

***Muslim Representation  
in the Rajya Sabha:  
Forms and Trajectories***

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## Executive Summary

The systematic exploration of the Muslim representation in the Rajya Sabha underlines the fact that, apart from other considerations, political parties do nominate Muslim candidates for the House to evoke their inclusive character. However, the adherence to inclusiveness depends on number of factors, including the ideological orientation of political parties. This significant *Muslim presence* in the Rajya Sabha plays a crucial role: it strengthens the capacity of the House to offer symbolic representation to social groups; it contributes in making the legislative discussions more deliberative and above all, it helps in producing new political ideas. This form of political representation, I argue, evolves out of the postcolonial Indian political experiences. Therefore, there is a need to pay close attention to our parliamentary practices and political norms to evaluate the larger objective of political inclusion of minority/marginalized social groups. This is what this study recommends.

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