# Politics and Police

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## Why in news?

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SC in its recent judgement reinstated T.P. Senkumar, who was replaced as head of the Kerala police soon after the Left Democratic Front assumed office last year.

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## How significant is this new ruling?

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- In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled in the **Prakash Singh case** that the chief of a State police force should have a fixed tenure of at least two years.
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- In this case, SC had given directions to insulate the police from external pressure and political.
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- In particular, every State should set up a **State Security Commission** to both guide the police and decide on top police appointments and transfers according the 2006 land mark judgement.
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- Despite this, State governments have failed to protect Directors General of Police from arbitrary transfers.
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- In the event of a regime change following an election, new political dispensations reshuffle officers in the civil and police services.
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- **This ruling limits significantly the discretion enjoyed by the political executive in effecting transfers at whim.**
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- No longer is it valid for the government to justify a DGP's removal on the vague ground that it has reached a prima facie conclusion that the public is unhappy with the efficiency of the force.

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- The court said the government’s ‘subjective satisfaction’ about the state of affairs **must be based on cogent and rational material.**
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**Source: The Hindu**

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