

Although the strike launched by the Central Government employees on 19 September 1968, did not pose a law and order problem, four employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were detained under the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance.

In 1970 the police had to deal with the land grab movement launched by the Pondicherry unit of the Communist Party of India. In November 1971, the police force had to tackle the agitation launched by students on the issue of naming the proposed university in Pondicherry after Sri Aurobindo.

In March 1973 there was a serious clash between the villagers of Tirukkanur and the border village of Pudukkuppam in Tamil Nadu. The police forces of both the Governments had to camp in strength to put down the strife and restore order. During the same year because of the split in the D.M.K. leading to the birth of the A.D.M.K., a series of clashes, black flag demonstrations, etc. kept the police very busy. In one such instance i.e., a black flag demonstration arranged in Villiyanur against the then Education Minister of Tamil Nadu in March 1973 by the A.D.M.K. developed into a very serious clash in which 43 policemen including one Inspector and a Sub-Inspector were injured. A police motor-cycle was set on fire by the miscreants. The police had to resort to a lathi charge to restore order. In March 1974, elections to the assembly of Pondicherry were held under very tense circumstances, posing a grave threat to law and order. A lot of police reinforcements including one battalion of the C.R.P. were brought to Pondicherry and the election passed off without any major incident.

But for these sporadic incidents and agitations, the situation in all the regions of the Territory has almost remained calm.

II. Organisation of police force

A historical perspective :

Some kind of a civil police system seems to have been in existence in this part of the country even before the arrival of the French who allowed some of its features to continue. The '*nayinar*' was the native chieftain responsible for the maintenance of law and order. ¹ He had to perform certain duties at ceremonial functions also. De la Farelle indicates that the nawabs

who visited Pondicherry were received by the 'nayinar' or 'grand prévôt' outside the town.² Although he held the office by hereditary right, he could be replaced if found guilty of embezzlement.³ All his expenses were covered by a levy on the goods and foodgrains entering the town by land or sea. As per the regulation of the Sovereign Council dated 20 March 1768 the levy on cotton, cloth, paddy, ghee, oil, groceries, fruits and vegetables was fixed at one per cent. The 'nayinar' got one-fourth of the levy. Continuing the tradition, Dupleix availed the services of this local chieftain to patrol the town during night to prevent robbery and thefts.⁴ Villages were guarded by **chefs pions** with the assistance of **pions** who were empowered to arrest soldiers deserting the French army and also apprehend enemy soldiers found within the limits of the French territory.

Le Gentil described the police under the regime of Law as remarkable. He tells us further that the **Police de rues** (traffic police) was the responsibility of the natives. The chief police officer known as **grand prévôt** maintained a body of mounted police (**Maréchausée**) for patrolling the town during night. Thefts and murders were few. One could move about the town at any time in the night without fear. So impressed was Le Gentil that he affirmed that it was not so even in Paris which could boast of a well maintained machinery.⁵

In Karaikal, the functions of the police were performed by petty land lords known as *visiadars*. The detection of thefts was their main responsibility. They often behaved like petty tyrants, plundering their own villagers and extorting ransoms from travellers.

These *visiadars* also held their position by hereditary right. The French Company once had to intervene by force between two *visiadars* who claimed the right to exercise the functions of the police in a few villages claimed by the Company.⁶

Interestingly in Chandernagore, the French Company did not exercise the power of the police over Hindu natives. This was the responsibility of the *fauzdar* of Hooghly who was subordinate to the Nawab of Bengal. Native Christians were however not under the jurisdiction of the *fauzdar*. This division was a source of conflict between the French Company and the Nawab of Bengal. This state of affairs [continued till the tottering throne of the Nawab of Bengal was finally struck down by the sword of Clive.

The **règlement** of 30 December 1769* dealing with the police organisation was replaced by the **règlement** of 20 June 1778 promulgated by the **arrêté** of 4 July the same year. This **règlement** dealt with certain provisions of the earlier rules more elaborately. The **Lieutenant de Police** as head of the police force was not only responsible for law and order, but also sat on judgment over disputes which fell within the competence of the choultry court with jurisdiction extending over Pondicherry and its dependencies. He was responsible for maintaining peace and order in the markets, looking into complaints by masters against their servants, the use of correct weights and measures, inspection of shops, public eating places and slaughter houses, cleanliness of streets, destruction of dangerous buildings, etc. The *nayinar* had to report to the **Lieutenant de Police** the notable events of the town and the details of Europeans entering and leaving the town. He was also responsible for rounding up prostitutes and take cognisance of unauthorized sale of slaves.⁷

In 1790, † the administrators felt the need to define the functions of the police more precisely after taking into consideration all the provisions lying scattered in the **rèlements** of 1769, 1778 and 1788. This resulted in the **Règlement Général de Police** of 1790. The newly formed municipality was charged with the functions of the police in the town and its outskirts. As usual the *nayinars* supplied **pions** to the municipality. *Maniagars*** were placed in-charge of the supervision of the markets. They kept a watch over supplies reaching the town and reported on its adequacy or otherwise. The **Inspecteurs Municipaux** were empowered to take cognizance of offences, such as the use of false weights and measures, adulteration, etc. They referred such cases to the **Bureau Municipal** for disposal. The **Sergent de Ville** accompanied the **Inspecteur de Police** while on patrol duty and the **Officiers Municipaux** during functions. They were empowered to arrest and produce all delinquents before the **Bureau Municipal**.

The *nayinar* who retained as many **pions** as were required for maintaining peace and order in the town, was answerable for all cases of thefts. He maintained a watch over gamblers and arrested those running gambling houses. He was empowered to arrest delinquents and produce them to the **Bureau**

* The full text of this **règlement** is not available.

† Some minor changes were effected in the 1778 police regulation in 1786 and 1788.

** The word *maniagar* stands for *maniakkarar* in Tamil.

Municipal. He organised night patrol with the help of **taillards** (*talayaris*) after 10 p.m. and arrested all suspects as well as those found disturbing public peace. The next day all those rounded up were to be produced before the **Bureau Municipal** together with a report stating the cause of their detention. 8

As for the armed forces, François Martin had decided as early as in 1676 to utilise the services of natives alongside the European soldiers to defend Pondicherry against attacks by Mahratta and Mughal forces. Yet it was only in 1740 under Governor Dumas that the Company assumed the role of a military power.

The appellation **sipaye*** was accepted for the first time in 1742 when Dupleix organised the first units effectively. 9 He found the European soldiers at his disposal too inadequate to accomplish his design of establishing French supremacy in South India. Hence he decided to utilise members of the **kshatriya** castes and the muslims to strengthen the ranks of his army. Dupleix also maintained some Mahratta cavalymen and negro regiments well known for their blind loyalty to their masters. 10 In 1748, the Delhi Emperor conferred on Dupleix the title of Khan Mansubdar-Nabab Muzaffer Singh Bahadour which entitled him to raise an army and gave him right over life and death of all subjects within his domain. Dupleix was not the man to throw away such opportunities. He raised an army from among the native population. Properly trained and subjected to European military discipline, they proved to be excellent fighters capable of great sacrifice. According to M. de Freville the British who copied the idea of raising an army of natives from Dupleix, used his own method to outbid the French.

