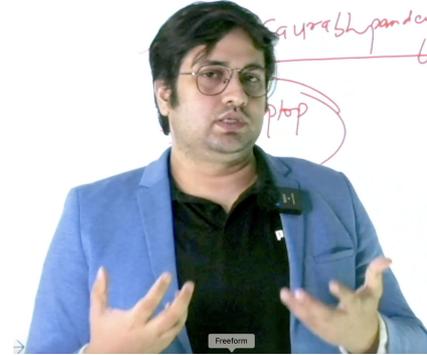


# Topics - MINDS MAPS included



- Calling Attention Motion (polity)
- LA NINA (Geography)
- Gestational diabetes ( science and tech)
- Pumped storage ( science)
- The election of the President of the European Commission (Polity)
- Warsaw Uprising (world history)
  
- Mains

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By saurabh Pandey



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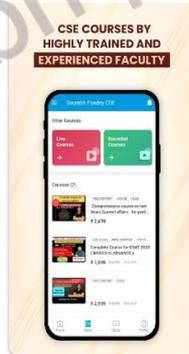
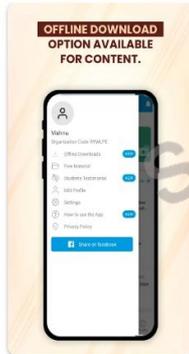
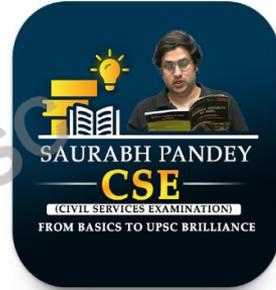
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# Topic - Calling Attention Motion (polity)



- A Calling Attention Motion is a parliamentary procedure that allows a member of a legislative assembly to bring to the attention of the House a matter of urgent public importance.
- This motion is intended to provide a mechanism for the discussion of issues that require immediate attention and are of significant public interest.
- The Calling Attention Motion is used in various parliamentary systems, including the Indian Parliament, where it is governed by specific rules and procedures.
- In the Indian context, this motion is distinguished from other forms of parliamentary interventions, such as questions, debates, and adjournment motions, by its focus on urgent matters.



## some key points about the Calling Attention Motion:

**Purpose:** The primary purpose of this motion is to draw the attention of the House and the government to a specific issue that needs urgent consideration. It is not meant for detailed discussions or to express opinions but to seek information and action from the government.

**Procedure:** A member who wishes to call the attention of the House must submit a notice in advance, typically specifying the issue and the reasons for its urgency. The Speaker or the presiding officer then decides whether the matter is suitable for a Calling Attention Motion.



