasagar, and
- (10) Hagaribommanahalli attached to Tambrahalli.

Each of these out-posts was manned by a head constable.

*Inspection.*—The Superintendent of Police has to inspect every year all police stations, circle offices, sub-division offices and out-posts. The Deputy Superintendents of Police also undertake inspections of police stations, circle offices and out-posts in their respective sub-divisions. Circle Inspectors inspect police stations and out-posts in their respective circles twice a year, ending with June and December.

There is a District Armed Reserve Force at Bellary, consisting of two platoons, *viz.*, the headquarters platoon and the active platoon. The strength of the District Armed Reserve police in 1969 was one Reserve Inspector, four Reserve Sub-Inspectors, four Assistant Reserve Sub-Inspectors, 32 head constables and 162 constables in the permanent establishment. The strength in temporary establishment in 1969 was five head constables and 20 constables.

**Armed Reserve  
Force**

There are two fire stations, one at Bellary and the other at Hospet. Whenever there is a need in other places also the force stationed at Bellary and Hospet is indented upon. Formerly, the fire services were under the control of the Police Department. Now the fire service establishment is under the control of the Director of Fire Force, Bangalore. Construction of staff quarters for the personnel at Bellary is in progress.

**Fire Service  
Force**

The village patels do some vigilance work in close co-operation with the regular police force. Village vigilance committees have been also constituted with respectable persons of respective localities.

#### Finger Prints

The Finger Print Bureau of the Mysore State is located in Bangalore. As soon as a person is apprehended by the police on suspicion of criminal activities in the district, his finger print is forwarded by the Station House Officer to the Bureau, with a search slip, to trace his antecedents. The Bureau then returns the slip to the Station, noting the identity and previous convictions of the individual, if any, on the search slip. The Station House Officer enters particulars of the conviction of the accused, as also of any previous convictions. He has also to fill in a form giving particulars of the person. On receipt of this form at the District Police Office, the Superintendent forwards the entire file to the Finger Print Bureau for test in the jail, if the person is undergoing imprisonment. The tester attached to the Bureau then compares the prints with the impression of the convict in the jail and has to certify to its correctness or otherwise. If the convict is to be shadowed after release, the fact is noted in a form, and a separate report is sent to the Jail Superintendent and also to the Superintendent of Police of the district where the convict resides. On receipt of the record, the Finger Print Bureau allots a serial number to the print and intimates the number and classification to the Superintendent of Police in separate forms. This will then be sent to the Station House Officer for his record, which facilitates him in the future crime-investigation work in his jurisdiction.

*Police Lock-ups.*—All the police stations in the district have small lock-ups for the safe custody of the suspected culprits. The lock-ups have doors fixed with iron bars. There are separate cells for men and women prisoners.

#### Intelligence Bureau

There is a District Intelligence Bureau which works in close co-operation with the District Police Office. This section has one Sub-Inspector of Police and three head constables and maintains particulars of all professional criminals like known depredators and habitual offenders. History sheets and dossiers of border criminals and habitual offenders with entries of their movements are also maintained. This Intelligence Section is responsible for the compilation of weekly crime and occurrence sheets, giving particulars of crimes and persons arrested and the properties wanted or seized. These sheets are circulated among the Superintendents of Police of border districts in addition to the Station House Officers of the district. Soon after a crime involving property is reported, the Station House Officer concerned intimates the District Intelligence Bureau, through a crime card, giving particulars of the material objects and the property stolen

in the case. Then the Intelligence Section picks up from its records the particulars of the criminals used to pilfer similar objects and pass on the same to the Station House Officer for verifying the complicity of those criminals, if any. This section also deals with the finger prints of the criminals and registration of criminals under the Habitual Offenders Act. The Station House Officers also exchange intelligence in the course of their investigations.

For important occasions like the Independence Day, Republic Day and *Nadahabba* (Dasara), the district police draw up programmes to train the boy scouts, girl guides, home guards and N.C.C. in drill and march-past, and a colourful parade is arranged with the co-operation of the public. During the annual police sports, several events are thrown open to the public also.

