

What is the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation?

(GS Paper 2, International Organisation)

Why in news?

- Recently, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretariat “condemned and denounced” the comments on Prophet Muhammed.
- Referring to it as part of “growing spate of hatred and defamation of Islam in India”, it sought that the perpetrators are brought to justice and held accountable.



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation



India's association with PIC:

- India's association with the 57-nation grouping has not been easy. Even though the country has good relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, its membership and engagement has been constantly challenged by Pakistan.
- In 1969, Islamabad's opposition to Indian participation at the first OIC Plenary resulted in the Indian delegation being turned back from the venue at the last minute.
- Fifty years later, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the OIC Plenary of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi as a guest of honour. The invitation was extended by the UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Bangladesh, too, wanted India to be accorded the 'observer' status in 2006 again opposed by Pakistan.

What is the grouping about?

- The OIC claims to be the “collective voice of the Muslim world”. It was **established at a 1969 summit in Rabat (Morocco)** after what it describes as the ‘criminal arson’ of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.
- The OIC endeavours to establish solidarity among member states, support restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member state under occupation; protect, defend and combat defamation of Islam, prevent growing dissension in Muslim societies and work to ensure that member states take a united stand at the U. N. General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other international fora.
- The OIC has **consultative and cooperative relations with U. N. and other inter-governmental organisations** to protect the interest of Muslims, and settle conflicts and disputes involving member states,

among them being the territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the status of Jammu & Kashmir.

- **Presently based in Jeddah**, the organisation plans to permanently move its headquarters to East Jerusalem once the disputed city is 'liberated'. Moreover, it aspires to hold Israel accountable for 'war crimes' and violations of international law.

OIC charter:

- The organisation adheres to a charter that lays out its objectives, principles and operating mechanism. First adopted in 1972, the charter has been revised multiple times in line with emerging conditions in the developing world.
- The present charter was adopted in March 2008 at Dakar in Senegal. It enshrines that all members be guided and inspired by the noble Islamic teachings and values alongside committing themselves to the purposes and principles of the U. N. charter. Member states are expected to uphold and promote good governance, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedom and the rule of law — settling disputes through peaceful means and refrain from the use of threat or force.
- In addition, the OIC carves out a Ten-Year Programme of Action. Last instituted for the decade ending 2025, the PoA calls for measures to combat all aspects of terrorism globally. It also talks of implementing social schemes to eliminate two-thirds of extreme poverty and spurring industrialisation, investment, trade and overall economic and social growth among member states.

How does OIC function?

- U. N. members with a Muslim majority can join the organisation. The membership is to be ratified with full consensus at the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers. The same provisions apply for acquiring an observer status.
- All decision-making in the forum requires a quorum defined by the presence of two-thirds of the member states and complete consensus. In case a consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
- The OIC is **financed by the member states proportionate to their national incomes**. Should a member fail to meet their obligations such that the amount of arrears equals or exceeds the amount of contributions due from it for the preceding two years, their voting rights are suspended. The member is only allowed to vote if the Council of Foreign Ministers is satisfied that the failure is due to conditions beyond the member's control.

Decision-making body:

- The Islamic Summit, composed of Kings and heads of state, is the **supreme authority of the organisation**. Convening every three years, it deliberates, takes policy decisions, provides guidance on issues relevant to the organisation and considers issues of concern to the member states.
- The Council of Foreign Ministers is the chief decision-making body and meets annually to decide on how to implement the OIC's general policies. They take decisions and resolutions on matters of common interest, review their progress, consider and approve programmes and their budgets, consider specific issues bothering member states and recommend establishing a new organ or committee.
- In addition, this council also appoints, for a period of five years, the Secretary General, who is the chief administrative officer of the grouping.
- The Secretary General follows up on implementation of the decisions, directs attention to competent organs' specific issues of concern, creates a channel for coordination among the varied organs and submits annual reports on the work undertaken.
- The OIC also has standing committees for cooperation on information and cultural affairs, economic and commercial matters, scientific and technological initiatives and for Jerusalem.

