

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Law and Order

Incidence of crime.- By and large, the people of the district have been law-abiding and serious crimes like murder and dacoity were rare during the British rule. However, cattle stealing was the characteristic crime in the areas now comprising Kurukshetra district during the beginning of the present century. Such thefts were performed in a very systematic manner, the animals being rapidly transferred to great distances and to other districts through a chain of accomplices. The aggrieved party generally appealed to a self-constituted Panchayat, or a Committee of the leading men in a village or tract in order to secure the return of his animal, instead of reporting the matter to the Police. This practice naturally rendered the crime extremely difficult to handle.¹

Bilochi tribe which was a registered criminal tribe lived in the areas of the present district. But the members of this tribe did not commit much crime in the district but went to other districts, greatly utilizing the railways in their mission. They were chiefly addicted to burglary and serious non-bailable offences.² Tagus, members of another registered criminal tribe, though not engaged in serious crime, were addicted to petty thefts. They were past masters in the art of disguise and frequented various fairs held in the district and other places for pickpocketing.³

The communal disturbance in the wake of the partition in 1947 diminished the respect for decency, morality and the law. The acute economic depression further aggravated lawlessness and there was sudden rise in crime. The work of the Police force was rendered difficult as a result of political changes and abolition of non-official agencies like Honorary Magistrates. *Zaildars*, *Sufedposhes* who were strong pillars of administration and provided valuable support to the Police. It took about a few years for conditions to become normal.

¹ Karnal District Gazetteer, 1918, p.202.

² Ambala District Gazetteer, 1883-84, p.59.

³ Karnal District Gazetteer, 1918, p.143.

There has been gradual increase in the number of cases reported of cognizable offences in the district since 1910. The number of cases reported which were 120 in 1910, 162 in 1930, 668 in 1950, to 706 in 1970, 1,338 in 1980 and rose to 2,284 in 2000. There was a sharp increase between 2002 to 2004 as the number increased from 2,647 in 2002. An estimate of the crime position obtaining in the district from 1995 onwards may be held from the data given below about the cases of cognizable offence:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	2,239	195	391
1996	3,369	229	423
1997	6,758	285	769
1998	3,743	348	1,114
1999	2,468	414	1,285
2000	2,284	285	1,268
2001	2,417	352	721
2002	2,647	446	1,169
2003	2,620	621	1,964
2004	2,905	1,242	2,574

The crime situation has been changing in the district over the period. Though it is difficult to record any special reason, however, change in tradition, social values, increasing materialistic outlook among the people and explosive rise in population are responsible to a large extent for increasing criminal tendencies in the district.

The disturbed conditions prevailing on the eve of partition in 1947 caused great annihilation and the law and order situation at that time become virtually unmanageable. Large number of Hindu and Sikh displaced persons took refuge in a big refugee camp set-up at Kurukshetra in 1947. Having lost almost everything on account of the partition, they were in a desperate mood and some of them also indulged in crime. The situation become normal after a few years.

Lakhs of people visit Kurukshetra and Pehowa particularly during religious fairs. This put extra burden on law and order machinery as generally anti-social elements also sneak alongwith pilgrims.

The Excise Act, The Arms Act and the Police Act also add to the normal incidents of crime under local and special laws. To meet the situation and to maintain peace and tranquility in the district, the Police have to be vigilant in detecting cases under these Acts.

The Cases under Excise Act were just negligible in the pre-independence period but such cases registered sharp increase after independence. The number of cases reported rose from barely 13 in 1940 to 131 in 1951. The highest number of cases reported were 909 in 1980, 683 in 1995, 1,607 in 1996 and their number touched 4,843 in 1997. The number of cases reported in 2004 was 381.

