

The general crime situation in the post-Independence years is represented by the following data :—

Year	Total Cases Reported	Brought Forward from Previous Year	Cancelled	Net Number of Cases	Pending at the Close of Year
1	2	3	4	5	6
1947	2,953	693	254	3,392	1,534
1948	3,405	1,534	227	5,246	1,687
1949	3,387	1,687	278	4,796	1,498
1950	3,476	1,498	293	4,681	1,567
1951	3,599	1,567	311	4,855	1,435
1952	3,599	1,435	297	5,320	1,310
1953	3,506	1,310	222	4,594	1,333
1954	4,061	1,333	233	5,161	1,743
1955	3,890	1,743	241	5,392	1,620
1956	2,276	1,620	28	3,868	1,593
1957	3,054	1,593	275	4,372	1,358
1958	4,288	1,358	206	5,440	1,060
1959	4,000	1,060	198	4,862	927
1960	6,189	927	139	6,977	2,189
1961	6,565	1,189	241	8,513	2,170
1962	6,317	2,170	206	8,281	2,102
1963	8,844	1,102	213	10,733	2,727
1964	6,083	2,727	301	8,514	2,936
1965	10,782	2,936	551	13,167	3,273
1966	3,869	3,273	242	6,900	1,603
1967	4,239	1,603	191	5,651	1,204

1	2	3	4	5	6	
1968	...	4,035	1,204	188	5,051	1,189
1969	...	4,658	1,189	122	5,725	1,518
1970	...	5,009	1,518	189	6,338	1,553
1971	...	4,960	1,553	140	6,373	1,556
1972	...	5,042	1,558	113	6,485	1,610
1973	...	5,199	1,610	106	6,703	2,255
1974	...	4,712	2,255	145	6,822	2,810
1975	...	3,549	2,810	110	6,249	3,010
1976	...	3,717	3,010	120	6,607	2,249
1977	...	3,640	2,249	139	5,750	3,667
1978	...	3,384	3,667	136	6,915	3,817

*Note:* The sudden decrease in the year 1966 and thereafter is due to the reorganisation of the Ambala district in November, 1966 when Ropar and Kharar (except Kalka sub-tahsil) tahsils were taken out of this district.

The reported cases generally show an overall increase in crime. All this may be attributed to increase in population and free and easy registration of cases. The police on the other hand also became more vigilant in detecting crime under local and special laws.

The details and incidence of different crimes are detailed in the following pages.

**Murder.**—Some of the motives for the offence of murder in the district, as elsewhere, include illicit sexual relations, domestic quarrels, land disputes, lure of property, canal water disputes and personal enmity. The crime is mainly confined to rural areas and is common among the Jats and Jat Sikhs as their revengeful nature acknowledges no limit. The incidence of murder in the district from 1955 onward is illustrated in the following table :—

Year	Incidence of Murder
1955	26
1960	22
1965	18
1970	23
1975	20
1976	21
1977	20
1978	24

**Culpable homicide not amounting to murder.**—The commission of crime falling under the exceptions to general rule of murder in the Indian Penal Code depends upon sudden outburst of violence caused by grave and sudden provocation. The motives behind the commission of this crime are almost the same as mentioned in the case of murder. The crime is prevalent in the rural areas where the temperamentally aggressive and vindictive Jats, Jat Sikhs, Rajputs, Gujjars and Sainis resort to the commission of this kind of crime.

The following figures show year-wise incidence of crime from the year 1965 to 1978 :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Culpable Homicide</u>
1965	5
1970	6
1975	6
1976	4
1977	9
1978	8

**Dacoity.**—The following figures show the incidence of crime for the years 1947 to 1978 :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dacoity</u>
1947	36
1948	19
1949	19
1950	11
1951	8
1952	3
1953	3
1954	2
1955	5
1956	—
1957	2
1958	—
1959	—
1972	—
1973	—
1974	—
1975	2
1976	2
1977	—
1978	5



There were 36 cases of dacoity in the district in 1947 resulting from chaotic conditions in the wake of the Partition. There was a declining trend in the incidence of crime in the subsequent years and after 1952, it has become rare. This has been due to the liquidation of gangs of notorious dacoits by the specially appointed anti-dacoity police staff. The issue of gun licences to respectable citizens and the measures to recover illicit fire-arms have also helped in curtailing the commission of this heinous crime.