*Cost of police force.*—The amount of expenditure for maintenance of the police force in the district in 1960 and from 1965 to 1969 was as follows :—

<i>Year</i>				<i>Expenditure (in Rs.)</i>
1960	..	..	..	10,01,427
1965	..	..	..	17,12,103
1966	..	..	..	19,13,422
1967	..	..	..	21,94,721
1968	..	..	..	21,39,809
1969	..	..	..	25,27,667

To assist the police in emergencies, four home guards units and village defence parties have been formed in Bellary district. The four home guards units are functioning at Bellary, Hospet, Kudligi and Harapanahalli. The Bellary unit was formed first in 1964 and the Hospet, Kudligi and Harapanahalli units were set up during the year 1965, 1968 and 1970, respectively. These units work under the direction of a Commandant. As in 1971, the strength of home guards in each of the units was as given below:—

#### Home Guards

<i>Unit</i>				<i>Strength</i>
Bellary Unit	..	..	..	171
Hospet Unit	..	..	..	247
Kudligi Unit	..	..	..	67
Harapanahalli Unit	..	..	..	69
			Total	554

In routine course, the home guards have been attending to *bandobust* duties at the time of car festivals, strikes, observance of *bundhs*, etc. They also attend to the work of social service, rescue of persons from danger or emergency such as fire out-break, drowning, etc. There are village defence parties functioning in a number of villages in the district.

Since 1966, twenty home guards and an officer of the rank of Platoon Commander have been attending to *bandobust* duties at Mysore every year in connection with the Dasara festival from 1969; the home guards of Bellary district have been participating in the all-India home guards sports and professional meet. The year-wise expenditure on the home guards units during the past five years was as given below :—

Year	Expenditure	
	Rs.	P.
1966-67	18,905.	44
1967-68	20,567.	83
1968-69	22,638.	94
1969-70	50,813.	25
1970-71	59,141.	11

#### Welfare of police

There is a District Police Benevolent Fund for which subscriptions are collected and deposited in a savings bank account which is utilised for the benefit of the staff according to the Fund rules. Educational facilities to the school-going children of the police personnel are provided in a school situated in the District Armed Reserve Lines, Bellary. There are two welfare centres—one at Bellary and the other at Hospet—where tailoring classes are being held for the benefit of women of the police personnel. There is also a police boys' club which is training boys in drill and games. The boys regularly take part in annual police sports and Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations. Housing facilities have been provided to a good number of police officers and efforts are being made to extend these facilities to all the police personnel.

#### JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

When the ceded districts, of which Bellary formed a part, were taken over by the East India Company, there was not a single prison within the confines of the district. Sir Thomas Munro, who was responsible for many reforms, wrote to the East India Company's Board in 1806 of his difficulties in confining convicts in open choultries or in the chambers of forts. He also reminded the Board that without strong-walled prisons escapes from custody could not be prevented. In the later years of the last century, there were nine subsidiary jails, one at each of the eight taluk

headquarters, except Bellary, and two others at Yemmiganur (now in Andhra Pradesh) and Siruguppa. There was also a District Jail at Bellary with accommodation for 400 prisoners. In 1866, proposals were made to build a Central Jail in Bellary town, but eventually Vellore, in North Arcot district, was chosen. All prisoners with a sentence of one month and over were lodged at Bellary where the District Jail was elevated to the status of a Central Jail in 1905. The Jail then had an accommodation for 807 prisoners. The Central Jail at Bellary also received convicts from Anantapur and Kurnool districts. The Alipur Central Jail was established at Bellary in October 1921. It was originally intended to house about 1,000 Moplahs, convicted for complicity in certain events in Malabar in 1921, in this prison which consisted of sheds on the old Bellary Cantonment polo grounds. By the end of 1921, a far larger number of Moplah convicts were housed in the Alipur Jail and it became necessary to extend the area of accommodation. The old British infantry barracks which were adjacent to the Jail were then purchased and surrounded by a double barbed-wire fence. This fence was charged in 1922 with a powerful electric current. The Jail had accommodation for 4,000 prisoners although permanent arrangements were made for only 2,500 convicts. Even after the merger of Bellary with the Mysore State, this prison was being used by the Andhra State Government as per agreement, for lodging prisoners from that State. Later, the Andhra Government made their own arrangements to lodge their prisoners. The need for continuing the Alipur Jail was no longer felt and it was closed in 1958. The old buildings have been handed over to the Government Medical College, Bellary, for its use.

