



Topics



- What is hepatitis?
- **LAW OF DISCLOSURE**
- Sea Level Rise
- Gerozyme'
- sc on climate change jurisprudence
- Essay topic



By saurabh pandey sir



Target Mains 2024/25- Essay

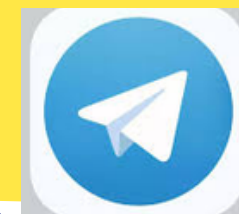


Q" In changing world order , india's foreign policy is outdated" (1100 words)

Q" बदलती विश्व व्यवस्था में भारत की विदेश नीति पुरानी हो गई है" (1100 शब्द)

send your answer - Saurabh pandey

upsc telegram channel



Answer review



UPSC
Vaishnavi Kulkarni
Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Q What is ONE HEALTH APPROACH? Explain the challenges in implementing one health in India. [10]

Ans According to Centers for Disease Control & Prevention - One Health Approach, is that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

GOALS - are to develop strategies for integrated disease surveillance, joint outbreak response, coordinated research and development and ensure seamless information sharing for better control of routine disease as well as those of pandemic nature.

'NATIONAL ONE HEALTH MISSION' - set up by government in 2022.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

① Health care infrastructure & Resources -

- Disparities between rural & urban areas hinder effective one health implementation.
- Insufficient veterinary health care facilities & trained personnel.

② Interdisciplinary Collaborations - Communication barriers between medical, veterinary

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UPSC
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and environmental professionals hinder information sharing.

③ Surveillance and Research - Insufficient funding for multidisciplinary research.

- Close contact with animals, both domestic and wild, can heighten disease transmission risk.

④ Environmental factors - Rapid urbanization encroaches upon wildlife habitats, increases disease spillover from animals to humans.

- Environmental degradation, pollution, & climate change influences disease transmission and complicate control efforts.

Under One Health Approach government is influencing protection and schemes, with an aim to implement one health approach with SDGs - Good Health & well being, climate action, life on land, life below water etc.

Need for pathogen laboratories to address the disease outbreak in all 3 sectors and application of AI for disease modelling and capacity building in epidemiology across sectors.

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Why is there a WHO alert on viral hepatitis?

What are the findings in the Global Hepatitis Report 2024? Why does India have such a high disease load of hepatitis B and C? Is the increasing prevalence of non-viral forms of the disease, like alcoholic liver disease and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, adding to the burden?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

India accounted for 11.6% of the total viral hepatitis disease burden globally in 2022, making it the country with the second highest disease load after China, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Hepatitis Report 2024 released recently. Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Vietnam, collectively shoulder nearly two-thirds of the global burden of hepatitis B and C.

What does the report highlight?

As per the report, the disease is the second leading infectious cause of death globally – with 1.3 million deaths per year, the same as tuberculosis, a top infectious killer. New data from 187 countries show that the estimated number of deaths from viral hepatitis increased from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022. Of these, 83% were caused by hepatitis B, and 17% by hepatitis C. Every day, there are 3,500 people dying globally due to hepatitis B and C infections. Half the burden of chronic hepatitis B and C infections is among people aged 30-54 years old, with 12% among children under 18 years of age. Men account for 58% of all cases.

What is hepatitis?

"Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and non-infectious agents leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal," says Sharad Malhotra, HOD, Gastroenterology Hepatology and Therapeutic Endoscopy, Aakash Healthcare, Delhi. There are five main strains of

Hepatitis B can be prevented through vaccination, and the report highlights the need to ensure coverage; hepatitis C is curable with medicines

the hepatitis virus, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. While they all cause liver disease, they differ in important ways including modes of transmission, severity of the illness and geographical distribution. In particular, types B and C lead to chronic disease and together are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and viral hepatitis-related deaths. An estimated 354 million people worldwide live with hepatitis B or C, and for most, treatment remains beyond reach, according to the WHO.

Why is India vulnerable?