The peace treaty of 1763 in Europe brought down the strength of the French military force in Pondicherry to six battalions. After a lapse of ten years, it was reorganised again in 1773 by Jean Law de Lauriston, the then Governor of Pondicherry. The battalions were replaced by what was known as the Pondicherry Regiment with two autonomous artillery companies and eleven infantry companies. Ten of these infantry companies consisted of 'fuseliers' and the eleventh one of 'grenadiers'. All 'grenadiers' belonged to the

* It stands for 'sepoys'.

'paria' community. Caste distinction which was maintained in the army was done away with as a sequel to the Royal Ordinance of 28 January 1776. Although the Ordinance approved of the reorganisation introduced by Jean Law, it declared that recruitment to the army should be carried out without any distinction of caste or creed.¹¹ The number of companies was reduced from eleven to ten, the eleventh company consisting exclusively of 'parias' being absorbed into the other units.

In 1783 there were five battalions of 1,003 men each. Each battalion was headed by an European Commandant assisted by an European and a native officer. The same year, the King of France desired that the number of sipayes should be reduced to 600 and the reduction was accordingly effected. During the days of the revolution, the sipahis* (hitherto called 'sipayes') were left with more police duties as bulk of the forces consisting of Europeans had returned to France.¹²

After 1816 : After the French regained the Territory in 1816, the police force came to be headed by a **Commissaire Juge de Police**. The *arrêté* of 26 December 1823 fixed the area of his jurisdiction which covered Pondicherry and its dependencies, viz., Saram, Pakkamudiyannpet, Ozhukarai, Olandai, Pudukkottai, Thengathittu and Ariyankuppam areas. The **Service du Domaine** headed by **Receveur du Domaine** was in charge of the police in the remaining areas of Pondicherry and the districts of Bahur and Villianur. Caste matters remained however within the competence of the Governor to whom the matter was referred to by the **Commissaire Juge de Police**.¹³

In 1826 the town of Pondicherry was divided into five 'quartiers' called **thana de police**. Each *thana* was manned by a *thanadar* who was assisted by **pions**. They maintained law and order within their jurisdiction and kept a watch on the cleanliness of streets and thoroughfares. The **pions** were detailed for patrol duty day and night. They investigated crime and passed on the information to the *nayinar* or **Commissaire Juge de Police**. They were empowered to arrest those caught for stealing or causing public disturbance or indulging in violent acts against persons or property, the low caste people disturbing public peace, beggars, lepers, cart-drivers obstructing traffic, those indulging in illegal transactions in the market place, gamblers, etc.

* The new spelling which seems to have come into vogue after the revolution stood again changed to 'cipayes' (in 1802) vide Petignet, op. cit.

The *thanadars* reported to the *nayinar* the dead bodies found on the thoroughfares or salvaged from water, incidents of fires, murders, serious offences, sedition and unlawful assembly of persons. Although the *pions* and *thanadars* were empowered to arrest delinquents, they had no power to release them without the approval of the **Commissaire Juge de Police**.¹⁴ The *béche cars* were charged with police duties in the districts of Villiyanur and Bahur. They were also empowered to try certain offences.¹⁵ Since 26 October 1827, the jurisdiction of the **Tribunal de la Police** was extended to Karaikal town and all its dependencies. Karaikal town was placed under the control of the **Juge de Police**. The *cotwals* of Grand' Aldée and of the other four *macanams* viz. Tirunallar, Nedungadu, Nallazhandur and Kottuchcheri were empowered as petty judges to exercise the powers conferred on the *béche cars* of Villiyanur and Bahur to take cognizance of certain categories of offences and pronounce judgments thereon.¹⁶

Having learnt from experience that the *béche cars* of Villiyanur and Bahur Districts could carry on their magisterial function efficiently, the administration decided to take away from the *cotwals* in Karaikal, the magisterial and police powers vested with them and to confer such powers on the *béche cars* of the four *macanams*. This arrangement took effect from 1 March 1844.¹⁷ They were assisted by *pions* whose strength was increased from 38 to 40 in 1845.¹⁸ The personnel consisted of one **chef-pion** and 39 *pions*.

In 1856 the police set-up in Pondicherry underwent a major reorganisation.¹⁹ It was proposed to centralise police administration and to place the responsibility in the hands of a senior officer holding a responsible position. It was also decided to appoint a Mayor for Pondicherry so as to pave the way for a municipal organisation. Accordingly the **Juge de Paix** of Pondicherry was declared Mayor of the town and charged with control over police, although he had to function under the authority of the **Ordonnateur** officiating as **Directeur de l'Intérieur**. Thus the Justice of Peace became the Mayor and also held the office of **Directeur de la Police**.

As **Directeur de la Police**, he was responsible for law and order. He also exercised control over the municipal police, traffic and prisons, maintained peace among the various castes and kept a watch over incoming and outgoing foreigners. He was required to report every month to the **Ordonnateur** and the **Procureur Général** upon the law and order situation in the town and in the districts. The *inspecteurs*, *nainard*, *paléagar* and *thalavayes* assisted him in the

tasks of administrative and municipal police. The **bécheccars-en-chef** of Villianur and Bahur officiating as *nainard* and the **seconds-bécheccars** acting as *paléagar* and *telearis* exercised the powers of administrative police in their respective districts. The rural police was under the exclusive control of **bécheccars-en-chef**.

Under the new dispensation, the post of **Commissaire de la Police** was abolished and instead two posts of **Inspecteur de police** were created. Both the Inspectors controlled the entire area of Pondicherry. They were assisted by the *nayinar*, *paléagar* and **pions** whenever there were breaches of peace. They inspected the prison, supervised the market and kept a watch over weights and measures and gambling dens.

The '*nayinar*' or **grand prévôt indien** exercised control over the *thalayaves*, the **chef-pions** and **sous chef-pions**, the **pions** and **veilleurs de nuit** (night patrolmen) in the district of Pondicherry. He exercised special powers on matters of worship, customs and privileges of the Indians. He inspected the hotels and reported the functioning of unauthorised gambling houses to the **inspecteurs**. Even matters relating to employers and employees fell within his purview. He maintained registers of **dobachis** (interpreters), **pions** (policemen), *dhobis* (washermen), **métis**, cooks, gardeners, thotties in order to make their services available whenever required.

The *paléagar*, besides attending to the duties of the judiciary police, also functioned as **Inspecteur de Police de sûreté** (security). He even represented the *nainard* on certain occasions. He maintained a check on the quantum of supplies arriving in the district of Pondicherry. Night patrol was carried out either by the **inspecteur** or the *nainard* or the *paléagar* in turn according to a schedule drawn up by the mayor.

The two *cotwals* placed under the joint supervision of the **inspecteur**, *nainard* and *paléagar* maintained order in the market, ensured the availability of commodities and the proper maintenance of stalls. They were assisted by *aminahs* who maintained an account of the goods entering, sold or remaining unsold in the town and prevented the use of false weights and measures. On requisition by travellers they placed at their disposal, palanquin bearers, coolies, carts and bullocks at the prescribed rates.

The *thalavayes* were responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in areas under their jurisdiction. The other personnel at the lower level consisted of **chef pions**, **sous-chef pions**, **pions** and **veilleurs de nuit**. For purposes of police administration Pondicherry region was divided into eight **circonscriptions** viz., (1) Villianur, (2) Bahur, (3) Sarampakkam-Odiyambattu, (4) Olandai, (5) Ozhukarai, (6) Ariyankuppam, (7) Abhishekapakkam, (8) Alankuppam-Kalapet with the residence of *thalavayes* located in the respective areas viz. (1) Villianur, (2) Bahur, (3) Muttiyalupettai, (4) Olandai, (5) Muttirappalayam, (6) Ariyankuppam, (7) Tavalakuppam and (8) Kalapet.