Some anti-social elements under Pehowa and Ismailabad Police Stations are engaged in illicit distillation. The increase may also be attributed to increase in population and sustained efforts of the Police to detect and curb this evil. Increase in number of liquor vends has also contributed to the rise in the number of cases reported under this Act. The following data shows the number of such cases in the district since 1995:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	683	79	149
1996	1,607	73	145
1997	4,843	85	292
1998	1,500	123	496
1999	475	197	699
2000	440	57	644
2001	372	131	305
2002	430	141	514
2003	437	196	942
2004	381	56	182

The number of cases reported under the Arms Act has been considerably increased over the years. The number of such cases which were just 3 in 1930 in the areas now comprising the district rose to 16 in 1950, 34 in 1970, 38 in 1980 and 43 in 1990. However, the increase is not alarming when compared with cases reported under The Excise Act. The following table shows the number of such cases in the district since 1995:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	33	9	12
1996	32	9	17
1997	19	4	26
1998	21	6	42
1999	11	8	29
2000	11	4	16
2001	13	4	11
2002	74	14	23
2003	45	15	26
2004	17	19	35

Murder.- Murder is not very common in the District. Some of the motives for the offence in the district include land disputes, illicit relations, domestic quarrels, family feuds and the lure for property. Such type of crimes are mainly confined to rural areas. The incidence of murder in the district has shown upward trend since 1910. The number of murder cases reported in 1910 was 1 in the areas now comprising the district. It rose to 6 in 1940, 7 in 1950 declined to 6 in 1970, rose to 13 in 1980, 14 in 1990 and 31 in 2002. Taking into account the number of murder cases reported, the increase is just negligible. The incidence of murder in the district from 1995 onwards is shown in the following table:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	26	10	14
1996	13	6	8
1997	16	8	8
1998	29	9	7
1999	21	5	7
2000	18	7	8
2001	20	3	7
2002	31	8	17
2003	30	8	16
2004	26	9	19

The highest number of cases of murder in the district was reported in 2002.

Culpable Homicide not Amounting to Murder.- The motives for this type of crime are similar as in the case of murder. It is not pre-determined and it is committed in a stage of rage. The following figures show the incidence of this crime from 1995 to 2004 in the district:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	3	1	2
1996	4	1	3
1997	2	1	2
1998	2	2	2
1999	-	-	5
2000	1	-	-
2001	4	1	7
2002	4	2	4
2003	3	-	2
2004	4	-	3

Dacoity.- This type of crime has rarely occurred in the district. The following figures show the incidence of this crime from 1995 to 2004:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	2	-	-
1996	-	-	-
1997	-	-	-
1998	5	-	-
1999	7	-	-
2000	-	-	-
2001	5	-	-
2002	2	-	-
2003	3	1	2
2004	1	1	-

Robbery.- Robbery has been negligible in the district except for the year 1940 when 10 cases were reported in the areas now comprising Kurukshetra district. Patrolling and other preventive measures adopted by the police have almost eliminated it. The following table shows the incidence of robbery in the district from 1995 to 2004:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	7	-	-
1996	7	-	-
1997	3	-	-
1998	14	-	-
1999	19	-	-
2000	8	-	-
2001	13	1	-
2002	11	-	2
2003	15	2	10
2004	13	6	4

Burglary.- The partition and consequent immigration of people from West Punjab presented unprecedented problems. The deteriorated economic situation and unsettled conditions then prevailing adversely affected the morale of the people. Burglary was committed by some of the people who have exhausted their resources and had no means of livelihood. The criminal elements took full advantage of unsettled conditions. Despite bottlenecks, considerable improvement was brought about by the effective working of the Police in the district. The incidence of burglary showed downward trend thereafter. It was on the high side again in 1980 after which the downward trend started.

The following table shows the incidence of burglary in the district from 1995 to 2004:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	135	15	15
1996	128	18	15
1997	92	18	24
1998	148	17	23
1999	130	20	25
2000	138	26	26
2001	128	21	23
2002	181	27	38
2003	146	26	37
2004	208	48	53

Cattle Theft.- The number of cattle theft is not large and the crime does not show any remarkable increase after partition. In 1999, the highest number of cases were reported under this category.