Doctors attribute the large number of cases to several reasons including high population density, lack of awareness to symptoms, screening and treatment and not adhering to or having access to good hygiene practices.

Dr. Sudeep Khanna, senior consultant, gastroenterologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, explained that one of the major reasons for the increasing burden of hepatitis in India is the high prevalence of chronic viral hepatitis B and C infections. "These chronic infections often remain asymptomatic for decades; furthermore, the lack of widespread screening programmes and limited awareness about the importance of hepatitis testing contribute to a significant proportion of cases going undiagnosed. Undiagnosed cases continue to transmit the infection, perpetuating the cycle of transmission and leading to a rise in the overall burden of the disease," he said. The physician added that another important factor contributing to the rising number of hepatitis cases is the increasing prevalence of non-viral forms of the disease, such as alcoholic liver disease (ALD) and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Doctors note that the high consumption of alcohol, particularly in urban areas, has led to a significant increase in ALD cases. Additionally, the rapid rise in obesity and metabolic disorders, coupled with sedentary lifestyles and dietary changes, has fuelled an epidemic of NAFLD in both urban and rural populations. These conditions can progress to more severe forms of liver disease further compounding the burden of hepatitis in India.

Men report larger number of cases. Manoj Gupta, HOD, Liver Transplant and GI Surgery, PSRI Hospital, Delhi, states that this is due to high-risk behaviour like use of IV drugs, sharing injections while using IV drugs and sexual behaviour. "Multiple sex partners, or male to male sex is a very high-risk factor for these hepatitis B and C infections," he said.

How can it be prevented?

Hepatitis B can be prevented through

vaccination and the report highlights the need to ensure coverage, while hepatitis C is curable with medicines. In India, the numbers of deaths due to viral hepatitis aren't comparable to tuberculosis, say experts, adding that cost of treatment is also among the lowest as India makes the generic version of the drugs. Also, the government's viral hepatitis control programme offers the vaccine to high-risk adults such as healthcare workers. Treatment for both hepatitis B and C is available under the programme. With an initial rollout of the hepatitis B vaccine in certain cities and districts of India in 2002-2003, the Indian Government included Chronic Hepatitis B infection (HBV) vaccine in the childhood immunisation programme in 2011-12.

Why is the report significant?

This is the first consolidated WHO report on the viral hepatitis epidemiology, service coverage and product access, with data for action. This report presents the latest estimates on the disease burden and the coverage of essential viral hepatitis services from 187 countries across the world. It also found that across all regions, only 13% of people living with chronic hepatitis B infection had been diagnosed, and approximately 3% (7 million) had received antiviral therapy at the end of 2022. Regarding hepatitis C, 36% of people had been diagnosed and 20% (12.5 million) had received curative treatment. These results fall well below the global targets to treat 80% of people living with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C by 2030. However, it does indicate slight but consistent improvement in diagnosis and treatment coverage since the reported estimates in 2019.

What is the way forward?

Mother to child transmission is responsible for most new infections, and in India, elimination of hepatitis B requires extensive treatment coverage, immunising and protecting every newborn and ending any discrimination against patients, said Dr. S.K. Sarin, Vice-Chancellor, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi. The report cautions that despite the availability of affordable generic viral hepatitis medicines, many countries fail to procure them at lower prices. Pricing disparities persist both across and within WHO regions, with many countries paying above global benchmarks.

The report adds that service delivery remains centralised and vertical, and many affected populations still face out-of-pocket expenses for viral hepatitis services. It has outlined a series of actions to advance a public health approach to viral hepatitis, designed to accelerate progress towards ending the epidemic by 2030. This must look at expanding access to testing and diagnostics, shifting to policies for equitable treatment, strengthening prevention efforts and improved funding both at a global level or within countries' health budgets, said WHO.