The mayor (**Directeur de la police**) the **inspecteurs**, the *nainard*, the *béchechars*, the *paléagar*, the *béchechars en second*, the *thalavayes* and the *thaleari* also formed part of the judiciary and as such were subordinate to the **ministère public**. Their duties and responsibilities were defined by 'Code d'Instruction criminelle' and the local **arrêtés**.

Within a month of this reorganisation, the cadres of **veilleurs de nuit** and **pions de police** were dissolved, only to be organised into a single **corps** consisting of *thabedars*, *thanadars* and **gardes de police** in the order of hierarchy. This corps was divided into 'escouades' or 'postes' which were responsible for law and order, prevention of crimes and the enforcement of laws and regulations in force in the town and its dependencies. 20

The **arrêté** of 3 April 1865 dealt with the organisation of the personnel of **gardes de police**. The strength of the police force in Karaikal was further increased to 71. 21

In 1873 one Ferrier, **Juge de Paix**, officiating as Mayor and **Directeur de la Police**, was appointed **chef de service** of Yanam. This provided the occasion for the Administration to reorganise the police set-up. 22 The functions of the Mayor and **Directeur de la Police** hitherto vested in the **Juge de paix**, were taken away with effect from 1 September 1873 and the person newly appointed by the Governor on the same date as the Mayor was declared **Chef du Service de la Police**. This change of nomenclature did not alter in any way the functions hitherto performed by the Mayor as **Directeur de la Police**. However the title **Directeur de la Police** stood abolished. The cumulation of the functions of three officials on one and the same persons resorted to in the year 1856 stood reduced to that of two functionaries in 1873.

On 25 April 1876 the police set-up was widened to include the police organisation hitherto under the control of **Bureau du Domaine**. The police functionaries of **Bureau du Domaine (Revenue)** viz., **béche-car-en-chef** and **béche-car-second** whose jurisdiction extended to the two districts of Villianur and Bahur were divested of their police functions. 23

A new system of hierarchy and unity of command was devised with a **Directeur de la police** (old nomenclature) at the top to be assisted by two **Commissaires de Police** in the district of Pondicherry and two **Commissaires de Police adjoints** in the districts of Bahur and Villianur. The police force under them consisted of the following :

Nainard	..	1	Assigned to the district of Pondicherry.
Paléagar	..	1	Do.
Chef Thabedar	..	1	Do.
Cotwals	..	2	Do.
Thabedars	..	2	Do.
Thanadars	..	5	Do.
Brigadier (European)	..	1	Assigned to the district of Pondicherry.
Garde de police (European)	..	6	Do.
<i>Thalavayes</i>	..	9	(Distributed among all the three districts)
Thalavayes-adjoints	..	14	Do.
Gardes de Police (Indien)		165	Do.

Candidates of 'respectable' castes alone were eligible for recruitment to the police. Their spheres of functions covered the administrative police, the municipal police, the rural police* and the judiciary police.

* This was vested with the *béche-car* en-chef in the previous set-up.

The **Directeur de la police** was placed under the control of **Ordonnateur-Directeur de l'Intérieur**. He also continued as **Officier de la Police Judiciaire** taking orders from the **Procureur Général** or **Procureur de la République** as in the past. On the authority delegated to him by the **Ordonnateur Directeur de l'Intérieur**, he exercised control over prisons as well. The **Commissaires de Police** were also **Officiers de la Police judiciaire** who took their orders from the **Directeur de la Police**. The **Commissaires de Police adjoint** were in charge of administrative and rural police in the districts of Bahur and Villiyannur, but enjoyed as much power as exercised by the **Commissaires de Police** within the area of their jurisdiction. They also maintained a watch over foreigners, '*corvas*' (Koravas—a tribe of wandering gypsies), beggars, etc. found in the area within their jurisdiction.

The *nayinar* stationed in Pondicherry looked after the administrative and judiciary police. The *nayinar's* responsibilities and activities were confined only to the claims or complaints from the native population. Besides *thabedars* and *thanadars*, all *thalavayes* assigned to the district of Pondicherry were also placed under his direct control. He perused their reports daily and reported to the **Directeur de la Police** all facts or events pertaining to police administration.

The *paléagar* was responsible for crime investigation and such other functions connected with the judiciary police. He watched the movement of commodities and maintained records of the commodities coming in and their availability. He was assisted by *cotwals* who performed the functions of the police in the bazaar and public markets and watched the activities of brokers and hoarders in the market area.

The **arrêté** of 26 April 1876 was partly modified on 2 May 1877, pending the establishment of a municipal organisation.²⁴ The posts of the Mayor and the **Directeur de la Police** were abolished. While the **Chef du Service des Contributions** took over the functions of the Mayor, those of the police were centralised in the **Bureau de l'ordonnateur, Directeur de l'Intérieur**. Minor changes were brought about subsequently by the **arrêtés** of 2 June 1878, 8 May 1885 and 1 February 1886. It may be mentioned here that a separate brigade was formed in 1884 to attend to the functions of the municipal police in Pondicherry, and local denominations such as *paléagar*, *cotwals*, etc. were abandoned since May 1885.*²⁵

* This was effected by the repeal of the **arrêté** of 26 April 1876.

On 1 March 1889 the administrative, judicial and municipal police of Pondicherry region were brought under a joint set-up concurrently responsible to the **Directeur de l'Intérieur, Procureur Général** and all **Maires** (Mayors) respectively.²⁶ The municipal brigade was placed under the orders of the Mayor of Pondicherry. The **Commissaire de Police Central** now became the highest police official. Once again the responsibilities of the various officers were defined. The caste restrictions for recruitment to the police were removed. The **arrêté** of 1 March 1889 was subsequently amended in 1897 and later on in 1906.

The **arrêtés** of 3 April 1865, 20 June 1872, 11 April 1877, 9 February 1884, 18 May 1885, 1 February 1886, 11 June 1891, 20 February 1892, 1 July 1893, 8 February 1896 and 31 May 1900, regulated the police administration of Karaikal region. On 28 May 1886 a separate brigade was set-up to attend to the functions of municipal police in Karaikal. Similarly the **arrêtés** of 1 February 1865, 3 February 1884, 3 July and 22 August 1888 and 9 July 1898 dealt with the police administration in Mahe. The **arrêté** of 20 April 1876 covered Yanam.

The **arrêté** of 3 November 1906 conferred provisionally on the **Commandant d'Armes** control over the administrative and judiciary police paving the way for the rationalisation of the **cadre** and distribution of personnel. As on 30 November 1906, the strength of the police force stood reduced to 189.²⁷ Experience further showed that there was no need for a **Commissaire Central**.

In 1907 a common cadre was created for the police forces in Pondicherry and Karaikal establishments.²⁸ About the same time, the cadre at the high level was reviewed and some marginal adjustments made.²⁹ The Cipahi Company was abolished with effect from 1 January 1907. Shortly after i.e. in April the office of the **Commissaire de Police** was shifted to the **Caserne des cipahis** (sepoy barracks).³⁰

Now to revert to the armed police, it must be noted that after the Treaty of Paris (1814) the British allowed the French to maintain only such number of troops as was necessary to enforce law and order within the limits of the establishments. Till 1826, those who volunteered for service in the **Bataillon de cipayes** were not subjected to regular duties or service conditions.