There is a Central Jail located at Bellary and there are three sub-jails at Kudligi, Harapanahalli and Hospet. The Central Jail, Bellary, situated near the Bellary railway station, was established by the Government of Madras in 1905. It has now a capacity to lodge 840 prisoners. As per the provisions in the Madras Prisons and Reformatory Manual (Volume II), which are still in force in the district, only 'C' class prisoners are confined here. Recently, this jail has been classified as a special jail for lodging habitual offenders. Prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment, *i.e.*, 20 years, are also lodged in this jail. The Superintendent of the Jail, who is an officer of the Mysore Prisons Department, is the Chief Officer of this Central Jail. He manages the jail in all matters pertaining to discipline, labour, punishment, expenditure and the like and is responsible to the Inspector-General of Prisons. The Jail Superintendent is assisted in his work by the Jailors on the executive side and by the Manager and clerks on the administrative side. As in 1971, the staff consisted of one Superintendent, one Assistant Superintendent, one Chief Jailor, one Jailor, two Chief Warders, seven Head

**Central Jail,  
Bellary**

Warders, 54 warders with other necessary ministerial and technical staff.

**Amenities to prisoners**

*Education.*—Illiterate prisoners in the Central Jail are given elementary education. There is a paid teacher for this purpose who conducts literacy classes. There are two literacy classes, one each for a batch of 20 prisoners. The Adult Education Committee conducts the examination for them. During 1968, out of 40 prisoners, 35 were successful in the elementary education course.

*Library.*—There is a library provided for the benefit of prisoners. It contains 2,409 books in different languages—Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and English. Books are being issued to prisoners every week. Several newspapers and magazines are also made available to them.

*Craft training.*—The convicted prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment lodged in this Jail are trained in the crafts like carpentry, weaving, carpet-making, cane work, soap-making, phenyle-making, smithy, tailoring, laundry and pottery. They are engaged also in garden work, repair works, annual white-washing and repairs of prison buildings, preparation of food and maintenance of prison sanitation. The total production in the manufacturing section of the Jail during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 was of the value of Rs. 1,80,065, Rs. 2,08,838 and Rs. 2,16,794 respectively.

*Recreation.*—A radio set with a loud-speaker is provided for the benefit of the prisoners. They are encouraged to sing congregational *bhajans* which are arranged for batches of 25 to 30 prisoners every week. The Adult Education Committee and District Publicity Office, Bellary, arrange film shows occasionally on village improvement, sanitation and developmental activities.

*Canteen.*—A canteen was started in 1960 and canteen facilities are provided to all classes of prisoners out of their private cash and wages earned by them. The sale proceeds of the canteen during 1968 and 1969 were Rs. 16,421 and 17,783 respectively.

*Wages.*—A wages earning scheme was introduced in 1962. Prisoners working in the manufacturing section are paid as follows :—

1. Skilled worker .. .. .	..	..	..	Re. 0—50 per day
2. Semi-skilled worker .. .. .	..	..	..	Re. 0—35 per day
3. Un-skilled worker .. .. .	..	..	..	Re. 0—25 per day

Prisoners working in prison kitchen and conservancy are also paid at Re. 0—25 per day per worker. The following are the

particulars regarding the wages earned by prisoners during 1968 and 1969 :—

Sl. No.	Category	1968		1969	
		Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
1.	Wages earned by the prisoners who worked in manufacturing section.	3,905	35	3,824	40
2.	Wages earned by the prisoners who worked in kitchen and conservancy.	2,153	50	2,466	25
Total ..		7,058	85	6,290	65

*Panchayats.*—Formation of panchayats of prisoners is a noteworthy reform in the jail. *Panchas* are elected by the prisoners once a year. They bring to the notice of the Superintendent of the Jail common grievances of the prisoners and help them in several ways in matters of internal jail administration.

Both outdoor and indoor games are encouraged to keep the prisoners physically fit. Some of the popular games for which facilities are provided are volleyball, kabaddi, carom and draughts.

*Other facilities.*—Prisoners sentenced for a long period are released on parole on occasions of sickness in their homes, marriage functions, etc., after due enquiry through the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

The convicted prisoners are allowed to have interviews with their relatives and friends twice in a month and to write two letters in a month. The under-trial prisoners are allowed to have interviews once a week and to write two letters in a month.