Govt targets to enhance coal production to 140 MT by 2029-30

(GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Coal released an **action plan for 2022-23**.

- Under the Coking Coal Mission the government has set a target to enhance the annual coking coal production from 45 million tonnes (MT) in 2020-21 to 140 MT by 2029-30.

Focus areas:

- The Ministry of Coal said it has finalised an Action Plan Document for the year 2022-23 which broadly focuses on 15 crucial areas.
- **The focus areas include** Grey Hydrogen; Just Transition/ Energy Transition; Restructuring Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation. (CMPFO); Coal evacuation; Benchmarking of Machines & Quantifiable Parameters (Output per hr/per machine); Outsourcing of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) Mines; Coal Trading Platform; Regulatory Mechanism for coal; Training; Corporate Restructuring of Coal Sector (CPSEs); Quality Issues; Lignite Gasification; Coking Coal Strategy; Coal Pricing Reforms and Futuristic Agenda.

Futuristic Agenda:

- The Futuristic Agenda includes- Coal to Chemical: Syn Gas, Hydrogen Gas, Liquid fuels, Chemicals and fertilizers, CIL – diversify its business and explore prospects in sunrise industries electric charging pods, EVs etc., acquisition and mergers of similar or new business after due diligence, media campaigns and close monitoring of CSR activities.

India’s overdependence on coal for power generation

India’s overdependence on coal for power generation was laid bare during the electricity crisis in April, when several states reported outages triggered by dwindling stocks of this fossil fuel amid the early onset of summer.

Coal fulfils 55 per cent of the country’s energy needs; phasing it out and switching over to clean energy are huge challenges.

With the power demand remaining high, state-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) has floated its maiden tender to import 2.4 million tonnes (MT) of coal in an effort to ensure adequate supply to power plants across the country.

Switch to renewables:

- India has set itself stiff targets of sourcing 50 per cent energy requirement from renewables and installing 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.
- With coal here to stay, despite being a major source of air pollution, the push for renewable energy must be tempered by ground reality.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management’s order banning the use of coal for industrial and domestic applications in the NCR from 2022 can make a visible difference only if viable alternatives are made available to the consumers.

Background:

- This is for the second time that an Agenda document for the year has been brought out in the form of a compilation and provided to all senior functionaries who have been apportioned the responsibility of steering these focus areas through the year with regular monitoring and appraisals.

- The areas covered step up the major reforms done in the last few years and also give direction for covering and meeting the existing and the emerging challenges of the Coal Sector and aligns itself well with the emerging technologies and diversification thrust of the Coal Sector.

Significance:

- The Action Plan covers the entire gamut of areas for steering the coal sector into new technologies while focussing on the core competence of increasing production targets.
- Coking Coal Mission had been launched by the Ministry for enhancement of coking coal production from 45 Million Ton in 2020-21 to 140 MT by 2029-30 which includes 105 MT from Coal India Limited.

UN funds insufficient to help victims of climate disasters: Oxfam (GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- According to the recent report by Oxfam International, the United Nations cannot provide poor countries enough humanitarian relief to recover from climate disasters as rich donor countries are holding back their finances.

Lack of financial support:

- UN requires eight times more financial support than 20 years ago to be able to provide humanitarian aid to low-income countries during climate-related disasters, in 2000-02, UN appealed for \$1.6 billion as humanitarian aid.
- The appealed amount rose to an average of \$15.5 billion in 2019-2021 an unprecedented 819 per cent increase.
- Rich countries have been able to deliver 54 per cent of the UN's appeals in the last five years, leaving a massive deficit of \$28-\$33 billion.

Countries most in need of climate finance



Vulnerability in low-income countries:

- People in low-income countries are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related disasters, be it droughts, floods or wildfires, as these disasters further exacerbate poverty and death affecting them disproportionately, various reports have showed.