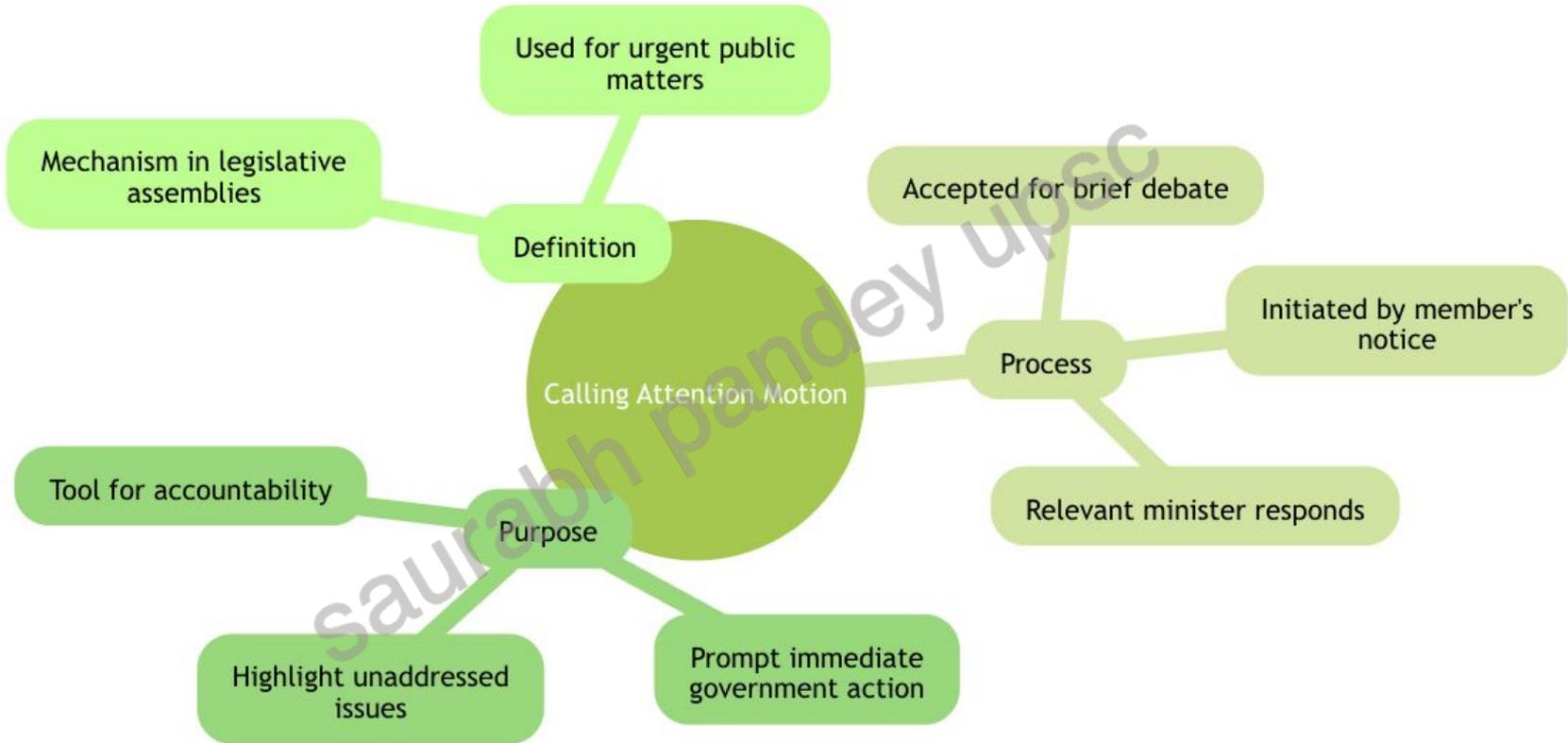
**Debate:** If the motion is accepted, the member is allowed to make a brief statement, usually not exceeding a specified time limit, to explain the nature and urgency of the matter. The relevant minister then responds to the motion, providing information, clarifications, or assurances regarding government action.

**Limitation:** The Calling Attention Motion does not have the power to compel the government to take action. It is a way to raise awareness and seek a response from the government, but it does not lead to a vote or a resolution.

**Frequency:** There are usually limits on the number of Calling Attention Motions that can be raised in a session to ensure that the House's time is not overly consumed by such motions.



**Significance:** This motion provides an opportunity for members of the legislature to highlight issues that may not have been addressed through regular parliamentary channels. It can serve as a tool for accountability, forcing the government to address urgent matters and potentially take immediate action.



Used for urgent public matters

Mechanism in legislative assemblies

Definition

Accepted for brief debate

Initiated by member's notice

Process

Relevant minister responds

Calling Attention Motion

Tool for accountability

Highlight unaddressed issues

Prompt immediate government action

Purpose

# Topic - LA NINA (Geography)



- **La Niña is a climate phenomenon characterized by a cooling of the sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.**
- **It is one phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Earth's climate system.**
- **La Niña typically develops during the late summer or early fall and can last for several months, sometimes longer.**
- **The term "La Niña" translates to "the little girl" in Spanish, often used in contrast to El Niño, which translates to "the little boy."**

# Key Features of La Niña:



**Cold Water Anomalies:** The central and eastern equatorial Pacific experience a drop in sea surface temperatures, which can be 3-5 degrees Celsius below normal.

**Shifts in Atmospheric Pressure:** La Niña is associated with a strengthening of the trade winds, which blow from east to west across the Pacific. This leads to higher atmospheric pressure in the western Pacific and lower pressure in the eastern Pacific.

**Weather Patterns:** The changes in sea surface temperatures and atmospheric pressure can lead to shifts in weather patterns around the globe. For example, La Niña can result in wetter conditions in the southern United States and drier conditions in the northwest.



**Impact on Global Climate:** La Niña can influence global temperatures, sometimes offsetting the effects of global warming for short periods. However, it is important to note that La Niña does not halt or reverse the long-term trend of global warming.

