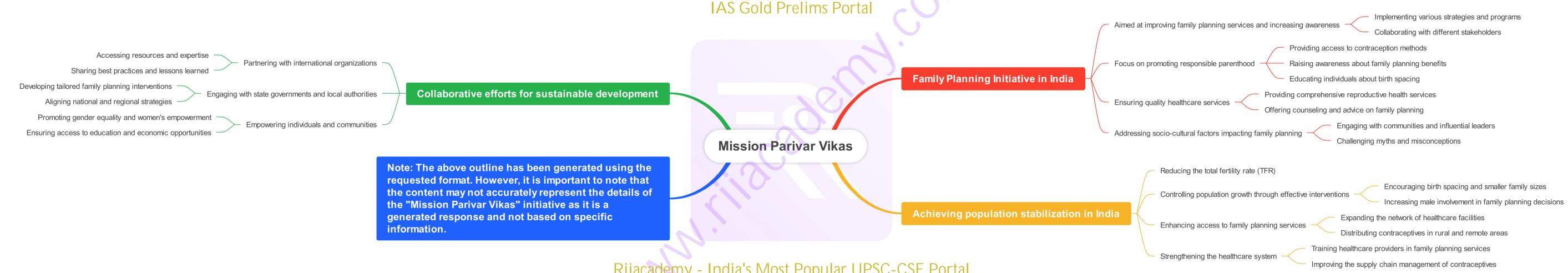
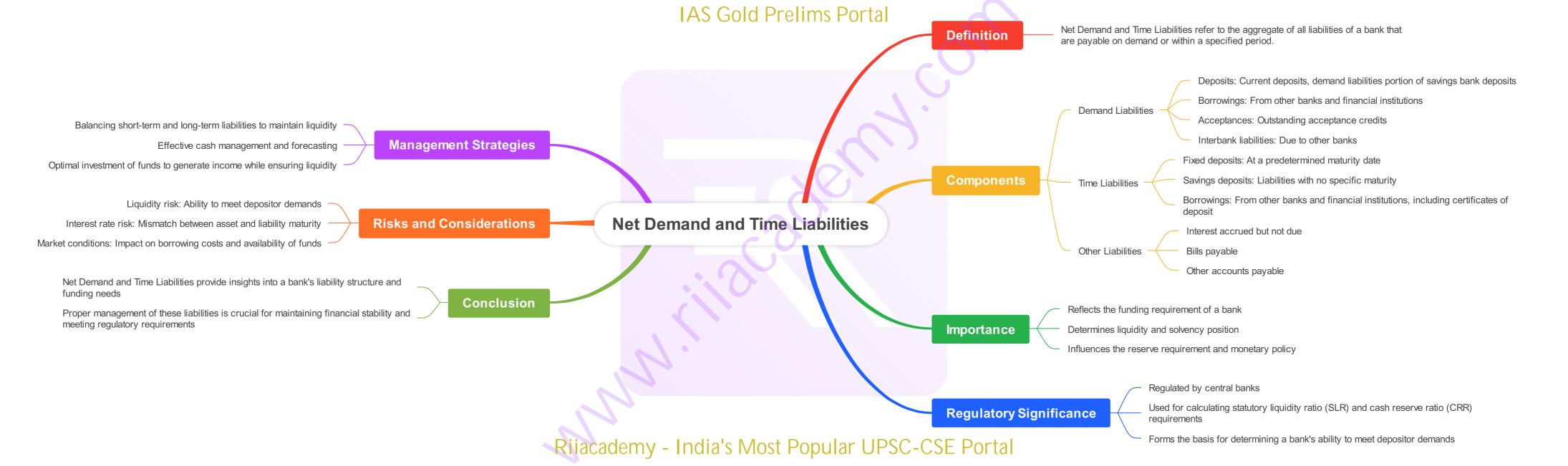
#### **IAS Gold Prelims Portal** The Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FPLMIS) is a system designed to manage the supply chain and logistics aspects of family planning programs. FPLMIS aims to provide accurate and real-time information on commodity stock **Definition and Purpose** FPLMIS enhances the availability of family planning commodities by providing reallevels, consumption, and distribution to facilitate effective management, planning, and time visibility into stock levels and consumption patterns. decision-making. Improved Commodity Availability It enables timely reordering and effective stock management, reducing stockouts and It is crucial for ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of family ensuring uninterrupted supply to service delivery points. planning commodities and services. The availability of accurate and timely data in FPLMIS helps program managers and policymakers make informed decisions. FPLMIS collects data on commodity stock levels, consumption, and distribution from Enhanced Decision-making It enables better forecasting, resource allocation, and planning to meet the demand various service delivery points, central warehouses, and distributors. Data Collection for family planning services. Data is collected through electronic systems, such as barcode scanners, mobile devices, or web-based platforms. FPLMIS optimizes supply chain management, reducing wastage, overstocks, and Family Planning Logistics Management transportation costs. **Benefits and Impacts** The collected data is stored, processed, and analyzed in the FPLMIS database. Cost Efficiency Information System It ensures the efficient use of resources and improves the cost-effectiveness of Data management involves data cleaning, validation, and ensuring data integrity. Data Management family planning programs. It allows for generating reports and conducting data analysis to identify trends, FPLMIS facilitates monitoring and evaluation of program performance by generating forecast commodity needs, and monitor program performance. reports and indicators to assess the effectiveness of logistics management. Monitoring and Evaluation FPLMIS enables real-time monitoring of commodity stock levels at different levels of It helps in identifying gaps, bottlenecks, and areas for improvement in the supply the supply chain. Stock Monitoring and Reporting Stock status reports and alerts are generated to notify users about stockouts, The implementation of FPLMIS strengthens the overall health system by improving overstocks, or near-expiry commodities. data management, supply chain infrastructure, and staff capacity. Strengthened Health Systems Based on the stock monitoring information, the FPLMIS facilitates the timely It contributes to the overall quality of healthcare services and supports the placement of orders for commodities. **Components and Functions** achievement of national family planning goals. It assists in forecasting commodity needs and determining optimal quantities for Order Placement and Procurement FPLMIS streamlines the procurement process, ensuring the availability of FPLMIS tracks the distribution of family planning commodities from central warehouses to service delivery points. It helps in planning and managing transport logistics, optimizing routes, and reducing Distribution and Logistics delivery time and costs. FPLMIS ensures efficient commodity flow, minimizing stockouts and ensuring accessibility to the intended population. FPLMIS supports capacity building initiatives by providing training modules and resources on data collection, management, and analysis. Training and Capacity Building It helps in strengthening the skills and knowledge of staff involved in logistics management Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal





Formulates and implements various developmental schemes. Promotes economic growth and development. Supports inclusive banking and financial inclusion. Coordinates with the government and other regulatory bodies. Collaborates with other agencies and institutions. Participates in international forums and organizations.

Central Bank of India.

Regulates and supervises the financial system.

Manages foreign exchange reserves.

Implements monetary policies.

Controls and directs the country's banking system.

Plays a crucial role in maintaining financial stability.

Ensures the solvency of commercial banks.

Manages and monitors the payment systems.

Provides liquidity in times of financial crisis.

Facilitates the functioning of the banking system.

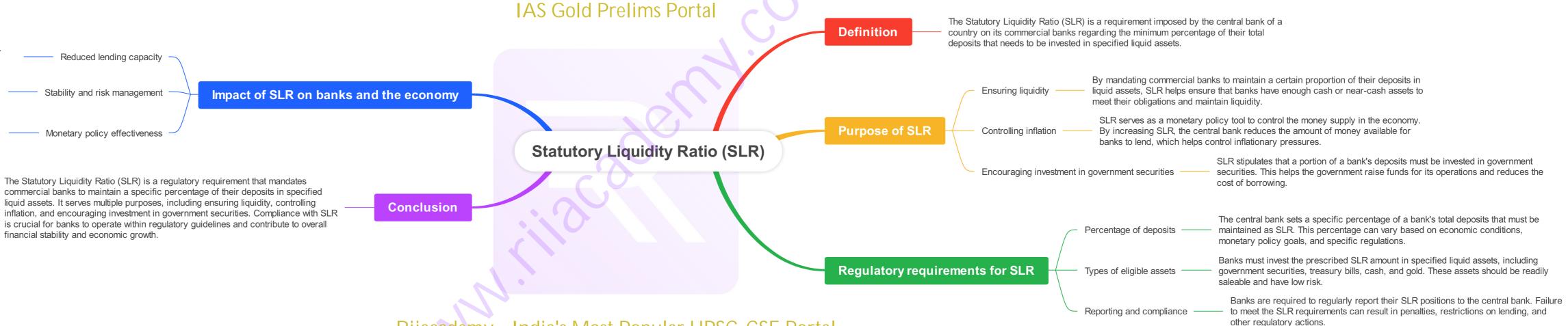
Acts as the lender of last resort.