- The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s sixth assessment reports made it evident that more climate-related disasters are in the offing and therefore climate change will escalate the loss and damage suffered by these marginalized communities.
- Besides the huge financial burden, loss and damage due to climate crisis encompass health, biodiversity and loss of indigenous knowledge, among gender issues and other related factors.

Cost of loss and damage:

- The economic cost of loss and damage by 2030 will rise to the range of \$290-\$580billion.
- Poor countries cannot be expected to foot the bill, and increasing aid is not alone the answer. Paying the cost of climate-driven loss and damages should be on the basis of responsibility, not charity.
- Rich countries, rich people, and big corporations most responsible for causing climate change must pay for the harm they are causing.

Way Forward:

- Oxfam called for the establishment of a facility to draw innovative sources of finance from rich countries, which was rejected by developed nations at the 26th Conference of Parties (CoP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change last year.
- At CoP27, governments should agree to make loss and damage finance a core element of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Global Stocktake.

‘Guidelines on Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022’ (GS Paper 2, Governance)

Why in news?

- Recently, the **Central Consumer Protection authority (CCPA)** under the Department of Consumer Affairs has **notified** ‘Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022’.



Objective:

- To **curb misleading advertisements and protect the consumers**, who may be exploited or affected by such advertisements.
- The guidelines seek to ensure that consumers are not being fooled with unsubstantiated claims, exaggerated promises, misinformation and false claims. Such advertisements violates various rights of consumers such as **right to be informed, right to choose and right to be safeguarded** against potentially unsafe products and services.

Stakeholders:

- These guidelines will be applicable to advertisements published on all media platforms, such as print, television, and online.
- Both government and private advertisements shall be covered by the new set of rules. The guidelines define a seller and whosoever he is, whether government body or private is covered under the provisions.

Violation of the rights of the consumers:

- The CCPA has been established under **section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019** for regulating matters relating to violation of the rights of the consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the interests of public and consumers and to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, to CCPA, the Guidelines were notified.

Misleading advertisement:

- Misleading advertisement has already been defined under section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The present guidelines define “bait advertisement”, “surrogate advertisement” and clearly provides what constitutes as “free claim advertisements”.

Advertisement targeting children:

- Keeping in view the sensitiveness and vulnerability of children and severe impact advertisements make on the younger minds, several preemptive provisions have been laid down on advertisements targeting children.
- Guidelines forbid advertisements from exaggerating the features of product or service in such manner as to lead children to have unrealistic expectations of such product or service and claim any health or nutritional claims or benefits without being adequately and scientifically substantiated by a recognized body.
- Guidelines says that advertisement targeting children shall not feature any personalities from the field of sports, music or cinema for products which under any law requires a health warning for such advertisement or cannot be purchased by children.

Disclaimers in advertisements:

- Disclaimers in advertisements play a pivotal role from consumer perspective since, in a way it limits the responsibility of the company.
- Therefore, guidelines stipulates that disclaimer shall not attempt to hide material information with respect to any claim made in such advertisement, the omission or absence of which is likely to make the advertisement deceptive or conceal its commercial intent and shall not attempt to correct a misleading claim made in an advertisement.
- Further, it provides that, a disclaimer shall be in the same language as the claim made in the advertisement and the font used in a disclaimer shall be the same as that used in the claim.

Penalty:

- Penalty for violating the Guidelines are also clearly outlined. CCPA can impose penalty of upto 10 lakh rupees on manufacturers, advertisers and endorsers for any misleading advertisements. For subsequent contraventions, CCPA may impose a penalty of upto 50 lakh rupees.
- The Authority can prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from making any endorsement for upto 1 year and for subsequent contravention, prohibition can extend upto 3 years.

Due diligence:

- Similarly, clear Guidelines are laid for duties of manufacturer, service provider, advertiser and advertising agency, due diligence to be carried out before endorsing and others.
- Guidelines aims to protect consumer's interest through bringing in more transparency and clarity in the way advertisements are being published, so that, consumers are able to make informed decisions based on facts rather than false narratives and exaggerations.