Besides the usual prescribed quota of diet, they are being given special feeding on seven festive occasions in a year, such as, the Gandhi Jayanti, Republic Day, Independence Day, Basava Jayanti, Yugadi, etc.

The three Sub-Jails in the district, viz., Kudligi, Harapanahalli and Hospet Sub-Jails, are also governed by the Madras Sub-Jail Manual. The administration of these sub-jails is vested in the Sub-Jail Officers subject to the general control of the Additional District Magistrate, Bellary. The Sub-Jail Officers are responsible for the due observance of all the rules and orders relating to the jail administration. Of the three sub-jails, the Hospet Sub-Jail is the biggest having a capacity to lodge 40 prisoners. The Harapanahalli Sub-Jail has accommodation for 30 men and

10 women prisoners, while at the Kudligi Sub-Jail 9 male and 12 female prisoners can be lodged. The local Government doctors periodically visit these jails to look after the health of the prisoners. The undertrial prisoners are lodged in these prisons. The prisoners who are awarded sentences are sent to the Bellary Central Jail. The prisoners in these sub-jails are allowed to wear their own dress and they are fed twice a day, once at 11 A.M. and again at 5 P.M. The diet supplied is as prescribed in the Sub-Jail Manual. There is a Visitors' Board consisting of both officials and non-officials. The Board is constituted for suggesting improvements in the jail administration.

The expenditure of these sub-jails for 1960-61, 1966-67 and 1970-71 is as follows :—

Sub-Jail	Year		
	1960-61	1966-67	1970-71
	(in Rupees)		
Hospet .. ..	6,730	..	..
Kudligi .. ..	2,657	8,290	3,421
Harapanahalli .. ..	1,139	16,331	10,668

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### Earlier period

The origin of the present system of civil and criminal justice is to be traced to what is called the Cornwallis system, first established in Bengal in 1793 and subsequently extended to Madras in 1802. In 1802, a series of rules were approved in the Madras Presidency for establishing civil and criminal courts and for defining their powers. First among these East India Company Courts was the *Sadar* and *Foujdari Adalat* having jurisdiction over all the districts. Below it there were the four provincial and circuit courts, each having jurisdiction over the various districts. Next to these courts were the *Zilla* Courts or district courts, each having jurisdiction over a district. The higher courts had both civil and criminal jurisdiction. When it sat as a civil court it was called the *Sadar Court* and when it sat as a criminal court it was called the *Foujdari Adalat*. Similarly, the provincial court was so called when it sat as a civil court, but when it sat as a criminal court it was called the Circuit Court. The District Court was both a civil and a magisterial court and the District Judge was both a Civil Judge and Magistrate. The magisterial powers, till then exercised by the Collector, were transferred to the District Judge.

The Cornwallis system underwent some important changes first in 1816, when on the recommendation of Sir Thomas Munro



and the Court of Directors, the magisterial powers were transferred from the District Judge again to the Collector. In 1843, the provincial and circuit courts were abolished and their powers were vested in the new District Judge called the Civil and Sessions Judge. But for these changes, it continued to retain its old lineaments till 1862 when the *Sadar* and *Foujdari Adalat* as well as the Supreme Court were abolished and their powers transferred to the High Court.

At the beginning of the present century, as in the other districts of the Madras Presidency, there were, in Bellary, three grades of civil courts, namely, Village Munsiffs' Courts, District Munsiffs' Courts and the District Court. The system of trial by bench courts under Section 9 of the Village Courts Act I of 1889 was introduced in certain areas of the district. The number and jurisdiction of the District Munsiffs underwent several changes. In 1903-4, there were two Munsiffs, one at Bellary and the other at Hospet, the former having jurisdiction over Bellary, Alur and Rayadurga taluks and the latter over Hospet, Harapanahalli, Hadagalli and Kudligi taluks. The Adoni taluk was under the jurisdiction of the District Munsiff of Gooty, who was subordinate to the Kurnool District Court. The Bellary District Court had no jurisdiction over Adoni taluk but exercised the usual powers in the other taluks of Bellary.