**Robbery.**—The following table shows year-wise incidence of crime from 1949 to 1978 :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1949	36
1950	20
1955	28
1956	18
1960	7
1965	1
1970	3
1971	4
1972	3
1973	6
1974	1
1975	4
1976	5
1977	4
1978	8

The incidence of this crime was too high in the years 1949 to 1956. With extensive measures adopted by way of patrolling and other preventive measures by the district police the crime declined considerably. The downward trend, evident in 1960, continued in the following years.

**Burglary.**—The following figures indicate the incidence of burglary in the district from 1948 to 1978 :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases Reported</u>
1948	534
1950	419
1955	495
1960	373
1965	310
1970	172
1975	158
1976	179
1977	286
1978	321

Despite manifold handicaps, considerable improvement was brought about by vigilant patrolling, rounding up a large number of hitherto untraced criminals, efficient working of the district central intelligence agency and effective action under Sections 109 and 110 of Criminal Procedure Code. The highest incidence of burglary was reported during the year 1948. The subsequent years up to 1975 started showing a downward trend in the incidence of crime.

The proportion of untraced burglary cases is no doubt high but certain factors, partly inherent in the crime and partly stemming from the ignorance of the people, seriously hamper successful investigation. Burglars are usually active during the summer dark nights when the people sleep outside in the open.

**Rioting.**—Riots generally occur over land disputes or personal enmity usually among the rural people. This crime had decreased considerably and 10 cases were reported in 1966, 10 in 1976, 2 in 1977 and 11 in 1978.

**Theft.**—The following table gives the incidence of theft during 1948 to 1978:—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases Reported</u>
1948	916
1949	732
1950	657
1955	580
1960	555
1964	803
1965	852
1970	344
1975	285
1976	223
1977	438
1978	570

The above figures show that a large number of thefts were committed during 1948. The factors responsible were the Partition in 1947 and consequent immigration and economic misery of the displaced persons. After 1948, the offence declined steadily but the upward trend started again in 1964 and 1965.

A large proportion of the theft cases is usually of minor nature involving small amounts of stolen property.

**Cattle Theft.**—Cattle theft has been recorded as the characteristic crime of the district. The following table shows the incidence of this crime during 1948 to 1978:—

<u>Year</u>		<u>Cases</u>
1948	..	101
1950	..	91
1955	..	50
1960	..	57
1965	..	38
1970	..	28
1975	..	10
1976	..	6
1977	..	17
1978	..	15

**Abduction and Kidnapping.**—The incidence of these crimes is shown in the following table :—

<u>Year</u>		<u>Cases</u>
1966	..	40
1967	..	29
1968	..	31
1969	..	31
1970	..	24
1971	..	21
1972	..	24
1973	..	23
1974	..	20
1975	..	13
1976	..	18
1977	..	29
1978	..	19

The reported cases of abduction and kidnapping were isolated in character and not the work of any organised gang. Generally, these cases are the result of love affairs, the abducted women being consenting parties.



**Cheating.**—This offence is not common. The desire to become rich without putting any labour is the motivation behind this crime. Generally, the cheats are always on the look-out for persons of credulous nature whose minds are worked upon with rosy assurances and under that spell they are made to part with cash and property. Unemployment leads unscrupulous persons to cheating in various forms. The following figures show the incidence of crime from 1949 to 1978:—

Year	Cases
1949	41
1950	33
1955	56
1960	25
1965	35
1970	26
1975	40
1976	22
1977	37
1978	48

**Offences against local and special laws.**—These offences comprise cases of public nuisance and those covered under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 (including illicit distillation), the Opium Act, 1878, Public Gambling Act, 1867, the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Indian Railways Act, 1890, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1955 and the Defence of India Rules. The table given below gives data about the cases reported under some of these Acts from 1948 onwards :

