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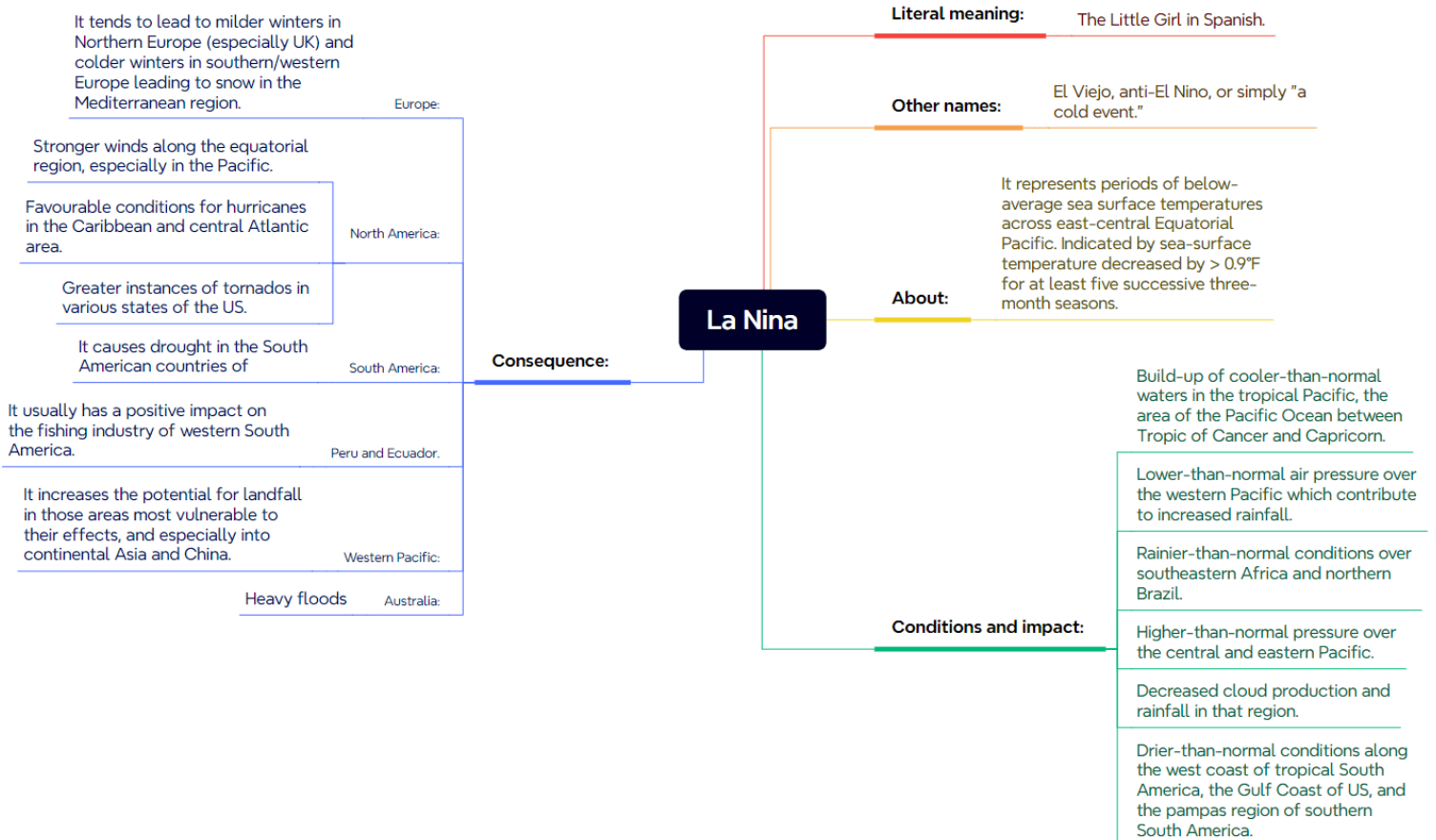
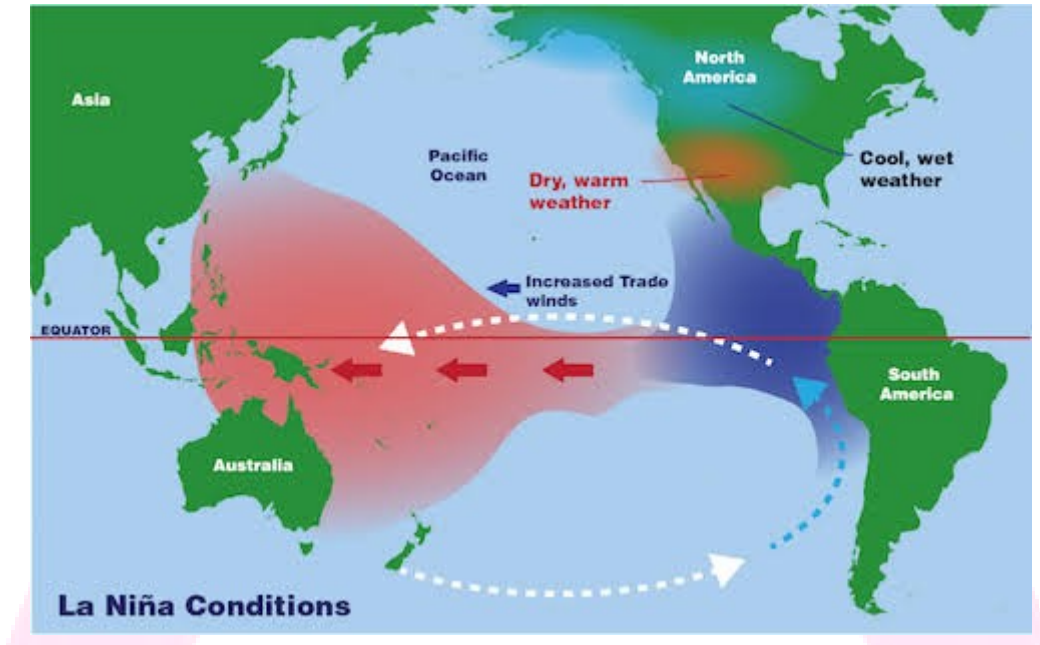