In 1826 appeared the first set of rules regulating the enrolment of volunteers according to which Muslims, Maharashtrians, Rajputs, Cavarais, Pallis or members of any other martial race were declared eligible for voluntary enrolment. Topas were admitted as **grenadiers**.³¹

On 20 September 1861, the Governor took over as **Commandant de la Place** and the military officials were placed under his direct orders.³² The year 1867 witnessed further changes in the set-up of the armed forces. The '**Compagnie des grenadiers**' and the '**Compagnie de fuseliers**' were merged and came to be known as '**Cipahis de l'Inde**' with a strength of 330 men consisting of 6 Europeans and 324 Indians.³³ The '**Cipahis**' were selected from among the upper castes in the proportion of 1 : 2 between Muslims and Hindus on contract basis for a definite period. The **topas** were not preferred so much and '**parias**' were allowed only to beat the drums (as army musicians). As Capitaine H. Martinets puts it (1891), these **Cipahis** served only to remind the vanished glory of the French. They provided guard of honour for visiting dignitaries and escorted them in procession from the Railway Station to the Governor's residence. ³⁴ This formation was however abolished by the **décret** of 17 March 1907 with retrospective effect from 1 January 1907 for budgetary reasons.³⁵

The reduction in the strength of the police force in 1906 and the abolition of the '**Cipahis de l'Inde**' the following year was sought to be compensated by the creation of '**Garde Civile Indigène**' headed by a '**Capitaine Commandant**'. The personnel of the **Garde Civile Indigène** were drawn from the civil police as well as the erstwhile **Cipahis de l'Inde**. The **Garde Civile Indigène** conformed neither to a police force nor a military set-up, but was a fusion of both. ³⁶ It was subsequently placed in charge of guard duty over prisons in Pondicherry and Karaikal. ³⁷ A small unit known as **Service special des cyclistes** was set up in October 1907 to attend to the distribution of official mail. ³⁸ In May 1908 the strength of the municipal brigade as well as the functions assigned to it underwent some changes as a sequel to the formation of **Garde Civile Indigène**.³⁹ Although it formed a separate entity, it was called in to assist the **Garde Civile Indigène** whenever required. Taking its orders directly from the Mayor, the brigade was responsible for maintaining public peace, cleanliness in the town, traffic, public hygiene and the enforcement of laws,

The creation of **Garde Civile Indigène** proved to be a temporary measure for the very next year (1908) a force known as **Gendarmerie Indigène** was established in Pondicherry by the **décret** of 22 May 1908.⁴⁰ This was more like an armed police performing the functions of administrative and judiciary police, in addition to escorting prisoners and maintaining security.

For the first time in 1908, the armed police came to have a small unit of mounted police.⁴¹ In 1910 the municipal brigade was abolished and those found fit were absorbed into **Gendarmerie Indigène**.⁴²

This arrangement continued upto 1921 when by the **décret** of 19 May 1921, the **Gendarmerie Indigène** was abolished on the ground that it did not meet the actual requirements of the (French) possessions in India. The **décret** abolishing the **Gendarmerie Indigène** authorised the Governor to provide for an alternative force to attend to the functions of the administrative, judiciary and municipal police.⁴³

The **Gendarmerie Indigène** having been abolished, a new police force was organised on 23 July 1921 to look after the duties of administrative, judiciary and municipal police under a **Chef de Service** assisted by another officer. Both were, as far as possible, drawn from the Metropolitan Cadre. The police personnel consisted of a superior cadre of **Inspecteur**, **Sous-Inspecteur** **Adjudants** and a lower cadre of **brigadiers** and **gardes**.

This police force consisted of three formations viz. **Police Générale**, **Police de la sûreté** and **agents cyclistes**. The **Police Générale** looked after the functions of the administrative police, municipal police and judiciary police. The main responsibility of the administrative police was to enforce the laws and regulations of the land. It maintained vigilance over public worship, mendicity, vagrancy, associations, epidemics, press, sedition, weights and measures, public cleanliness, etc. The municipal police looked after public hygiene and the demolition of dilapidated buildings. The functions of the judiciary police were defined by the penal code.⁴⁴ Apart from the three formations, there was the fourth one which was a military formation called '**Police de Reserve**' to guard the Government House, the prisons, etc. and to attend to fire-fighting operations.

Now to turn once again to the armed police, the scrapping of **Gendarmerie Indigène** based on the Governor's report in May 1921 was not accepted by the **Conseil Général** which, in an unanimous resolution, called for the revival of the former **Cipahis de l'Inde**. The Government of France reconsidered the

matter and finally restored it (**Détachement de Cipahis de l'Inde**) by the décret of 17 August 1921. 45 This detachment consisted of 106 men. In 1927 however the strength of the detachment was reduced to 95 for budgetary reasons. 46 This strength was not found adequate in the context of the developments, especially so, on account of the scattered nature of the establishments. It was felt necessary to strengthen the military force so as to go to the assistance of the police force in times of emergency. Hence the strength was increased to 156 in 1931. 47 Out of this, an European 'Sous Officier' and forty cipahis were placed under the command of a Lieutenant and sent on 10 March 1931 to Chandernagore to be permanently stationed there.* 48

A machine gun unit was added as per the décret of 19 March 1937. 49 Further, the European strength of the detachment was increased to seven in 1937 and further raised to 11 in 1938 owing perhaps to the unrest among mill workers in Pondicherry.

It may be pointed out here that the décret of 28 December 1900 brought into being the **Infanterie Coloniale** in France to ensure the defence of French colonies. For this purpose, a comprehensive defence plan for all the French colonies was drawn up, taking into account the real needs of the colony as adumbrated in the decree of 19 September 1903, which provided for units of the **Infanterie Coloniale** to be located in various colonies, reduction of French elements and corresponding increase of native elements in the troops. 50 It was the Third Company of the Eleventh Regiment of this force that was brought to Pondicherry to meet the situation, in the context of the labour movement in 1936. Although the exact date of its arrival and departure is not known, one fact is certain: it stayed in Pondicherry upto 1939. The reason for its stationing was attributed to the "overall situation in South India" and "to the state of agitation" and "subversive trends of a group of terrorists" in Pondicherry. 51 The services of the troops were expected to be availed of to meet emergencies. On such occasions it went to the help of the police force. With the departure of the troops of the Eleventh Regiment to Indo-China, the need for increasing the strength of the Cipahi Company was felt. Moreover the Minister for Colonies in his report dated 30 November 1938 to the

* Similarly another contingent seems to have been sent to Karaikal to be stationed there permanently with effect from 1 January 1941, vide J.O. 1940, arrêté of 19 December 1940, p. 1198.

President of the Republic pointed out that the events from October 1937 had proved the inefficiency of the local police to maintain law and order in the establishment.⁵² The Cipahi Companies were then under obligation to go to the assistance of the police force and also to substitute for it. The police duties which ought to be its secondary function became almost its primary function under the circumstances prevailing in the area. He therefore proposed to the President of the French Republic the transformation of the **Compagnie des Cipahis** into a Unit of '**Garde Républicaine Mobile**'. This meant that the officers of **Infanterie Coloniale** would be substituted by officers of **Garde Républicaine Mobile** in France.

Taking into consideration all these factors and the scattered nature of the establishments and the unsettled conditions, the strength of the **Détachement de la Gendarmerie** (Cipahi Company) was increased to 216. Without however losing its military status, this detachment attended to police functions as well.

