Status of Policing in India Report

Why in news?

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The ‘Status of Policing in India Report, 2018’ was published recently by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and the NGO Common Cause..

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What are the highlights?

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- It offers a comprehensive survey of the performance and perceptions of the Indian police.
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- Especially, the relation between Indian Muslims and the police was brought out by the report.
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- **Fear** - The report highlights that all minorities feared the police more than Hindus.
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- Notably, the apprehension is more acute in the case of Muslims.
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- This is the case even with no reference to lynching of Muslims in the name of cow protection.
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- **Cases** - The fear is because police often implicates Muslims under false terrorism charges.
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- Indeed, many young Muslims have been in jail for years for this reason, before the judiciary released them.
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- Muslims in Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu increasingly feel that police discriminate on the basis of religion.
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- This may be partly explained by the social profile of the policemen.
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How is the Muslim representation in law enforcement agencies?

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- Muslims are dramatically under-represented in the Indian Police Service (IPS).
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- Their share was already lower than 5% in the 1950s.
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- This is less than half the proportion of Muslims in India according to the 1951 census.
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- Their share in the population subsequently increased, reaching nearly 15% in 2011.
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- However, the proportion of Muslims in the IPS decreased, falling below 3% in 2016.
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- It is even as low as 2.5% if Jammu and Kashmir is excluded from the calculation.
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- But the situation is slightly better if policemen at lower levels are taken into account.
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- In this case, Muslims roughly made up 6% of policemen in India.
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- Nevertheless, their strength is on a decreasing trend over the years.
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- Overall, Muslims are underrepresented in law enforcement agencies.
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- But the situation is a little better if the armed services as a whole are accounted.
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- In the army, Muslims made up 2.5% of the people in uniform in 1990-2000.
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- Similar figures are found in the navy and in the air force.
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- There too, the proportion is slightly less in higher ranking categories and more in others.
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Why is it significant?

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- The report shows a quasi-absence of the largest minority in a key institution like the police.
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- The fact that Muslims are underrepresented in police increases their vulnerability.
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- Moreover, there is no effort being made to address this situation.
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- The scenario clearly affects the national character of a nation-state.
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- It undermines the idea of a multicultural India enshrined in the Constitution.
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Source: The Indian Express

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