



UNHRC's UPR

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The government is forming a task force to prepare a **National Action Plan on Human Rights (NAPHR)** as **mandated** under the UN Human Rights Council's **(UNHRC) Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**.

- The task force will involve the **Union Home Ministry and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** and have representatives from ministries such as social justice and health.
- **UPR is a state-driven process under UNHRC's** auspices and provides **opportunities to member states to declare what actions they have taken to improve human rights** and to fulfil their obligations.
- **A review cycle lasts four-and-half years**, during which records of member states are reviewed.
- Earlier in 2017, India **accepted 152 out of 250 recommendations** on human rights. These **pertain to sustainable development goals** related to eliminating poverty, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and improving protection for women and children.
- However, India "noted" and **refused to accept** some recommendations, including those related to the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act** and the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act**.
- Also, earlier, **the UN had already recommended that India should have NAPHR** covering issues such as the rights to health, education, food security, and housing; aspects related to custodial justice; and measures against the trafficking of women and children.
 - NAPHR, once implemented, will help mitigate the criticism India faces at international level when it comes to its human rights record as well as strengthen the social justice system.
 - It will also lead to **stronger administration of justice, strengthening of human rights institutions, and linking of rights with development**.

UN Human Rights Council

- It is an **inter-governmental body** within the United Nations system **responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe** and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.
- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly on **15th March 2006** and **replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.**
- It meets at the UN Office at **Geneva.**

Source: HT