Final changes in 1941 : An important change took place in the year 1941 when **Le Service de la Police et de la Sûreté** was converted into **Section de la Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène**.⁵³ Simultaneously the **Détachement de la Gendarmerie (Compagnie de Cipahis)** and the police force now called as **Section de la Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène** were brought under a unified command to be known as **Forces Publiques des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde**. This combined force consisted of 629 men as shown below :

Commandant	..	..	..	..	1
Adjudant	..	..	..	..	1
Maréchal des logis chef	..	..	..	..	1

A. **Compagnie de Cipahis**

I. *Europeans*

1. Premier Lieutenant- Chef (Adjoint to the Commandant)	..	..	..	..	1
2. Second Lieutenant	..	..	..	..	1
3. Adjudant chef	..	..	..	..	1
4. Adjudant	..	..	..	..	1
5. Maréchal des logis-chef	..	..	..	..	1
6. Gardes Républicaines mobiles	..	..	..	..	5

II. *Natives*

1. Sergent-chef	3
2. Sergent	8
3. Caporal-chef	5
4. Caporal	15
5. Cipahis	169

III. <i>Enfants de troupes</i>	4
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B. **Section de la Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène**I. *Europeans*

1. Lieutenant (Adjoint au Commandant)	1
2. Adjudant-chef	1
3. Maréchal des logis	7

II. *Natives*

1. Maréchal des logis-chef	9
2. Maréchal des logis	20
3. Brigadier-chef/Brigadier	45
4. Auxiliaires	329

629

The main advantage of this reform was that it placed both the wings under a unified command, thereby facilitating a reduction in the number of police personnel, effective military training and economy in expenditure. 54 The Armed Police and the Civil Police thus functioned as two arms of a single organisation meant to tackle all kinds of law and order problems in the establishments. This arrangement continued till *de facto* merger.

After merger : Soon after merger the entire police force in the Territory was placed under the command of an Inspector General of Police, who was an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police from Tamil Nadu. While the police force in Pondicherry and Karaikal functioned under the supervision of a Superintendent of Police each, the armed police functioned under the direct control of a Commandant. A company of the Malabar Special Police was also stationed in Pondicherry to assist the local police. Police administration was carried on in accordance with the French regulations upto 30 September 1963. Following the extension of Indian laws to the territory with effect from 1 October 1963, police administration came to be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Police Act, 1861.

The Anti-Hindi Agitation of 1965 brought to the fore the inadequacies of the police force in the Territory to meet the law and order problem of the Territory. Hence the Government of India deputed Sri Pande and Sri Balakrishna Chetty to study the police set-up here. On the basis of the recommendations of this team, the police set-up in the Territory came under a major shuffle. The new scheme of reorganisation as proposed by the Central Team came into effect on 1 June 1967. For purposes of maintenance of law and order, the entire area of the Union Territory was divided into two divisions, i.e. Pondicherry division and Karaikal division, the former including Yanam region and the latter Mahe region. The six circles in Pondicherry were converted into three circles and the two in Karaikal into one circle. Mahe and Yanam remained as separate police circles.

In 1966, the Police Act, 1861 in its application to the Territory was amended by the Police (Pondicherry Amendment) Act, 1966 (Act No. 6 of 1966) under which the unlawful assumption of police functions, impersonation, etc., became punishable offences. Smoking in places of entertainment was prohibited. The Police and the Fire Services were armed with necessary powers to remove any person interfering with or impeding fire extinguishing operations. Special provisions were added to penalise carrying of arms between sunset and sunrise with criminal intent, driving without light, driving an animal or a vehicle on a footpath or under the control of a child, playing of music, beating of tom tom, affixing of bills or defacing walls and begging. It was enjoined on pawn brokers to report stolen property if tendered to them for sale or pawn. Certain cases of nuisances in public places were also covered by the said amendment. Police officers were empowered to arrest without warrant any person committing, in his view, an offence made punishable under the new provisions of the law.

The Police Act, 1861 was further amended by the Police (Pondicherry Amendment) Act, 1968. Under the amendment, the offence of causing annoyance to females in a public place or office was made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine upto fifty rupees or both.

The last reorganisation of the police force took place on 1 July 1967.

The Police Organisation :

The Civil Police : The Inspector General of Police is the highest police officer responsible for the maintenance of law and order as well as the prevention and detection of crimes in the Territory. He is assisted by a Senior Superintendent of Police, who exercises supervision over and co-ordinates the work of the Superintendents of Police in Pondicherry and Karaikal. He is the District Superintendent of Police under section 4 of the Police Act. He is also in-charge of the Traffic Police. The Senior Superintendent of Police is in turn assisted by two Superintendents of Police, one stationed at Pondicherry and the other at Karaikal, in discharging his functions relating to the maintenance of law and order in the respective divisions.

The Inspector General of Police is further assisted by four other Superintendents of Police each responsible for the P.A.P., Headquarters, Special Branch and Home Guards and designated as such.

The Superintendent (P.A.P.) is called Commandant P.A.P. and is responsible for its training and internal administration. The Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) functions as the Head of Office and attends to all administrative matters at headquarters. He is also the officer in-charge of the Fire Service in which task he is assisted by an Assistant Divisional Fire Officer. He further looks after the stores and the welfare of the police personnel. The Superintendent of Police (Special Branch) deals with all matters connected with intelligence and registration of foreigners in the Territory. The Superintendent of Police (Home Guards) is in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department, the Finger Print Bureau, besides the Home Guards Organisation.

Following the extension of the Indian laws, especially the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act with effect from 1 October 1963, all **Maréchal de Logis-Chefs** of the French days were put in-charge of brigades (similar to circles) whereas **Maréchal de Logis** were placed in-charge of police stations. At both the levels they were guided by Range Inspectors all of whom drawn on deputation from Tamil Nadu to help the local police in the matter of investigation and enforcement of Indian laws.

As on 1 October 1963 the following 26 police stations and 13 out-posts grouped into ten circles functioned in the Territory: 55

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Grand Bazaar Circle
Grand Bazaar
Central
Odiansalai</p> | <p>6. Villiyannur Circle
Villiyannur
Tirubhuvanai
Katterikuppam
Kunichampattu O.P.
Ramanathapuram O.P.
Mangalam O.P.
Korkkadu O.P.</p> |
| <p>2. Muttialupettai Circle
Muttialupettai
Pakkamudiyannpet
Kalapet O.P.
Alankuppam O.P.</p> | <p>7. Karaikal Circle
Karaikal town
Poraiyar Road
Kottuchcheri</p> |
| <p>3. Orlayanpet Circle
Orlayanpet
Mettuppalaiyam
Reddiyarpalaiyam</p> | <p>8. T.R. Pattinam Circle
T.R. Pattinam
Nedungadu
Tirunallar
Niravi
Ambagarattur O.P.
Settur O.P.
Vilidiyur O.P.</p> |
| <p>4. Mudaliyarpettai Circle
Mudaliyarpettai
Ariyankuppam
Tavalakuppam</p> | <p>9. Mahe Circle
Mahe
Pallur O.P.
Pandakkal O.P.</p> |
| <p>5. Bahur Circle
Bahur
Nettappakkam
Kirumampakkam
Karaiyamputtur
Madukkarai O.P.</p> | <p>10. Yanam Circle
Yanam</p> |

The Gorimedu Police Station (now Dhanwantarinagar) in Pondicherry region was newly opened on 23 May 1967.

