



Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation & India

For Prelims: Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), UN Human Rights Council,

For Mains: Effect of Policies & Politics of Countries on India's Interests, India's relationship with OIC as an organisation

Why in the News?

Recently, India has lashed out at the [Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation \(OIC\)](#) for being "communal minded" amid the [Karnataka hijab row](#).

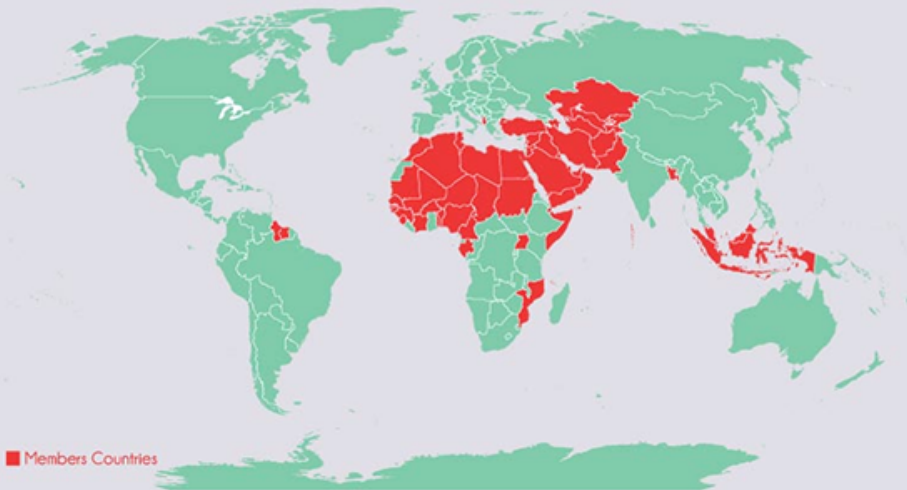
What is the recent Controversy Between OIC & India?

- **OIC Statement:** The OIC has called on the [UN Human Rights Council](#) to take “**necessary measures**” on the issue of Muslim girl students being told not to wear the hijab in Karnataka schools.
 - The OIC also urged India to “**ensure the safety, security and well being of the Muslim community while protecting their way of life**”.
- **India's Response:** India held that it is a democracy, and issues within the country are resolved in **accordance with our Constitutional framework and mechanism, as well as democratic ethos and polity**.
 - Further, India criticised OIC for being “**communal minded**” and “hijacked by vested interests” - a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan.

What is the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation?

- **About:**
 - The OIC is the **second largest intergovernmental organisation** after the [United Nations](#) with a membership of 57 states.
 - It is the **collective voice of the Muslim world**.
 - It **endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world** in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
 - The Organisation of the Islamic Conference was established by the **First Islamic Summit Conference held in Morocco in September 1969**, to marshal the Islamic world after an act of arson at the **Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem** by a 28-year-old Australian in 1969.
 - **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

What is OIC?



OIC- Organization of the Islamic Cooperation

It was founded in **1969**

First OIC Charter Adopted in **1972**



Number of Member Countries

57

Founding Members **30**

Key Bodies of OIC:

- Council of Foreign Ministers
- General Secretariat
- Islamic Summit
- Al-Quds Committee

What is the Status of India's relationship with OIC as an organisation?

- As a country with the **world's second largest Muslim community**, India had been invited to the founding conference at Rabat in 1969, but was humiliatingly ejected at Pakistan's behest.
- India stayed away because of a multiplicity of reasons:
 - It did not want to join an **organisation founded on religion**.
 - There was the risk that improving bilateral relations with individual member states would come under pressure in a grouping, **especially on issues such as Kashmir**.
- At the **45th session of the Foreign Ministers' Summit in 2018**, Bangladesh, the host, suggested that India, where more than 10% of the world's Muslims live, should be given **Observer status**, but Pakistan opposed the proposal.
- After building close ties with powerful members such as **UAE and Saudi Arabia**, India has been confident of riding over any statement by the grouping.
 - India has consistently underlined that J&K is an **"integral part of India and is a matter strictly internal to India"**, and that the **OIC has no locus standi on the issue**.
- In **2019**, India made its maiden appearance at the OIC **Foreign Ministers' meeting**, as a **"guest of honour"**.
 - This first-time invitation was seen as a **diplomatic victory for India**, especially at a time of heightened tensions with Pakistan following the Pulwama attack.

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