GS-II: Not their business: OIC remarks on Art 370

News

The OIC’s Kashmir Contact Group issued a statement calling on India to “rescind its actions revoking Article 370”.

Impact of the statement

- It allows the **Pakistan Prime Minister to sell the theory back at home** that his trip to New York has met with some success.
- From the **mid-1990s, when this Contact Group was formed**, it has issued several statements on behalf of Pakistan.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation:

- Pakistan is a member along with Turkey, Niger, Azerbaijan, and Saudi Arabia. It boasts of a membership of 57 countries.
- It is headquartered in Jeddah and receives its financial raison d’etre from its chief benefactor, Saudi Arabia.
- Its influence on world affairs has always been marginal.

Differences within OIC:

- It is doubtful if the statement issued by the Contact Group reflects the national positions of the individual member states.
- UAE conferred the Order of Zayed, its highest civilian award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, more than a week after New Delhi’s moves on Article 370, and declared that Kashmir was India’s internal matter.
- The OIC’s record of conflict resolution on issues between OIC member states is poor.
- Its attempts to meddle in Kashmir by appointing a so-called special envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, have amounted to nothing.

Need for reforms in OIC:

- It should ask Pakistan to change its state policy on terrorism.
- Pakistan should abjure support to Kashmir-centric groups such as the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba.
- It can mediate between warring Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- India, though not a part of the OIC, has the second-largest number of Muslims in the world.

Way Forward:

India must demonstrate to the world that its new Kashmir policy is in the larger interest of all Kashmiris.