Effects of La Niña:

**Agriculture:** La Niña can lead to droughts in some areas and excessive rainfall in others, affecting crop yields and food availability. It can also influence the distribution and abundance of fish stocks, impacting fisheries.

**Water Resources:** The altered precipitation patterns can lead to water shortages or floods, depending on the region, affecting water supply and water management systems.



**Weather Extremes:** La Niña can contribute to the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall, storms, and even changes in the path of hurricanes and typhoons.

**Economic Impacts:** The agricultural, water resource, and weather-related effects of La Niña can have significant economic consequences, including impacts on food prices, insurance costs, and overall economic stability.

**Public Health:** Changes in weather patterns can affect the prevalence and distribution of diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, and cholera, which are sensitive to climate conditions.

## **Prediction and Monitoring:**

**Scientists use various tools and models to predict the onset and intensity of La Niña events.**

**These include satellite observations, buoy data, and climate models.**

**The NOAA Climate Prediction Center and other international climate agencies provide regular updates and forecasts to help governments and communities prepare for potential impacts.**



# Topic-Gestational diabetes ( science and tech)



- **Gestational diabetes is a type of diabetes that develops during pregnancy.**
- **It is a condition in which a woman's body becomes resistant to insulin, a hormone that regulates the amount of sugar in the blood.**
- **As a result, the body cannot effectively use insulin to maintain normal blood sugar levels, leading to high blood sugar.**
- **The exact cause of gestational diabetes is not fully understood, but it is believed to be related to the action of hormones that the placenta produces during pregnancy.**
- **These hormones can make the body more resistant to insulin.**

# Topic - Pumped storage ( science)

- **Pumped storage, also known as pumped-storage hydroelectricity (PSH), is a type of hydroelectric energy storage used by electric power systems for load balancing.**
- **The technique stores energy in the form of gravitational potential energy of water, pumped from a lower elevation reservoir to an elevated storage during off-peak electrical demand periods.**
- **During peak demand, the stored water is released back into the lower reservoir through turbines to produce electricity.**



## How Pumped Storage Works:

**Off-Peak Hours:** When electricity demand is low (off-peak hours), excess electricity from the grid is used to power electric motors that drive pumps. These pumps move water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir.

**Peak Hours:** During periods of high electricity demand (peak hours), the water stored in the upper reservoir is released back into the lower reservoir through turbines. The turbines spin as the water passes through them, generating electricity. The electricity is then fed back into the grid for consumption.



## Advantages of Pumped Storage:

**Energy Storage:** Pumped storage is one of the most efficient and cost-effective methods for storing large amounts of electrical energy. It can store energy for long periods without significant losses.

**Load Balancing:** It helps to balance the supply and demand of electricity by storing energy during low-demand periods and releasing it during high-demand periods.

**Renewable Integration:** Pumped storage can facilitate the integration of intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar by storing excess energy generated during favorable conditions for later use.

- **Flexibility:** It provides flexibility to the power system, allowing for quick adjustments to meet changing electricity demand.
- **Environmental Impact:** Compared to some other energy storage technologies, pumped storage has a relatively low environmental impact, especially when the reservoirs are already in place for other purposes.



## Challenges and Limitations:

- **Geographical Constraints:** Pumped storage requires specific geographical features, such as two reservoirs at different elevations in close proximity, which limits the locations where it can be implemented.
- **Capital Intensive:** The construction of pumped storage facilities requires significant upfront investment, which can be a barrier to new projects.
- **Environmental Concerns:** While the environmental impact is generally lower than some alternatives, there can still be concerns related to habitat disruption, water quality, and the footprint of the reservoirs.



- **Energy Efficiency:** The round-trip efficiency of pumped storage is typically between 70% and 85%, meaning that some energy is lost in the process of pumping and generating.
- Despite these challenges, pumped storage remains an important technology in the energy industry, offering a reliable and efficient means of energy storage that can complement other renewable energy sources and help to stabilize electricity grids.
- As the demand for renewable energy increases and the need for grid stability becomes more critical, pumped storage is likely to remain a key component of energy systems worldwide.