In the thirties of the present century, the district had four grades of civil tribunals, namely, Village Munsiffs' Courts, Panchayat Courts, District Munsiffs' Courts and the District Court. In 1935-36, there were Munsiffs' Courts at Bellary and Hospet, the former having jurisdiction over Bellary, Adoni, Alur and Rayadurga taluks and the latter over Hospet, Harapanahalli, Hadagalli and Kudligi taluks. Since 1920, when a District Court was opened at Anantapur, the jurisdiction of the Bellary District Court was confined to the revenue district. Panchayat Courts were first constituted under the Madras Act II of 1920 in the year 1921. These courts are now no longer in existence.

Re-organisation of courts in Bellary district took place with effect from 2nd January 1964. As a result, the Munsiff-Magistrates of Kudligi and Harapanahalli were invested with civil powers and a new court of the Munsiff was established at Hadagalli. All the subordinate courts in the district are combined courts excepting the courts of (1) the Civil Judge, Bellary, (2) the Principal Munsiff, Bellary and (3) the Principal Munsiff, Hospet, which are exercising only civil powers. The Principal Munsiffs of Bellary and Hospet are also the *ex-officio* First Class Magistrates. According to the Mysore Civil Courts Act of 1964, the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs has been enhanced from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 and the Civil Judge has been invested with an unlimited original civil jurisdiction. At present, there

are three classes of civil courts, namely, the District Court, the court of Civil Judge and the courts of Munsiffs.

**District Court**

The District Judge, who has his headquarters in Bellary city, is the highest judicial authority in the district. He is appointed by the Governor of Mysore in consultation with the High Court of Mysore. The District Judge is the head of the administration of civil justice in the district and supervises the work of other subordinate courts. He inspects them once in a year. He exercises appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of the Civil Judge in which the amount or value of the subject matter of the suit or proceedings is less than Rs. 20,000 and also over the decisions of the Munsiffs in cases under the House Rent Control Act of 1961, the Land Reforms Act, 1961, as amended by Act 14 of 1965, and the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. He also exercises special jurisdiction under certain Acts such as the Guardians and Wards Act, the Indian Divorce Act, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the Indian Succession Act, the Indian Trade Marks Act, the Indian Lunacy Act, the Insolvency Act, the Arbitration Act, etc. He is a member of the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal for the entire district of Bellary. Before the Mysore Civil Courts Act, 1883, was extended to Bellary district from 1st February 1956, the District Judge, Bellary, was exercising appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of the Subordinate Judges and the District Munsiffs in respect of cases, the value of which did not exceed Rs. 5,000, under the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873. There is no Additional District Court in Bellary district.

**Civil Judge's Court**

The present Civil Judge's Court at Bellary came into existence on 1st June 1956. Prior to the establishment of this court, there was a Subordinate Judge's Court at Bellary, exercising unlimited original civil jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction in respect of appeals transferred from the District Court, Bellary, till the Mysore Civil Courts Act, 1883, as amended from time to time, was extended to Bellary district from 1st February 1956. Under the said Act, the Subordinate Judge was first exercising jurisdiction over all suits and proceedings of a civil nature, below the value of Rs. 5,000. Later, it was enhanced to Rs. 10,000 under the Amendment Act 23 of 1955. The Subordinate Judge, Bellary, was also exercising jurisdiction under the Indian Succession Act of 1925 and the Provincial Insolvency Act of 1920 in respect of petitions presented by debtors, where the amount of debts exceeded Rs. 3,000. He was also invested with the powers to try cases under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

After the establishment of the Civil Judge's Court in June 1956, till July 1964, the Civil Judge was exercising jurisdiction over all original suits and proceedings upto a value of Rs. 20,000. He had the appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of the

Munsiffs in suits and proceedings. From July 1964, the Civil Judge has been exercising jurisdiction over all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature and appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of the Munsiffs. The Civil Judge is also invested with small cause powers by the High Court of Mysore to try small cause suits upto a pecuniary value of Rs. 1,000. He has been exercising special jurisdiction under certain Acts such as the Hindu Marriage Act, the Land Acquisition Act, the Mysore Agriculturists Debtors Relief Act, 1966, and the Arbitration Act.