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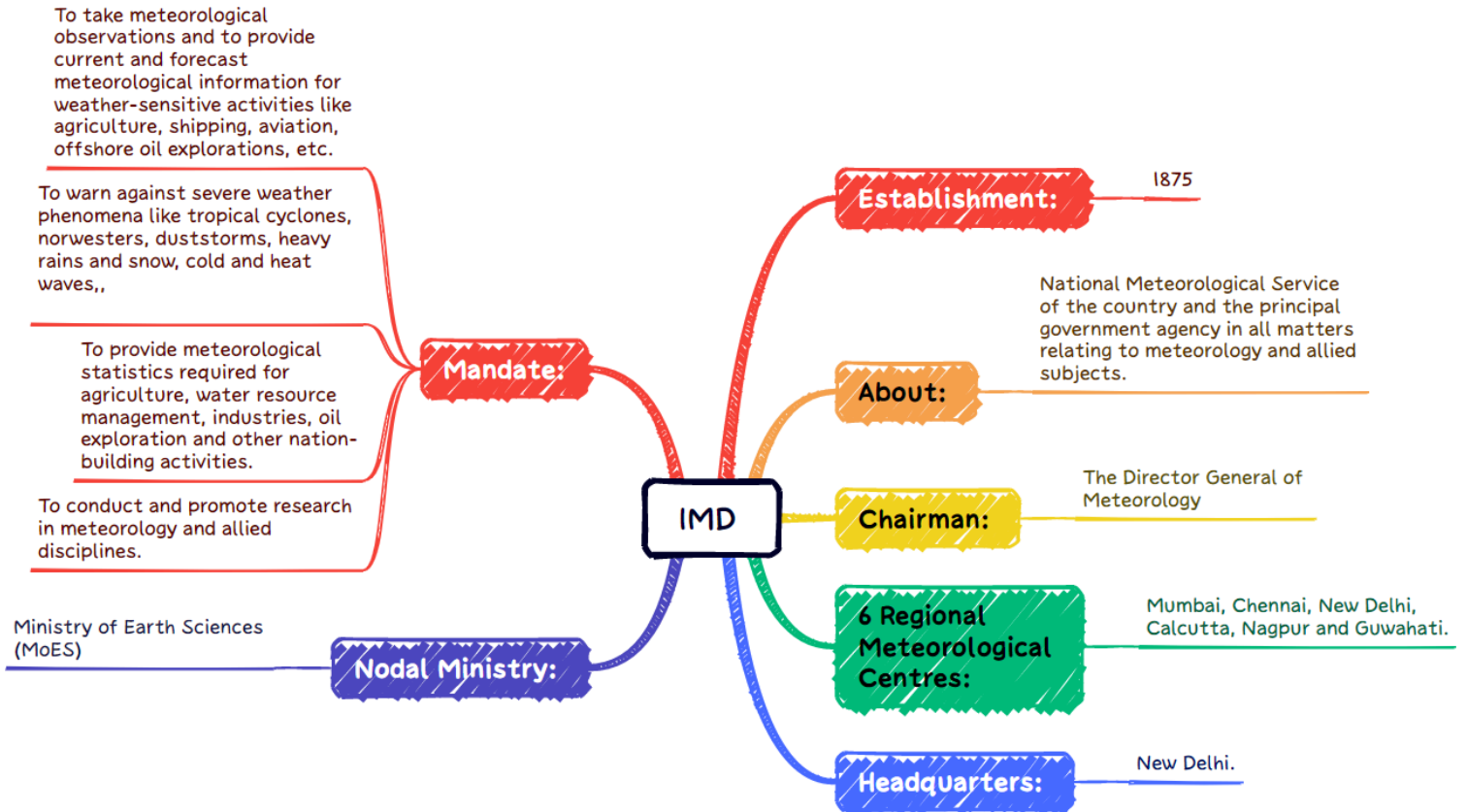
Rajasthan Current Affairs