Year	No. of Cases Reported				
	Opium Act	Arms Act	Excise Act	Gambling Act	Essential Commodities Act
1948	61	113	485	22	—
1950	54	101	476	71	—
1955	163	47	292	153	—
1960	318	54	291	217	45
1965	475	22	808	540	76
1970	435	18	756	363	21
1975	588	57	957	355	141
1976	641	67	1,003	385	46
1977	570	53	846	328	27
1978	450	41	533	406	7

**Road Traffic and Transport.**—Apart from the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, road traffic is regulated by various other Acts. There has been a general increase in the number of cases with minor fluctuations. The following figures show the number of cases registered under different Acts from 1948 to 1978 :—

<u>Year</u>		<u>Cases</u>
1948	..	1,073
1950	..	1,862
1955	..	2,458
1960	..	8,017
1965	..	5,622
1970	..	8,604
1975	..	15,369
1976	..	29,991
1977	..	6,943
1978	..	1,646

The above data show the fast pace at which these offences are increasing. This is due to the increase in the number of motor vehicles and other means of transport plying on the roads. This is responsible for the increase in the number of accidents as revealed by the following figures in the corresponding years :—

<u>Year</u>		<u>Cases</u>
1948	..	49
1950	..	48
1955	..	84
1960	..	130
1965	..	181
1970	..	134
1975	..	117
1976	..	109
1977	..	154
1978	..	185



## POLICE

The establishment of the police as an agency to enforce the law and order in the district is perhaps as old as the Police Act, 1861. In 1883, the police force in the Ambala district was controlled by a District Superintendent. The district was in the Ambala Police Circle under the control of Deputy Inspector General of Police at Ambala. The police stations and police outposts were distributed as follows :—

<u>Tahsil</u>	<u>Police Stations</u>	<u>Police Outposts</u>
Ambala	.. Ambala City Mullana	
Narayangarh	.. Narayangarh Sadhaura Garhi	Morni Patwi
Jagadhri	.. Jagadhri Bilaspur Chhappar	

There was a cattle-pound at each police station and also at the outpost of Patwi, subordinate to the police station, Narayangarh.<sup>1</sup> In 1892, the district was transferred to the control of the eastern police circle, Lahore.<sup>2</sup>

In 1923-24, there were following police stations and outposts functioning in the district<sup>3</sup> :—

<u>Tahsil</u>	<u>Thana</u>	<u>Outpost</u>
1. Ambala	.. Ambala City, Ambala Sadar, Ambala Cantonment and Mullana	
2. Narayangarh	.. Narayangarh, Sadhaura, Raipur	Patwi
3. Jagadhri	.. Bilaspur, Jagadhri, Chhappar	
4. Kalka	.. (It was in Kharar tahsil which was a part of the Ambala district)	

1. *Ambala District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, pp. 58-59.

2. *Ibid*, 1892-93, p. 98. (Lahore is now in Pakistan.)

3. *Ibid*, 1923-24, p. 117.

Pinjore police station was merged in this district in 1959 and Yamunanagar was made an independent police station in 1960.

At present (1978), the police administration in the district is under the Superintendent of Police, who next to Deputy Commissioner, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by three Deputy Superintendents of Police posted at Jagadhri, Ambala and Narayangarh. He maintains law and order through crime investigation agency (C.I.A.) and 16 police stations and 27 police posts and a flying squad in the district. The Superintendent of Police functions under the administrative control of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ambala Range, Ambala. The tahsilwise names of police stations and police posts are given below :

