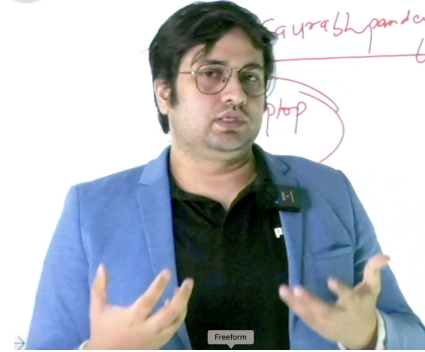


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- **Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)**
- **Kumkis (Trained Elephants)**
- **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)**
- **Simultaneous Elections in India**
- **China's Antimony Export Restrictions**
- **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**
- **Global Warming Trends and Impacts (2023-2024)**
- **Fadi Rockets**
- **Mains**



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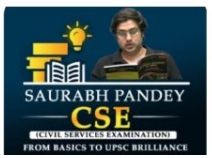
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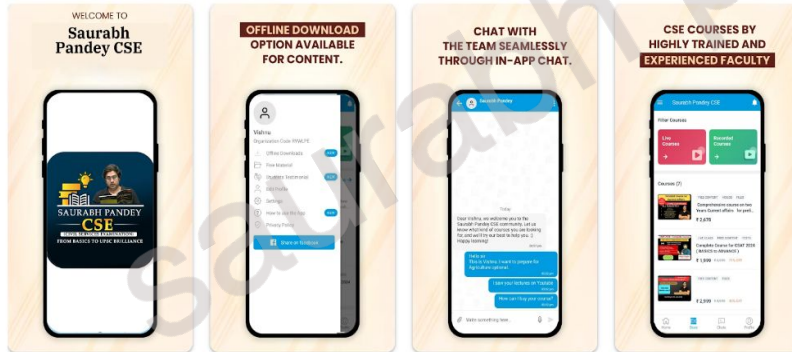
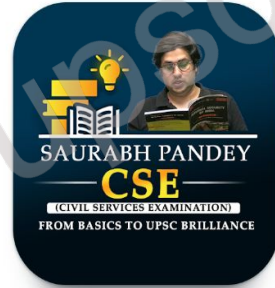
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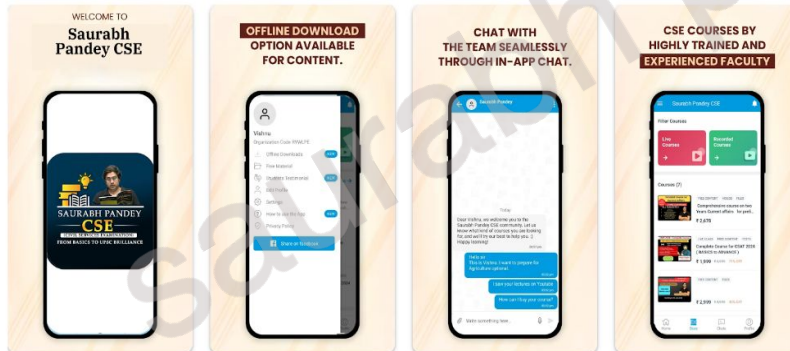
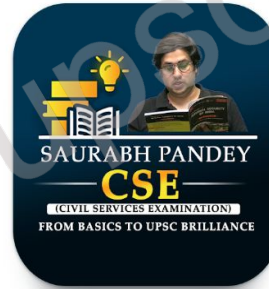
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# Topic → Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)



## Overview of ICBMs

Definition: Long-range missiles designed to deliver nuclear, chemical, or conventional warheads.

Key Features:

Range: Over 5,500 km

Speed: Can reach speeds of up to 24,000 km/h

Launch Platforms: Land-based silos, mobile launchers, and submarines.



## Current Developments

China's Recent Tests:

Test-Fired into Pacific Ocean: Demonstrates range and capability.

First ICBM Test in Decades: Significant military advancement.

Simulated Warhead Launch: Aimed to test US mainland reach.

US Responses:

Minuteman III Test Launch: Showcases readiness of US nuclear forces.