Need for awareness: Pregnant women waiting for the Hepatitis B surface antigen screening test in Chennai in 2021. FILE PHOTO





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- There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. While they all cause liver disease, they differ in important ways including modes of transmission, severity of the illness and geographical distribution.
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The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir





Disease	Pathogen	Symptoms	Incubation period	Method of transmission	Diagnostic test
Hepatitis A	HAV, Picornaviridae	Fever, headache, malaise, jaundice	2-6 weeks	Ingestion	IgM antibodies
Hepatitis B	HBV, Hepadnaviri- dae	Severe liver dam- age, chronic dis- ease occurs	3-26 weeks	Parenteral, sexual contact	IgM antibodies
Hepatitis C	HCV, Flaviviridae	Same as HBV, more chronic	2-33 weeks	Parenteral	PCR of viral RNA
Hepatitis D	HDV, Deltaviridae	Severe liver dam- age, high mortality rate	6-26 weeks	Parenteral, when co- infected with HBV	IgM antibodies
Hepatitis E	HEV, Caliciviridae	Pregnant women may be at high risk and show high mortality, not chronic disease	2-6 weeks	Ingestion	IgM antibodies, PCR of viral RNA

The Hindu analysis by saurabh pandey sir



How did the law on disclosure of assets evolve?

What is the Supreme Court ruling?
What principle emerges from it? What is the penalty for omission of assets?

K. Venkataraman

The story so far:

Two recent developments have brought under focus the disclosure norms that candidates are expected to comply with in election law. One relates to reports that the BJP candidate in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, had allegedly failed to report all the assets he owns in the mandatory affidavit accompanying his nomination papers. Another report was about the Supreme Court noting that not every little detail needs to be disclosed, as candidates also have their right to privacy.

What is the law related to disclosure?

The requirement that prospective candidates will have to disclose their criminal antecedents, if any, their educational qualifications and their assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and dependants, arose from a landmark Supreme Court judgment on May 2, 2002. The court ruled that the voters' right to information in a democracy is part of the citizens' right to express their opinion through their vote.

In June 2002, the ECI issued the rules to give effect to the judgment. However, the Central government of the day sought to curtail the scope of these disclosures by an ordinance amending the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in August 2002. Later, it was replaced by an

Act. The amendments introduced Sections 33A (concerning disclosure of pending criminal cases), Section 33B (which effectively nullified the ECI's notification by saying no disclosure other than those prescribed in the Act is required) and Section 125A (penalty for failure to disclose or false disclosure). The Ordinance and, thereafter, the amending act were challenged in court. The Supreme Court on March 13, 2003, struck down Section 33B and restored the disclosure requirements regarding assets and liabilities and educational qualifications. The ECI issued revised instructions and the format for disclosure based on the judgment.

Rejecting the contention that the voter's right to know all particulars is absolute, the Supreme Court said there was no need for a candidate to lay bare his entire life for the electorate to examine

What are the consequences of any omission?
Section 125A of the RPA, 1951, prescribes a six-month prison term, or a fine, or both, for any candidate's failure to disclose the required information, or giving false information or concealing such information.

Besides this provision for prosecution, any omission or false information could be a ground to challenge a candidate's election in the High Court. Among the grounds available to a court to invalidate an election, two are relevant here.

Under Section 100, an election can be declared void if there is "improper acceptance of any nomination" or "any non-compliance with the provisions of the Constitution or of this Act or of any rules or orders made under this Act." It is possible for an unsuccessful candidate to question the acceptance of the nomination of the ultimate winner on the ground of concealment or furnishing of false information, as well as raise the possible violation of any of the statutory disclosure requirements.

What is the latest court ruling?

This case concerned the election of Karikho Kri, an independent candidate who won a seat in the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly in 2019. His election was challenged by the Congress candidate Nunev Tayang on the ground that Mr. Kri had not disclosed some moveable assets in the names of his wife and children. The Itanagar Bench of the High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh accepted the allegations and declared Mr. Kri's election void. It found that his nomination had been improperly accepted as he had failed to disclose three vehicles (old some years before, but not yet registered in the name of the buyers) and had not submitted a 'No Dues' certificate for government accommodation he had enjoyed during an earlier stint as MLA (2009-14).