Cheating.- The following table shows the incidence of cheating in the district from 1995 to 2004:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	34	-	4
1996	17	1	4
1997	14	1	15
1998	106	1	20
1999	76	2	24
2000	81	-	31
2001	15	6	19
2002	123	2	24
2003	135	4	59
2004	168	19	166

This offence is not common. In 2004, the highest number of cases were reported in this category.

Rioting.- No case of rioting was reported from 1995 to 2004.

Abduction and Kidnapping.- The incidence of kidnapping in the district from 1995 to 2004 is shown in the table below:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	13	-	4
1996	11	-	1
1997	11	-	8
1998	23	-	6
1999	18	-	-
2000	16	-	-
2001	14	-	-
2002	18	-	-
2003	11	2	9
2004	11	4	7

The highest number of cases of kidnapping and abduction were reported in 1998 in the district. The reported cases were isolated in character and not the handiwork of any organized gang. Generally, these cases are the result of love affairs and abducted women being consenting parties. Lack of education and persecution of women among some classes are other factors responsible for it.

Sex Crime (Rape).- The following table shows incidence of rape in the district from 1995 to 2004:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	18	2	5
1996	20	7	4
1997	14	1	10
1998	27	-	6
1999	21	-	10
2000	30	-	3
2001	31	1	4
2002	17	-	-
2003	11	4	3
2004	21	7	12

In 2001, the highest number of cases of sex crime was reported in the district.

Juvenile Delinquency.-The incidence of this crime in the district from 1995 to 2004 is shown in the table below:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	-	-	-
1996	-	-	-
1997	29	-	6
1998	14	-	7
1999	16	-	2
2000	-	-	-
2001	4	-	-
2002	11	-	-
2003	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-

Criminal tendencies in Juvenile offenders may be attributed to the loose control of parents and economic stress. Juveniles, who are of immature mind, find an easy solution for their needs in resorting to thefts and other minor crimes. Illiteracy is another cause.

The crime committed by children was non-existent in the district upto 2002 when the highest number of cases were reported in this very year.

Gambling.- The table given below shows the incidence of gambling in the district from 1995 to 2004.

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	28	23	19
1996	44	56	8
1997	47	66	18
1998	53	61	23
1999	28	57	18
2000	62	53	8
2001	102	72	6
2002	126	98	14
2003	184	125	16
2004	152	148	22

Gambling was not much known to the people of this district till independence. The gradually increasing trend towards gambling may be attributed to the over-increasing population and on the other hand sustained efforts of police to detect and curb the practice.

Smuggling of Foodgrains.- The incidence of this offence in the district from 1995 to 2004 is shown in table given below:-

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	6	-	-
1996	10	-	-
1997	6	-	-
1998	2	-	-
1999	11	-	-
2000	4	-	-
2001	6	-	-
2002	-	-	-
2003	3	3	2
2004	5	4	2

Statistics under this Head mostly include figures of cases detected for smuggling of various kinds of foodgrains punishable under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955. The traders smuggle wheat into the adjoining state of Punjab as it fetches higher prices.

Traffic Offences.-Apart from the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, road traffic is regulated by various other Acts. The following table shows the number of cases challaned and convicted from 1995 to 2004.

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Convicted	Cases Acquitted
1995	474	10	50
1996	489	14	59
1997	449	31	136
1998	514	40	210
1999	561	47	180
2000	523	47	188
2001	518	39	156
2002	451	51	211
2003	4596	4596	-
2004	5613	5613	-

The increase in the traffic offences in 2003 and thereafter can be attributed to increase in the number of motor vehicles and other means of transport in the district. There has also been increase in the number of motor vehicle accidents due to non-observance of traffic Rules.