Tahsil	Number of Police Station	Name of Police Station	Number and Names of Police Posts Attached to each Police Station
Ambala	4	Ambala City	6 Baldev Nagar Model Town Anaj Mandi Kalal Majri Khattarwala Chuhar Majri
		Ambala Cantonment	7 Mahesh Nagar, Parao, B.L. Bazar, B.C. Bazar, Risala, Patel Park,, B.A. Bazar
		Ambala Sadar	1 Naggal
		Mullana	1 Barara
Jagadhri	6	Jagadhri	2 Jagadhri City Buria City
		Yamunanagar City	2 Farakhpur Tilaknagar
		Yamunanagar Sadar	
		Chhappar	
		Chhachhrauli	1 Chhachhrauli City
		Bilaspur	

Tahsil	Number of Police Stations	Name of Police Stations	Number and Name of Police Post Attached to each Police Station
Kalka	3	Kalka Pinjore Chandi Mandir	1 Kalka City 2 Surajpur Yadvindra Gardens 1 Panchkula
Narayangarh	3	Narayangarh Sadhaura Raipur Rani	2 Patwi Shahazadpur City 1 Sadhaura City
	16		27

The strength of the police force in the district during 1974 to 1978 is given below :

Designation	Strength				
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Superintendents of Police	1	1	1	1	1
Dy. Superintendents of Police	2	2	3	3	3
Inspectors	9	9	9	9	9
Sub-Inspectors	35	34	34	34	34
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	65	65	65	65	65
Head Constables	192	219	219	219	219
Constables	1,297	1,286	1,286	1,203	1,209

The civil police is detailed for duty at the police stations. Each of the station is under the charge of a police officer, known as Station House Officer, generally in the rank of Sub-Inspector assisted by one or more second officer, a Head Constable, a Moharrir or Clerk-Constable and a number of Constables depending upon the load of work. The Station House Officers of the police stations, Yamunanagar (City) and Ambala Cantonment are in the rank of Inspectors. The Station House Officer maintains law and order and investigates offences occurring within his jurisdiction.



The district armed reserves are kept in the Police Lines, Ambala for utilisation during exigency that may arise in connection with the maintenance of law and order. However, the Haryana Armed Police contingents are also deployed for the protection of vulnerable points in the district.

The railway police which functions as a separate organisation is not allotted to any district as such. The circles of the railway police are formed according to sections of the railway lines and they are concerned with the prevention, detection and control of crimes committed in railway trains and within the railway premises. There are two railway police stations located at Ambala Cantonment and Kalka. Besides, there is a railway police outpost at Jagadhri attached with railway police station, Ambala Cantonment. The railway police functions under the Deputy Inspector General of Railway Police, Ambala Cantonment.

The prosecuting staff previously under the charge of the Superintendent of Police has been withdrawn and has been placed under the overall charge of the Director of Prosecution, Haryana, Chandigarh since April 1, 1974. A District Attorney looks after the prosecution work in the district. He is assisted by one Deputy District Attorney, and an Assistant District Attorney.

**Police Radio Organisation.**—For receiving and transmitting messages, wireless sets have been provided at all the police stations in the district. In the maintenance of law and order or during emergencies the system plays a vital role.

**Home Guards.**—The office of the Home Guards which was set up in the district in 1960, is under the overall charge of the District Commandant, Home Guards, Ambala. He is responsible for raising, training and equipping of Home Guards in the district. He is assisted by the Commander, Training Centre, Home Guards, Ambala ; the Company Commander, Company No. 2, Ambala City ; the Platoon Commander, Company No. 1 Ambala Cantonment; the Platoon Commander, Company No. 7, Yamunanagar ; the Platoon Commander, Company No. 10, Jagadhri and the Platoon Commander, Company No. 12, Kalka.

In 1977-78, there were 8 rural companies having 800 volunteers at 8 blocks and 13 urban companies having 1,313 volunteers located at Ambala City (5), Ambala Cantonment (1), Yamunanagar (3), Jagadhri (2), Kalka (1) and Pinjore (1). The company at Pinjore is under the charge of the Platoon Commander, Kalka.

**Village Police.**—For over a century, some of the police functions at village level in the district were performed by Zaildars, Sufedposhes and Chowkidars. The institution of chowkidar alone has survived, the other offices having been abolished after Independence. The chowkidars

report births and deaths in a police station fortnightly, give information of crimes, keep surveillance over bad characters residing in the village and report their movements. Besides attending to watch and ward duties, they generally assist the public officers on tour. The chowkidar is paid by the government.