The Supreme Court set aside the High Court's judgment on the ground that the non-disclosure was not of a substantial nature warranting rejection of his nomination; nor did it amount to non-compliance with the law as it did not materially affect the outcome of the election.

What is the takeaway from the verdict?

Rejecting the contention that the voter's right to know all particulars is absolute, the Supreme Court said there was no need for a candidate to lay bare his entire life to the electorate. It is not necessary to declare every item of moveable property, unless it is of such value as to be sizeable in itself, or will reflect upon his lifestyle and thus be of interest to the voter. However, the court cautioned that there cannot be a straitjacket rule on this, and what omission is of a substantial character or will affect the outcome will depend on the facts of each case.



LAW OF DISCLOSURE



What is the law related to disclosure?

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- In June 2022, the ECI issued the rules to give effect to the judgment.
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Concurrent heatwaves, sea level rises pose a threat to coastlines

The Hindu Bureau

Concurrent occurrences of heatwaves and extreme short-term sea level rise at the same coastal locations significantly increased between 1998 and 2017 when compared to the preceding twenty years, as per a study published in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*.

The study also suggests that these events may be five times more likely to occur between 2025 and

2049 under a modelled high emissions scenario.

A so-called ‘concurrent heatwave and extreme sea level’ (CHWESL) event is when a heatwave and an extreme short-term sea level rise occur at the same coastal location over the same time period.

This can pose a serious threat to coastal communities. Yet, there has so far been little research into the characteristics and occurrences of these events.

Shuo Wang and Mo

Zhou from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, investigated CHWESL events worldwide between 1979 and 2017 and projected future events between 2025 and 2049 under a high emissions climate scenario (the IPCC’s SSP5-8.5 scenario).

The authors only included events occurring in the extended summer season, spanning May to September in the Northern Hemisphere, and November to March in the Southern

Hemisphere. The authors found that approximately 88% of the world’s coastlines experienced a CHWESL event during the period 1979-2017. Approximately 39% of coastlines recorded a significant increase in the total duration of CHWESL conditions experienced over a year during the period 1998-2017 compared to during 1979-1998, with tropical regions more likely to experience a greater increase.

The authors also found

a significant association between heatwave intensity and the probability of a CHWESL event occurring, with a 1% increase in heatwave intensity associated with an approximately 2% increase in the probability of a CHWESL event occurring. From their projections, the authors suggest that global coastal areas could experience on average 38 days of CHWESL conditions each year between 2025 and 2049, an increase of 31 days compared

to the historical period of 1989-2013.

The authors conclude that CHWESL events could pose a significant threat to coastal communities, particularly from the risks of excess heat to human health.

They note that countries in tropical areas are likely to be the most severely affected, and that many of these countries are low or middle-income countries which may struggle to cope with the effects.



Sea Level Rise

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- **China said on it is offering security assistance to Tonga for a Pacific islands summit.**
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Geroscience: the science related to aging



**SPEAKING OF
SCIENCE**

D. Balasubramanian

Dr. Daniel Belsky, an epidemiologist at Columbia University, New York (my Alma Mater), has coined the term 'geroscience', meaning geriatric, or related to age. Here, he has devised a novel blood test which determines the pace at which a person is aging. His group has devised a method which studies the formation of methyl groups through an enzyme in the DNA of senior citizens and finds that this methylation is sensitive to aging. This is often referred to as 'gerozyme'.

Tool to target aging

Several groups are working on drugs and other related methods to modulate the

gerozyme, and how these efforts affect his/her aging. One group has suggested the drug called metformin is a tool to target aging (*Cell Metabolism*, vol.23, June 14, 2016). Another group has shown that if we inhibit the enzyme TORC1, it will enhance immunity and reduce infection in the elderly. More recently, Mannick et al, in a paper in *Nature Aging* (2023) have reviewed the effects of the drug rapamycin on the longevity and survival of animal models of human diseases, and how we may make the drug's inhibitors a part of the standard of care for diseases of aging.