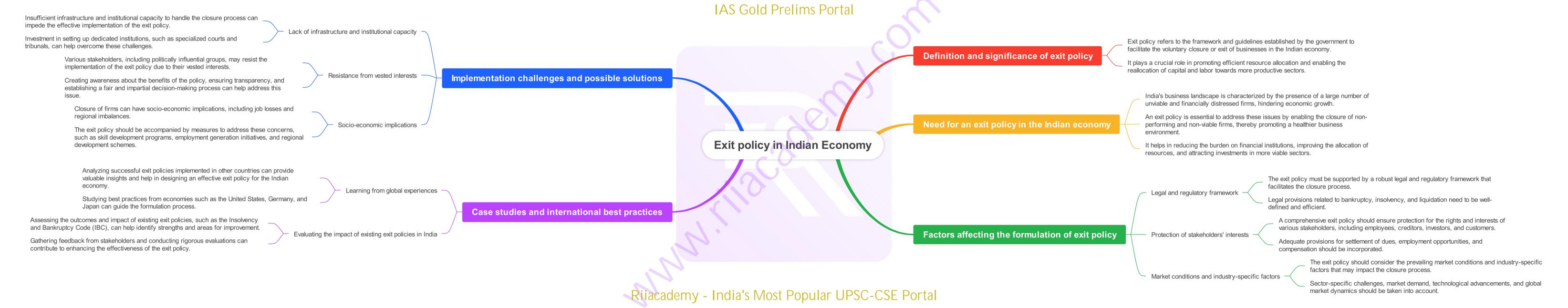
RBI

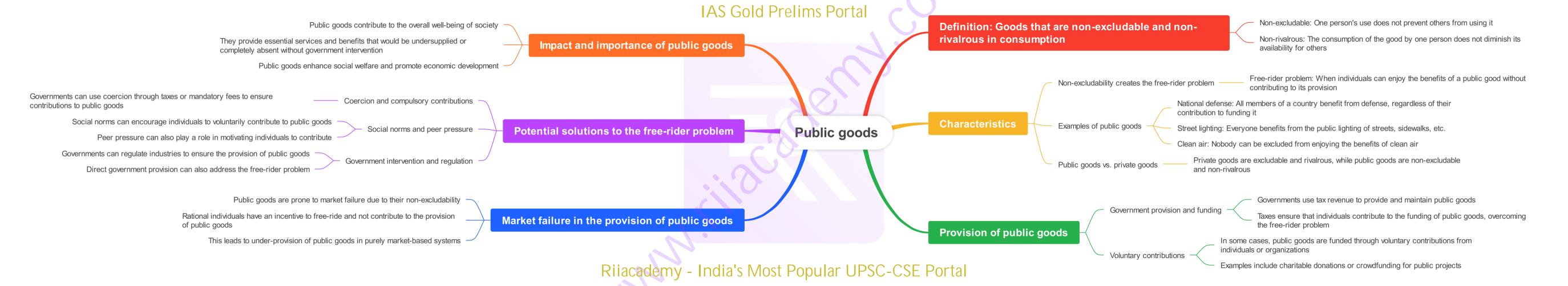
Banks' ability to lend may be constrained as a result of investing a portion of their deposits in SLR assets. This can impact credit availability and economic growth.

SLR helps enhance the stability of banks by ensuring they hold a certain proportion of their deposits in secure and easily saleable assets. This mitigates liquidity risks and promotes sound risk management practices.

The central bank can use changes in SLR requirements to influence the money supply, credit growth, and inflation levels. Adjustments in SLR can have a cascading effect on interest rates, investment levels, and overall economic activity.







It led to the introduction of quotas for economically weaker sections in addition to the existing caste-based reservations.

The creamy layer concept was extended to other backward classes as well.

The judgment also highlighted the need for periodic review and evaluation of reservation policies.

The case sparked debates and discussions on the balance between affirmative action and equality of opportunity.

There are ongoing debates on the adequacy of representation and the need for reservation in different sectors.

Some argue for a reevaluation of reservation policies to address changing social dynamics and emerging inequalities.

The implementation of reservation policies continues to face challenges and controversies.

Ongoing developments and challenges

The case remains a landmark judgment in India's constitutional law and continues to shape the discourse on affirmative action.

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Impact and implications

Indra Sawhney and Others vs. Union of India & Others:

Background of the case

employment and education in India.

The case involved a challenge to the implementation of reservations in public

The petitioners argued that the reservation policies violated the right to equality and discriminated against certain sections of the society.

Court's decision and reasoning The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the limitations

The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the reservation policies but imposed certain limitations.

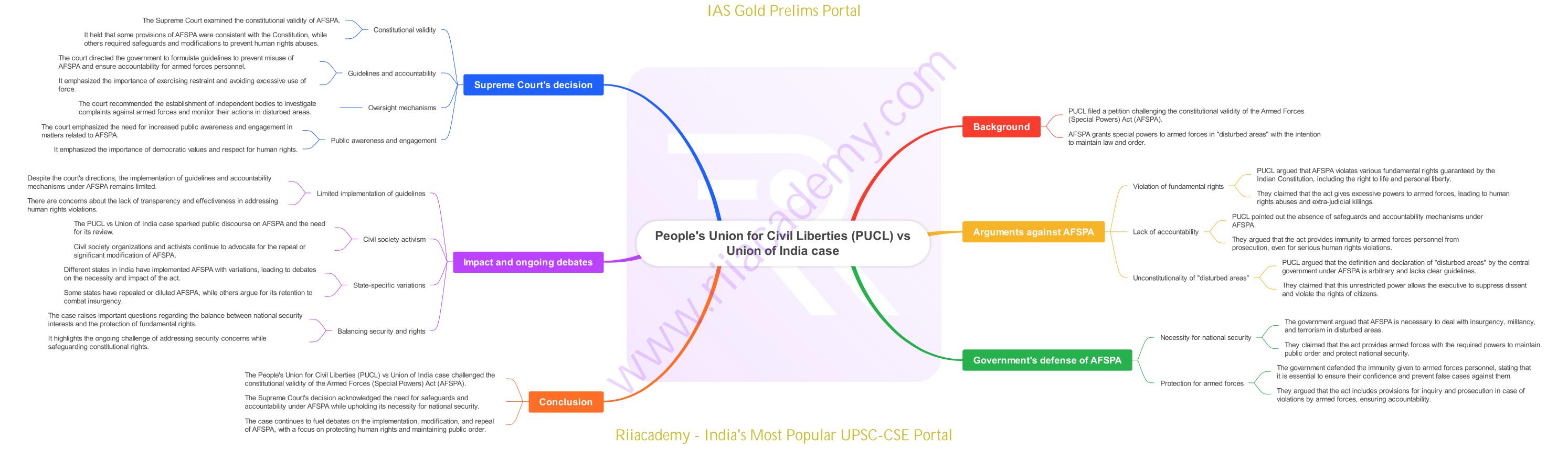
The concept of crean reserved categories f

situations.

The concept of creamy layer was introduced to exclude affluent members of the reserved categories from benefiting from reservations.

The court held that reservations should not exceed 50% except in extraordinary

The court emphasized the importance of maintaining merit and efficiency in public employment and education.



The S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India verdict of 2017 is a landmark judgment in India.

The S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India verdict of 2017

has had far-reaching implications.

The verdict recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution.

It affirmed that privacy is an essential aspect of individual liberty and dignity.

It recognized the importance of personal autonomy and the protection of personal data.

It stated that the right to privacy is not absolute and can be restricted in certain

The judgment also established certain limitations on the right to privacy. —

The judgment has led to the formulation of new data protection laws in India.

It has also brought attention to the need for robust surveillance oversight

It has raised questions about the legitimacy of state surveillance practices.

This decision had a significant impact on the interpretation of privacy laws in India.

The court held that privacy can be limited for the purposes of national security, public interest, and law enforcement.

The court emphasized the need for privacy protection in the digital age.

S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India verdict of 2017

Overall, the S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India verdict of

fundamental right and has had a significant impact on

2017 has established the right to privacy as a

privacy laws in India.

It has influenced various aspects of privacy laws, including data protection and surveillance.

The verdict has sparked debates on the balance between privacy and national security.

shaping India's privacy landscape.

The S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India verdict of 2017 has been instrumental in

based authentication.

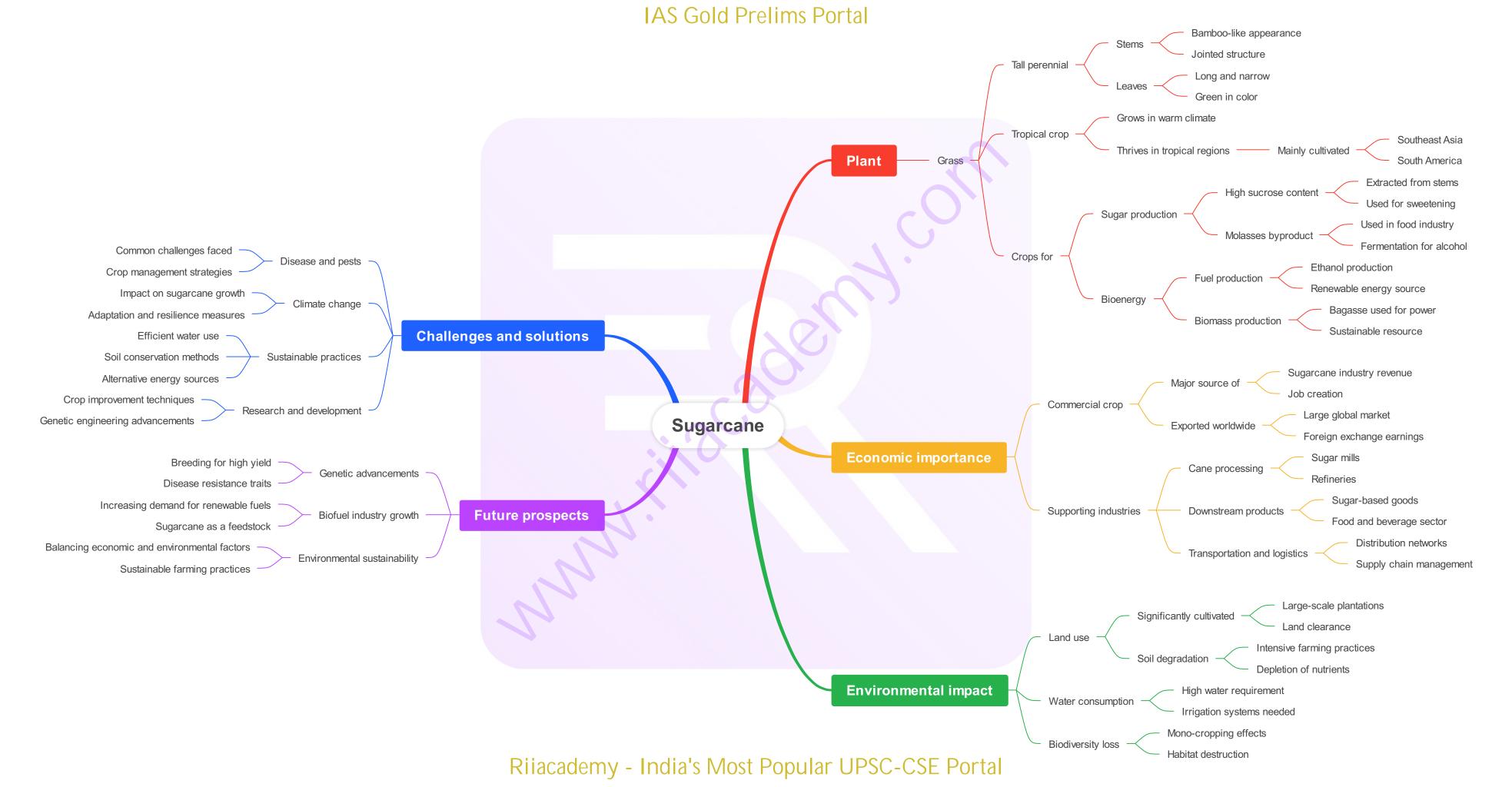
It has empowered individuals to exercise greater control over their personal information.