Geography

1. La Nina - The Hindu



2. IMD - The Hindu



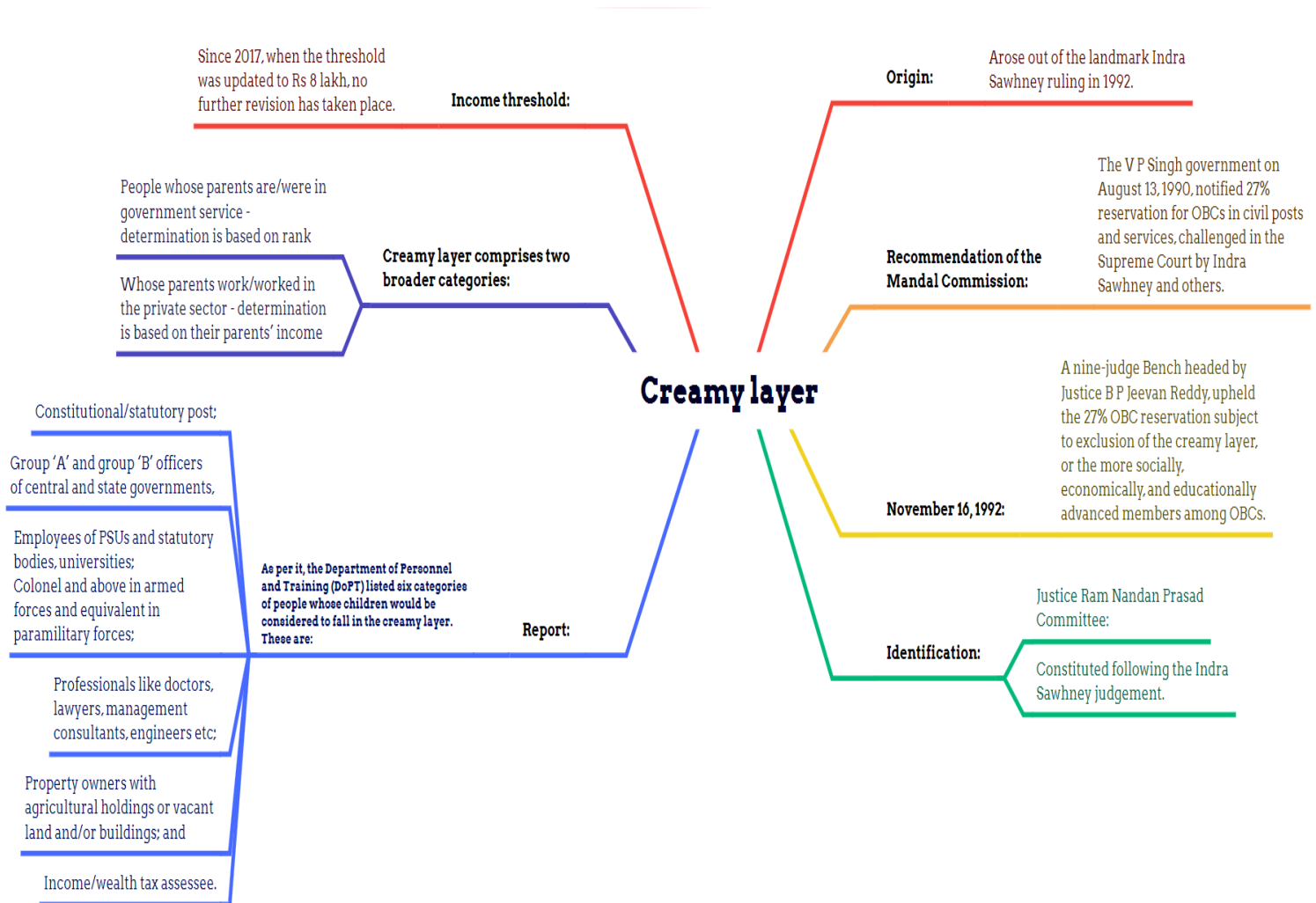
Polity

3. Identifying the 'creamy layer': model of OBC reservation - Indian Express

Context

The Supreme Court recently permitted sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the purpose of granting separate quotas for those more backward within these communities.

Creamy layer



4. Sub-classification of SC, ST - Indian Express

Context

In a landmark judgement, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court recently reframed how the SC and ST quota may operate - for the very first time since reservations were introduced in the Constitution in 1950. The court permitted states to create sub-classifications within the SC and ST categories for the

purpose of according wider protections — through fixed sub-quotas — to the most backward communities within these categories.

Background of the Case

Sub-classification of SC, ST	Background of the Case	Article 341:	Allows President to list SC "castes, races or tribes" suffering historical injustice of untouchability.		
			SC groups receive 15% reservation in education and public employment.		
		State-level Attempts:	Last three decades:	States like Punjab, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu attempted sub-categorisation of SCs through reservation laws.	
			1975:	Punjab divided its 25% SC reservation into two categories.	
			2000:	Andhra Pradesh introduced a similar law, struck down by a five-judge SC Constitution Bench.	
		Court Challenges:	All state plans were challenged.		
			Supreme Court formed a larger Constitution Bench to decide on the matter.		
		E. V. Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2004) Judgment:	SC held that communities included in the Presidential List for SCs under Article 341 form a single larger class for reservation purposes.		
			State lacks legislative power to create sub-classifications within this class.		
			Such actions violate the Right to Equality.		
			Lists can only be made by Parliament and notified by the President.		
		Davinder Singh Case (2020) Judgment:	A five-member SC bench ruled sub-categorisation constitutionally valid.		
			Suggested a larger constitutional bench to rule on the matter.		
		Matter Referred to Seven-Judge Bench Examination:	Validity of 2004 judgment in E V Chinnaiah vs. State of Andhra Pradesh.		
		Key Questions:	Permitting sub-classification within SC and ST categories as done for OBCs.		
Competence of state assemblies to introduce laws for this exercise.					

Key Highlights of the Judgment

Are All Castes in the SC List to Be Treated Similarly?

- **Article 341:** Empowers the President to specify SCs in a state for constitutional purposes. Only Parliament can amend this list.
- **Current Verdict:**
 - Inclusion in the Presidential list does not create a uniform, homogenous class.
 - CJI Chandrachud described the list as a "legal fiction" used for legal purposes.
 - SCs are recognized to provide benefits to listed communities.
 - Legal fiction cannot ignore "internal differences" among SCs, allowing states to address varying disadvantages within the SC category through sub-classification.

Can States 'Tinker' with or Sub-classify the Presidential List?

- **Articles 15(4) and 16(4):** Empower states to make special provisions for SCs and provide reservations for backward classes in education and public employment.