Dr. Belsky's group had also studied the levels of DNA methylation in people across the socio-economic backgrounds (poor-rich, rural-urban) and found that the socio-economic disadvantage has a role to play.

The Columbia Aging



Various benefits: Senior citizens will benefit from exercise and thus inhibit the aging-associated enzyme (gerozyme). GETTY IMAGES

Centre has found that a balanced diet supports brain health by reducing inflammation, and promotes proper blood flow by supplying essential nutrients which aid cognitive function.

The website healthline.com elaborates on this and states that healthy

sources of proteins, healthy fats, and foods rich in antioxidants, such as healthy fats, vegetables, foods rich in oils, and plenty of fruits help in supporting healthy aging. This is of particular value to us in India, since the number of people above the age of 60 years is about 10 crores

(out of a total population of 143 crores). Healthline.com suggests that proteins (animal and vegetable), nutritive grains (wheat, rice, ragi, bajra), oils, fruits and soft drinks help in healthy aging. These are easily available, both for meat eaters and vegetarians.

Researchers at Stanford University have found that a drug which can boost strength in injured or aging mice restores connections between nerves and muscle fibres. This drug blocks the activity of an aging-associated gerozyme called 15-PGDH which naturally increases in muscles with age and in neuromuscular disease. But with this drug, aging mice become physically active again.

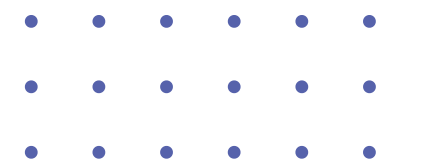
Mayo Clinic in Minnesota offers seven benefits of regular physical activity. These are: controls weight; combats health conditions and diseases like stroke, high blood pressure, type

2, diabetes, and cancer; improves your mood; boosts energy; enables better sleep; better sex life; and finally, it can be fun and social such as meeting, walking, or playing with others.

All of us, particularly senior citizens, will greatly benefit by exercise, and thus inhibit the gerozyme.

Music may even modulate gerozyme and be a cure for dementia!

In 2020, a group from Toledo, Spain published a paper which concluded that music can be a powerful treatment strategy for dementia. And more recently, another group, again from Spain, has a paper titled: Music compensates for altered gene expression in age-related cognitive disorders. In effect, the paper suggests that music can modulate our gerozyme. So, friends! Sing a song or turn the music on!





Gerozyme'

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- Here, he has devised a novel blood test which determines the pace at which a person is aging.
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The trend in climate change jurisprudence

What is the backdrop to the Supreme Court ruling that citizens have a right against the adverse effects of climate change? Why has a link been drawn between climate change and human rights? Is this happening in litigation in other countries too?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that citizens have a “right against the adverse effects of climate change.” The Court was giving its verdict in a case that raised concerns over multiple deaths of the Great Indian Bustard due to solar power transmission lines against India’s obligation to meet its emission reduction and increase its energy capacity through non-fossil fuel sources.

What is the context?

In recent years, one of the factors linked to the decline in the population of the Great Indian Bustard, an endangered species, are power lines in Rajasthan and Gujarat, which host several, large solar parks. The concern was that the birds collided against the overhead transmission lines. Environmentalists petitioned the Supreme Court in 2019, pleading that all overhead lines, existing and prospective, be shifted underground. Private and public power companies, supported by the Centre’s Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), contended that shifting all overhead lines underground would be expensive and impractical, and would significantly hike the cost of solar power, undermining India’s

Supreme Court judgments on environmental matters have often significantly altered public discourse and governmental action

commitment to green growth. The Court had constituted a committee of experts in April 2021 to determine which transmission lines ought to go underground and which ones could remain overground. In its latest judgment, the Court has continued to task an expert committee with overseeing the electrification but quite emphatically stressed that underground electrification – as the government and power-developers have argued – would hinder India’s road to solar electrification.