Previously *Thikar* chowkidars were selected by lot from among the residents of a village ; those unwilling to serve were obliged to pay the cost of a substitute. These chowkidars were provided only during emergencies. The system of *thikri pehra* is now dying although the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 has authorised panchayats to raise their own voluntary force for the purpose.

#### JAILS

There is only one Central Jail in the district.

**Central Jail, Ambala.**—A district jail was established at Ambala in 1872 with accommodation for 797 prisoners. This was one of the prisons of the province (Punjab) in which prisoners for transportation to the Andamans were collected. In 1918, the jail was temporarily reduced to the status of a sub-jail on account of the serious and growing deficiency of water. After 1947, the jail was upgraded as a Central Jail.

It is located on the national highway in the civil lines area of the Ambala City. The jail campus covers an area of 40 acres only although an additional area of 70 acres of agricultural land is attached to it. The jail is under the overall charge of a Superintendent, Jails who is assisted by two Deputy Superintendents, one Senior Assistant Superintendent and eight Assistant Superintendents. The jail houses an office of the Haryana Prison Department for looking after the recruitments and establishment of Warders of Haryana jails.

The authorised accommodation of the jail is 986 prisoners. Those kept in this jail include prisoners sentenced for life, condemned to death, habitual prisoners and even female prisoners. It also accommodates undertrials of Ambala district and serves as a judicial lock-up.

The jail has a 72-bedded hospital and is provided with its own operation theatre. It has a tuberculosis section where all T.B. patients of Haryana jails are brought for treatment. The hospital staff consists of 2 Medical Officers, 2 Pharmacists and 1 Laboratory Assistant.

The industrial section employing the labour of prison manufactures furniture including steel furniture, smithy articles, buckets, steel trunks and steel chairs ; chucks, *darris*, *niwar*, brooms and cloth for dusters, *bustas*, hospital



clothings, prisoners' clothings and blankets. There is a tailoring and tent-making section also. The tents made in this jail are supplied to different government departments. The *darris* of the Ambala Central Jail have earned a great name for good quality and are very popular. There is also a spinning and embroidery section for female prisoners. The jail has a poultry farm with a strength of 2,000 egg layers. Nearly 350 lifers work regularly in the industrial section. The annual production of the jail industries during the last 5 years is given in the following table :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Annual Production</u>
	(Rs)
1973-74	11,22,316
1974-75	12,54,541
1975-76	14,63,458
1976-77	21,12,568
1977-78	13,98,166

The prisoners are also imparted industrial training in different trades to rehabilitate them after their release.

The accent of modern prison system is basically the reformation and reclamation of a prisoner as a useful member of society. Consequently, there is a significant change in outlook towards the welfare of prisoners and a number of facilities are now afforded to them. In pursuance of jail reforms committee's recommendations, not only the facilities of interviews with their relatives and the facilities of writing to them have been introduced but also they have been provided with better clothing and utensils. A whole-time welfare officer has been appointed in this jail, who arranges educational as well as recreational activities, cinema shows and supervises canteen inside the prison which is entirely run by the prisoners themselves. The prisoners are also allowed to supplement their food and toilet requirements at the time of interviews by their relatives as well as from the jail canteen. The parole and furlough leave introduced by the government has helped the prisoners in keeping a live link with their families, by actually sharing their joys and sorrows together. The District Crime Society also provides assistance to the needy prisoners. The visits of non-official visitors create confidence in the prisoners and they can refer their grievances to them and seek redress.

**Police and judicial lock-ups.**—An accused person is confined to a police lock-up when in police custody, to a judicial lock-up during trial and to a jail after conviction. Each of the police stations in the district is provided with a police lock-up. There is only one judicial lock-up in the district at Jagadhri. It has accommodation for 4 undertrials.

#### JUSTICE

There are three kinds of courts existing in the district viz. civil, criminal and revenue.