As a result of the reorganisation effected on 1 June 1967 the six circles in Pondicherry and Yanam regions were reorganised into three circles i.e. Grand Bazaar, Mudaliyarpettai and Villiyanur, while Karaikal and Mahe together formed another circle. While the Grand Bazaar Circle and Mudaliyarpettai Circle became Town Circles, Villiyanur became a Rural Circle. Each circle was placed under the control of an Inspector of Police. The following police stations and out-posts were attached to the three circles in Pondicherry and the one circle in Karaikal :

Circles, police stations and out-posts (1)	Strength of				
	S.Is. (2)	A.S.Is. (3)	H.Cs. (4)	P.Cs. (5)	
I. Grand Bazaar Circle					
1. Grand Bazaar P.S.	..	1	1	3	28
2. Orlayanpet P.S.	..	1	—	2	20
3. Muttiyalupettai P. S. with an out-post at Kalapet (1)	..	1	—	2	16
4. Dhanvantarinagar P.S. with an out-post at Laspettai (2)	..	—	1	2	16
				2	4
II. Mudaliyarpettai Circle					
5. Mudaliyarpettai P.S.	..	1	—	2	24
6. Odiansalai P.S.	..	1	1	3	24
7. Reddiyarpalaiyam P.S.	..	1	—	1	10
8. Tavalakuppam P.S. with an out-post at Kirumampakkam (3)	..	1	—	1	10
		—	1	—	4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
III. Villiyannur Circle				
9. Villiyannur P.S. with an out-post at Korkadu (4)	1 —	— —	2 1	22 4
10. Bahur P.S. with an out-post at Karaiyamputtur (5)	1 —	— —	1 1	10 4
11. Nettappakkam P.S. with an out-post at Maddukkarai (6)	1 —	— —	1 1	10 4
12. Tirubhuvanai P.S.	1	—	1	10
13. Tirukkanur P.S. with an out-post at Katterikuppam (7)	1 —	— 1	1 —	10 4
14. Yanam P.S.	1	—	1	20
IV. Karaikal Circle				
15. Karaikal town P.S.	1	—	3	20
16. Kottuchcheri P.S.	1	—	1	9
17. Nedungadu P.S.	1	—	1	9
18. T. R. Pattinam P.S.	1	—	1	9
19. Niravi P.S.	1	—	1	9
20. Tirunallar P.S. with an out-post at Ambagarattur (8)	1 —	— —	1 1	9 4
21. Mahe	1	—	2	20
22. Pallur	1	—	1	9
Total	22	6	40	360

As the result of this reorganisation, the Circles of Muttialupettai, Orlayanpet and Bahur stood abolished. A small area under Grand Bazaar Circle was carved out and tagged on to Mudaliyarpettai Circle together with some areas of the erstwhile Orlayanpet and Bahur Circles. A small area under the former Bahur Circle was attached to the Mudaliyarpettai Circle and the rest of the area was attached to the Villianur Circle. With this reorganisation the Central Police Station and the Police Stations at Ariyankuppam and Mettuppalaiyam in Pondicherry region and Poraiyar Road in Karaikal region were abolished. Simultaneously the police stations at Kirumambakkam and Katterikuppam were reduced to the status of out-posts, and the out-posts at Ariyankuppam, Mangalam, Ramanathapuram, Kunichampattu, Settur and Vilidiyur were abolished. Instead, a new police station was opened at Tirukkanur. The out-post at Pakkamudiyarpet was shifted to Laspettai.

In terms of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 the area of jurisdiction and boundaries of the police stations in the Territory were notified by the Administration on 15 February 1968.⁵⁶ These boundaries are not co-terminus with any other administrative boundary. Moreover five enclaves in Pondicherry region surrounded entirely by Tamil Nadu Territory viz., Alankuppam, Manamedu, Kaduvanur, Manakuppam, and Sorappattu do not have either a police station or an out-post.

Standing orders are issued from time to time to govern the working of the police forces in the Territory. However some standing orders of the Tamil Nadu Government are also followed here. The Pondicherry Police Manual, now under preparation, is proposed to be set more or less on the model of the Tamil Nadu Police Manual and the Andaman & Nicobar Police Manual.

The Pondicherry Armed Police : The Pondicherry Armed Police may be described as the continuation of the Cipahi Company of the French days. The Cipahi Company, prior to merger, consisted, of 283 men of all ranks including technicians such as masons, carpenters, musicians, cobblers, electricians, cooks, etc. The strength of this company gradually dwindled on account of retirement, death, resignation, etc. The strength came down to 145 in 1960, 117 in 1962 and nil in 1969. It was wound up in 1970 by absorbing the remaining strength in the police force.

Soon after merger, one Company of the Malabar Special Police was brought and stationed in the Territory to perform the duties of the Cipahi Company. It was decided to organise the Pondicherry Armed Police by gradually replacing the M.S.P. and the Cipahi Company in the Territory. Accordingly the first batch of the P.A.P. consisting of five Jamedars, 145 Police Constables and four followers was formed in 1956 and was trained by Instructors drawn from the Malabar Special Police.⁵⁷ The Malabar Special Police stationed in the Territory was withdrawn with effect from 31 January 1967 and replaced by the P.A.P. Company.⁵⁸

The P.A.P. which assisted the local police in maintaining law and order in times of emergency and disturbances, attended to guard duties and special bandobust duties until the Central Reserve Police took over the functions with effect from 24 May 1969.

The Traffic Police : The Traffic branch consists of three Traffic Sergeants (now Reserve Sub-Inspector) and 45 Constables of whom, two Sergeants, one Head Constable and 35 constables are stationed in Pondicherry town and one Sergeant and ten police constables in Karaikal town. On special occasions like V.I.P. visits and fairs and festivals, the traffic police attend to traffic duties in the rural areas. Otherwise the traffic duties in rural areas are attended to by the local police attached to the police stations.

The Home Guards : Following the enactment of the Pondicherry Home Guards Act, 1965, the first batch of Home Guards was recruited in October the same year as part of a country-wide programme. Under article 3 of the Act, Home Guards may be called upon to discharge such functions and duties for the protection of persons, security of property, public safety and the maintenance of essential services. The Home Guards enjoy the same powers, privileges and protection of a Police Officer while on duty and operate under the general superintendence, control and direction of the District Magistrate, throughout the Union Territory.

The present strength consists of four companies, both urban and rural, i.e. Pondicherry 2½ Companies, Karaikal 1/2 Company, Villianur and Mudaliyarpettai together one rural company.

The Fire Service : The Cipahi Company was in charge of fire-fighting from the year 1933. Proposals for starting Fire Service Stations in Pondicherry and Karaikal took concrete shape only during 1956. To begin with two Station Officers were recruited locally and sent for training at the National Fire Service College, Rampur.⁵⁹

At present the Fire Service functions as a Branch of the Inspectorate General of Police, with the I.G.P., as the Director of Fire Services. The Assistant Divisional Fire Officer is directly in charge of the Fire Services.

