

## **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)**

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Institute for IAS Examination



**UNITED STATES  
COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
(USCIRF)**

### **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Latest News**

India recently rejected the latest report by the USCIRF, calling it “motivated and biased”, after the US panel recommended sanctions against Indian entities and again sought to designate the country as a “country of particular concern”.

### **About United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)**

- It is an **independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission** established under the **International Religious Freedom Act of 1998**.
- USCIRF **monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) abroad; makes policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress; and tracks the**

**implementation** of these recommendations.

- USCIRF's **nine Commissioners** are **appointed by either the President or Congressional leaders** of each political party, supported by a non-partisan professional staff.
- USCIRF **issues an annual report** that assesses the **US government's implementation of IRFA**, **highlights "Countries of Particular Concern"** engaging in severe religious freedom violations, documents the conditions of religious freedom in many countries, and provides policy recommendations.
- USCIRF **recommendations are not binding** on the U.S. government.
- It **uses international standards** to monitor religious freedom violations globally.
- **Article 18** of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** affirms that:
  - **"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;** this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance."

**Source: TI**

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