

## **Telangana Makes Strides in Caste Diversity as OBCs dominate Police and Judiciary**

- Other Backward Classes (OBC) have the highest share in state's police (50%) as well as judiciary (45%)
- OBCs and STs surpass their sanctioned quotas in police; meet sanctioned quotas in judiciary

**16 November, 2023, Telangana:** The 2022 India Justice Report (IJR), India's only ranking of states on justice capacity in the country, was released earlier this year. The report ranked Telangana at number 3 for the second consecutive time to place it amongst the top 10 states in justice capacity in the country.

Despite marked improvements between 2018 and 2021, persistent vacancies and low gender diversity in the Police emerge as pressing concerns for efficacious justice delivery.

**Ms. Maja Daruwala, Chief Editor, India Justice Report 2022, said,** *"As we make efforts toward fulfilling our global commitment of ensuring strong justice institutions and accessible justice for all by 2030, the India Justice Reports provide a much-needed spur to address the deficiencies in the present-day justice system, particularly within the domains of police and judiciary. By sparking an insightful dialogue around the persistent challenges, these insights reiterate the need for both immediate and foundational reforms to our justice delivery systems, which will ultimately pave the way towards a just and equitable society."*

### **Telangana police records optimistic drop in vacancy rate, sanctioned police strength increases marginally**

Securing a spot amongst the few states that have reduced vacancies in the police, the state successfully brought down its overall vacancy rate in the police from 35% in 2018 to 24% in 2021. As of 2021, Telangana has recorded one of the lowest officer vacancies (6%) among all Indian states, dropping sharply from 20% in 2018. Among constables, the vacancy rate stands at 27%, falling from 37% in 2018. Among caste categories, SCs recorded the highest vacancies between 2015 to 2021, which has fallen from 26% to 18% as of 2021. General category vacancies also dropped slightly from 68% to 65% over the same period.

Creating more opportunities, the state has also increased the sanctioned police strength marginally from 81,380 in 2018 to 82,347 in 2021. However, there are still over 19,000 vacant positions among the constabulary, with most vacancies among the 'general' category.

### **Caste diversity on the rise, but gender parity a remains a challenge for state police**

While the overall share of the 'general' category in the police reduced from 32% in 2018 to 23% in 2021, there have been notable improvements in the representation of OBCs and STs. In both 2015 and 2021, OBCs and STs met their reservation quotas – surpassing their sanctioned quotas by 30% and 38% respectively in 2021. Currently, OBCs have the highest share in state's police at 50%. The shares of Schedule castes (SC) and Schedule tribes (ST) remained stagnant. However, despite 33% reservation, women make up just 8% of the total police strength. To meet its reservation target, the Telangana police needs to recruit 21,876 women.



## **HC vacancies slashed by half, representation of reserved categories and women thrives**

While the vacancy in subordinate courts has increased slightly from 16% to 20% between 2018 and 2022, the vacancy in the High court has nearly halved from 46% to 21%. Of the 101 vacant positions in the subordinate courts, more than half (87) are from the 'general' category. Amongst reserved categories, OBCs and STs met their sanctioned quotas, with OBCs having the highest share in the state's judiciary (45%) as well. Women's representation in both courts has shown significant improvement as well. Presently, women hold a 53% share in subordinate courts and 27% share in the High court, as compared to 2018 when it was a mere 46% and 7% in both courts, respectively in 2018.

As per the latest data, total vacancies across police, prisons, and judiciary in Telangana stand at 20,759.

### **About IJR:**

The India Justice Report (IJR) collective was initiated in 2019. Partners include Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and How India Lives.

The India Justice Report periodically measures and ranks each state's structural and financial capacity to deliver justice. It uses only the latest available government figures to assess the budgets, human resources, infrastructure, workload and diversity across police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid of 18 large and medium sized states with a population of over 1 crore and 7 smaller states. Data for 7 Union Territories (UTs) and 4 states is also provided.

The IJR tracks the rise and falls in capacity and provides timeline comparisons that allow for an understanding of what improvements and shortfalls have been made within each state's own pillars and themes since IJR 2019 and over 5 years. These mark out clear discernible trends and directions.

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