



## PROMOTIONS AND REWARDS TO THE POLICE DURING COLONIAL RULE IN NORTH COASTAL DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA

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### Introduction

The British government in India organized police administration as an instrument to maintain law and order. Under the Madras Police Act of 1859 and Indian Police Act of 1861 they organized unified police administration in the Madras Presidency. Ganjam, Jeypore, Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur and Nellore districts were the North Coastal districts of Andhra of the erstwhile Madras Presidency and these districts were economically strong and administratively demanding. The crime rate was increasing with the growth of the population and the people of this region played a major role in freedom struggle. The British government rewarded both the police and the private individuals for their valuable co-operation in controlling the crime and also to impress on public the necessity of mutual co-operation between the police and the public.

### Promotions

On the recommendations of Lord Viscount Lee of Fareham's Report of 1924, the Public Service Commission in India and the provincial public service were established to recruit Indians into higher cadres. In 1929, the Madras Public Service Commission was started to recruit qualified men. In addition to this direct recruitment, appointments were made to the superior posts in the Indian Police through promotion from the Madras police service. The promotions of the police officers were made after departmental examinations and on the opinions of the District Magistrate, the Inspector General of Police and the Deputy Inspector General of police. The veteran sports men were easily recruited and were given promotions whenever they have won medals. Good work done by the police officers was recognized by the grant of good service entries, accelerated promotions was also ordered in recognition of good work in rare cases.

Constables were promoted to the post of head constables and performance appraisals played a key role in the promotions. To keep up the morale of the police force, the government rewarded with title and certificates to the constables and officers whenever they did any good work. The British government granted periodical increments to sub-inspectors and constables with regard to merit and good service. A six months course of training given in the police training school to the head constables selected for promotion as sub-inspectors with a view to improve their standard of work. The village officers were also given appreciation and encouragement for their achievements in the crime detection and performance of their police functions.

### Titles, Medals, Honors and Money Rewards

Titles, honors and money rewards were conferred on police force for their good work. Medals were bestowed on police officers for capturing notorious criminals and for their conduct in dealing with the riots. The titles that were bestowed on police officers were Order of British Empire, Member of British Empire, Rao Bahadur, Khan Sahib and Rao Sahib. The King's Police Medal for gallantry and also for meritorious service, Bar to the King's Police Medal for gallantry, Indian Police Medal for gallantry and for meritorious service, Bar to the Indian Police Medal for gallantry and the Kendall Humanity Medal awarded to members of the force. The Indian Police Medal was first time awarded in 1932. The other titles given to police officers and policemen were Kings Police Medal and the Indian Police Medal for gallantry and meritorious services. Not only the British government but also some private individuals gave rewards to police officers, private individuals and members of the criminal tribes for valuable co-operation. The government gave these rewards to impress the public the necessity of mutual co-operation between the police and the public and also to keep up the police morale high. They were also protected from public criticism by emphasizing discipline and government counter-propaganda in their defense. The good work done by the police officers were recognized by the grant of good service entries and the money rewards were stopped in 1938 to all police officers except for head constables and constables.

To the private individuals who assisted the police were issued letters of appreciation and parchment certificates for their valuable services. In many instances they were given the choice between articles or money as rewards. This system of rewarding to private individuals increased the public interest in co-operating with the police in the crime control. The government, Magistrates, *Zamindars*, private individuals and other government departments also rewarded the police and public for their good work. These rewards were considered as a respect and it also encouraged the common people to react against the crimes in the society. By rewards advantage was taken to impress upon public for their cooperation. The following are some of the cases of interest from the Northern Coastal districts of Andhra of the Madras Presidency.



A gang of members from criminal settlements escaped and became a source of annoyance to the villagers of Koyyalagudem in the East Godavari, the Sub Inspector of Police traced and arrested him in 1924 and the villagers appreciated and offered a sum of Rs.100 for his good work. The Zamindar of Katravulapalli in East Godavari district presented a silver cup to the head constable on District Sports Day on November, 1924, for his detective work. The police and private individuals were rewarded Rs. 650 by the government in connection with a case of counterfeiting currency notes in the Kistna district in 1925 and expressed their appreciation to the temporary Deputy Superintendent of Police, M.R. Ry Rao Sahib K.Brahmayya Pantulu. In the same year, a reward of Rs. 250 was granted by the District Magistrate of Guntur to the villagers of Isukatripuravaram for attacking the gang headed by the notorious Yerakala dacoit Kondigadu and killing him and two other members of the gang. A reward of Rs. 500 was offered by Zamindar of Udaiyarpalaiyam in 1925 for the apprehension of Kodukkur Arumugam, and the amount was distributed among 1 Inspector, 6 Sub Inspectors, 1 head constable, 4 constables 1 Karnam and 3 private individuals. The Zamindar of Katravulapalli in East Godavari district presented a silver cup for award to the constable who had performed the smartest piece of detective work in the district.