Police

In the beginning of the present century, areas now comprising Kurukshetra district formed part of Karnal district. The police force employed in the district was controlled by the District Superintendent of Police, Karnal who was immediately under the District Magistrate. In 1904, the areas now comprising the present district had 6 police stations located at Pehowa, City Thanesar, Thaska Miranji, Shahabad, Ladwa and Sanghaur. Each police station was headed by the Deputy Inspector. The total police force in 9 police stations comprised 6 Deputy Superintendents, 19 mounted constables and 67 foot constables.¹ There was no change in the number of police stations between 1904 and 1919. In 1918, there were 6 police stations. Besides Municipalities of Shahabad, Thanesar and Ladwa maintained a Chowkidar system which was under police control. Thanesar was one of the most difficult police stations to manage as it was a religious place and a big fair was held here. On such occasions, large number of special police was posted in the fair area. As on March 31, 1932, six police stations viz. Pehowa, City, Thanesar, Shahabad, Ladwa, Thaska Miranji and Sanghaur covered a population of 35,649, 22,618, 46,555, 20,758, 21,677 and 19,970 respectively.²

The growth of urban areas, the after-effects of World War-I, the economic and political unrest, the growth of the nationalist movement, etc. posed serious problems in the maintenance of public order and revealed considerable deficiencies in police strength. Consequently, the Punjab Provincial Police Committee headed by Lumsden was appointed in November, 1925. The Committee thoroughly studied the whole situation and submitted its report in 1926. As a result of recommendations of this Committee, various changes took place in the police set up.

Independence brought increased duties for the police force. While responsibilities increased, the police force was not syste-

¹ Karnal District Gazetteer, Statistical Tables, 1904. Table 47.

² Karnal District Gazetteer, 1918, pp.200-201.

matically strengthened not were its salaries and conditions of work improved. Changes were made on *ad hoc* need basis. However, in 1961 the Punjab Government constituted the Punjab Police Commission under the Chairmanship of Sh. Mehar Chand Mahajan, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to enquire into the report on the role of the police in the context of democratic right consistent with the paramount security of the State, measures for controlling meetings demonstrations and mobs, police public co-operation, steps improving the work of investigation and detection, staff position, emoluments and conditions of service, relations of the police with magistracy, mutual obligations of the police and Panchayats etc. The recommendations of the police commission were made in May, 1962.

Consequently upon the reorganisation of the Punjab State, the Haryana State came into existence on November, 1966. The Kurukshetra district was formed as a new district on 23rd January, 1973. As a result of this development the office of the superintendent of police was set up at Kurukshetra in 1989. Kaithal was taken out of Kurukshetra and made a separate district.

Organisation of Police

The police administration in the present district is under the overall charge of superintendent of police, who next to the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The Superintendent of police is assisted by one Additional Superintendent of police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police. He, however, functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ambala Range.

On March 31, 2004 the strength of the police force in the district was as follow:-

Designation	Strength
Superintendent of Police	1
Dy. Superintendents of Police	2
Inspectors	7
Sub Inspectors	43
Assistant Sub Inspectors	120
Head Constables	166
Constables	816
Total:	1155

As on March 31, 2004 there were 9 police stations and 10 police posts in the district at the following places:-

Police Stations	Police Posts
City Thanesar	Sector 7, Kurukshetra
Sadar Thanesar	Civil Lines, Kurukshetra
Shahabad	Krishna Gate, Kurukshetra
Ladwa	City Shahbad
Babain	HUDA Shahabad
Jhansa	City Pehowa
Ismailabad	Gumthla
Pehowa	3 rd Gate, K.U.
Kurukshetra University.	Jyotisar Brham Sarover.

The Police is detained for duty at Police Stations and police out-posts. Each of the police stations is under the charge of a police officer (Insp/S.1) known as Station House officer. He is assisted by one or more second officers, a head constable, a *Moharrir* or clerk constable and a number of constables depending upon the work load. The Station House Officer maintains law and order and investigates offences committed within his jurisdiction.

The district armed reserves are kept in the police lines at Kurukshetra for utilization during riots or troubles which may arise in connection with maintenance of law and order. However, the Haryana Armed Police contingents are also for the protection of vulnerable points such as Markanda bridge, Banks and also to cover exigency arising out of maintenance of law and order.

