



Islamophobia in India: OIC

Why in News

Recently, the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** has **criticised the Indian government** for what it called **“growing Islamophobia”** in India.

Key Points

- OIC asked the government to take **steps to protect Muslim minorities** who are being **“negatively profiled,”** facing **“discrimination and violence”** amidst the **Covid-19** crisis.
- OIC urged the government to **protect the rights of its minority** as per its obligations under **international Human Rights law.**
- It also asked the government to take urgent steps to **stop the growing tide of Islamophobia** (dislike of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims) **in India.**
 - A religious gathering of muslims (Tablighi Jamaat) was held in Delhi in March. The event was linked to many of the Covid-19 positive cases in India.
 - After this most sections of the media, people on social media blamed the Tablighi jamaat and muslims for deliberately spreading the Covid-19 in India.
- Earlier, the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** has also criticised India of **“increased stigmatisation”** of its muslim minorities.
 - It criticized the government for the reports that Covid-19 patients were **religiously segregated at a hospital** in Ahmedabad.
 - According to USCIRF, India continues to remain a **“tier 2 country of particular concern”** since 2009.
 - Tier 2 countries are those in which **“violations engaged in or tolerated by the government are serious** and characterized by at least one of the elements of the **‘systematic, ongoing, and egregious’** Country of Particular Concern (**CPC**) standard. CPCs are designated by the US State Department.
- The **Indian government has denied all the allegations** levelled by the USCIRF and accused the USCIRF for spreading misguided reports on the professional medical protocols followed to deal with spread of Covid-19 in India.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the **second largest intergovernmental organization** 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.
- It was **established** upon a decision of the **historical summit** which took place in **Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on the 25th of September 1969.**
- Headquarters: **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.**

OIC and India

- **India is not a member of the OIC.** However, India was invited as a guest of honour at the **46th Session of the Council of Foreign Minister** in 2019. 2019 is the 50th anniversary of OIC.
 - This marked a high point in New Delhi's often tensed relations with the OIC.
- However, in recent months, the OIC has **repeatedly criticised the Indian government's handling of the situation in Kashmir and attacks on Muslims.**
 - The external affairs ministry has rejected this criticism.

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

- USCIRF is an **independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission**, dedicated to **defending the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.**
- USCIRF reviews **the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations** and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.
- It is **Headquartered at Washington DC.**

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