What does the judgment say on human rights and climate change?

The Court notes that the Indian government has taken multiple steps through legislation as well mission-led programmes to address climate change. The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, the National Green Tribunal Act 2010, were among those referenced in the judgment; the National Solar Mission, the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency and, the National Mission for a Green India were also mentioned. “Despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognising the adverse effects of climate change and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns. However, this does not mean that the people of India do not have a right against the adverse effects of climate change,” the Court noted.

Despite constitutional guarantees that give citizens equality before the law and right to life and personal liberty, it was now necessary, in the Court’s view, to explicitly link the impact of climate change as something which impedes these rights of liberty, life and equality. “This is perhaps because this right (against climate change) and the right to a clean environment are two sides of the same coin. As the havoc caused by climate change increases year by year, it becomes necessary to articulate this as a distinct right. It is recognised by Articles 14 and 21,” the judgment notes. The Court also said that if vulnerable communities were affected, say by

coastal erosion, land degradation, or if people were made additionally vulnerable to disease, agricultural losses, storms and flooding – all indirectly linked to climate change – then rights under these Articles (14 and 21) would be violated, further necessitating an explicit link between climate change and rights.

Are their international precedents?

The link between climate change and human rights has grown stronger since the Paris Agreement of 2015. The preamble of the Agreement had references to “human rights.”

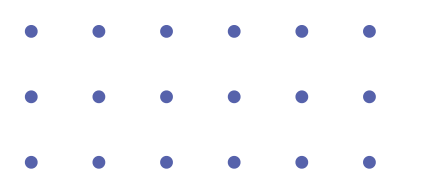
In a 2023 research paper, Doreen Lustig and Ilil Gabison of Tel Aviv University highlighted that there was a growing convergence between the fields of international human rights law (IHRL) and climate change. Several reports of UN human rights bodies and Human Rights Council resolutions are now drawing a link between rights and climate change. In 2005, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, a Canadian-Inuk activist, in her capacity as chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (now known as the Inuit Circumpolar Council), petitioned the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to get relief for human rights violations resulting from the impacts of climate change. This was among the first explicit links translating the impact of the climate crisis into human rights language. Scholars also argue that the framing of climate change as affecting future generations and endangering their right to a liveable planet follows from the link to human rights. That is how the climate activism, for instance, of Greta Thunberg and her ‘school strikes for climate’, must be understood.

What are the implications of such a ruling?

Supreme Court judgments on environmental matters have often significantly altered public discourse and governmental action. For instance, decisions in the *M.C. Mehta versus Union of India*, the *Godavari Thirumulpad* cases have been the foundation of subsequent environmental action. In the current case of the Great Indian Bustard too, the ruling has come with the Court underlining the necessity for expanding electricity production for solar energy sources. While this is state-backed, India has also underlined its right at international fora to continue to rely on coal plants and fossil fuels. Whether this will be seen by Indians as the government failing to protect them against the effects of climate change remains to be seen.



For the future: Greta Thunberg with a sign that reads, “School Strike for climate”, outside the Swedish Parliament in Sweden on June 9, 2023. REUTERS





Supreme Court ruling that citizens have a right against the adverse effects of climate change

