

# Jails and lockups in the princely state of Patiala

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of my study is to find out what the prison environment was like in the past. What steps were taken for justice? How the prisoners were treated. Law and justice are important for everyone from the beginning of human civilization. So punishment is also part of this and to complete the punishment prisoners have to send to the jails are the important part of law and justice. In the time of British's some changes happened in the jail system. Crimes are also convicted by the jail officials. There are some examples which show the reality of kings of Patiala princely state. Some movement happened because of crime. Today we can see that jails are the business of drugs and some other evils. Someone send to jail for the improvement in their life but today it is not like that. The selected samples from archive, Patiala, central library of Patiala, Dr. Ganda Singh memorial library of Punjabi university Patiala. I was thinking of the condition between the 1857 to 1947 of jails. This is the main reason to choose it, because I want to know the law and justice of that time that's why it's my topic of research the paper will enable them to understand the past out of which the present India jails emerged.

## 1. Introduction

Prison is the place, where accused is kept of confinement, if such prison commits any type of crime, which is punishable under the established law of a particular country. From the historical point of view, **in ancient India** Prison systems were regulated according to Manu Samriti. The forms of punishment were death, mutilation or banishment. During Muslim period, the principal forms of recognized punishment were capital punishment, fines and imprisonment. Quazis and magistrates head a right to send any one to prison for the offence, which he may not have even committed. The Muslim rulers used forts as prisons. When prisoners were to be taken to prisons, they were usually loaded with iron shackles on their feet. Prisoners were treated like animals during the period of punishment.

During the period of East India Company, the prisons were in terrible conditions. A prison committee appointed in 1836 by government of India suggested reformatory measures for future prison administration. The enactment of prison act of 1894 was a great step towards organization of prison system at the time.

The Indian jail committee 1919-20 suggested that the prisons should not only have deterring influence but should also have referring effect on inmates. During the period, 1907 to 1927, vigorous efforts were made to improve the conditions of prisons in India.

Central Jail Patiala, district jail Nabha, open Air Jail Nabha, Sub Jail Nabha, District Jail Ropar, Sub Jail Bassi (Closed for the time being), district Jail Sangrur, Sub Jail Malerkotla.

There are a central jail (Sudhar Ghar) at the district headquarters, a district jail (sugar Ghar) at Nabha, an open Jail at Nabha and a sub jail at Bassi Pathana in the district. Besides, there are lock ups attached to each police section, which are controlled by the police department.

Central jail, Patiala: - it is located on Patiala Nabha road. It came into existence before 1930 when Patiala was a princely state with the merger of Pepsu in Punjab 1956; it came under the administrative control of inspector general of prisons, Punjab. The central jail Patiala is under the charge of the superintendent of jails, who is assisted by 1 deputy Superintendent grade - I, 1 deputy Superintendent Grade-II, 9 Assistant Superintendents welfare officers, 2 medical officers, 1 office superintendent, 1 accountant, 15 head warders, 123 warders, 1 armories, 16 technical instructors, 1 teacher and other allied staff.

The total admissions during the year, average daily population and maximum population on any one day in a year. In the central jail, Patiala, during 1976 to 1989 are given in the following table:-

Year	Total admissions	Average Daily population	Maximum population on any one day
1976	3,268	1,195	2,050
1977	3,146	1,205	2,125
1978	3,219	799	1,016
1979	3,199	813	998
1980	3,386	805	1,004
1981	4,175	849	1,084
1982	7,474	1,329	3,261
1983	4,827	1,153	2,178
1984	10,088	1,385	2,259

1985	6,625	1,425	1,661
1986	6,046	948.69	1,102
1987	5,739	1,042.68	1,313
1988	6,233	1,069.41	1,513
1989	6,896	958.94	1,616

**District Jail (Sudhar Ghar), Nabha.**--- District Jail Nabha came into existence in about 1923. It is under the control of the superintendent, jail, who is assisted by 1 deputy superintendent, 4 assistant Superintendents, 1 medical officer, 1 teacher, 3 head quarders, 34 warders, 36 Temporary warders, 1 matron Accountant and other allied staff.

**Sub—Jail or Up Sudhar Ghar, Bassi Pathana.** --- The Sub jail, Bassi Pathana functions under the supervision head control of the sub divisional Magistrate, Bassi Pathana .

## 2. Conclusion

The above detail show that after the annexation of the Punjab in march 1949, the board of governors had to turn its

attention to prisons to maintain law and order in the new state. It provides information on prison activities prisons were divided into several categories as police and police were needed to bring justice to the people. Prison and police systems were good during the british rule but before that there wre many flows in the ancient society Patiala, a state was then divided into jails. These three types of jails have come into existence as mentioned above. Central jail which came into existence before 1930 when Patiala was a state central jail , district jail and and sub jail. There was talk about how many were appointed to which posts. Details of the criminal in the jail from 1976 to 1989 were also given. These jails were under the superintendent of Patiala jail.

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