## Why is pumped storage important?

- India has planned to create an ambitious 500GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030.
- In around two years, from 2021 to 2023, it created some 23GW of non-fossil generation capacity.
- Out of the total 10GW added in eight months in 2023-24, 7.5GW were from wind and solar energy, pointing to how renewables will account for most of the new power generation that will be added in India.
- The share of actual renewable power generation will increase in times to come, but this power will necessarily vary and will be “infirm”.



## **Does India have pumped storage?**

**India has 3.3GW of pumped storage. Main ones are in Nagarjunasagar, Kadana, Kadamparai, Panchet and Bhira.**

**China leads the world with 50GW of pumped storage supporting 1,300GW of wind and solar energy.**

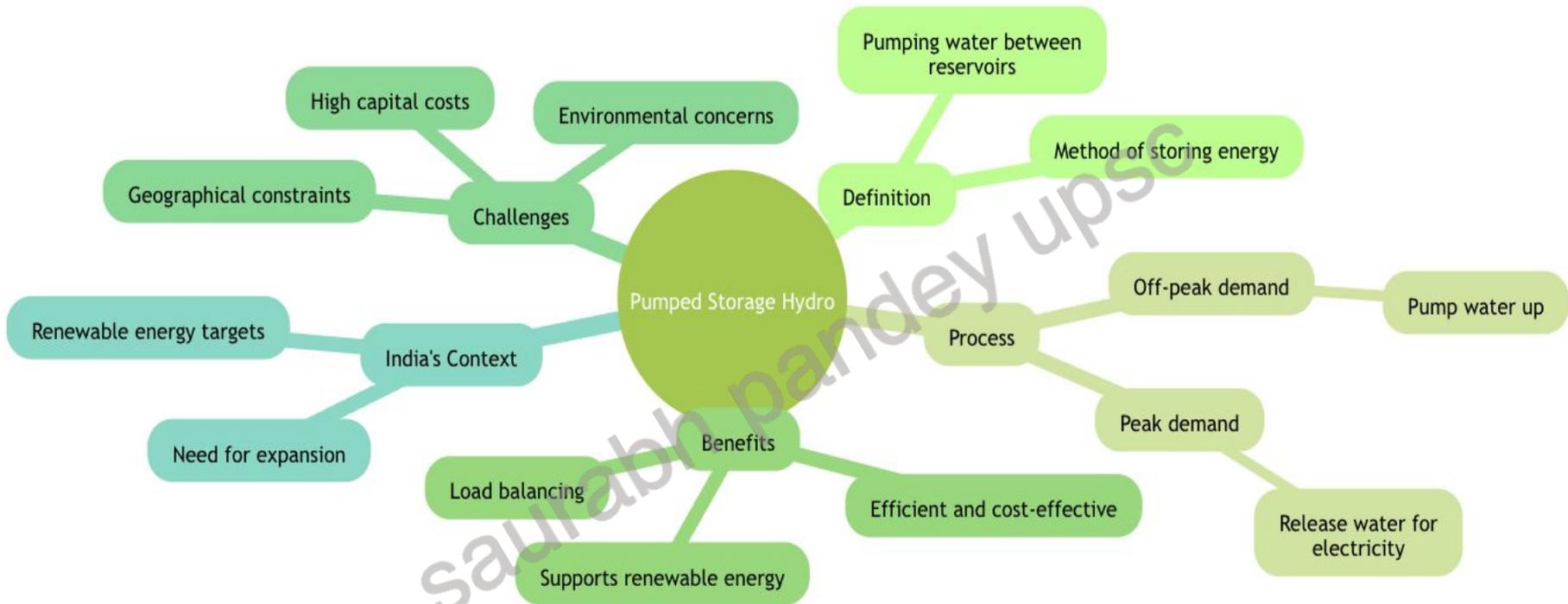
**India would need to ramp up its pumped storage capacity by several times if it wants to meet its renewable power generation targets.**

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## **Pumped storage is of two types: on river and off river.**

- **On-river is like any hydroelectric project supplied by a river. Off-river projects are those that have two reservoirs at two different levels to which the water can be pumped up or let down under gravity in a closed loop.**
- **When there is surplus power, water is pumped up from the lower reservoir to the upper, and when power is needed the water can flow down to turn the turbines and generate power. One such project is at Kadamparai, Tamil Nadu.**



## Topic- The election of the President of the European Commission (Polity)



- The election of the President of the European Commission involves a complex process that reflects the balance of power among the member states of the European Union (EU), the European Parliament, and the European Council.
- The President of the European Commission is a pivotal figure in the EU, as the Commission is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties, and managing the day-to-day business of the EU.