Till December 1964, there were seven Munsiffs' Courts in Bellary district, three at Bellary, two at Hospet and one each at Kudligi and Harapanahalli. On 4th December 1963, a new Munsiff Court was established at Hadagalli. Before the re-organisation of the courts in Bellary district, the pecuniary jurisdiction of Munsiffs was limited to Rs. 3,000 and the small cause jurisdiction to Rs. 100. After the implementation of the provisions of the Civil Courts Act, 1964, the Munsiffs have been exercising jurisdiction over suits, the pecuniary value of which does not exceed Rs. 10,000. They are also exercising jurisdiction over small cause suits upto a value of Rs. 500. The special enactments under which the Munsiffs exercise jurisdiction are the Mysore Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, (as extended by Mysore Act 7 of 1963), the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (Part X), the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, the Mysore House Rent Control Act, 1961, the Land Reforms Act, 1961, and the Mysore Agriculturists Debtors Relief Act, 1966. The Principal Munsiff of Bellary is not invested with powers of trying cases under the Indian Succession Act, 1925. The following is the list of courts functioning on the civil side in Bellary district as in July 1971 :—

<i>Place</i>	<i>Name of Court</i>
Bellary City .. ..	(1) District Court
	(2) Civil Judge's Court
	(3) Principal Munsiff's Court
	(4) I Additional Munsiff's Court
	(5) II Additional Munsiff's Court
Hospet .. ..	(6) Principal Munsiff's Court
	(7) Additional Munsiff's Court
Kudligi .. ..	(8) Munsiff's Court
Harapanahalli .. ..	(9) Munsiff's Court
Hadagalli .. ..	(10) Munsiff's Court

Upto 29th May 1956, the criminal side of the judiciary in the district was under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, who was also the District Magistrate. Consequent on the separation of judiciary from the executive with effect from 1st

**Munsiffs'  
Courts**

**Criminal  
Justice**

June 1956, the Civil Judge, Bellary, was designated as the Civil Judge-*cum*-District Magistrate having jurisdiction over the entire revenue district of Bellary. He had revisional powers over the decisions of the Subordinate Magistrates in the district, who were called the Stationary Sub-Magistrates. There were six Stationary Sub-Magistrates' Courts presided over by Magistrates who were non-gazetted officers upto 16th July 1961. From 17th July 1961, these six courts were upgraded to those of the Munsiff-*cum*-Magistrates' Courts and the posts of Stationary Sub-Magistrates were also upgraded to those of gazetted posts and redesignated as Munsiff-*cum*-First Class Magistrates. The Principal Munsiffs of Bellary and Hospet also were designated as Munsiff-*cum*-Sub-Divisional Magistrates for Bellary and Hospet Sub-Divisions respectively. Upto 2nd January 1964, the District Magistrate, Bellary, was the Unit Officer for all the Magistrates' Courts in the district and he was inspecting them annually and was submitting his inspection reports to the High Court. Consequent on the re-organisation of courts on 2nd January 1964, there was a new delimitation of jurisdiction, according to which the criminal work was completely taken away from the courts of the Munsiff-*cum*-Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Bellary and Hospet and transferred to the Courts of the I Additional Munsiff-*cum*-First Class Magistrate, Bellary, and the Additional Munsiff-*cum*-First Class Magistrate, Hospet, respectively.

There was an Additional Munsiff's Court at Hospet, attached to the Principal Munsiff's Court. It was a temporary court, the term of which was being extended year by year. On 2nd January 1964, it was abolished and a new court called the First Class Munsiff-*cum*-Magistrate's Court was established at Hadagalli.

**Sessions  
Judge's Court**

As per amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the revisional powers vested in the District Magistrate were taken away and vested in the Sessions Judge, Bellary, with effect from 1st October 1965. The Sessions Judge is exercising appellate and revisional jurisdictions over the decisions of the Subordinate Magistrates in the district.

All the Magistrates in the district are First Class Magistrates and there are six First Class Magistrates' Courts functioning in the district. The I Additional Munsiff-*cum*-First Class Magistrate, Bellary, and the Additional Munsiff-*cum*-First Class Magistrate, Hospet, have ceased to function as Sub-Divisional Magistrates.

**Itinerary courts**

There was a temporary court called the III Additional Munsiff-*cum*-First Class Magistrate's Court at Bellary which had jurisdiction to try cases under the Prohibition Act, arising in Bellary town and Siruguppa taluk. It was itinerating to

Siruguppa once a week to try all classes of criminal cases arising in the revenue taluk of Siruguppa. This court was abolished from 1st March 1965, since which time, the II Additional Munsiff-cum-First Class Magistrate's Court has been the itinerary court at Siruguppa. It itinerates to Siruguppa once a week and tries all classes of criminal cases arising in the revenue taluk of Siruguppa and 35 villages of Toranagal *firka* in the revenue taluk of Sandur.

