

Why GRANHRI deferred the status of NHRC. What are the changes needed to get accreditation. Discuss.

The Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GRAHRI) deferred Indian Human Rights Commission (NHRC) accreditation to 'B' - partial compliance

### Reasons for deferment

\* The GRAHRI sighted reasons such as

- Police engagement in investigation of human rights issues.

- Lack of pluralism in appointments of the commission

- Insufficient protection given to the minorities.

- Oppressions in appointment of members to the commission.

## Impacts

This downgrade in accreditation can cause impact India on voting in CoNHR, and UN Human Rights Council and in some United Nations General assembly bodies.

India needs to reverse this trend as this accreditation downgrade is second time.

## Needed changes

\* Wide representation

The NHRC needs wider membership from civil society organisations, activists and lawyers. The body is occupied mostly by the bureaucrats.

### ② change in status

The NHRC is a constitutory body conferring it with constitutional body status can add teeth to the body.

### ③ Reports and criticism

The criticisms and reports of the body are recommendatory in nature. Some recommendations can be made binding on the government.

④ Depoliticise the appointments can ensure wider participation of different groups.

The NHRC is the human rights watchdog. Reforms in NHRC are crucial to prove the credibility of India's image as a soft power.