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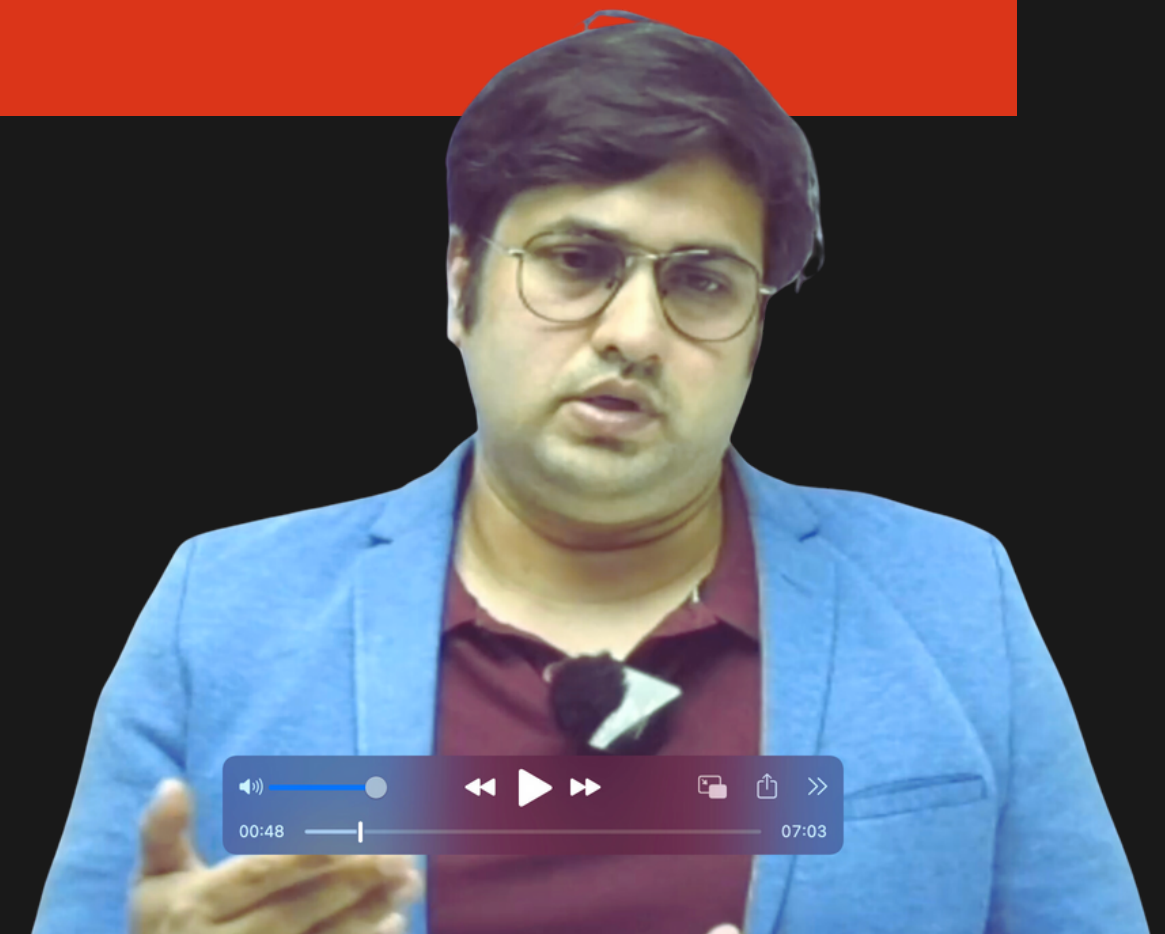
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- climate change increases year by year, it becomes necessary to articulate this as a distinct right.
- It is recognised by Articles 14 and 21,” the judgment notes.
- The Court also said that if vulnerable communities were affected, say by coastal erosion, land degradation, or if people were made additionally vulnerable to disease, agricultural losses, storms and flooding – all indirectly linked to climate change – then rights under these Articles (14 and 21) would be violated, further necessitating an explicit link between climate change and rights

- The link between climate change and human rights has grown stronger since the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- The preamble of the Agreement had references to “human rights.”
-