- **E V Chinniah Case:** States could only provide reservations for SCs as a whole, not sub-classify them.
- **Recent Verdict:**
 - States can use Articles 15 and 16 to identify different degrees of social backwardness within SCs and provide special provisions accordingly.
 - Justice Gavai emphasized equality of opportunity (Article 16) must consider varying social positions of different communities.
 - Providing the same opportunities to differently disadvantaged SC communities worsens inequality.

Yardstick for Sub-classification

- **Supreme Court's Guidelines:** States must demonstrate a need for additional protections with empirical evidence and reasonable rationale. This reasoning can be challenged and tested in court.
- **CJI Chandrachud:**
 - Representation in public services should be "effective representation," not just "numerical representation."
 - States must prove that the identified sub-group within SCs is more disadvantaged and inadequately represented, based on quantifiable data.

Does the 'Creamy Layer' Principle Apply to Scheduled Castes?

- **Justice Gavai's Opinion:**
 - Advocates for introducing the 'creamy layer' exception for SCs and STs, as is done for OBCs.
 - Ensures reservation beneficiaries are those most in need.
 - Four of seven judges agreed with Justice Gavai's opinion.

Dissent by Justice Trivedi

- **Justice Trivedi's View:**
 - States do not have the power to alter the Presidential list under Article 341.
 - Inclusions or exclusions from the list can only be done by Parliament.
 - Sub-classifications would defeat Article 341's purpose of preventing political factors from influencing constitutionally-mandated affirmative action.

Possible Implications of the Judgment

- **Support for States:** Likely to boost States like Punjab, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu, which previously attempted separate reservations within SC/ST categories.
- **Political Implications:**
 - During an election rally in Telangana, PM Modi promised to consider sub-categorisation of SCs to help the most backward among them.
 - Seen as an attempt by the ruling party to woo the Madiga community, who claim their representation is taken by another SC community, the Malas.
- **Demand for Caste Census:** Likely to bolster calls for a caste census to determine the share of different groups in the reservation system.

World Affairs

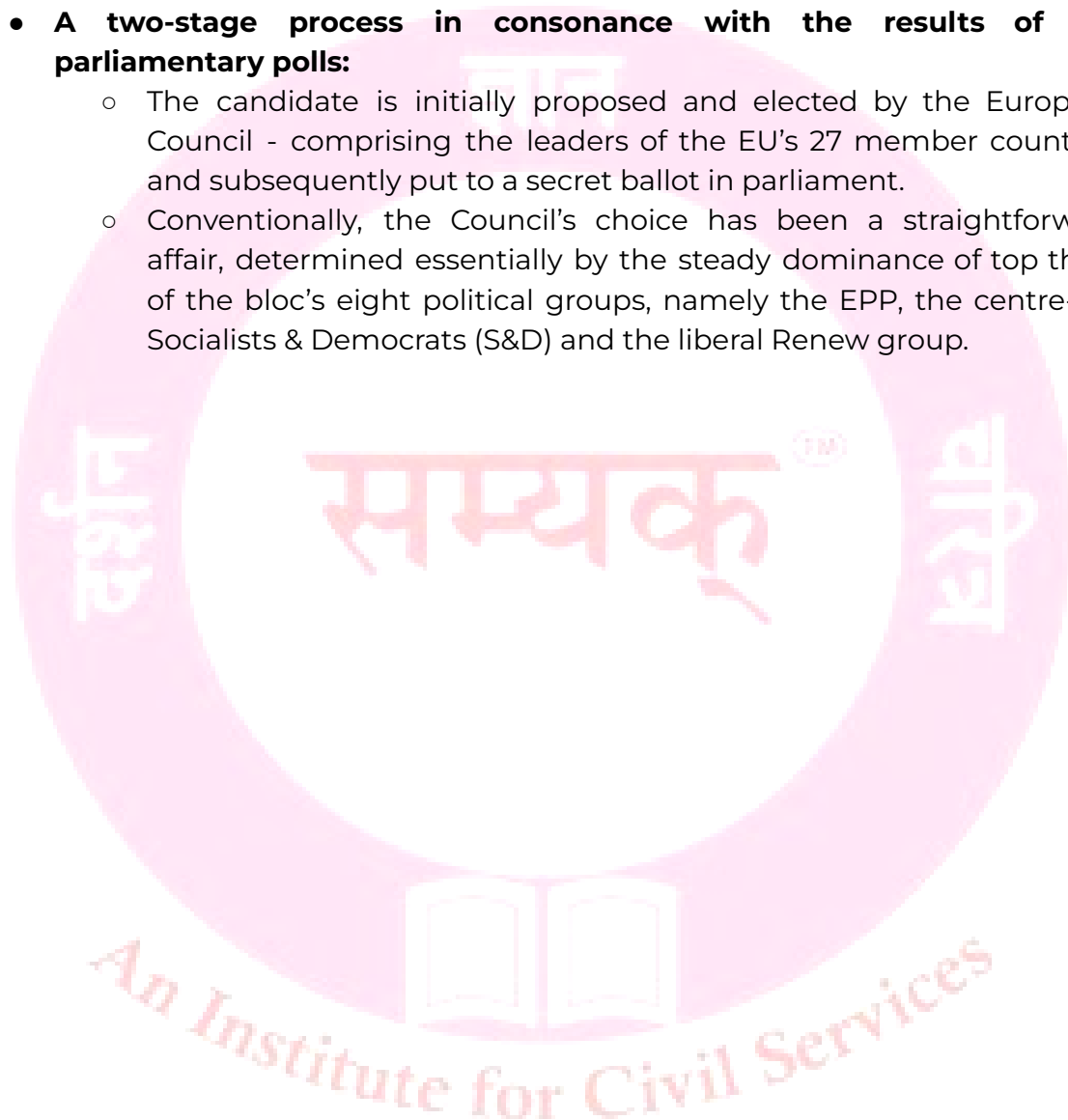
5. On election of the European Commission president - The Hindu

Context

Recently, the newly constituted European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union, elected Ursula von der Leyen, the EC's first female President, for a second term.