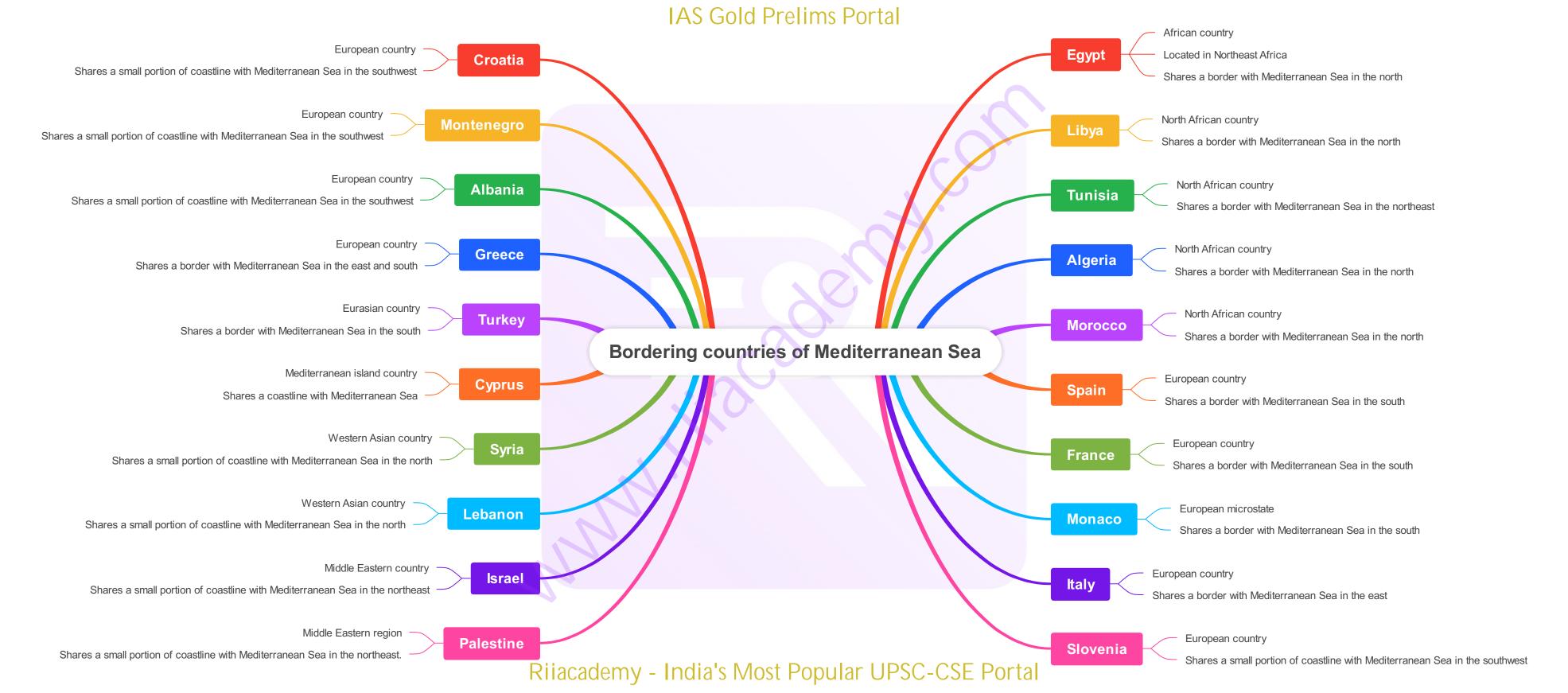
The decision has prompted the development of privacy-enhancing technologies and practices.

The judgment has prompted discussions on the use of biometric data and Aadhaar-

Implementing price support programs to stabilize prices during market fluctuations. Measures to support fair and remunerative price Encouraging collective bargaining power for small-scale farmers to negotiate better Fair trade certifications promote fair prices and better working conditions for International perspectives and initiatives Sustainable Development Goals include promoting fair and remunerative prices for agricultural products. Examples of countries successfully implementing fair price policies. Case studies and success stories Impact of fair and remunerative prices on poverty alleviation and rural development. Continual dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to improve price fairness. Future prospects and recommendations Integrating technology and innovation in price determination to enhance transparency and efficiency.

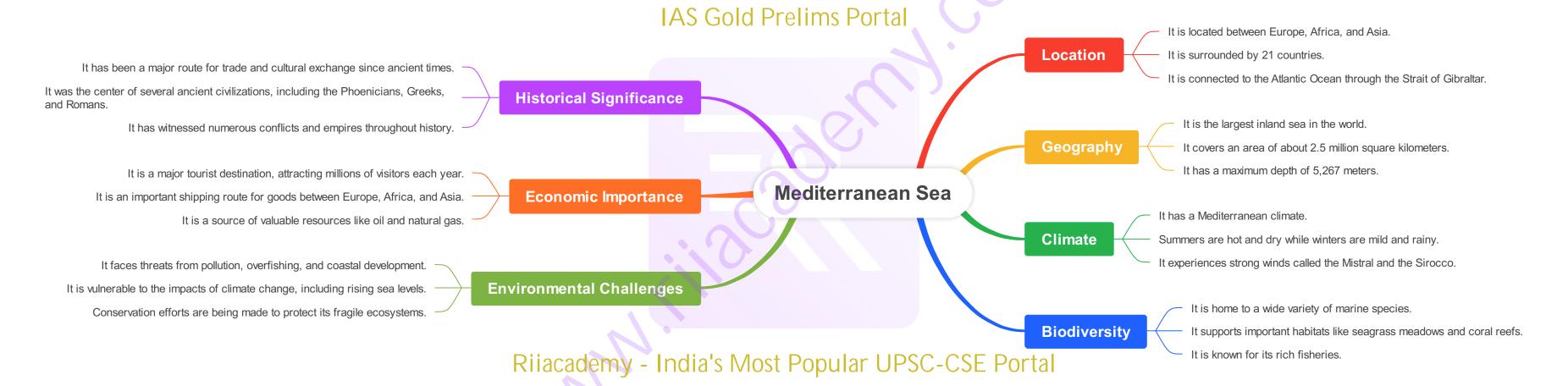
### IAS Gold Prelims Portal A fair and remunerative price ensures a just compensation for producers. **Definition and importance** It plays a significant role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Market demand and supply dynamics affect the price of agricultural products. Factors influencing fair and remunerative price Government policies and regulations can influence the determination of fair prices. Fair and remunerative price Encourages farmers to invest in quality inputs and technology. Benefits of fair and remunerative price Provides economic stability to farmers and improves their livelihoods. Price volatility in global and domestic markets poses challenges for price stability. Challenges in establishing fair and remunerative price Ensuring fair price without negatively impacting consumer affordability and market competitiveness. Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal







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### IAS Gold Prelims Portal Deflation refers to a sustained decrease in the general price level of goods and services within an economy. **Definition** It is typically characterized by a contraction in consumer spending, decrease in business profits, and increased unemployment rates. 1. Decrease in aggregate demand: When spending and investment decline, leading to a decrease in demand for goods and services, prices tend to fall. **Examples in history** 2. Technological advancements: Innovation and improvements in technology can Causes increase productivity, leading to a decrease in production costs and subsequently lowering prices. 3. Global factors: Economic recessions, financial crises, and downturns in international trade can contribute to deflationary pressures. **Current concerns** 1. Increased purchasing power: As prices fall, consumers can afford to buy more Deflation goods and services with the same amount of money. 2. Debt burden: Deflation increases the real value of debt, making it harder for individuals, businesses, and governments to repay their loans. **Effects** 3. Lower investment: Deflation discourages investment as businesses may delay spending or postpone expansion due to uncertain economic conditions. 4. Wage deflation: When prices and demand fall, companies may reduce wages, resulting in lower income for workers. **Future outlook** 1. Monetary policy: Central banks may implement expansionary monetary policies, such as reducing interest rates and conducting quantitative easing, to stimulate economic activity and prevent deflation. 2. Fiscal policy: Governments can implement fiscal stimulus measures, such as **Government response** increasing government spending or cutting taxes, to boost demand and counter deflationary pressures. 3. Structural reforms: Governments can introduce reforms aimed at improving competitiveness, productivity, and investment to address the root causes of deflation.

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1. Great Depression: The 1930s saw a significant deflationary period, characterized

2. Japan's Lost Decade: During the 1990s, Japan experienced a prolonged period of

1. Deflationary spiral: A prolonged period of falling prices can lead to a vicious cycle

1. Uncertain economic recovery: The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

has raised concerns about potential deflationary pressures as consumer spending

2. Government responses: Policy actions and stimulus measures will play a crucial

3. Structural changes: The ongoing digital transformation, automation, and changing

role in preventing and addressing deflationary risks in the post-pandemic era.

consumer preferences may influence inflation dynamics and the potential for

2. Impact on debt and financial stability: Deflation can increase the real burden of

3. Central bank limitations: With interest rates already at historic lows in many countries, central banks have limited tools to combat deflationary pressures.

deflation, which contributed to economic stagnation and low inflation expectations.

by a severe contraction in economic activity and widespread price declines.