### Civil and Criminal Courts

In the early 19th century, the civil suits were tried by Amins who adjudged according to the personal law of the parties or according to the statutes. It was in the beginning of the present century that the civil judicial work was placed under the supervision of a District and Sessions Judge who had subordinate judges under him. Besides, a few honorary magistrates also exercised civil powers.<sup>1</sup>

The criminal justice towards the later part of the 19th century was looked after by Munsiffs in the district, two posted at Ambala and one at Jagadhri. But in the 20th century the criminal justice was placed under the control of the Sessions Judge of the Ambala Sessions Division. He was assisted by a District Magistrate and other officers vested with magisterial powers. Besides it, honorary magistrates exercised criminal jurisdiction within specified areas inside the Sessions division.

After the Independence, the District Magistrate and other executive officers continued to function as judicial officers till the Punjab Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act, 1964 was enforced in October, 1964. Under this Act, the judicial magistrates came under the direct control of High Court.

At present (1978) the civil and criminal justice in the district is under the overall control of the District and Sessions Judge, Ambala. He is assisted by 2 Additional District and Sessions Judges, both at Ambala. At the headquarters, there is one Senior Sub-Judge-cum-Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate and one Chief Judicial Magistrate. Besides, there are three courts of Sub-Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates at Ambala City, two courts of Sub-Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates at Ambala Cantonment and three courts of Sub-Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates at Jagadhri.

The jurisdiction, functions and powers of the Judges and Magistrates in the district are detailed below :

Name and Place of the Court	Jurisdiction	Powers
District and Sessions Judge, Ambala	(i) Ambala Sessions Division	District Judge, Sessions Judge Tribunal under
	(ii) Haryana in respect of appeals in special police establishment cases	Minimum Wages Act, Appellate Authority under Rent Control Act

1. *Ambala District Gazetteer, 1923-24, pp. 103-104.*

Besides, there is a court of special railway magistrate at Ambala Cantonment for the whole of Haryana state. He is under the administrative control of Sessions Judge, Ambala. He also deals with the cases instituted by the special police establishment for whole of the Haryana state.

After the passing of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, some of the judicial functions of the civil, criminal and revenue courts have been assigned to the panchayats. In matters falling under the exclusive jurisdiction of the panchayats, their cognizance by other courts is barred. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ambala functions as revisional authority of panchayat decisions. He is authorised by law to delegate these powers to *Illaq* Magistrate.

#### **Revenue Courts**

The Collector is the highest revenue judicial authority in the district and an appeal or revision against his orders lies to the Divisional Commissioner and against the orders of the Divisional Commissioner an appeal or revision lies to the Financial Commissioner. The government has invested the Deputy Commissioner with the powers of Collector. The Sub-Division Officers (civil), General Assistant, the Assistant Commissioner/Extra Assistant Commissioner are Assistant Collector Grade I. The Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars working in different tahsils of the district also function as Assistant Collectors Grade II. However, the Tahsildars assume powers of an Assistant Collector Grade I in the partition cases. The Sub-Divisional Officers (civil) are also delegated the powers of Collector under certain Acts.

#### **Official Receiver**

The Official Receiver is appointed by the Haryana Government for a period of 5 years. There is one Official Receiver in Ambala district. He is holding charge of the estates of insolvents declared insolvent by the Senior Sub-Judge, Ambala.

#### **Oath Commissioner**

The Oath Commissioners are appointed by the High Court for a period of two years in the first instance. There are 54 Oath Commissioners in the district. Of these, 26 are functioning at Ambala, 9 at Ambala Cantonment, 16 at Jagadhri, 1 at Kalka and 2 at Narayangarh.

#### **Bar Association**

There are three bar associations one each at Ambala, Jagadhri and Narayangarh founded in 1896, 1920 and 1934, respectively. The total strength of these bar associations in 1978 was nearly 291.

The bar associations maintain a library and an office. Their function is to help litigants to get justice and to maintain the dignity of the legal profession.