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STATE OF THE CLIMATE IN ASIA 2023

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "STATE OF THE CLIMATE IN ASIA 2023". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "ENVIRONMENT" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Recently, a report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said floods and storms were the main cause of casualties and economic damage in 2023, while the impact of heat waves became more severe. "Many countries in the region experienced their hottest year on record in 2023, along with a barrage of extreme conditions, from droughts and heatwaves to floods and storms," WMO chief Celeste Saulo said in a statement.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATE OF THE CLIMATE IN ASIA 2023' REPORT:

- It found that Asia has been warming faster than the global average, with temperature rises in 2023 averaging nearly 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above the 1961-90 average.
- In 2023, the 79 events associated with extreme weather, climate, and water-related hazards affected over 9 million people in the region and directly killed over 2,000 people. Japan experienced its hottest summer on record.
- Glaciers in High-Mountain Asia have experienced accelerated mass loss over the last 40 years, significantly worsened by 2023's record temperatures and dry conditions in the Eastern Himalayas and Tien Shan.
- Since 1982, the ocean around Asia has shown a warming trend, with 2023 seeing record-high sea-surface temperature anomalies in the northwest Pacific Ocean.
- South-west China suffered from drought because of the below-normal precipitation levels nearly every month of 2023.
- Floods and storms make up 80% of hydrometeorological hazards, with heavy rainfall causing widespread flooding in Yemen as an example.
- India faced severe weather impacts, including heat waves, floods, glacial outbursts, and cyclones.
- Between April and June 2023, severe heat waves caused about 110 deaths due to heatstroke in India.

- In 2023, floods in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, India, resulted in 25 deaths and significant damage, leading to a government-declared state of emergency and the launch of rescue efforts.
- In 2023, the Indian sub-continent witnessed six tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean, slightly exceeding the average with four in the Bay of Bengal—Mocha, Hamoon, Midhili, Michaung—and two in the Arabian Sea—Biparjoy and Tej.

APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE ISSUES:

Addressing climate issues requires a comprehensive approach involving multiple strategies at different levels of society, and reducing climate change damage requires a multi-faceted approach that involves individuals, communities, businesses, governments, and international cooperation. **Here are some key approaches to addressing the climate issues:**

1. **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The primary driver of anthropogenic climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Reducing these emissions through measures like Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power.
2. **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):** CCS technologies aim to capture CO₂ emissions from industrial processes or directly from the atmosphere and store them underground or in other long-term storage facilities, preventing them from entering the atmosphere and contributing to global warming. Planting trees and restoring forests can help absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, acting as a natural carbon sink.
3. **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Crop Diversification:** Build and retrofit infrastructure to withstand climate-related hazards such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and flooding. Promote diverse and resilient agricultural practices that can adapt to changing climate conditions.
4. **Education and Awareness:** Raise public awareness about the causes and consequences of climate change. Promote education and training on sustainable practices and technologies. Encourage behaviour change and consumer choices that reduce carbon footprints.
5. **Water Management and Ecosystem Restoration:** Enhance water conservation and management practices to cope with changing precipitation patterns and water scarcity. Restore and protect natural ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and coral reefs to enhance resilience to climate change impacts.
6. **Research and Development:** Invest in developing clean energy technologies, carbon capture and storage, and other climate solutions. Scale up deploying existing climate-friendly technologies and innovations to accelerate emissions reductions and adaptation efforts.
7. **Policy and Governance:** Develop and implement ambitious national climate action plans with targets for emissions reductions, renewable energy deployment, and adaptation measures. Collaborate with other countries to strengthen global climate agreements and commitments, such as the Paris Agreement. Enact and enforce regulations to limit transportation, industry, and agriculture emissions.

ABOUT WORLD METROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (WMO):

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation in meteorology (the science of the

atmosphere and its phenomena) and related fields. It was established in 1950 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Its primary objectives are multifaceted and focus on enhancing global meteorological capabilities. One of the main goals of the WMO is to facilitate the exchange of meteorological information among nations. This is crucial for forecasting weather and mitigating the effects of extreme weather events, which can save lives and protect property.
- Another significant objective is the standardization of meteorological observations and data. This ensures that the data collected from different parts of the world are comparable and can be reliably used in global climate models and weather forecasting.
- WMO facilitates international cooperation in research and technology development in meteorology and related fields. This involves coordinating global efforts to advance our understanding of meteorological phenomena and developing new weather observation and prediction technologies.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION:

Q. Consider the following statements about the State of the Climate in Asia 2023 report:

1. The report was published by the World Meteorological Organisation(WMO).
2. According to the report, Asia has faced the most number of disasters in the world in 2023

Which of the above statements is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION:

- Q. How can disaster management strategies be adapted to address the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters due to climate change?**
- Q. How can international cooperation in disaster management be enhanced to address the global challenge of climate change and ethical considerations in prioritizing disaster management resources in areas most affected by climate change?**

[Amit pradhan](#)

WHO INTRODUCED FIRST PATIENT SAFETY RIGHTS CHARTER

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "WHO INTRODUCED FIRST PATIENT SAFETY RIGHTS CHARTER". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "SOCIAL ISSUES" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

The first Patient Safety Rights Charter was introduced by the World Health Organization (WHO) during the Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety. This pioneering document delineates the rights of patients within the realm of safety, marking a significant milestone.