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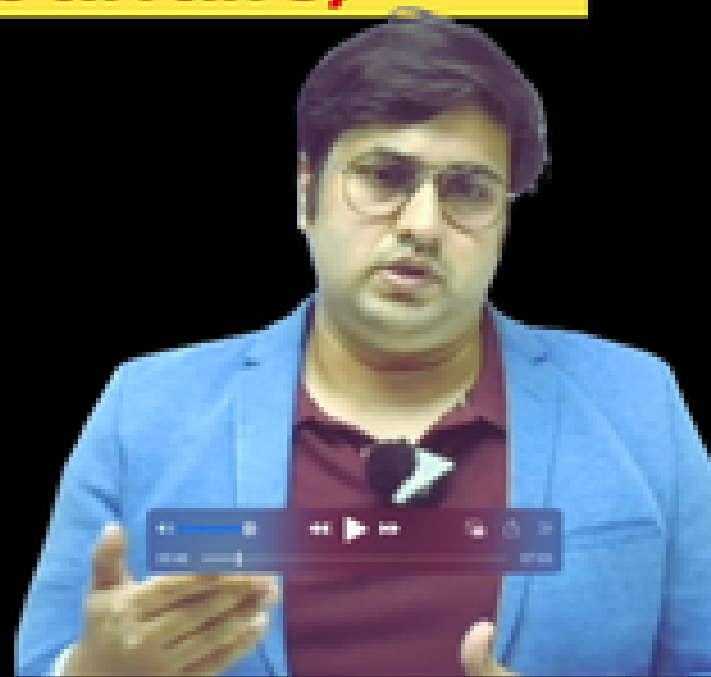
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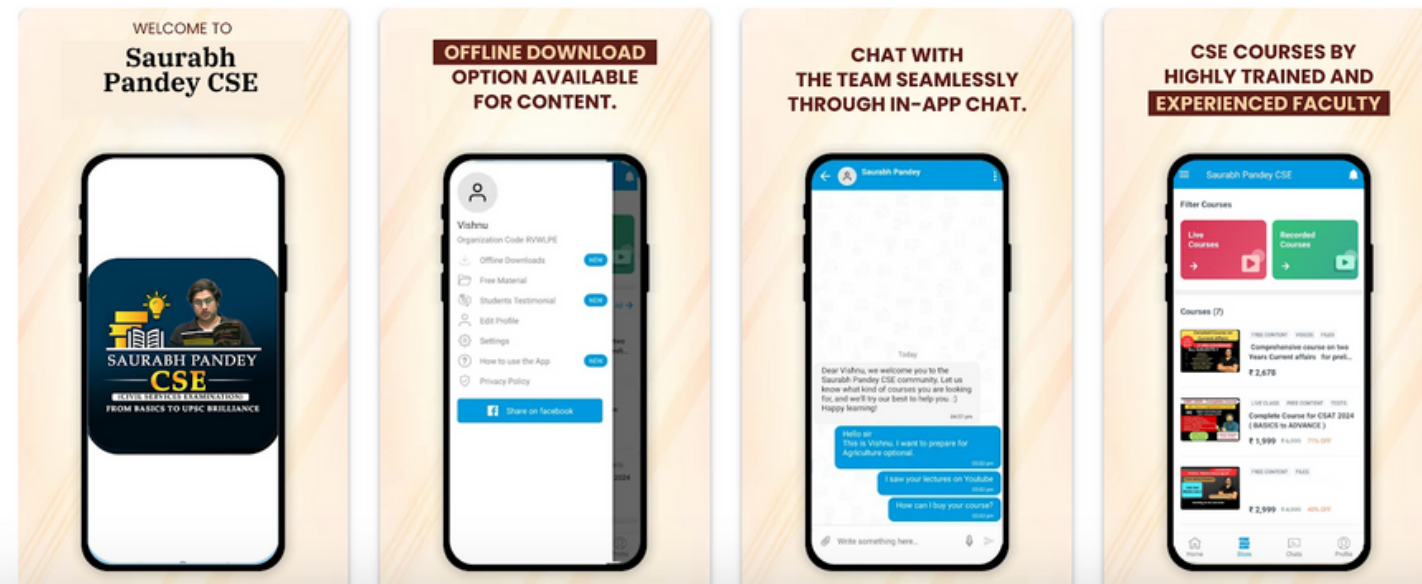
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