## The Process:

**European Council Proposal:** The process begins with the European Council, which consists of the heads of state or government of the EU member states, along with its President. The European Council proposes a candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission.

**European Parliament Approval:** The proposed candidate must then be approved by a majority of the members of the European Parliament. This step is crucial because it gives the European Parliament a significant say in the appointment of the Commission President, enhancing the democratic legitimacy of the Commission.



**College of Commissioners:** Once the President-elect is approved by the European Parliament, they propose a College of Commissioners, which includes one Commissioner from each member state. The Commission President assigns portfolios to the Commissioners, and the entire College is subject to approval by the European Parliament.

**Formal Appointment:** After the European Parliament approves the College of Commissioners, the European Council formally appoints the Commission President and the College of Commissioners for a term of five years, renewable once.

## **Spitzenkandidaten Process:**

Since the 2014 European elections, there has been an informal process known as the "Spitzenkandidaten" process.

This process involves the lead candidates ("Spitzenkandidaten") of the political groups in the European Parliament running for the Presidency of the European Commission.

The idea is to link the outcome of the European Parliament elections more closely to the appointment of the Commission President, thereby increasing the democratic legitimacy of the Commission.

- **However, the Spitzenkandidaten process is not legally binding, and the European Council is not obliged to nominate the lead candidate of the political group that wins the most seats in the European Parliament.**
- **The process is meant to be an expression of the will of the European voters, but the final decision remains with the European Council.**

# *It's the economy, stupid*



**Voicing concern:** Demonstrators gather as they participate in an anti-government demonstration, to protest against bad governance and economic hardships, including rising cost of living crisis, in Lagos, Nigeria. REUTERS



## Topic - Warsaw Uprising (world history)

- **The Warsaw Uprising was a major armed insurrection during World War II, which took place in the Polish capital of Warsaw from August 1 to October 2, 1944.**
- **The uprising was organized by the Polish resistance Home Army (Armia Krajowa, AK), the dominant resistance organization in German-occupied Poland. The AK was loyal to the Polish government-in-exile based in London**

## **Background:**

- **Poland had been invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in September 1939, which marked the beginning of World War II.**
- **The Polish underground resistance movement, which included the Home Army, operated throughout the occupation, conducting sabotage, intelligence gathering, and preparation for a future uprising.**



## The Uprising:

- **The Warsaw Uprising was launched in the belief that the Soviet Red Army, which had been advancing towards Warsaw, was on the verge of liberating the city.**
- **The Polish government-in-exile hoped that by liberating Warsaw themselves, they could establish a provisional government and prevent the city from falling under Soviet control.**
- **The uprising began on August 1, 1944, with the code name "Burza" (Tempest).**
- **The AK fighters, despite being poorly armed and outnumbered, managed to seize and hold large parts of Warsaw. However, the Soviet advance halted just outside the city, and no significant military support was provided to the insurgents.**

## **German Response:**

**The German forces, led by SS General Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, responded with brutal force.**

**They engaged in indiscriminate bombing, shelling, and street-by-street fighting, causing massive destruction and civilian casualties.**

**The German forces also committed numerous atrocities, including executions of captured insurgents and civilians.**

## Outcome:

- After 63 days of fighting, the uprising was crushed by the Germans.
- The AK forces surrendered on October 2, 1944.
- The uprising resulted in the deaths of approximately 150,000 to 200,000 Polish civilians, 15,000 to 20,000 insurgents, and 10,000 German soldiers.
- The city was left in ruins, with over 80% of its buildings destroyed.
- The surviving inhabitants were expelled, and the Germans systematically looted and destroyed the remnants of the city.

## Aftermath:

- The failure of the uprising had profound consequences for Poland. The Soviet Union established a communist government in Poland, which was installed after the war. The Warsaw Uprising is remembered as a symbol of Polish resistance against oppression and is commemorated annually in Poland.
- The uprising also had international implications, highlighting the complexities of the war's final stages, the tensions between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union, and the tragic fate of Warsaw and its inhabitants.

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