The railway police is not allotted to any district in particular but is a part of a separate State Organization functioning under the Superintendent of Police, Railways, Ambala Cantt. The Circles of Railway Police are formed according to sections of the railway lines and they are concerned with the prevention, detention and control of crimes committed in trains, on railway tracks and within the railway premises.

There are 2 railway posts located in this district which function under the Railway Police Station, Karnal whose jurisdiction extends to the railway premises within the territorial jurisdiction of Kurukshetra district. The staff consists of one Assistant Sub Inspector, one Head Constable and 4 Constables. They perform routine duties of maintaining law and order and investigation of cases of minor nature. The major crimes are, however, handled by the police staff of Railway Station, Karnal.

After the partition in 1947, the Crime Branch of the C.I.D. functioned under very difficult and abnormal circumstances. The history sheets and personal files of hardened criminals were received from Lahore after sometime. In the intervening period, such migrated criminals mingled with the general population and operated freely. However, with sustained and careful action, the Crime Branch was able to evolve suitable measures of supervision over these criminals and curbed their criminal activities. The availability of a large number of unlicensed weapons in the country in 1948 also created a grave law and order problem. The Crime Branch helped the district police specially in the recovery of illicit arms.

Office Radio Organization.- For receiving and transmitting messages, wireless sets have been provided in all police stations and police posts of the district. These have a direct link with the district control room set up at Kurukshetra. Mobile sets have also been provided in the jeeps of all Police Officers, District Inspector, Inspector C.I.A. and all S.H.Os in the district to remain in touch with headquarters in case they are out in their jurisdiction and for use in emergency. Many walkie-talkie sets have also been provided for use at night by the officials on night patrolling.

Village Police.- For over a century, a few of the police functions at village level in the area were performed by *Zaildars*, *Sufaid-poshes*, *Chowkidars* and *Inamkhores*. Barring *Chowkidar*, all other institutions were abolished in 1948. The *Chowkidars* report birth and death to the police station. They give fortnightly information of crime, keep surveillance over the bad characters residing in the villages and report their movements besides attending to watch and ward duties. They generally assist the civil officers when they happen to be in their respective villages on official tour. In the past, the village *Chowkidar*

used to receive as his remuneration or share from each cultivator's produce which was reckoned according to the number of hearths. Now they are paid by the Government.

Previously, *Thikar Chowkidars* (who were provided only during epidemic outbreak and emergencies) were selected by a lot from among the residents of a village. Those unwilling to serve were obliged to pay the cost of a substitute. This system, which was a sort of *Sharamadan* aimed at providing safety to the persons and property has now become weak and obsolete and is not of much help in the field of watch and ward. People generally are averse to *thikri pehra*. The Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 has, however, authorized the Panchayats to raise their voluntary force for the purpose.

Jails.-There is only one District Jail at Kurukshetra. It was established in 1995 and is located on the National Highway near the Civil Lines area of the city. The Jail campus covered an area of 16 acres without any agriculture land. The Jail is under the overall charge of Jail Superintendent. He is assisted by one Deputy Superintendent, two Assistant Superintendents, one Sub Assistant Supdt. and a number of Warders who assists the Jail Superintendent to manage the Jail affairs. The authorised accommodation of the Jail is for 332 prisoners (both convicts and undertrials)

Welfare of Prisoners.-The accent of modern prison system is basically the reformation of a prisoner as a useful member of the society. Consequently, there is sufficient 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 facilities of writing to them have been introduced but also they have been supplied with better clothing and utensils. A whole time Welfare Officer has been appointed in this jail, who arranges educational as well as recreational events, cinema shows and supervises canteen inside the prison which is purely run by the prisoners themselves. The prisoners are also allowed to supplement their food and toilet requirements while meeting their relatives as well as from the jail canteen. The parole and furlough leave being given by the Govt. has helped the prisoners in keeping a live link with their families by actually sharing

their joys and sorrows together. The crime society also provides assistance to the needy prisoners.

