



National Human Rights Commission

Why in News

The 28th anniversary of the [National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#) was observed on 12th October 2021.

Key Points

▪ About

- It is a **watchdog of human rights in the country**, i.e. the rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by Indian Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

▪ Establishment

- Established on 12th October, 1993, under **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**. It was **amended by** the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006 and Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019
- It was established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in Paris (October, 1991) and endorsed by the [General Assembly of the United Nations](#) in December, 1993.

▪ Composition

◦ Key Members

- It is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and five members. A person who has been the [Chief Justice of India](#) or a judge of the [Supreme Court](#) is a **chairman**.

◦ Appointment

- The chairman and members are **appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee** consisting of the Prime Minister as its head, the [Speaker of the Lok Sabha](#), the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the [Houses of Parliament](#) and the Union Home Minister.

◦ Tenure

- The chairman and members hold office **for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier.
- The **President can remove the chairman** or any member from the office under some circumstances.

▪ Role and Function

- It has all the **powers of a civil court** and its **proceedings have a judicial character**.
- It is empowered to **utilise the services of any officer or investigation agency of the Central government or any state government** for the purpose of investigating complaints of human rights violation.

- It can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence, i.e the Commission is **not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year** from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed.
- The functions of the commission are **mainly recommendatory in nature.**
 - It has no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim.
- It has **limited role**, powers and jurisdiction **with respect to the violation of human rights by the members of the armed forces.**
- It is **not empowered to act when human rights violations through private parties take place.**

Source: HT

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