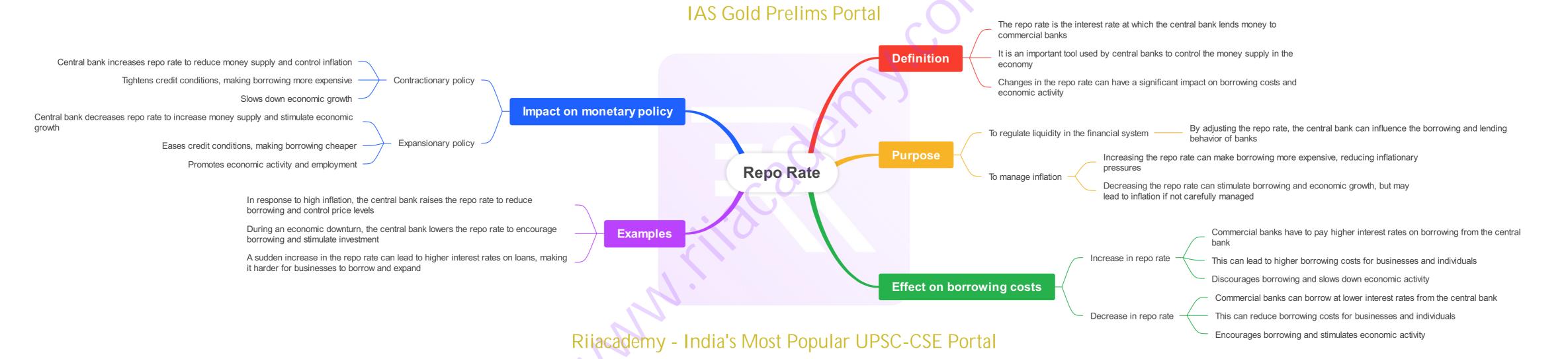
of reduced spending, lower production, and further price declines.

debt, leading to defaults and financial instability.

and investment decline.

deflation.

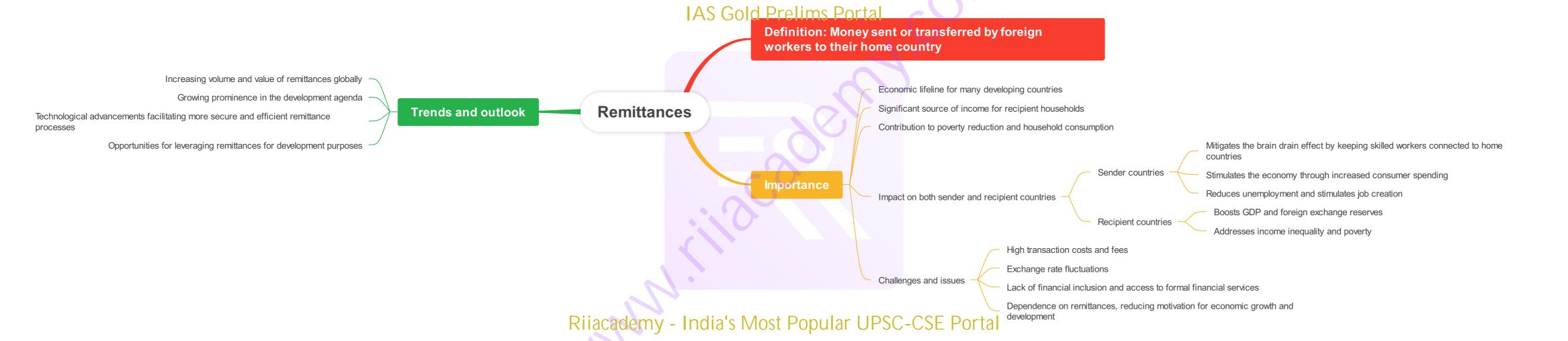
#### **IAS Gold Prelims Portal** Economic conditions: Direct tax rates may be adjusted based on the overall economic performance. Factors influencing direct tax rates Government revenue needs: Direct tax rates may be increased or decreased to meet fiscal targets. Income tax: A tax levied on an individual or a company's income. Types of direct taxes Corporate tax: A tax imposed on the net profit of corporations. Capital gains tax: A tax on the profit earned from the sale of certain assets. Redistribution of income: Higher direct tax rates can help reduce income inequality. Investment behavior: Changes in direct tax rates may influence investment decisions. Impacts of direct tax rate changes Economic growth: Optimal direct tax rates can support economic growth and productivity. Tax competition: Countries may adjust their direct tax rates to attract or retain Definition: The percentage at which taxable income is **Direct Tax Rate** businesses. taxed directly by the government. International aspects of direct tax rates Tax treaties: Double taxation agreements between countries may impact direct tax rates for cross-border transactions. Progressivity: Direct tax rates can be designed to ensure fairness according to income levels. Revenue collection efficiency: The practicality and ease of implementing and Policy considerations for setting direct tax rates collecting direct taxes. Social and economic objectives: Direct tax rates may be aligned with broader social and economic goals. Digital economy taxation: Addressing challenges posed by digital business models in setting direct tax rates. Environmental taxation: Incorporating environmental considerations into direct tax Future trends in direct tax rates rates to encourage sustainable practices. International cooperation: Collaborative efforts to harmonize direct tax rates and Rijacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal

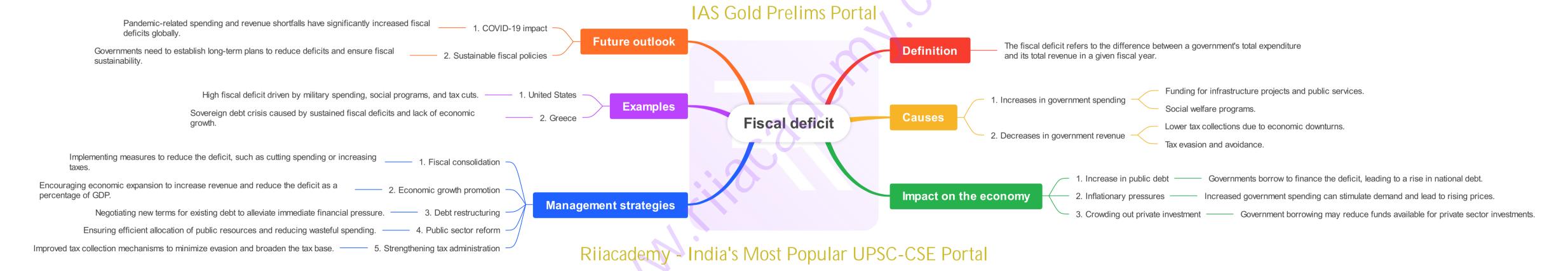


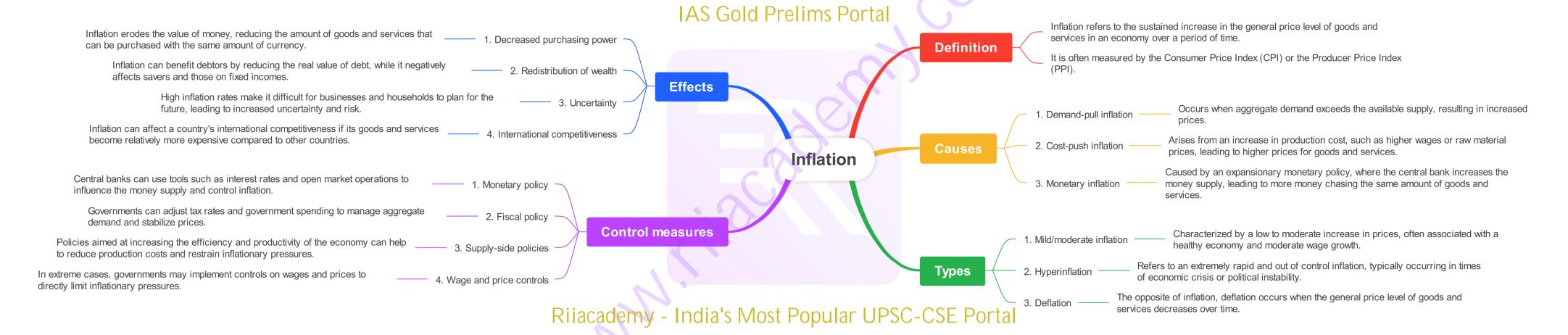
## **Balance of payments**

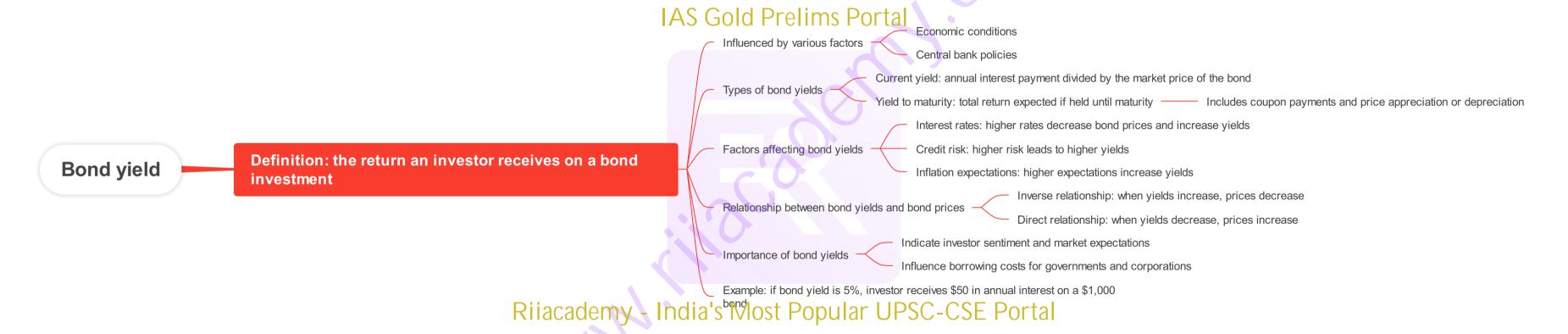
Definition: a record of all economic transactions between a country and the rest of the world over a specific period of time











Reduces purchasing power as the value of money decreases.

Creates uncertainty and reduces business investment.

Redistributes wealth as inflation can disproportionately affect certain groups, such as those on fixed incomes.

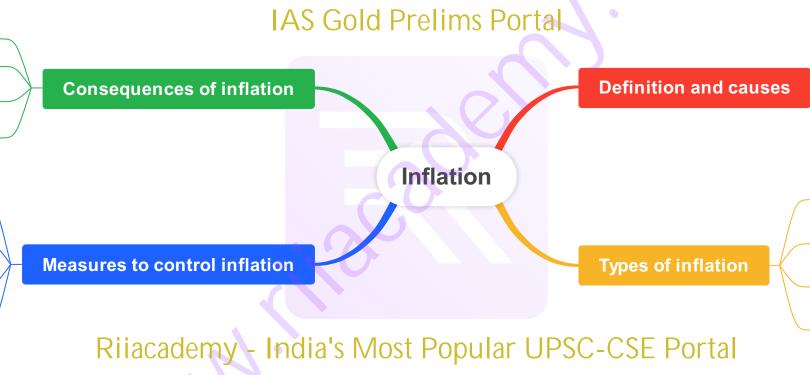
Can lead to increased interest rates, making it more expensive to borrow money.