Justice

Thanesar was a separate district upto 1862. Till then, the Deputy Commissioner, who was the Chief Magistrate, was responsible for civil, criminal and revenue justice in the district. This district was bifurcated in 1862 and the areas were distributed between districts of Karnal and Ambala.

In 1862-63, the then Pipli tehsil which broadly included the areas now comprising Kurukshetra district was a part of Ambala District. The criminal justice in these areas was looked after by a *Munsif* posted at Pipli, whose area of jurisdiction was whole of the Pipli tehsil and *paragana* of Mullana.

By close of the 19th century, these areas became part of Karnal district. As part of the Karnal district, criminal and judicial work of these areas was supervised by the District and Sessions Judge, Karnal.

After independence, the District Magistrate and other Executive Officers continued to function as Judicial Officers till the enactment of Punjab Separation of Judicial and Executive Function Act. Thereafter, the criminal and judicial powers which were exercised by the Magistrates under the control of the District Magistrate, Karnal were shifted to Judicial Magistrates under the District and Sessions Judge, Karnal. The Judicial Magistrates were also vested with the civil and judicial powers and were designated as Judicial Magistrates-cum-Sub Judges or Sub Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrates.

Kurukshetra was formed as a separate district in Jan. 1973 but it continued to fall in the Karnal Sessions Division and the judicial work was supervised by the District and Sessions Judge, Karnal. In 1981, the Sessions Judge, Karnal was assisted by two Additional District and Sessions Judges, one Senior sub Judge, one Chief Judicial Magistrate, and one Sub Judge/Judicial Magistrate, at Kurukshetra.

In June 1983, a separate Sessions Divisions was established at Kurukshetra. The District and Sessions Judge, Kurukshetra was assisted by three Additional District and Sessions Judges at Kurukshetra, one Chief Judicial Magistrate/Sub Judge, one additional

Chief Judicial Magistrate/Senior Sub Judge, and two Sub Judge/Judicial Magistrate at Kurukshetra.

Major changes, in the boundaries of the district took place on November 1, 1989 with the formation of Kaithal district after taking out Kaithal and Guhla Sub Divisions from Kurukshetra district. The Sessions Division, Kurukshetra also includes Kaithal district. In March, 2004, the District and Sessions Judge, Kurukshetra was assisted by four Additional District and Sessions Judges including one Fast Track Court, one Civil Judge (Senior Division) cum-Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Addl. Civil Judge, (Senior Division), Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class - all posted at Kurukshetra and Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Divn.)-cum-Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Pehowa. The District and Sessions Judge, Kurukshetra was also assisted by three Addl. District and Sessions Judges, Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Divn.), Civil Judge (Junior Division)-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class - all posted at Kaithal and Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Guhla.

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

Sr. No.	Name of place of Court	Jurisdiction	Functions	Powers
1.	District and Sessions Judge, Kurukshetra	Kurukshetra Sessions Division	Disposal of all kinds of cases of Civil and Criminal nature arising out of judgments passed by side lower courts in Kurukshetra district in addition to original work triable by the court of Sessions and entrust-ment thereof to the Addl. Distt. & Sessions Judges besides administrative control over the entire subordinate courts at Kurukshetra & Kaithal district and Head of all Class III & IV Govt. employees of all the courts of the Sessions Divisions.	Full powers on appellate side