Increased Surveillance: Monitoring activities of rival nations.

Russia's Testing:

Sarmat Missile Test: Highlighted by apparent explosion during testing.



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## Strategic Importance

Deterrence: Acts as a deterrent against nuclear attacks.

Global Power Dynamics: Influences international relations and military strategies.

Arms Control: Ongoing discussions about limiting ICBM development.

## Future Trends

Technological Advancements:

Digital Technologies: Northrop Grumman's redesign initiatives for target vehicles.

Increased Testing: Expect more frequent demonstrations by global powers.

Shift in Military Strategies: Nations adapting to new capabilities and threats.

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## Overview of Kumkis

**Definition:** Trained elephants used primarily for managing wild herds and mitigating human-elephant conflicts.

**Purpose:** Assist in conservation efforts and reduce instances of human-animal conflict.

**Origin:** Predominantly found in India, especially Karnataka.

## Applications of Kumkis

**Human-Animal Conflict Resolution:**

- Help in deterring wild elephants from human settlements.

- Reduce crop damage caused by wild herds.

**Cultural Significance:**

- Integral in festivals and traditional events (e.g., Dasara in Mysore).

**Research and Conservation:**

- Used in studies related to elephant behavior and ecology.



## Challenges Faced



Health Issues:

Need for proper care and veterinary support.

Training:

Requires skilled trainers with knowledge of elephant behavior.

Public Perception:

Concerns over ethical treatment and training methods.

## Future Prospects

Expanding Programs:

More states considering the use of Kumkhis for managing wild herds.

Technological Integration:

Use of tracking devices and drones to assist trained elephants in their roles.

Community Engagement:

Involvement of local communities in training and care

# Topic → Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)



## Overview

AOSIS: An intergovernmental organization of small island developing states.

Focus: Climate change, sustainable development, and international cooperation.

Members: 39 member states from various regions, primarily the Caribbean, Pacific, and Indian Ocean.

## Key Goals:

Advocate for the rights and needs of small island nations.

Promote sustainable economic development.

Address climate change impacts and enhance resilience.

## Recent Developments:

COP28 Outcomes: Criticism for inadequate measures.

UNGA79 Resolutions: Support for sustainable development initiatives.

Call to Action: Adoption of strategies for climate resilience.





# Topic → Simultaneous Elections in India



## Overview

**Concept:** Holding elections for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies simultaneously.

**Origin:** Proposed by the Prime Minister to reduce election frequency.

**Committee:** High-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

**Key Members:** Amit Shah, Ghulam Nabi Azad, N.K. Singh, Subhash C. Kashyap, Harish Salve, Sanjay Kothari.

**Report Submission:** Presented to the President in March 2023.

**BJP Manifesto:** Included as a key promise for the 2024 elections.



Amendment Bill: Required to change the tenure of Assemblies.

Voting Requirements:

Special majority needed (362 votes out of 543).

Current NDA strength: ~292 members.

Opposition's Role: Critical for passing the Bill.

## Arguments For and Against

Cost Savings: Holding elections once every five years could save money.

Disruption of Development: Frequent elections may hinder government projects.

Federalism:

Reducing Assembly tenures can undermine federal structure.

Altering the autonomy of State Assemblies.

Accountability: Frequent elections promote connectivity between representatives and constituents.

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Development Disruption: Frequent elections may hinder long-term projects.

Political Party Dynamics: Potential for increased lethargy among parties with long election intervals.

### **Constitutional Implications**

Amendments Needed: Changes to various Articles of the Constitution.

Key Amendment: Loss of fixed tenure for State Assemblies (Article 172).

### **Conclusion**

Federal Balance: Simultaneous elections may disrupt the federal structure.

Public Opinion: Not a priority issue for ordinary citizens.

Future Outlook: The outcome of the amendment bill is uncertain given the current political landscape.





# Topic → China's Antimony Export Restrictions



## Overview

Date: August 15, 2024

Action: Restriction on antimony exports

Justification: National security

Effective Date: September 15, 2024

Significance: Impacts global supply chains, especially in defense sectors. especially for the US, EU, India, and Japan

### Key Points:

Strategic mineral for military equipment (missiles, sensors, etc.)