The court of the Munsiff-cum-First Class Magistrate at Kudligi is the itinerary court at Sandur. It itinerates to Sandur once in a week to try all classes of criminal cases arising in the revenue taluk of Sandur excluding the 35 villages of Toranagal *firka*.

The courts of the Munsiff-cum-Magistrate, Kudligi, and the I Additional Munsiff-cum-First Class Magistrate, Bellary, were temporary courts, the terms of which were being extended every year by the Government. The former has been ordered to be continued on a permanent basis from 24th February 1965 and the latter from 1st February 1967. The following are the criminal courts functioning in Bellary district :—

<i>Place</i>	<i>Court</i>
Bellary ..	(1) The Sessions Court
	(2) The First Class Magistrate's Court
	(3) The Second First Class Magistrate's Court
Hospet ..	(4) The First Class Magistrate's Court
Kudligi ..	(5) The First Class Magistrate's Court
Harapanahalli ..	(6) The First Class Magistrate's Court
Hadagalli ..	(7) The First Class Magistrate's Court

Statements showing the number of cases, both civil and criminal, decided by the various courts in the district, during the years 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70, the number of cases pending at the beginning of each year, the number of cases instituted during each year, the number of cases disposed of and the closing balance at the end of each year, as also the receipts and charges for those years, are enclosed at the end of the chapter (*vide* tables 1 to 4).

The I Additional Munsiff-cum-First Class Magistrate, **Juvenile Court** Bellary, is appointed as a Magistrate to try also juvenile offenders in the entire district of Bellary.

The Deputy Commissioner, Bellary district, is the district's **Executive** Chief Executive Magistrate, while his Headquarters Assistant is **Magistrates** the Additional District Magistrate. The Assistant Commissioners of Bellary and Hospet Sub-Divisions are the Executive

Magistrates at the sub-divisional level, while the Tahsildars of all the taluks are the Executive Magistrates at the taluk-level. All these subordinate officers are subject to the general control of the District Magistrate. The main duties of these Executive Magistrates are to maintain law and order and to exercise the powers vested in and delegated to them under the Criminal Procedure Code or any other law for the time being in force.

**Heritage of  
lawyers and  
judges**

Bellary has a rich heritage of lawyers and judges. Besides achieving distinction in the legal field, several of them were pioneers in other spheres as well. To mention some of them, Shri D. Krishnamacharlu was a great playwright and actor. He was also an administrator in local bodies, so also Shri K. Srinivasa Rao. Shri T. Raghavacharya was a highly reputed actor of Shakespearian dramas and exhibited his art in England. Shriyuths Venkata Rao, M. Gopalaswami Mudaliar, C. Balaji Rao, N. Narayana Rao and D. Abdul Rauf were notable administrators in the district board and municipalities. Shri P. Shiva Rao was a well-known legislator. Some of the present members of the bar are also taking an active part in the fields of co-operation, social work, education, etc. In the district, the judiciary as well has had high traditions. In 1806, Mr. J. Bruce was appointed the first District and Sessions Judge of the district; besides him, another judge who is well remembered was Mr. Strang. Mr. Robert Sewell was the District Judge in 1888 and his contribution to history was his monumental work entitled "A Forgotten Empire" on the great Vijayanagar kingdom. Another well-known judge was Mr. Mack who later retired as a High Court Judge in Madras. He had stayed for a long time in Bellary and he earned the admiration of sportsmen also.

**Bar Association,  
Bellary**

The number of legal practitioners in Bellary city alone in 1969-70 was 98. The Bellary Bar Association was established in 1885. Its office is situated in the premises of the District and Sessions Court and has a well-equipped library and the walls of the hall are adorned with portraits of eminent members of the bar. The Association has an elected president, a secretary and a treasurer. It is running successfully a Legal Practitioners' Co-operative Consumers' Society. There are also Bar Associations at Hospet, Kudligi, Harapanahalli and Hadagalli.