Monetary policy, such as increasing interest rates or reducing the money supply, can help curb inflation.

Fiscal policy, such as reducing government spending or increasing taxes, can also be used to control inflation.

Supply-side policies, such as improving infrastructure or removing excessive regulations, can increase productivity and reduce inflationary pressure.

Central banks play a crucial role in controlling inflation through their monetary policy decisions.



Inflation refers to the sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services.

It occurs when the demand for goods and services exceeds their supply, leading to price increases.

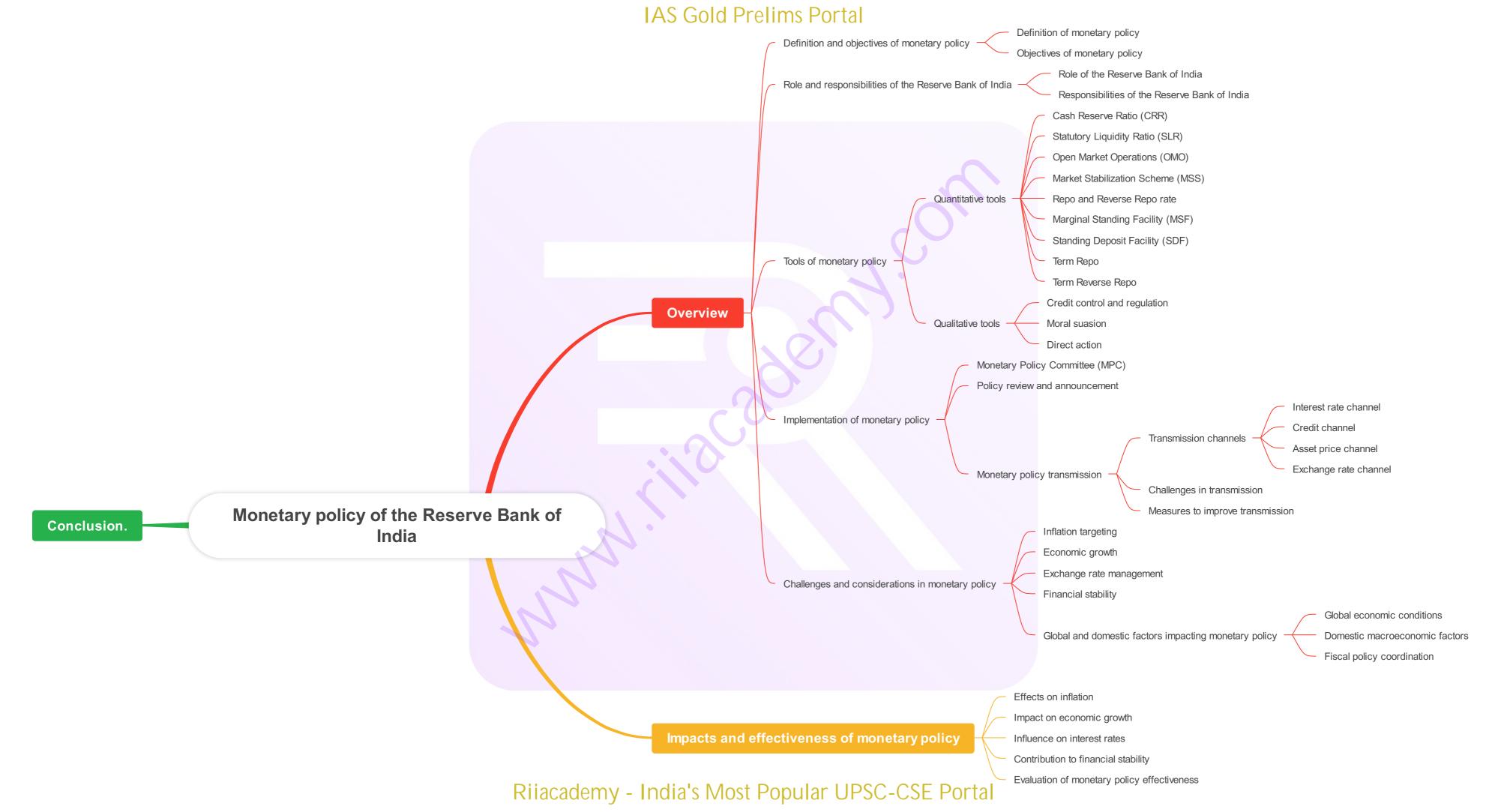
Factors that contribute to inflation include excessive government spending, monetary policies, and high levels of consumer spending.

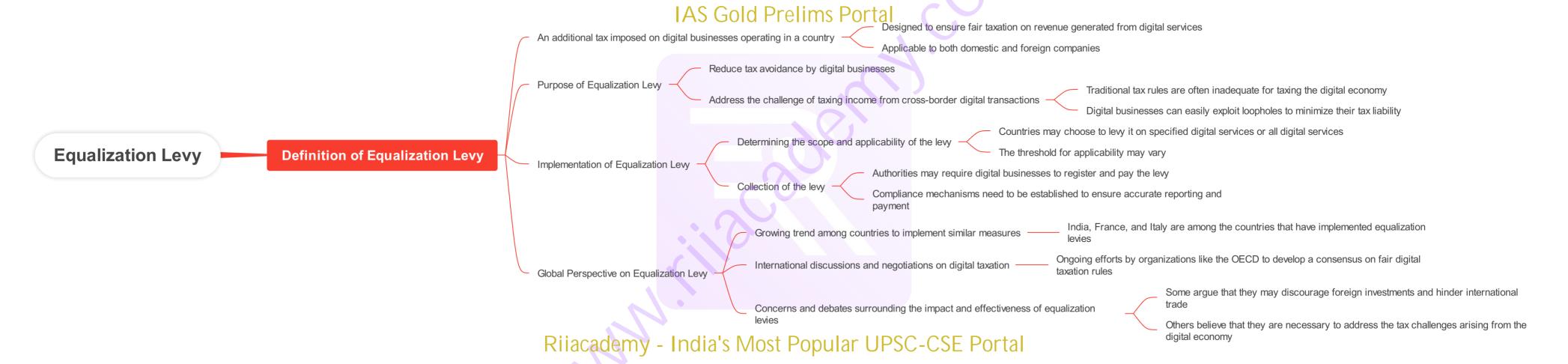
Demand-pull inflation occurs when aggregate demand exceeds the available supply, leading to increased prices.

Cost-push inflation results from increased production costs, such as higher wages or raw material prices, passing on to consumers.

Built-in inflation occurs when inflationary expectations lead workers to demand higher wages, which in turn increases production costs and prices.

Hyperinflation is an extreme form of inflation characterized by rapidly increasing prices and a loss of confidence in the currency.





These include schemes to facilitate investment and ease of doing business for NRIs.

The government also provides support and assistance to NRIs in times of crisis.

The Indian government recognizes the contribution of NRIs and has launched various initiatives for their

Overall, non-resident Indians play a vital role in promoting Indian culture, contributing to India's development, and fostering global connections.

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Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are individuals

of Indian origin who reside outside of India.

NRIs often maintain strong ties to their Indian heritage and culture.

NRIs may also provide expertise and knowledge to industries in India.

NRIs may also contribute to the development of India.

cooperation.

They may experience cultural differences and language barriers.

NRIs often have to navigate different legal systems and regulations in their host

By promoting cultural exchanges and understanding, they foster friendship and

They may engage in various activities to stay connected with their roots.

NRIs can play a significant role in strengthening the

NRIs may act as ambassadors for India, showcasing its rich culture and heritage.

This can include participating in cultural events and festivals.

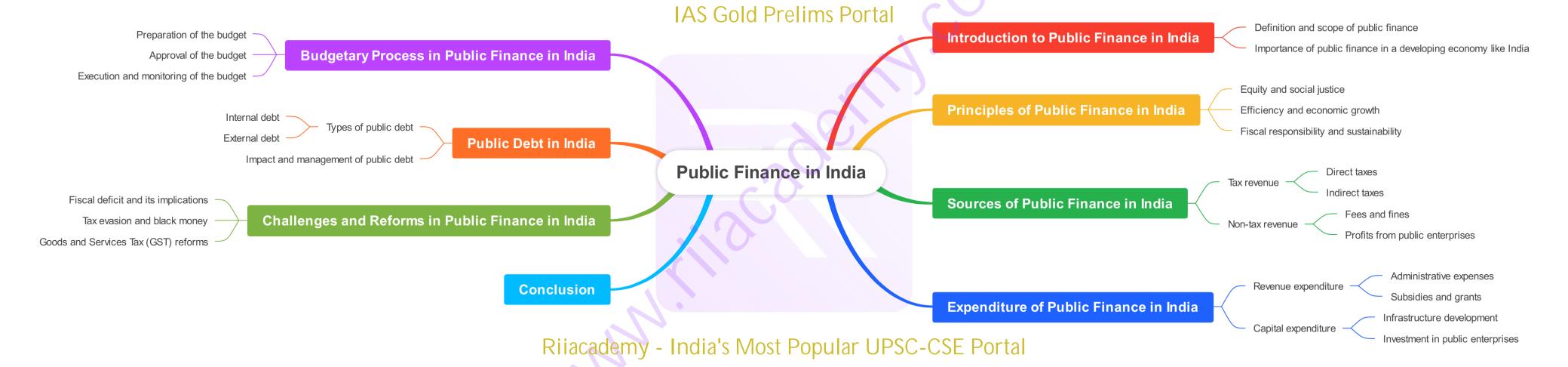
They may also attend Indian community gatherings.