Part of broader countermeasures against Western sanctions

China dominates critical minerals supply chain

China's dominance in the critical minerals supply chain.

Impact on global national security, especially for the US, EU, India, and Japan.

(China has a near-monopoly over critical minerals, controlling 60% of rare earth production and 80% of processing globally.)





# Moves and Countermoves



Historical Context:

2010 incident with Japan over rare earth exports.

Recent Actions:

Restrictions on gallium and germanium in response to US's semiconductor controls.

Export curbs on graphite materials for EV batteries.

**Key Points:**

Strategic Vulnerability: Countries' reliance on China for strategic minerals.

China's Strategy: Leveraging mineral resources as a political tool.

(China's restrictions are viewed as a means of coercion, reinforcing its strategic position.)

**China's Foreign Policy Shifts**

From Politicization to Weaponization:

Utilizing mineral resources as a means of statecraft.

Ambitions: \_\_\_\_\_

Increase critical minerals capacity over the next five years.



## Key Points:

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China's growing comfort in using minerals as leverage.

Future expectations of increased export controls as ties with the West deteriorate.

(China's actions signal a shift towards a more aggressive foreign policy approach.)

## India's Vulnerability

Dependence: Heavy reliance on imports of critical minerals (lithium, nickel, cobalt, copper).

Cost Implications: High import costs, estimated at ₹34,000 crore in FY23.

## Key Points:

Need for India to develop alternative supply chains.

Importance of partnerships with like-minded countries.

(India's strategic dependence on China highlights its vulnerability in the global mineral supply chain.)

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# Topic→ International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



🌍💣

## Overview of the TPNW and Nuclear Disarmament

Date: September 26

Significance: Focus on total nuclear disarmament.

Key Document: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Comparison: Distinction from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

## Current Global Context

UN Divisions: Issues like Ukraine war, Israel-Palestine conflict, climate change.

Influence of Nuclear Weapons: Threats and use of nuclear weapons impact international relations.

Major Points:

- a. Nuclear disarmament efforts
- b. Global political context
- c. Participation and resistance from nuclear states



## Overview of TPNW:

Celebrated on September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 🌍

Focuses on nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

## Key Themes

Nuclear Division:

*Nuclear-armed states vs non-nuclear states* ✂️

Impact of ongoing global conflicts (e.g., Ukraine, Israel-Palestine) 🌐

TPNW Prohibitions:

Bans development, testing, production, stockpiling, and use of nuclear weapons 🚫

Aimed at total nuclear disarmament 🕊️

Global Support:

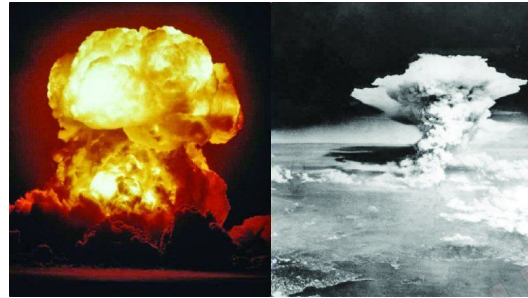
As of July 2024, 70 states parties and 27 signatories yet to ratify 🏛️

Significant backing from a diverse coalition of countries

Challenges:

Resistance from nuclear weapons states and their allies 🛡️

Lack of enforcement mechanisms for the treaty ⚖️



## Potential Outcomes

### Nuclear Norms:

Can the TPNW redefine nuclear weapons as pariah status akin to chemical and biological weapons? 🧬