Proposals for the opening of a new Fire Station with a pump escape at Dhanwantarinagar and for providing one large fire engine as reserve and one ambulance for Pondicherry and one small fire engine for Karaikal Fire Station were approved in 1966. The same year, the Pondicherry Fire Station was shifted from Mangir Barracks to Godowns No. 8 and 9 in South Boulevard taken on rent.⁶⁰ Static tanks required for the purpose were constructed at five places, viz., near Government Distillery, Botanical Garden, Orlayanpet, North Boulevard and the Railway Station in Pondicherry town.⁶¹ Major equipments such as trailer pump, mobile tanks, etc., were added the next year.⁶²

The Fire Service personnel are distributed among the three fire stations as shown below :

			Pondicherry	Dhanwantarinagar	Karaikal	Total
			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Assistant Officer	Divisional ..	Fire ..	1	—	—	1
Station Officer	..	..	1	1	1	3
Leading Firemen	..	..	7	2	4	13
Firemen Driver	..	..	9	2	5	16
Driver Mechanic	..	..	1	1	1	3
Firemen	..	..	33	18	18	69

The Watch-and-Ward staff of the Assembly : Whenever the Pondicherry Assembly is called in session, the Home Guards in special uniform are detailed for bandobust duty within the premises of the Assembly under the orders of the Speaker. They function under the command of a Sergeant-at-arms drawn temporarily from the grade of Subedar of the P.A.P.

This arrangement came into force with effect from 17 October 1967.

The security staff : Security to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Ministers is provided by placing at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor's Secretariat and the Office of the Council of Ministers, the services of two Inspectors, one for appointment as A.D.C. to the Lieutenant-Governor and the other as Security Officer to the Chief Minister. The Security Officers of the other Ministers are drawn from the rank of Head Constables from the Civil Police. Their pay and allowances are paid by the concerned establishments during the period of their deputations.

The Women Police : A women police wing with a strength of two Sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables and ten Constables was sanctioned in November 1974, for the first time in the Territory. After three months training at the Police Headquarters, Pondicherry, the women police were detailed for special duties, pertaining to immoral traffic, brothels, female criminals and bandobust.

Railway Police : The Union Territory has no separate Railway Police as the protection of railway premises forms part of the responsibility of the local police. During the French period the Odiansalai Police Station was specifically charged with the responsibility of policing the railway yard and the station. Now the Pondicherry Railway Station falls within the jurisdiction of the Odiansalai station under the Mudaliyarpettai Circle.

The Excise Squad : Following the enforcement of the Pondicherry Excise Act, 1970, and the Rules made thereunder, an Excise Squad with a strength of one Inspector of Police, eight Revenue Inspectors and seven police constables was formed to book all kinds of offences committed in violation of the Excise Act. In Karaikal there is no separate Excise Squad. The Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar perform the functions under the Act. In Mahe the Deputy Tahsildar (Revenue) and the Revenue Inspector function as Excise Inspector and Sub-Inspector. No special squad had been formed in Yanam.

The number of offences detected and the amount realised by way of fine since 1970-71 is given below :

Year	No. of offences detected				Amount in Rs. realised by way of fine			
	Pondi- cherry	Karai- kal	Mahe	Yanam	Pondi- cherry	Karai- kal	Mahe	Yanam
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1970-71 ..	987	81	4	—	53,614 4,956*	7,100	250	—
1971-72 ..	976	105	4	—	59,665	10,130	195	—
1972-73 ..	819	132	—	—	38,326 111*	12,215	—	—
1973-74 ..	399	212	—	—	27,668.25 1,311.75*	17,650	—	—
1974-75 ..	541	126	1	—	41,135.00 1,837.14*	15,750	1,000	—

* Shows the amount realised from the sale of confiscated goods.

Criminal Investigation Department : The Criminal Investigation Department as such may be said to have come into being with effect from 1 June 1967. Placed under the control of the Superintendent of Police (Home Guards), the Criminal Investigation Department consists of the Crime Branch, the Crime Intelligence Bureau and the Finger Print Bureau.

The Crime Branch : The Crime Branch is engaged in collecting, co-ordinating and disseminating information regarding crimes and criminals in the Territory. The Pondicherry Branch deals with property offences within the limits of the urban circles of Grand Bazaar and Mudaliyarpetai. The Unit is manned by one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, four Head Constables and eight Police Constables. Similarly, there is a Crime Branch in Karaikal for the same purpose with a Sub-Inspector at the head. The crime situation is reviewed once a week at a meeting of Inspectors, which is presided over by the Superintendent of Police (Home Guards).

The Crime Intelligence Bureau: The Crime Intelligence Bureau manned by two Inspectors, one Sub-Inspector, five Head Constables and four Police Constables is in charge of the collection and dissemination of criminal intelligence, besides preparing the monthly/annual crime reviews of the Union Territory. The photographic section is also attached to this Bureau.

In the rural areas the Sub-Inspectors themselves take up all cases for investigation with the help of the policemen under them.

The Finger Print Bureau: The Finger Print Bureau was established in Pondicherry on 8 November 1955 with a view to improving the scientific investigation of crimes. The Bureau, besides maintaining the finger print records of persons convicted under various categories of offences, helps to trace out with the help of finger print slips the criminal antecedents of unknown arrested criminals. The Bureau's services are availed to examine disputed thumb-impressions on documents or other records and to tender expert opinion over disputes in Court. Besides, the Bureau also trains the police officers and men in finger print work. The technical head of the Bureau is the Director (Finger Print Expert) who is assisted by one Tester, two Finger Print Searchers and a photographer.

Special Branch (Intelligence): The Special Branch which was established in the Territory on 1 June 1957 now consists of two wings i.e. the Intelligence Wing and the Registration Wing. The Intelligence Wing is manned by two Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, 21 Head Constables and four Police Constables. The Reporter deals with all enquiries into important confidential matters. This Wing further investigates all cases of forgery, counterfeit of coins and currency, theft of Government arms and ammunitions as well as cases involving foreign nationals, defalcation of public money, smuggling, conspiracy, gang cases, political crime, fraud, etc.

Special Branch II (Registration): The Registration Wing started functioning soon after *de facto* merger. Manned by one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, eight Head Constables and two Police Constables, its functions are centred around watching the activities of foreign nationals in Pondicherry and issuing registration certificates, residential certificates, etc.

The Armoury : The Police Armoury looks after the maintenance and upkeep of arms of all stations and P.A.P. companies in the Territory. A store house for the Armoury was constructed near the beach in 1957, where part of the Police Armoury was located.

The Stores : The Police Stores are under the care of an Inspector of Police who is responsible for supplying clothings and equipments to the personnel of the Pondicherry Police Force, the Fire Service, and the Home Guards. The scale of supply, pattern and life span of each article is determined by the Government in consultation with the Inspector General of Police.

The Police Uniform : The police uniform was changed after merger and was brought in line with that of the Tamil Nadu Police, except for the headgear, which was changed to the red cap (the French kepi pattern) for the armed police and blue cap for the Civil Police. However since 14 January 1971, the headgear for the Civil Police was changed to the red cap and members of the armed police were provided slouch hats. To keep pace with the modern trend, the police personnel now wear slacks instead of shorts. The free issue of uniforms was liberalised with effect from 1 April 1975, so as to extend the benefit to police officers. Police personnel of all categories are also eligible for cots, blankets, dhurries, etc.