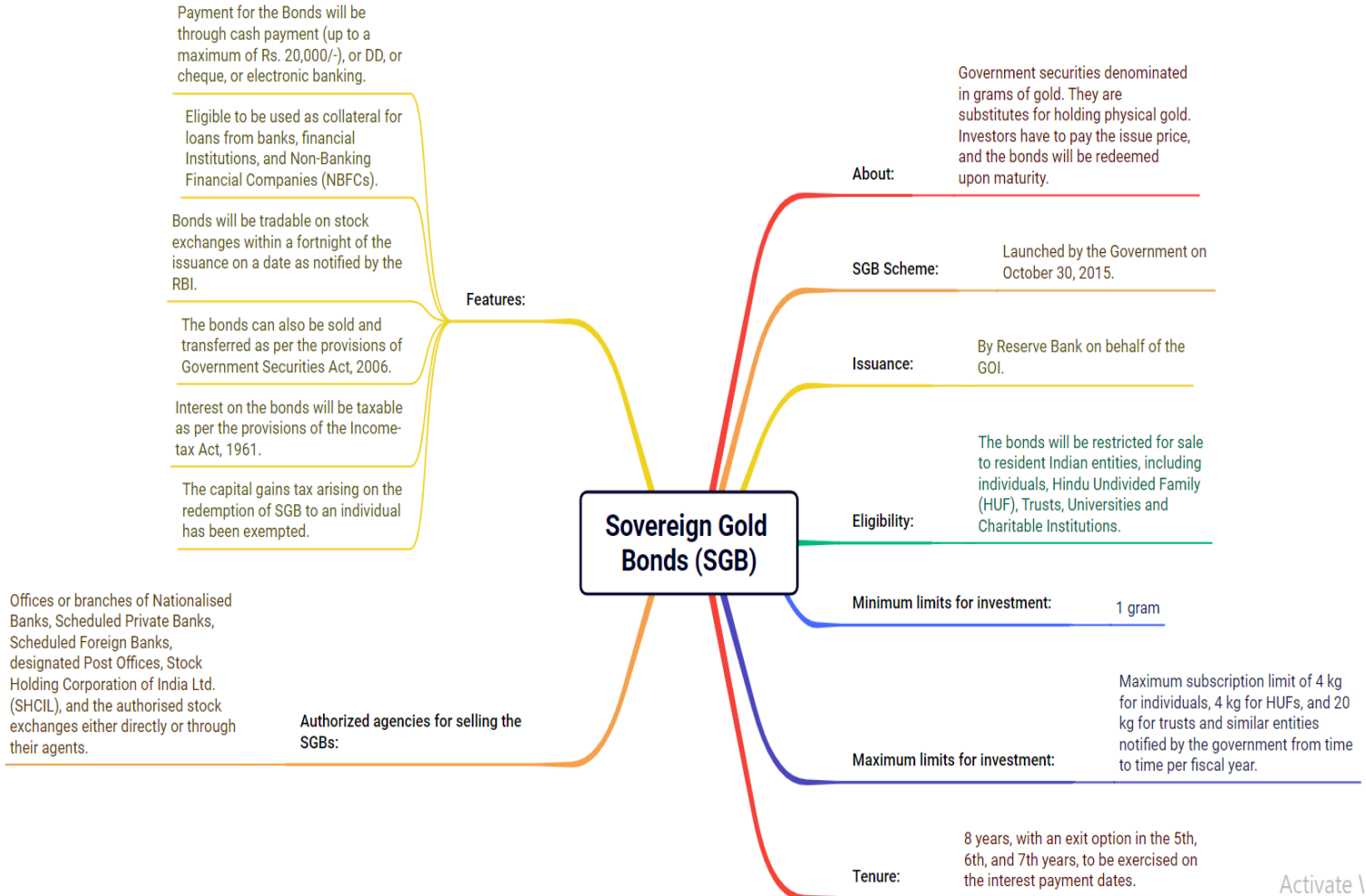
Method of election of EC President

- **A two-stage process in consonance with the results of the parliamentary polls:**
 - The candidate is initially proposed and elected by the European Council - comprising the leaders of the EU's 27 member countries and subsequently put to a secret ballot in parliament.
 - Conventionally, the Council's choice has been a straightforward affair, determined essentially by the steady dominance of top three of the bloc's eight political groups, namely the EPP, the centre-left Socialists & Democrats (S&D) and the liberal Renew group.