The Chamber of Commerce granted a reward of Rs.100 to the Sub-Inspector of the Port Police of Cocanada port in the East Godavari district in recognition of good work in the prevention of cargo thefts in 1928. A villager and a Yanadi of the Nellore district were rewarded for giving information to the village vigilance committee members about the culprits in the case of housebreaking and theft. In East Godavari district, a woman was rewarded in the form of gold bangles for her presence of mind in arresting a thief who entered her house. In the East Godavari district, M.R. Ry. D. Sitaramaswami, offered a silver cup to a police officer for good work and the Maharajah of Pithapuram paid Rs.100 to a sub-inspector for recovering a valuable emerald. In the West Godavari district 10 parchment certificates were given persons in recognition of their assistance to the police in 1929. In Doddipatla of the West Godavari district, a village magistrate personally helped a Sub-Inspector in chasing and arresting criminal tribe members who had escaped from settlements. The village magistrate along with his followers jumped into the canal at the risk of their own lives and captured the known depredator and for this the village Magistrate and his followers were suitably rewarded. Three school students in West Godavari district while returning from school arrested four suspected culprits and handed them over to the police, for their smart work each boy was gifted with a fountain pen. A reward of Rs. 830 was sanction to the police officers of Guntur district and the Criminal Investigating Department and Rs. 250 to private individuals for rounding up a gang of Erukala absconders from the Sitanagram Settlement who were responsible for many burglaries in the districts of Guntur, Kistna and West Godavari. A widow of a late constable in the East Godavari district was awarded Rs.3. One Civic guard in the East Godavari district was granted Rs. 100 for the arrest of an armed communist. In the same district a private individual was awarded Rs. 100 for the arresting C.N. Lakshmikantham, who escaped from police custody. In Jeypore district a group of villagers were rewarded for the detection of a case of housebreaking.

The following are the number of promotions and rewards recorded in the Northern Coastal Districts of Andhra of the Madras Presidency.

**Table No.1**

YEARS	PROMOTIONS	REWARDS
1924	-	834
1925	-	991
1926	-	1052
1927	-	1151
1928	-	1697
1929	-	1343
1930	-	1869
1931	-	1834
1932	02	1617
1933	-	1069
1934	-	1205
1935	01	1363
1936	-	1576
1937	-	1916
1938	-	1793
1939	03	1084
1940	-	1345
1941	01	1745
1942	-	1921



1943	-	2385
1944	-	2812
1945	-	3149
1946	01	3416
1947	-	3254

**Source:** *Report on the Administration of the Police of the Madras Presidency for the years 1924-47, printed by the Superintendent Government press, Madras*

The above figures indicate that the rewards were liberally granted to the police and private individuals for the good work and for mutual co-operation between the police and the public. Due to the liberal and steadily increasing grants from the government, it has become more and more possible to reward police and show appreciation of the help rendered by the public. There was a gradual increase which reflects that the government, private individuals, *zamindars* and other public departments had encouraged both the public and police in crime control. This rewarding system improved the public-police relationship and played an important role in the prevention and detection of the crimes.

Only on five occasions the police were promoted during the years 1924 to 47, in 1932, two police in Vizagapatam, in 1935, one in West Godavari district, in 1939, two from Vizagapatam and one from Guntur, one in 1941 in the East Godavari district and one in the Nellore district in 1946. The performance appraisals played a key role in the promotions of the police force. In 1927, the money rewards were 127 policemen in Ganjam, 48 in Vizagapatam, 45 in Jeypore, 222 in East Godavari district, 91 in West Godavari district, 183 in Kistna, 188 in Guntur and 247 in Nellore and totally 1,151 police men were given monetary rewards.

The rewards were given by the British Government to the private persons who assisted the police by providing information. In the West Godavari district 10 parchment certificates were given to persons in recognition of their assistance to the police in 1929. Mostly rewards offered to private persons were distributed in the form of some useful articles.

Judicial punishments were also awarded to the police for the offences committed in the official and private capacity. The members of the police force were dismissed for corruption, drunkenness, disorderly behavior and insubordination, suspicious conduct, for bringing false charges and also for persistence absence without leave. The police for these offences were punished with deferred black marks, fines, suspensions, censures, de-promotion, removal and dismissals.

### Conclusion

The British government had taken care to keep up the morale of the police force as rewards were lavishly given to the constables and officers. The police forces effectively kept the mass agitations under control and performed their duty successfully and loyally. The British maintained them to suppress disturbances and to enforce the imperial authority especially during the period of freedom struggle and the police rendered their services well on all occasions. The government rewarded them with title, certificates and promotion was given in recognition of good work. The money rewards were stopped in 1938 to all police officers except for head constables and constables. The village officers were specially appreciated and in suitable cases were generously rewarded for their good work. The British appreciated and encouraged the police for their performance and it was recognized by the grant of good service entries and accelerated promotions. Also veteran sports men were given promotions whenever they have won medals. The rewards to the police were in the form of medals, honors, title and certificates for their gallantry and merit whenever they performed good work in capturing notorious criminals and for their conduct in dealing with the riots and disturbances.

The titles bestowed by the British government to the police were Order of British Empire, Member of British Empire, Rao Bahadur, Khan Sahib and Rao Sahib, King's Police Medal, Bar to the King's Police Medal, Indian Police Medal, Bar to the Indian Police Medal and Kendall Humanity Medal awarded for gallantry and also for meritorious service. The British government also rewarded private individuals for their valuable co-operation and to impress on public the necessity of mutual co-operation between the police and the public. Letters of appreciation and parchment certificates were issued and they were given the choice between articles of daily use and money. Besides the British government, magistrates, zamindars, private individuals and other government departments also rewarded the police and public for their good work. This shows that the private individuals were rewarded with articles of choice and for daily use. It is found from the study that the police officers of Guntur district and the Criminal Investigating Department were rewarded with Rs. 830 for rounding up a gang of Erukala absconders from the Sitanagram Settlement who were responsible for many burglaries in the districts of Guntur, Kistna and West Godavari. This money rewards to police officers was abolished in the year 1938 by the government.



Rewards to the police force and village officers proved to be advantageous as the crime was better controlled and reported. The rewards to private individuals brought cooperation between the police and the public which resulted in crime control and detection. The system of rewards encouraged the common people to react against the crimes in the society. A number of rewards were given to the individuals including the criminal tribes and the police officials and this number increased. This reflects that the government, private individuals, zamindars and other public departments had encouraged both the public and police co-operation in crime control and enforcing the responsibilities on the public. This reflects that the rewards were freely granted and this rewarding system improved the public-police relationship and played an important role in the prevention and detection of the crimes.

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