They may support various social and economic initiatives through investments or

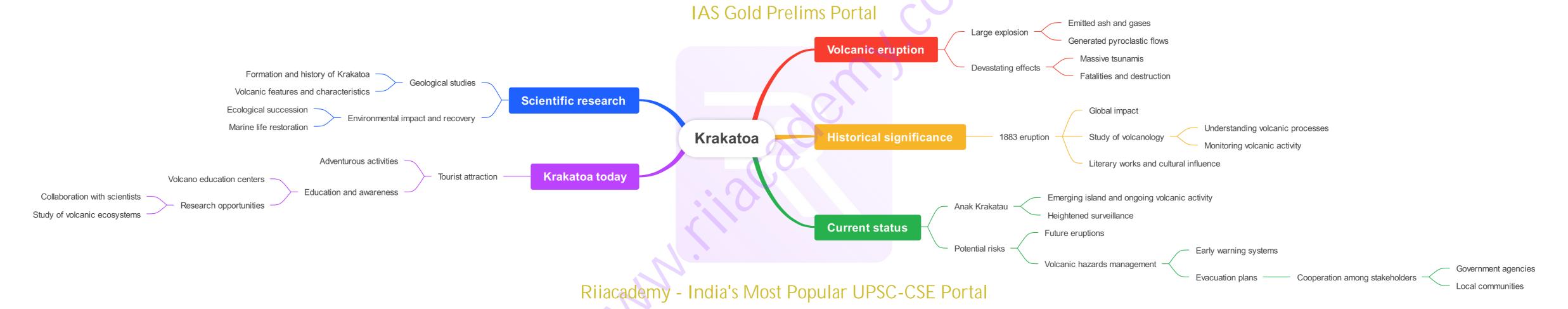
NRIs face unique challenges living outside of India.

relationship between India and their host countries. Rijacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal

welfare.









It is located on Honshu Island.

It is the highest mountain in Japan.

It is also an active stratovolcano.

Mount Fuji is known for its symmetrical cone shape.

The mountain is cone-shaped due to volcanic eruptions.

Its distinct silhouette is often depicted in Japanese art.

Location: Mount St Helena is located in the Mayacamas Mountains in the Napa Valley region of Northern California.

**Mount St Helena** 

Conclusion: Mount St Helena is a significant landmark in Northern California, offering outdoor recreation opportunities and showcasing the region's natural beauty.

### **IAS Gold Prelims Portal**

Geography: It is part of the volcanic Clear Lake Volcanic Field and is one of the highest peaks in the area.

History: Mount St Helena has a rich geological and cultural history.

Recreation: Mount St Helena offers a range of recreational activities for outdoor enthusiasts.

Natural Beauty: The mountain's scenic beauty attracts visitors from near and far.

Conservation: Efforts are being made to protect and preserve Mount St Helena and its natural resources.

Height: Mount St Helena has an elevation of 4,343 feet (1,324 meters) above sea level.

Terrain: The mountain features rugged terrain with rocky slopes and dense vegetation.

Volcanic Activity: The mountain was formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago.

Native American Presence: Native American tribes, such as the Wappo people, used the mountain for various purposes.

Hiking Trails: There are several hiking trails that lead to the summit, providing panoramic views of the surrounding area.

Mountain Biking: The mountain is a popular destination for mountain biking, with designated trails for different skill levels.

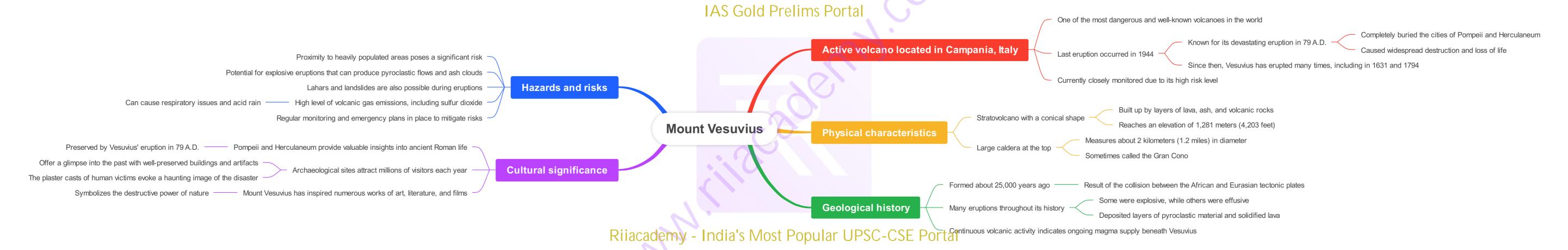
Wildlife: The area around Mount St Helena is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including deer, foxes, and various bird species.

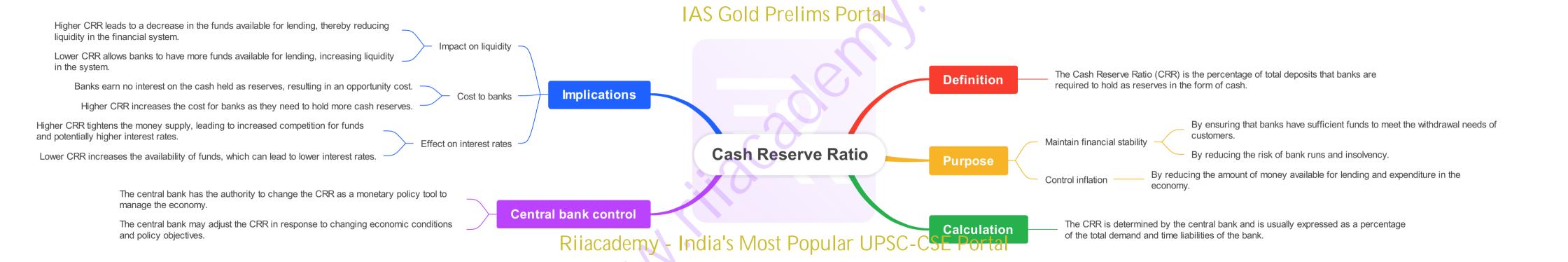
Flora: The slopes of Mount St Helena are covered in a variety of plant species, including oak and pine trees.

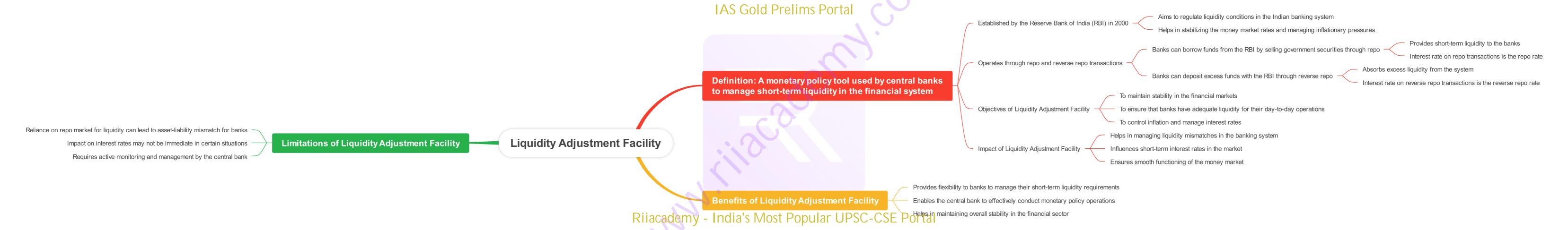
Views: The summit offers breathtaking views of the Napa Valley, Clear Lake, and the surrounding mountains.

Land Management: Various organizations and agencies are involved in managing the land and ensuring its long-term conservation.

Habitat Protection: The mountain provides important habitat for endangered species, and conservation efforts aim to maintain their populations.





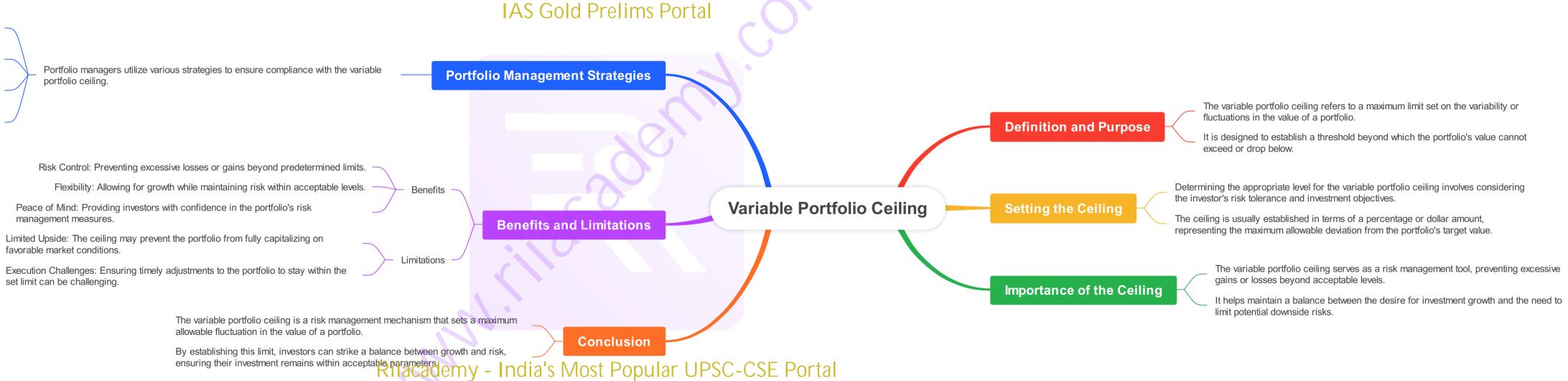


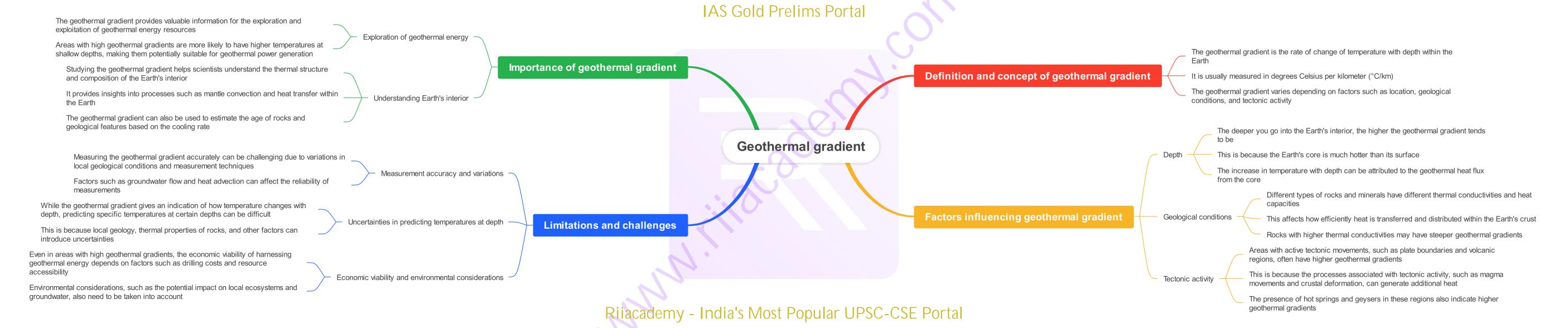
Regular Monitoring: Constantly tracking the portfolio's performance to identify any deviations from the set ceiling.