Economy

6. Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) - The Hindu



Activate \

7. NHAI - Indian Express

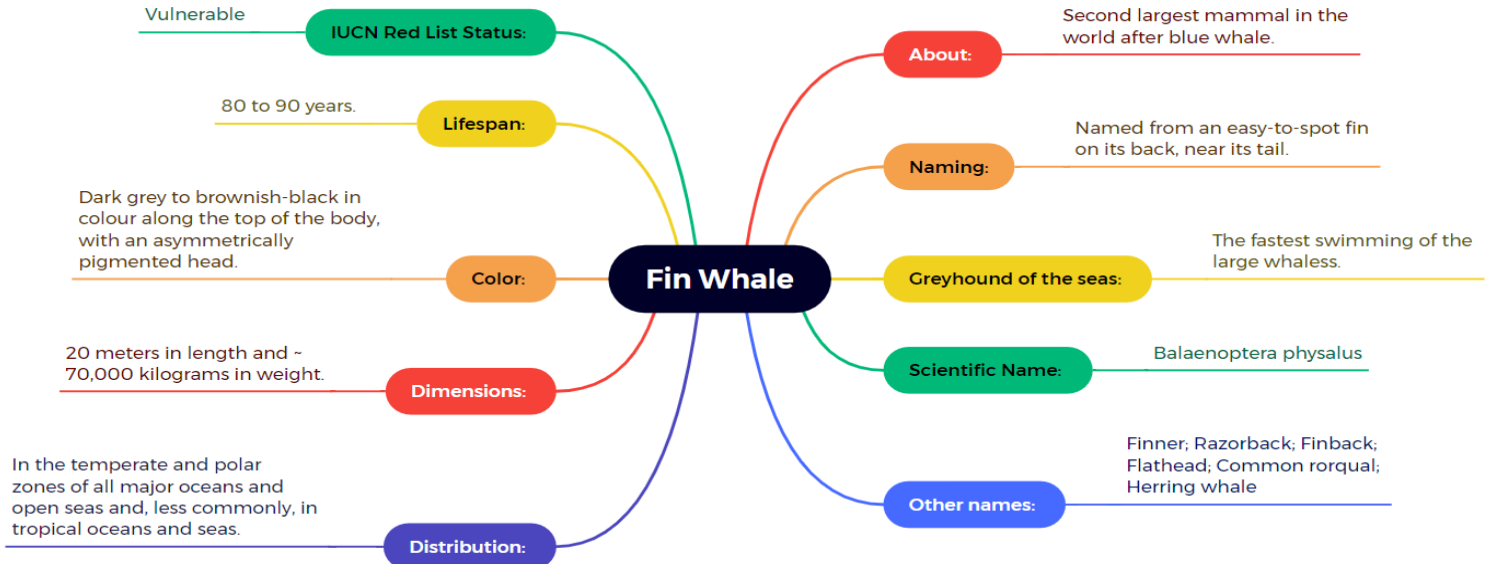
- **About:** An autonomous agency of the Government of India, responsible for the management and development of the national highways network in the country.
- **Establishment:** In 1988 under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- **Structure:** Headed by a chairman, who is assisted by six full-time members and four part-time members. The chairman and the members are appointed by the Central Government.
- **Objectives:**
 - Plan, develop, construct, operate and maintain national highways and expressways in India.

- Regulate and control the use of national highways and expressways for traffic and safety purposes.
- Collect tolls and fees for the use of national highways and expressways and utilize the revenues for their maintenance and improvement.
- Coordinate with the state governments and other agencies for the development of inter-state and international road connectivity.
- Promote research and development in the field of highway engineering and technology.



Environment

8. Fin Whale - The Hindu

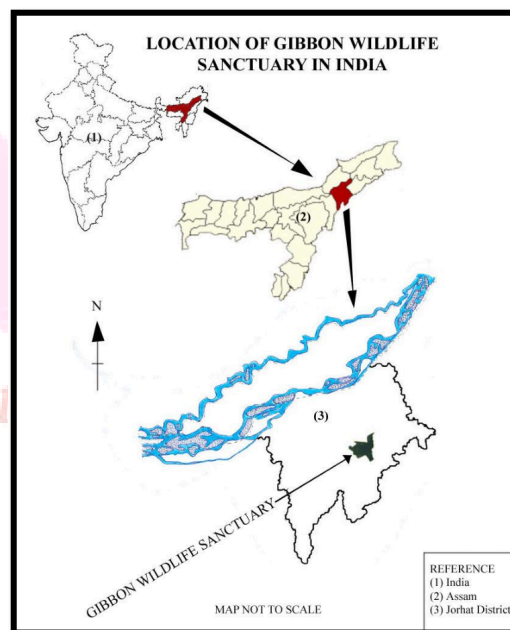


9. Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary - Hindustan Times

Context

An approval by the Union environment ministry for exploratory oil and gas drilling in parts of Assam may put the endangered hoolock gibbon at further risk.

Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary



About: An isolated protected area of evergreen forest located in the Jorhat district of Assam.

Designation: Became a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1997.

Significance: Only sanctuary in India named after a gibbon due to its distinction for containing the densest gibbon populations in Assam.

River: Bhogdoi River creates a waterlogged region in the sanctuary.

Flora: Dominated by the Hollong tree, evergreen shrubs and herbs.

Fauna: Inhabits India's only gibbons - the hoolock gibbons, and Northeastern India's only nocturnal primate - the Bengal slow loris.



Sci and Tech

10. Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) - The Hindu

- **About:** Any degree of glucose intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy.
- **Impact:** It not only influences immediate maternal (preeclampsia, stillbirths, macrosomia, and need for cesarean section) and neonatal outcomes (hypoglycemia, respiratory distress), but also increases the risk of future Type 2 diabetes in mother as well as the baby.

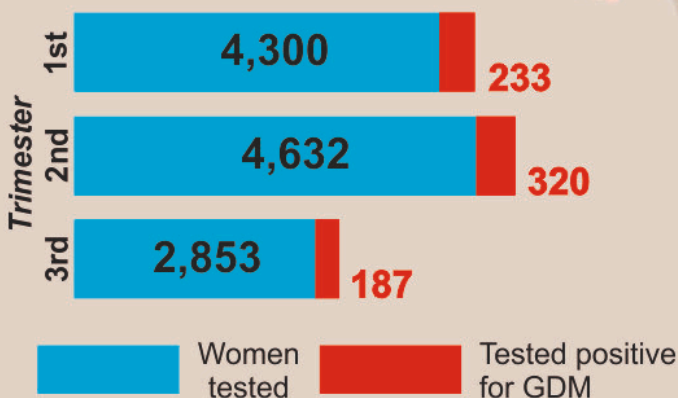
What is GDM?

