USCIRF International Religious Freedom Report

Source: LM

Recently, India rejected the International Religious Freedom Report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF), labeling it a biased organization with a political agenda.

- Highlights of the USCIRF Report (2024):
 - The report called for India to be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern"(CPC).
 - Countries that commit systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom are designated as a CPC by the US State Department.
 - The report states that vigilante groups killed, assaulted, and lynched individuals, while religious leaders were unjustly arrested, and homes and places of worship were destroyed.
 - It also criticised the **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019**, **Uniform Civil Code**, and statelevel anti-conversion and cow slaughter laws.
- USCIRF: USCIRF is a US federal commission established in 1998 under the International Religious Freedom Act, with commissioners appointed by the President and congressional leaders from both parties.
 - It is based on international human rights standards, especially Article 18 of the <u>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</u> that ensured freedom of religion.
 - It monitors the universal **right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB)** in countries other than the US.

Read More: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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