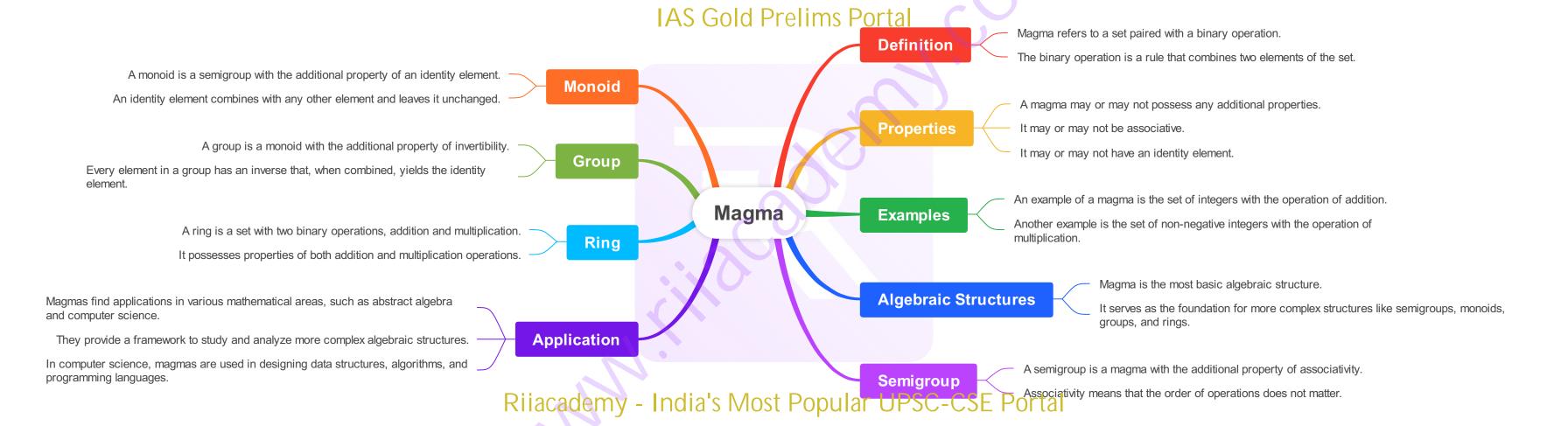
Rebalancing: Making adjustments to the portfolio's asset allocations to bring it back within the allowable limits.

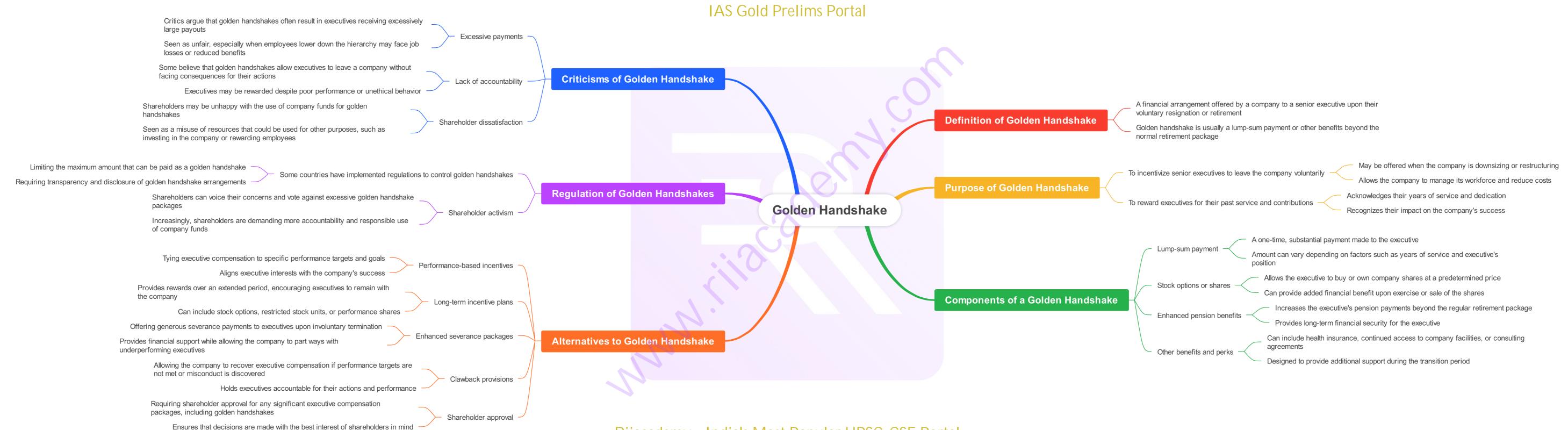
Diversification: Spreading investments across different asset classes to reduce the impact of market fluctuations.

Stop-Loss Orders: Implementing automatic sell orders if the portfolio's value drops below a predetermined threshold.

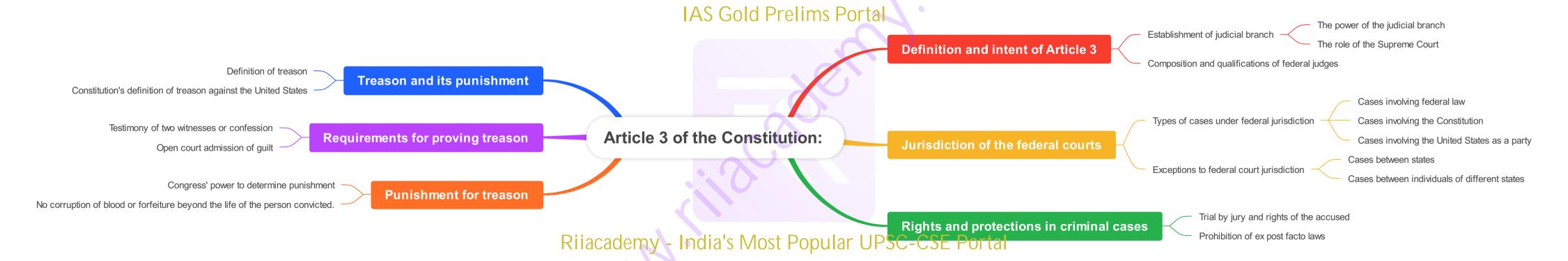


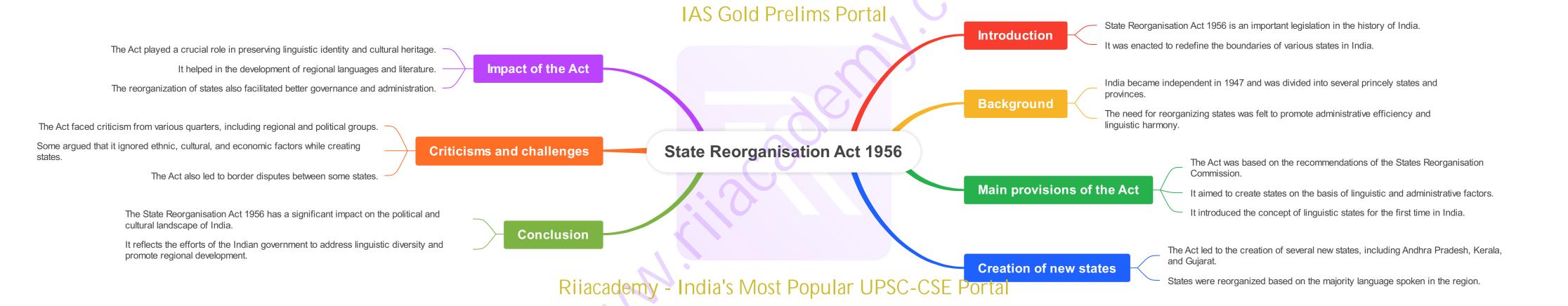






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In the 1980s, the United States experienced a period of disinflation after the Federal Reserve tightened monetary policy to combat high inflation.

Japan has been struggling with a prolonged period of disinflation and low inflation, known as "Japan's lost decades."

Disinflation is important for maintaining price stability and preventing runaway inflation, which can have detrimental effects on an economy.

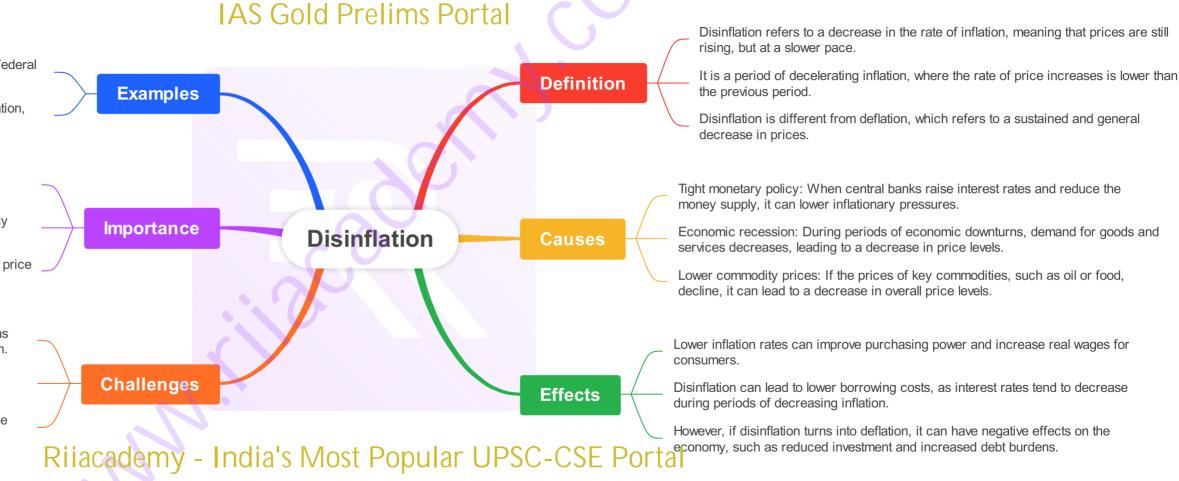
Central banks often target a specific inflation rate as part of their monetary policy objectives.