TABLE I

Statement showing the number of Civil Cases instituted and decided in various courts of Bellary district in 1967-68

<i>Name of Court</i>	<i>No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year</i>	<i>No. of cases instituted during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases refiled, etc.</i>	<i>Total No. of cases for disposal</i>	<i>No. of cases disposed of during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases at the end of the year</i>	<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>Total charges</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
							<i>Rs. P.</i>	<i>Rs. P.</i>
District Judge's Court ..	189	442	1	632	475	157	6,752-62	1,39,665-01
Civil Judge's Court ..	915	972	13	1,900	863	1,037	56,057-20	34,889-94
Munsiffs' Courts ..	3,215	7,712	131	11,058	8,247	2,811	1,72,935-79	1,83,189-79
Total ..	4,319	9,126	145	13,590	9,585	4,005	2,35,745-61	3,57,744-74

TABLE II

Statement showing the number of Criminal Cases instituted and decided in various courts of Bellary district in 1967-68

Name of Court	No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year	No. of cases instituted during the year	Total No. of cases for disposal	No. of cases disposed of during the year	No. of cases pending at the end of the year	Total receipts		Total charges	
						Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	
Sessions Court ..	10	17	27	26	1	109	90	2,899	63
Magistrates' Courts ..	836	9,110	9,946	9,202	744	70,589	44	67,562	40
Total ..	846	9,127	9,973	9,228	745	70,699	34	70,462	03



TABLE III

Statement showing the number of Civil Cases instituted and decided in various courts of Bellary district in 1968-69

<i>Name of Court</i>	<i>No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year</i>	<i>No. of cases instituted during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases refiled, etc.</i>	<i>Total No. of cases for disposal</i>	<i>No. of cases disposed of during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases at the end of the year</i>	<i>Total receipts</i>		<i>Total charges</i>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	
							<i>Rs.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>P.</i>
District Judge's Court	157	85	..	242	121	121	15,093	95	1,46,698	29
Civil Judge's Court ..	1,037	636	17	1,690	762	928	98,473	67	46,731	78
Munsiffs' Courts ..	2,788	5,350	125	8,263	5,711	2,552	1,81,257	04	2,28,639	79
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>3,982</b>	<b>6,071</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>10,195</b>	<b>6,594</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>2,94,824</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>4,22,069</b>	<b>86</b>

TABLE IV

Statement showing the number of Criminal Cases instituted and decided in various courts of Bellary district in 1968-69

Name of Court	No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year	No. of cases instituted during the year	Total No. of cases for disposal	No. of cases disposed of during the year	No. of cases pending at the end of the year	Total receipts	Total charges
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						Rs. P.	Rs. P.
Sessions Court ..	1	34	35	21	14	190-25	3,042-06
Magistrates' Courts ..	744	8,734	9,478	8,636 +8 transferred	834	76,426-18	1,51,684-37
Total ..	745	8,768	9,513	8,657 +8 transferred	848	76,616-43	1,54,726-43

TABLE V

Statement showing the number of Civil Cases instituted and decided in various courts of Bellary district in 1969-70

<i>Name of Court</i>	<i>No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year</i>	<i>No. of cases instituted during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases refiled, etc.</i>	<i>Total No. of cases for disposal</i>	<i>No. of cases disposed of during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases at the end of the year</i>	<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>Total charges</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
District Judge's Court ..	121	106	5	232	79	153	N.A.	N.A.
Civil Judge's Court ..	788	684	26	1,498	639	859	"	"
Munsiffs' Courts ..	2,546	16,339	255	19,140	4,390	14,750	"	"
Total ..	3,455	17,129	286	20,870	5,108	15,762	..	..

(N.A.—Not Available)

TABLE VI

Statement showing the number of Criminal Cases instituted and decided in various courts of Bellary district in 1969-70

<i>Name of Court</i>	<i>No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year</i>	<i>No. of cases instituted during the year</i>	<i>Total No. of cases for disposal</i>	<i>No. of cases disposed of during the year</i>	<i>No. of cases pending at the end of the year</i>	<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>Total charges</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sessions Court ..	14	36	50	26	24	N.A.	N.A.
Magistrates' Courts ..	834	9,513	10,347	9,414 +4 transferred	929	„	„
Total ..	848	9,549	10,397	9,440 +4 transferred	953	„	„

(N.A. = Not Available).