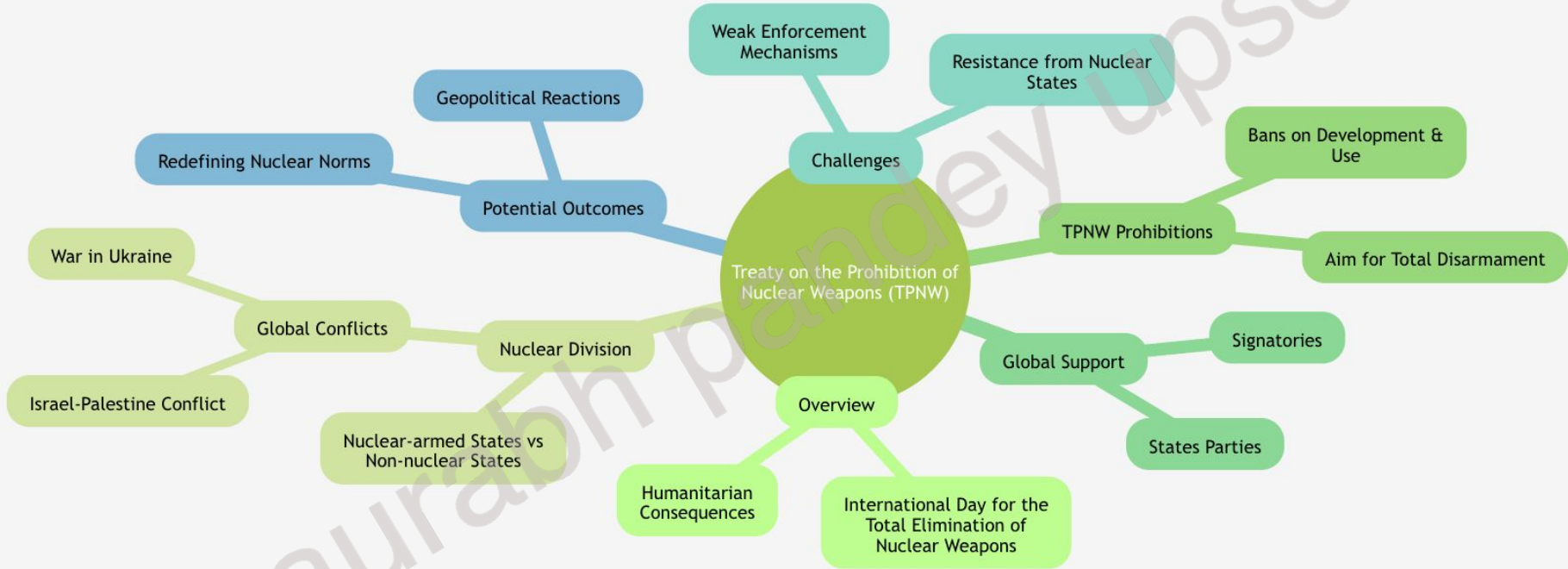
Role of international initiatives in legitimizing the treaty

### International Reactions:

Responses from countries like India, which remain out of TPNW discussions, and consider the NPT discriminatory 🇮🇳

The influence of geopolitical dynamics on treaty support or opposition 🌍







# Topic → Global Warming Trends and Impacts (2023-2024)



## Overview

**Record Temperatures:** The world has crossed the 1.5°C warming threshold.

**Extreme Weather Events:** Increased occurrences of heatwaves, cyclones, floods, droughts, and wildfires.

**Vulnerability:** Poor communities are especially affected by climate extremes

## Key Points

**Record Temperatures:** The globe has crossed the 1.5°C warming threshold.

**Extreme Weather Events:**

Deadly heatwaves

Devastating cyclones and floods

Severe droughts and wildfires

**Model Predictions:**

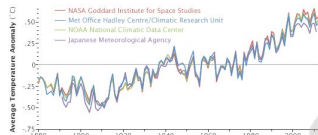
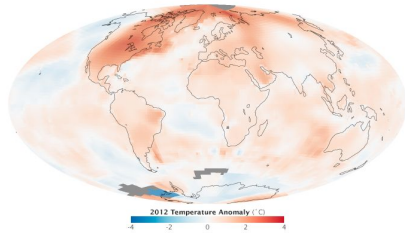
Scientists predict environmental disturbances due to temperature rise.