Gestational diabetes mellitus is defined as any degree of glucose intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy

RISKS ASSOCIATED

- Low birth weight of baby
- Elevated risk for diabetes, obesity, hypertension and cardia vascular diseases
- Intergenerational transfer of risk

11,785 pregnant women in Tamil Nadu were tested for GDM over 6-8 months in 2014. Table below lists the results"



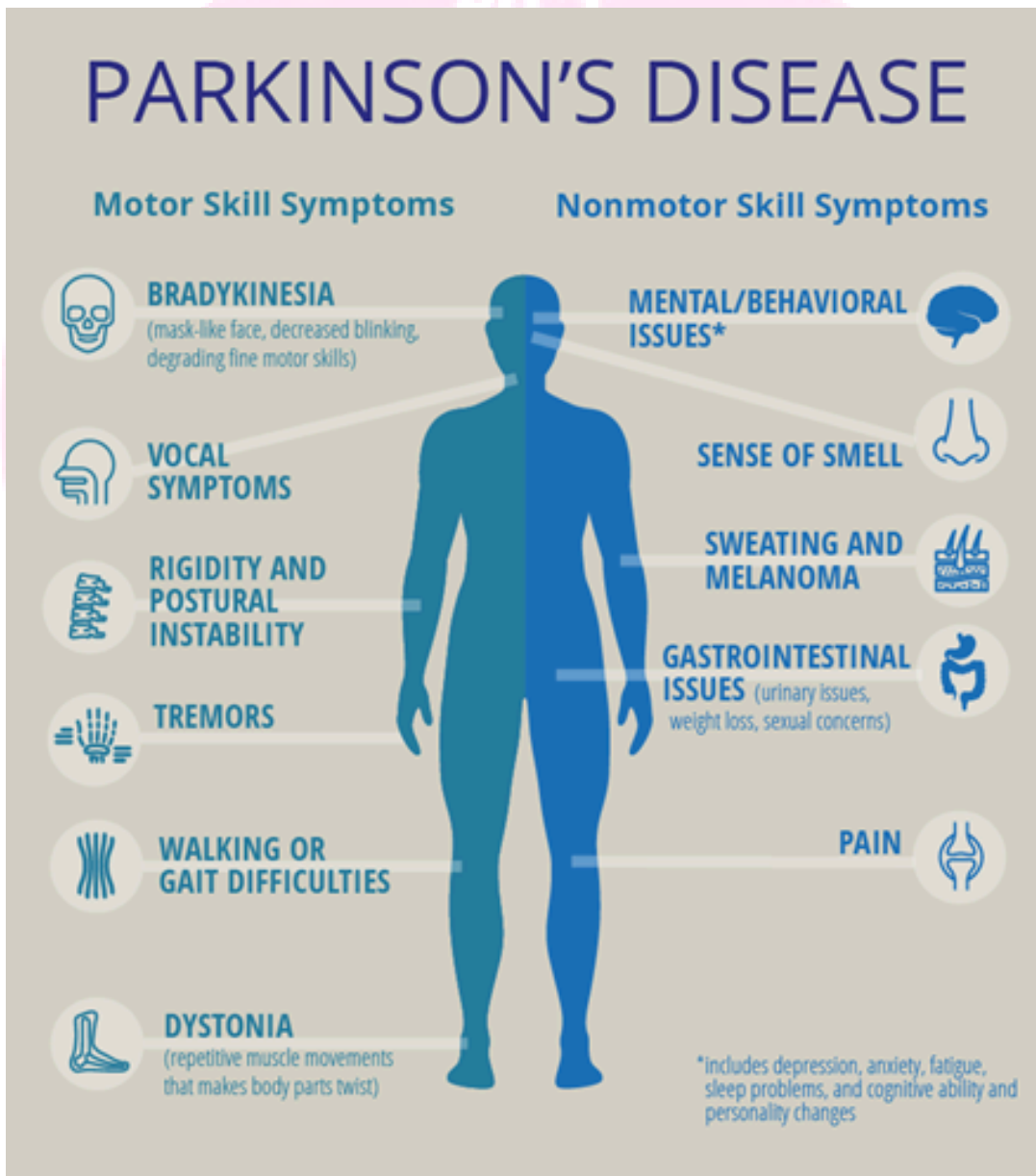
11. Higher-than-expected rate of gene mutations seen in Parkinson's patients: researchers - The Hindu

Context

A higher-than-expected prevalence of gene mutations in Parkinson's disease patients suggests genetic testing should be offered to them more broadly, researchers said recently.

Parkinson's Disease

- **About:** A progressive neurological disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves.
- **Impact:** A condition in which a patient has limited or no control over his movements and body balance.
- **Cause:** Degeneration of nerve cells in the part of the brain which control movement. These nerve cells die or become impaired, losing the ability to produce an important chemical called dopamine.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Tremors; rigidity (stiffness of the limbs); slowness of movement; and impaired balance and coordination.
 - Difficulty in swallowing, chewing, and speaking, urinary problems, constipation, skin problems, depression, emotional changes, and sleep disruption.
- **Treatment:** No cure for this disease.



12. Study of Kindlins reveal novel pathways to cancer treatment - PIB

Context

A new study has investigated the influence of Kindlins-- adapter proteins that exist inside cells of vertebrates, in various cancers. Since this protein is central to many signaling pathways, targeting it could lead to new cancer treatments that address multiple aspects of the disease at once.