The strength of the police force : At the time of merger the police force and the armed police formed two wings of the same force, commanded by an officer not above the rank of a Major (*chef d'Escadron*) appointed by the Ministry of War. In 1941 the strength of the *Compagnie des Cipahis* was 217, that of *Section de Gendarmerie Auxiliaire Indigène* 412 making a total of 629 men besides three officers.⁶³ It may be noted that this number included two policemen posted in the loge at Masulipatnam and two in the loge at Balasore.⁶³

By 1948, the strength of the combined police force increased to 672 as detailed below :⁶⁴

Grades	No. of Armed Police (Red Caps)	No. of Civil Police (Blue Caps)	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. European Officers	2	1	3
2. European N.C.Os.	8	9	17
3. Indian N.C.Os.	57	55	112
4. Men Sepoys/recruits	217	269	540
Total	338	334	672

This police force was distributed in all the five establishments including Chandernagore as follows :

Pondicherry	..	..	447
Karaikal	..	..	153
Mahe	..	..	15
Chandernagore	..	..	43
Yanam	..	..	14
Total	..		<u>672</u>

The total strength of the police force as on 31 March 1956, excluding the Special Armed Reserve brought from Tamil Nadu, was 625. ⁶⁵ The strength continued to be the same till 31 March 1961. Since then it increased to 760 by 31 March 1962 and to 843 by 31 March 1963. The increase in the strength since then will be evident from the following statement* :

Year (1)	Police (2)	Fire (3)	Vigilance (4)	Grand total (5)
1964	1,030	Nil	—	1,030
1965	1,088	Nil	—	1,088
1966	1,238	Nil	—	1,238
1967	1,037	52	—	1,089
1968	1,068	106	—	1,174
1969	1,012	104	—	1,116
1970	1,016	95	15	1,126
1971	1,011	98	15	1,124
1972	1,049	103	15	1,167
1973	1,039	109	15	1,163
1974	1,237	109	14	1,360
1975	1,300	109	12	1,421

* The figures have been taken from various issues of the Abstract of Statistics.

Here it must be noted that until 1 January 1967, a small contingent of policemen was utilised for the delivery and distribution of local official mail. Moreover, the policemen had to provide escort for prisoners taken out of prison for work in the various establishments. Until the Fire Service was organised in 1956 even fire-fighting operations were carried on by the civil police. It may also be noted that as a result of the reorganisation effected on 1 June 1967, the total number of police stations in the Territory stood reduced from 26 to 22 and that of out-posts from 13 to 8. Nevertheless the strength of the police force increased from 629 in 1961 to 1421 in 1975. In terms of population there was one policeman for every 606.7 citizens in 1961. Within a period of 14 years i.e. between 1961 and 1975 the strength of the police force has more than doubled excluding, of course, the Home Guards and the C.R.P. stationed in the Territory. The police population ratio came down to 1 : 331.4 in 1975.

Training : During the French period training was imparted to the police personnel by the French Military Officers stationed in Pondicherry. Soon after merger, however, the police personnel could not be sent to any other state in the Indian Union for training in view of the *de facto* set up and continuance of the French Penal Code, French Cr. P.C. etc.⁶⁶ However on the eve of *de jure* transfer i.e., during 61-62 out of seven Sub-Inspectors recruited, four were sent for training to the Police Training College, Vellore.⁶⁷ This practice continued for some years.⁶⁸ Since 1973 Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors are being trained locally.

In order to cope up with the new situation created by the extension of the Indian laws on 1 October 1963, training was imparted to the Ex-French police officers on methods of investigation etc. according to the Indian procedure.

A Sub-Inspector was sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Madras in 1970 for training in forensic science. He underwent another training at the Security Press, Nasik Road, Bombay, on counterfeit currencies and crimes. Another Inspector of Police underwent training in intelligence at the Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi in the year 1972. Since 1967 local police officers are given training in the Finger Print Bureau. Upto December 1974, three police personnel have been trained by the Bureau.

After the *de facto* transfer one Jamedar and four Havildars of M.S.P. from Tamil Nadu were drafted to impart training in Pondicherry to the P.A.P. personnel during 1960. Two Naiks and one Jamedar of the P.A.P. were sent during 1963-64 for advanced training in practical use of weapons at Indore. Three P.A.P. Non-commissioned Officers underwent weapons training at C.S.W.T., Indore, during 1966-67. Similarly nine P.A.P. wireless operators were sent to Madras for classification test by the Police Radio Officers, Madras. 69 One Jamedar of the P.A.P. underwent training in Cipher Course at Delhi.

As for the Fire Services, the Station Officer of Pondicherry was sent for training in Station Officers' and Instructors' Course in the National Fire Service College, Nagpur for a period of 22 weeks during 1965-66. Similarly two locally recruited Sub-Officers and ten Firemen recruits were sent to the National Fire Service College, Nagpur. 70

Again Sergeants of the Traffic Branch were trained at the Bombay Traffic Institute, Bombay. During 1964-65, two Sergeants who underwent training at P.A.P., Avadi were posted as Traffic Sergeants in Pondicherry. Regular training or refresher training are imparted for Home Guards at Pondicherry and at Karaikal.

Police Welfare : As early as in 1933, the plot of land at No. 146, Olandai was converted into a sports ground. 71 The military pensioners were entitled to free medical treatment from 1938 under the Law dated 31 March 1919, at the rates prescribed by the *décret* of 22 January 1936 although this concession was available before at a lower scale. 72 In 1932, the Karuvadikkuppam canal area was placed at their disposal for shooting and training purposes. 73 In 1947, the entire area under Survey No. 307 in Uppalam was placed at the disposal of the Cipahi Company for paddy cultivation to meet their food requirements. 74

Here it will be appropriate to mention the role played by the *Société de Secours mutuels de la Gendarmerie Indigène des Cipahis* for the welfare of policemen and members of their families. According to official records this *Société* was started in the year 1910, to render assistance to members of the police force, affected by death, confinement, sickness, etc. 75 Monthly pensions were also paid to ex-members and their widows. The *Société* continued to function even after merger. The Pondicherry Police Welfare Association

formed on 29 June 1972 is a progeny of the above Société. The Welfare Association organised a Canteen Store with a capital of Rs. 50,000 half of which was met from the funds of the Société and Rs. 25,000 taken as a loan from the State Bank of India. The audited balance sheet for the year 1973-74 showed an opening balance of Rs. 1,58,896.42. A total sum of Rs. 1,35,000 was held in the form of Treasury Savings Deposit. All essential consumer goods are sold to policemen and their families on no-loss no-profit basis. Under its auspices a Vocational Training Centre was also started at Dhanwantarinagar, where wives and daughters of policemen were given training in cutting and tailoring. 76

A housing complex of eleven quarters meant for one Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable and nine constables was built and declared open in May 1967 at Mulakkulam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. Another housing project costing Rs. 15 lakhs intended for the Armed Police was also implemented. As many as 76 family quarters were made available to policemen and their families. A separate complex for providing non-family accommodation for 150 policemen was also opened in July 1973.

Although there is no Police Hospital as such, a doctor is detailed daily to attend to police personnel as well as their family members at the Police Dispensary. Facilities are now available to claim the expenditure incurred on medicine by police personnel and members of their families on par with Government employees. Policemen are provided sports materials with a view to encouraging the personnel in all games. Police sports are held annually. Athletic events, games and other competitions are held and prizes awarded. In July 1959, a football coach attached to the Hyderabad Police was invited to Pondicherry to impart training to football players in the police force. 77

Police awards : The silver and bronze **Médaille d'honneur des Forces Publiques** was instituted in 1943 by the **arrêté** of 12 and 13 August 1943 to ensure the loyalty of policemen and to reward them for long service and acts of courage and devotion. 78 Now the President's Police Medals are awarded to policemen, for gallantry and exceptional service.