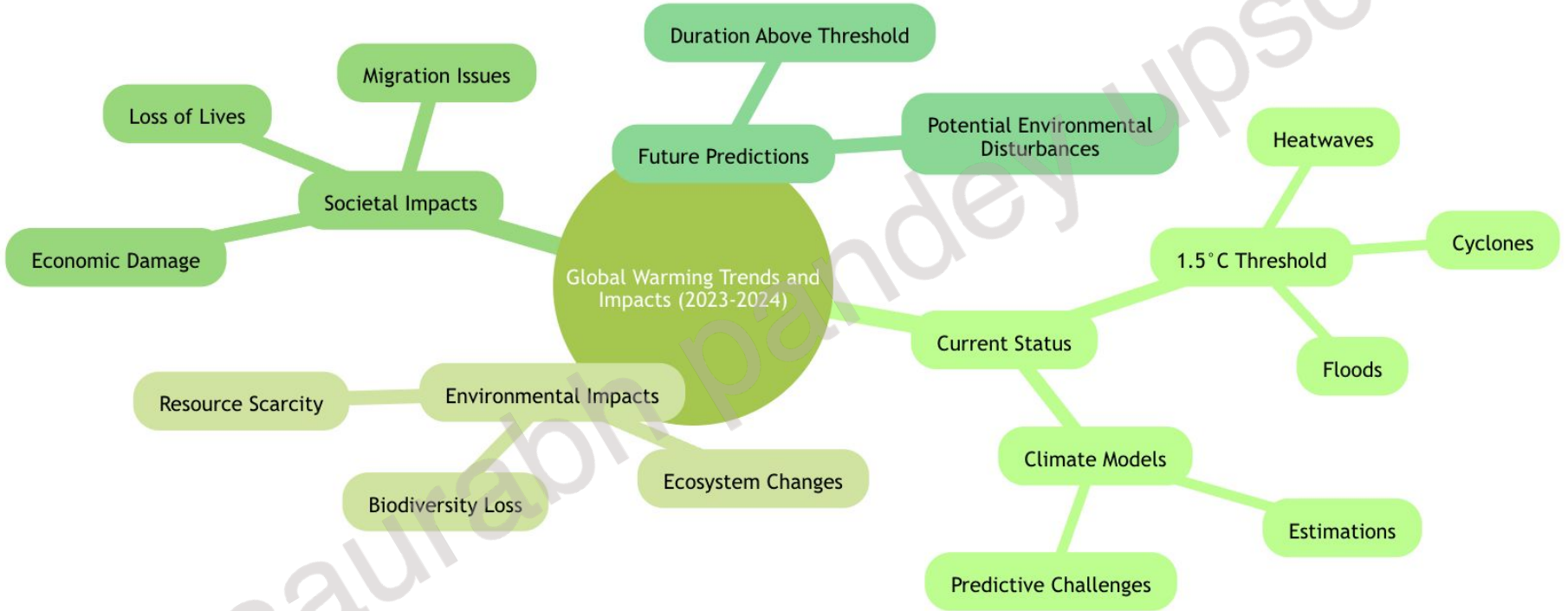
Uncertainty about the duration above the threshold for impacts.

**Impact on Society:**

Loss of lives, property, and infrastructure.

Vulnerability of poor communities to extreme weather events.





## Key Considerations

### Impact of Global Warming 🌡️

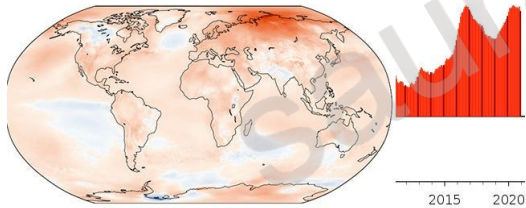
- Increased frequency of natural disasters 🌀
- Influence on hurricanes, monsoons, El Niños, La Niñas, IOD
- Potential trends versus coincidences 🤔

### Challenges in Modeling 📊

- Short-term warming data limitations
- Discrepancies in model outputs
- Variability in monsoon patterns and other climate modes

### The Future of Predictions 🌐

- Need for improved models
- Role of AI, machine learning, and advanced technologies
- Understanding natural variabilities and their predictability