Kindlins

- **About:** Adapter proteins that exist inside the cells attached to the cell membranes of almost all types of cells in vertebrates.
- **3 members:** Kindlin 1, 2, 3 with distinct amino acid sequences and tissue distribution.
- **Significance:** They transfer extracellular mechanical cues to biochemical signals inside the cells and play a pivotal role in conveying extracellular signals.



Miscellaneous

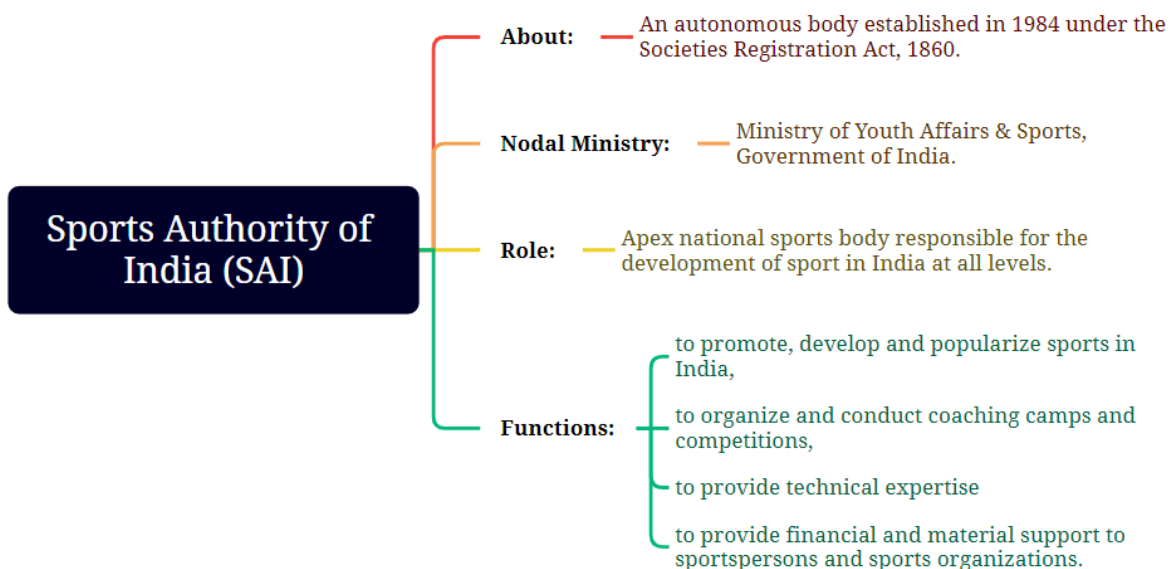
13. ADR - The Hindu

- **About:** A non-partisan, NGO in India that works for electoral and political reforms, and to strengthen democracy and improve governance.
- **Establishment:** In 1999 by professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM).
- **Goals:**
 - Electoral and political reforms
 - Empowering the electorate
 - Greater accountability of political parties
 - Inner-party democracy and transparency

14. BCCI, SAI told to curb surrogate advertising for tobacco, alcohol - The Hindu

The Health Ministry has asked both Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to bring in measures to prevent surrogate advertisement of tobacco and or alcohol related products by sportspersons.

Sports Authority of India (SAI)



Rajasthan Current Affairs

1. Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit- 2024

- 'Rising Rajasthan' Investment Summit- 2024 will be held in Jaipur from 9 to 11 December.
- Its naming and logo were launched on 1 August 2024. Its theme is "REplete, RESPONSible, REAdy"
- Its aim is to make Rajasthan a \$350 billion economy in the next 5 years and take forward the 'Developed Rajasthan' action plan.
- Before this summit, there will be road shows in the country and abroad to attract investors.
- The Rising Rajasthan Summit will be preceded by a series of investor summits in major business cities across the country and the world and a sector-focused conference in Jaipur.
- The following sessions will be commissioned in it-
 - Rajasthan Opportunity Show
 - Strategic Sector Session
 - Country Session
 - One to One Business Meetings
 - MSME Conference
 - Startup Conference
 - Non-Resident Rajasthani Summit
- Apart from this, 'Single-Point Investor Interface' was also launched in Rajasthan. This will enable investors to easily enter into MoUs with the government. Under this, investors' proposals will also be approved online.

2. IIM Udaipur sets up Behavior Experimental Lab in Jaipur

- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Udaipur has set up the Behavior Experimental Lab in Jaipur in collaboration with the state government.
- This hi-tech lab was inaugurated on 1 August 2024.
- This lab has been set up in a 4000 square feet building located at the Rajasthan Center for Advanced Technology (R-CAT) campus in Jaipur at a cost of Rs 1.22 crore.
- This lab is the first such lab in the country, where subject experts will conduct studies related to human brain and physiology.
- Its objective is to implement academic research as well as public welfare schemes of the central and state governments based on the behavior and thoughts of the people.

3. Work on filling uranium fuel bundle started for the first time in 7th unit.

- After the approval of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board in Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, the work of filling uranium fuel bundle started for the first time in the 7th unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project on 1 August 2024.

- The work of filling uranium fuel in one of the two units of the country's second and Rajasthan's first 700 MW nuclear power project will be completed in about a week.
- The 700 MW capacity unit in Rawatbhata has 392 coolant channels. 12 fuel bundles will be filled in each. A total of 4704 bundles will be filled in it.

4. Uniform Civil Code to be introduced in Rajasthan

- A civil code bill will be introduced in Rajasthan on the lines of Uttarakhand.
- There will be provisions in this bill like ban on polygamy but tribals have been given exemption from this.
- Uttarakhand is the first state where rules are being made to implement the UCC bill.
- The Uttarakhand government has kept the protection of women's rights at the center in the bill.
- It has been divided into four sections, i.e. marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationship and miscellaneous.

