



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Supreme Court Expands Definition of Acid Attack

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The Supreme Court of India has said that acid attacks should also be treated as a form of disability under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act).?

What did the Court say?

Victims of acid attacks suffer permanent physical and psychological damage

So, they should get the same legal protection and benefits as persons with disabilities

Why is this important?

Earlier, acid attack victims were not clearly included under disability law

This judgment expands the definition of disability

Ensures victims get:

Reservation in jobs and education

Financial support and rehabilitation benefits

Key Observations by Court:

Acid attack causes long-term injuries (burns, disfigurement, vision loss)

Also leads to mental trauma and social exclusion

Hence, it fits within the idea of “benchmark disability”

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What is RPwD Act, 2016?

A law to protect rights of persons with disabilities

Provides equal opportunities, dignity, and inclusion

Lists different types of disabilities (now interpreted to include acid attack survivors)

Background:

Law is not static—it evolves through judicial interpretation

Courts expand definitions to ensure justice and inclusion

In Short:

The Supreme Court has ruled that acid attack survivors should be treated as persons with disabilities, giving them legal protection, benefits, and equal opportunities under the law.