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|----|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| 2. | Addl. District and Session Judge (I)
Kurukshetra | Kurukshetra District | Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal nature arising out of judgments passed by lower courts in Kurukshetra Distt. In addition to original work. | Full powers on appellate side. |
| 3. | Addl. District and Sessions Judge (II)
Kurukshetra. | Kurukshetra District. | Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal nature arising out of judgments by lower courts in Kurukshetra Distt. In addition to original work. | Full powers on appellate side |
| 4. | Addl. District and Sessions Judge (III)
Distt.
Kurukshetra | Kurukshetra District | Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and Criminal nature arising out of judgments passed by lower courts in Kurukshetra Distt. in addition to original work. | |
| 5. | Addl. District and Sessions Judge (IV)
Distt.
Kurukshetra | Kurukshetra District. | Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal nature arising out of judgements passed by lower courts in Kurukshetra Distt. in addition to original work. | Full powers on appellate side |
| 6. | Addl. District and Sessions Judge
(<i>Adhoc</i>), Fast Track Court,
Kurukshetra | | Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal nature arising out of judgments passed by lower courts in Kurukshetra District in addition to original work. | Full powers on appellate side |
| 7. | Civil Judge (Senior Divn.)-cum-Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate
Kurukshetra. | Kurukshetra Distt. | Disposal of all kinds of cases of Civil and Criminal (except triable by Sessions) and entrustment of cases of civil nature. | Full powers on civil and criminal side except cases under triable by sessions and summary power U/S 260 Cr. P.C. |
| 8. | Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), | Kurukshetra District. | Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal (except triable by Sessions). | Full powers on civil and criminal side except cases under triable |

	Kurukshetra.		by Sessions & power to transfer of criminal cases and summary power U/S 260 Cr.P.C.
9.	Addl. Civil Judge Sr. Divn.-cum-Judicial Magistrate 1 st Class Kurukshetra.	Kurukshetra District.	Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal (except triable by sessions). Full powers on civil and criminal side (except cases triable by Sessions) and summary powers U/S 260 Cr. P.C.
10.	Civil Judge (Junior Divn.) -cum-Judicial Magistrate 1 st Class, Kurukshetra.	Kurukshetra District.	Disposal of all kinds of cases of civil and criminal (except triable by Sessions). Full powers on civil and criminal side (except cases under sessions) and summary power U/S 260 Cr. P.C.

After the passing of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, some of the functions of the civil, criminal and revenue courts were handed over to the Panchayats whereas cases which lie in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Panchayats, their cognizance by other courts is barred. The Chief Judicial Magistrate is empowered to revise their decisions and he, in turn, can delegate these powers to the *Illaq* Magistrate, the Panchayats being elected bodies, however, do not generally consist of persons with an adequate knowledge of law. The usual formalities and procedures are thus conspicuously absent in the trial of cases by a Panchayat.

Revenue Courts

The Collector is the highest revenue judicial authority in the District and an appeal or revision against his orders lies with the Divisional Commissioner and Financial Commissioner, Revenue. The

Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars are Assistant Collectors Grade II but in partition cases, Tehsildar assumes the powers of Assistant Collector Grade II. Deputy Commissioner and Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) are Assistant Collectors Grade-1 but Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) have been delegated the powers of Collectors under certain Acts.

District Attorney

The District Attorney conducts civil and criminal cases in various courts of the district. For civil cases, he is controlled by the Legal Remembrancer, Haryana and for criminal cases by the Director of Prosecution, Haryana. The latter is the administrative head of the District Attorney. In March 2004, the District Attorney Kurukshetra was assisted by 3 Deputy District Attorneys and 7 Asstt. District Attorneys.

Bar Association

Bar Association was formed at Kurukshetra in 1962 with a total membership of 9. In 1983, when Kurukshetra became a full fledged Sessions Division, the strength of the Bar Association has a membership of 215 and in March, 2004, its membership rose to 550. Its main function is to create harmony between the Bench and the Bar. It also renders free legal aid to the needy and helps in maintaining dignity of the legal profession.

Oath Commissioners

The Oath Commissioners are appointed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court for a period of 2 years. There is no sanctioned quota for the appointment of Oath Commissioners because the Advocates having their practice between 2 and 5 years and below the age of 35 years are eligible for appointment as Oath Commissioners. At present, 14 Oath Commissioners are functioning in Kurukshetra's Sessions Division, of these, 6 are functioning at Kurukshetra and 8 at Kaithal.

Notary Public

There are 34 Notary Public in the district. The main functions of the Notary Public are preparation and attestation of affidavits, administration of oath etc. They charge a fee of Rs. 15/- for an attestation of an affidavit and for certifying the authenticity of a documents as original @ Rs. 5 per page subject to a minimum of Rs. 10/.