PATIENT SAFETY RIGHTS AS PER THE CHARTER

- The World Health Organization (WHO) developed the Patient Safety Rights Charter to advocate for patients' fundamental right to safe healthcare. This charter serves as a guide for governments and healthcare institutions to prioritise patient safety and empower patients to be active participants in their care.
- The charter outlines **ten core rights** that healthcare systems must uphold to minimise risks and prevent unintended harm to patients. These rights encompass various aspects of patient care, including:
 1. **Right to timely, effective, and tailored care including out-of-hours support and prompt notification of critical test results.** Ensures evidence-based and culturally sensitive care to prevent harm and monitor post-discharge recovery.
 2. **Right to safe healthcare processes,** including accurate documentation, evidence-based pathways, and safe medication practices to prevent harm.
 3. **Right to qualified and compassionate health workers** adhering to professional standards and respecting patient rights, with access to facility information.
 4. **Right to safe medical products and their rational use,** ensuring access to quality products and empowering patients and health workers to report adverse reactions.
 5. **Right to safe healthcare facilities,** emphasising accessibility, structural integrity, cleanliness, infection control, and protection from violence and exploitation.
 6. **Right to dignity, respect, non-discrimination, privacy, and confidentiality,** ensuring equitable treatment and protection of personal information.
 7. **Right to information, education, and supported decision-making,** providing clear and culturally appropriate information, support for decision-making, and access to medical records.
 8. **Right to access medical records in a usable format,** control over information use, data protection, and secure handling of records.
 9. **Right to be heard and fair resolution,** allowing patients to report incidents without fear of reprisal, with clear explanations and fair processes for resolution and prevention.
 10. **Right to patient and family engagement,** enabling active participation in care decisions, advance directives, seeking second opinions, and involvement in healthcare system improvement.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PATIENT SAFETY CHARTER

- **Prioritising Patient Well-being:** A Patient Safety Charter would establish a clear framework for prioritising patient well-being throughout the healthcare system. This would encompass best practices, protocols, and guidelines to minimise risks and promote safe care delivery.
- **Standardisation and Consistency:** A charter can promote standardisation and consistency in healthcare practices across different institutions. This reduces variability and ensures a baseline level of safety for patients regardless of where they receive care.
- **Collaboration and Transparency:** The charter can foster collaboration between healthcare providers, patients, and families. By encouraging open communication and transparency around safety concerns, it empowers all stakeholders to participate in risk identification and mitigation.
- **Accountability and Improvement:** A Patient Safety Charter would establish clear lines of accountability for ensuring safe care. This encourages continuous improvement by setting measurable goals and tracking progress in reducing patient harm.
- **Building Trust and Confidence:** By demonstrating a strong commitment to patient safety, a charter can rebuild public trust and confidence in the healthcare system. This is crucial for encouraging individuals to seek care without undue fear of complications.

CHALLENGES FOR PATIENT SAFETY IN INDIA

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited resources, including a shortage of qualified healthcare personnel, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of essential equipment, can compromise patient safety. Overcrowded facilities and overworked staff can lead to errors in diagnosis, medication administration, and surgical procedures.
- **Fragmented Healthcare System:** The Indian healthcare system is fragmented, with a mix of public and private providers operating under different regulations and standards. This lack of cohesion can create inconsistencies in care delivery and make it difficult to implement and monitor safety initiatives on a national scale.
- **Medical Culture:** A hierarchical medical culture, where senior doctors are less likely to be questioned, can hinder open communication and reporting of errors. This can create a culture of blame rather than one focused on learning and improvement.
- **Patient Education and Awareness:** Limited health literacy among patients can lead to misunderstandings about treatment plans and medication use. Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices can sometimes conflict with recommended medical procedures, posing safety risks.
- **Counterfeit Drugs and Unsafe Practices:** The presence of counterfeit drugs and the persistence of unsafe practices, such as needle reuse, contribute to patient harm. Addressing these issues requires robust regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.
- **Hospital-Acquired Infections (HAIs):** Inadequate infection control protocols and a lack of emphasis on hand hygiene contribute to the spread of HAIs, which can have serious consequences for patients.

PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. What is the primary goal of the National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (NPSIF) 2018-2025?

- To establish institutional framework/mechanisms
- To improve patient safety at all levels of healthcare

- (c) To promote infection prevention and control
- (d) To ensure safety in programmatic and clinical domains

Answer: B

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. Discuss the factors contributing to the low penetration of health insurance in India. How do socioeconomic factors, lack of awareness, and trust issues impact the adoption of health insurance among the population?

[Himanshu mishra](#)