## Uncertainties in Projections

Dependence on emission scenarios, population growth, and mitigation policies

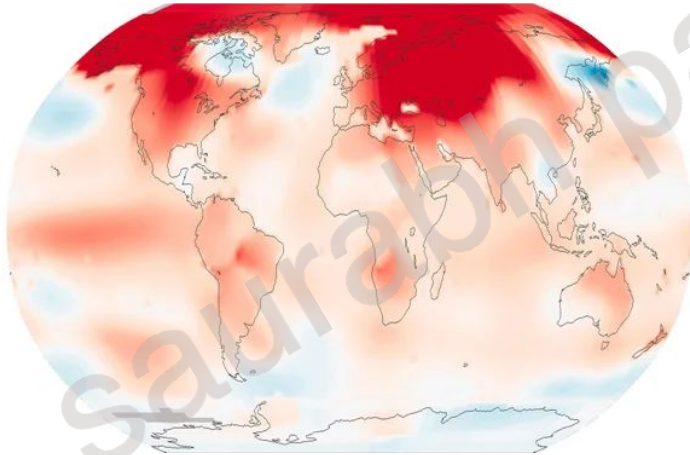
Long-term projection challenges beyond a decade

Importance of improving weather and climate predictions

Optimism for Future Predictions 

Early warning systems at hyperlocal scale

Importance of assessing resources for climate projections



# Topic → Fadi Rockets Overview



## Key Aspects

Origin: Developed by Hezbollah

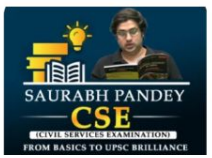
Types: Fadi-1, Fadi-2, Fadi-3 rockets

Purpose: Targeting Israeli military bases

Capabilities: High power, low precision



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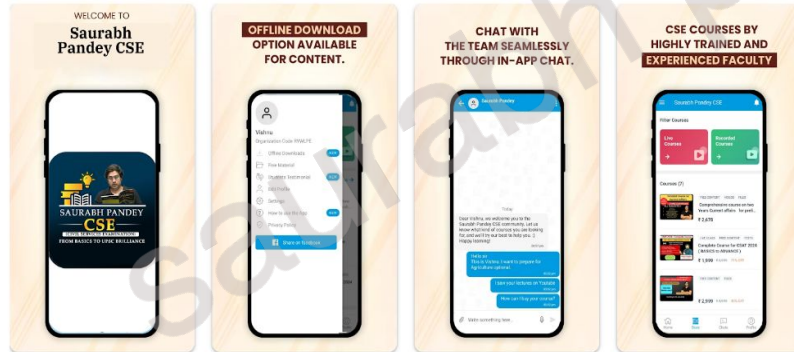
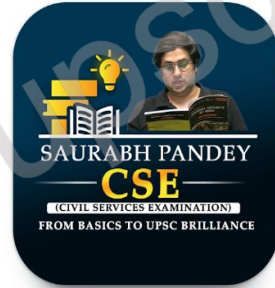
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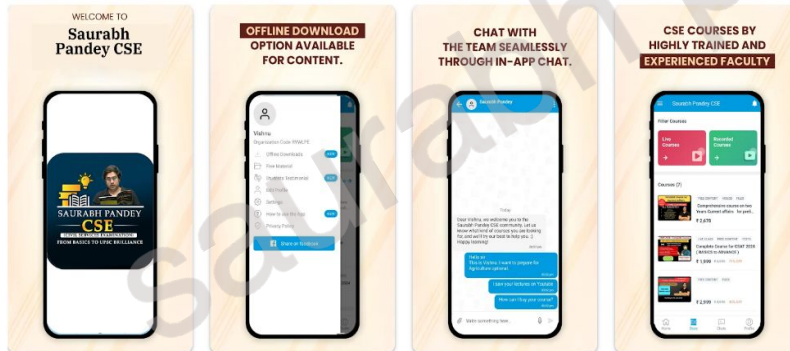
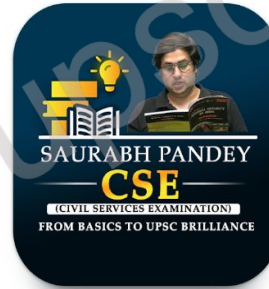
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