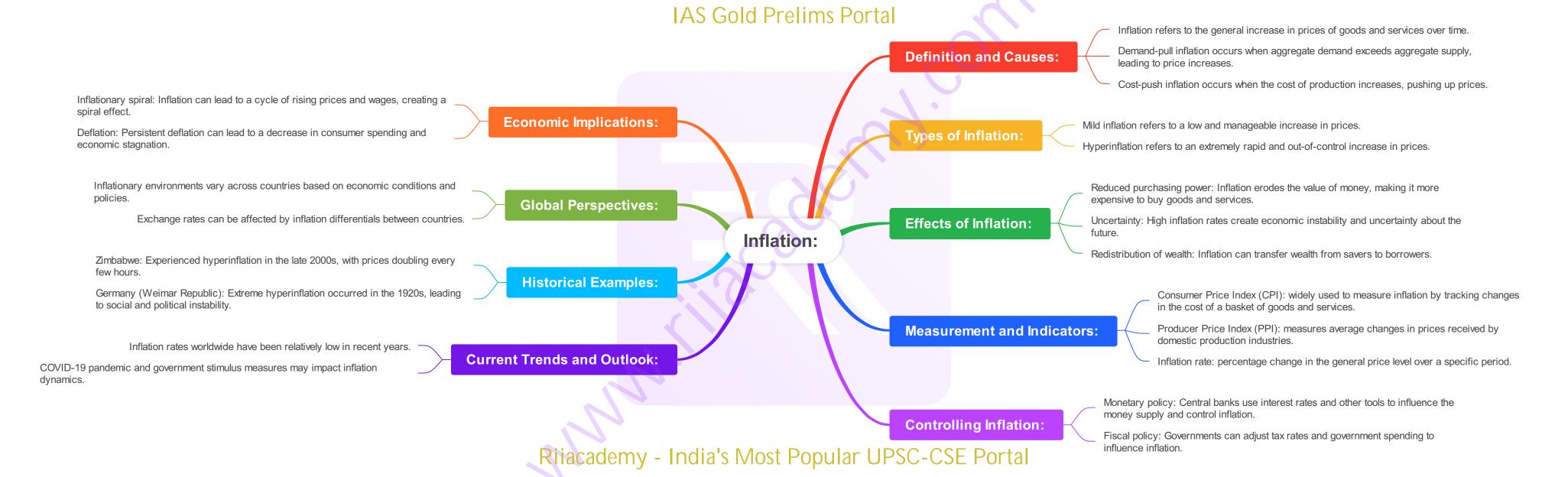
It allows businesses and individuals to plan and make decisions based on stable price expectations.

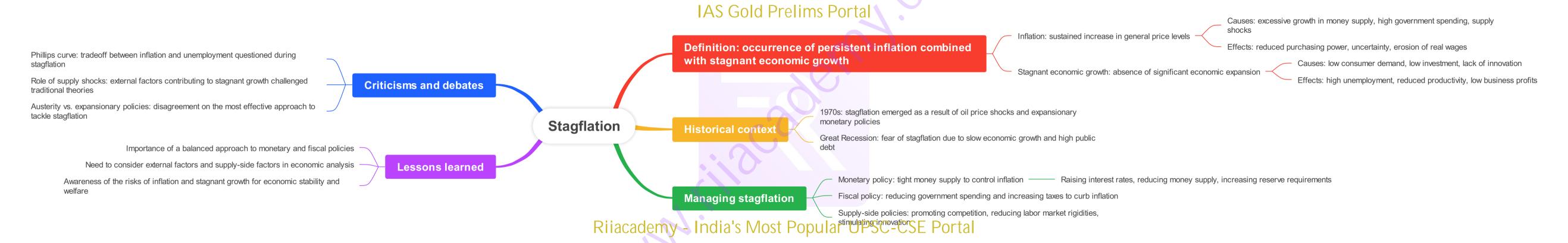
Achieving the right balance of disinflation can be challenging for policymakers, as too much disinflation can lead to deflationary pressures and economic stagnation.

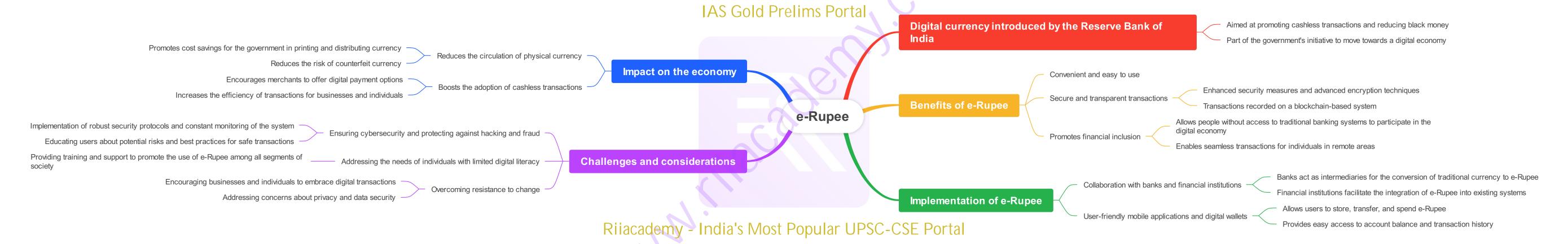
External factors, such as global economic conditions or commodity price fluctuations, can impact the effectiveness of disinflationary measures.

Communicating the reasons behind disinflation and its potential implications to the public can be a challenge for central banks and policymakers.









Inflation risk: Fiat currency is susceptible to inflationary pressures if governments print excessive amounts of money.

Lack of intrinsic value: Unlike commodity-based currencies, fiat currency has no underlying asset or value.

Vulnerability to government instability: In times of political or economic turmoil, the value and stability of fiat currency can be at risk.

Most countries today use fiat currency as their official medium of exchange.

The U.S. dollar, the euro, and the Japanese yen are examples of dominant fiat currencies in global markets.

Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms have emerged as potential alternatives to fiat currency.

Central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) are being explored by several governments as a way to digitize fiat currencies.



Disadvantages and challenges

Current global dominance

Definition and characteristics

Fiat currency is a type of currency that derives its value from government regulation or law, rather than from any intrinsic value or backing.

It is declared legal tender by the government and must be accepted as a form of payment within the country.

History and origins during the Song Dynasty.

However, it became more prevalent in the 20th century as countries moved away

The use of fiat currency dates back centuries, with examples like the Chinese "jiaozi"

from the gold standard.

Advantages of fiat currency

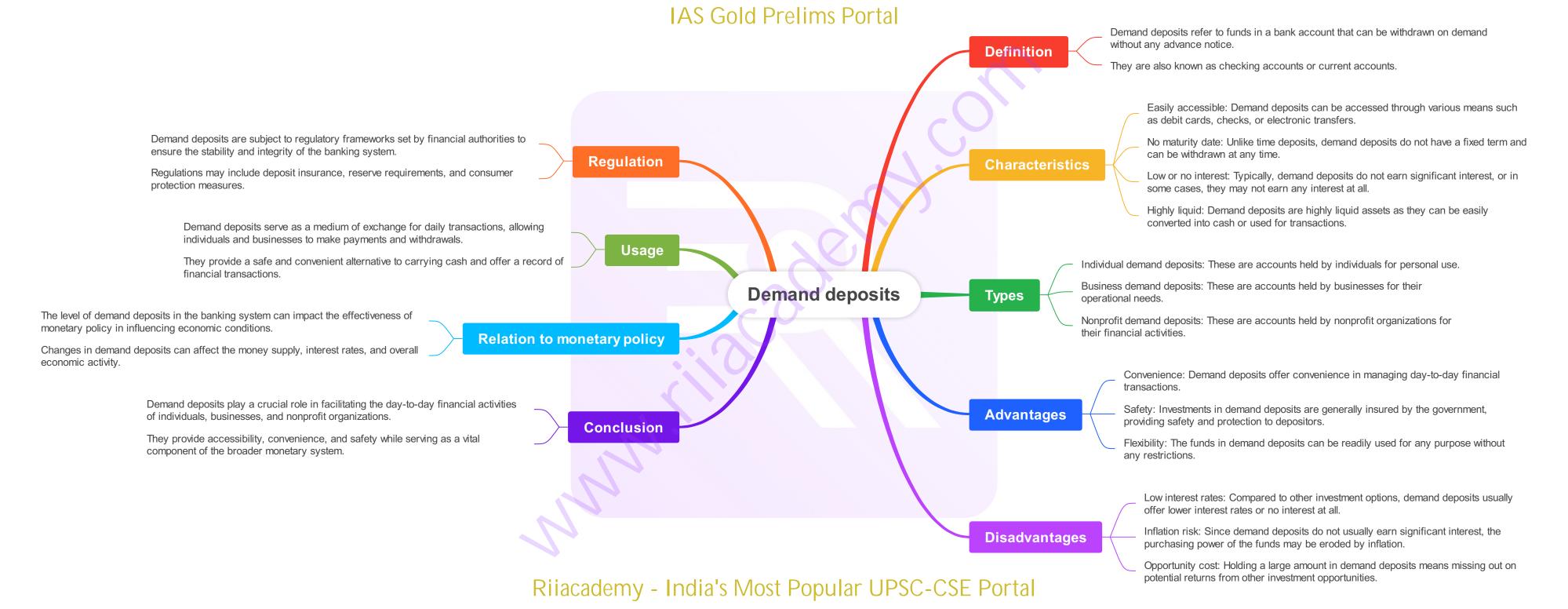
Flexibility: Fiat currency allows for greater monetary policy flexibility as governments can control the money supply based on economic conditions.

Ease of use: It is widely accepted, facilitating trade and commerce both domestically and internationally.

Future considerations and alternatives

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Fiat currency

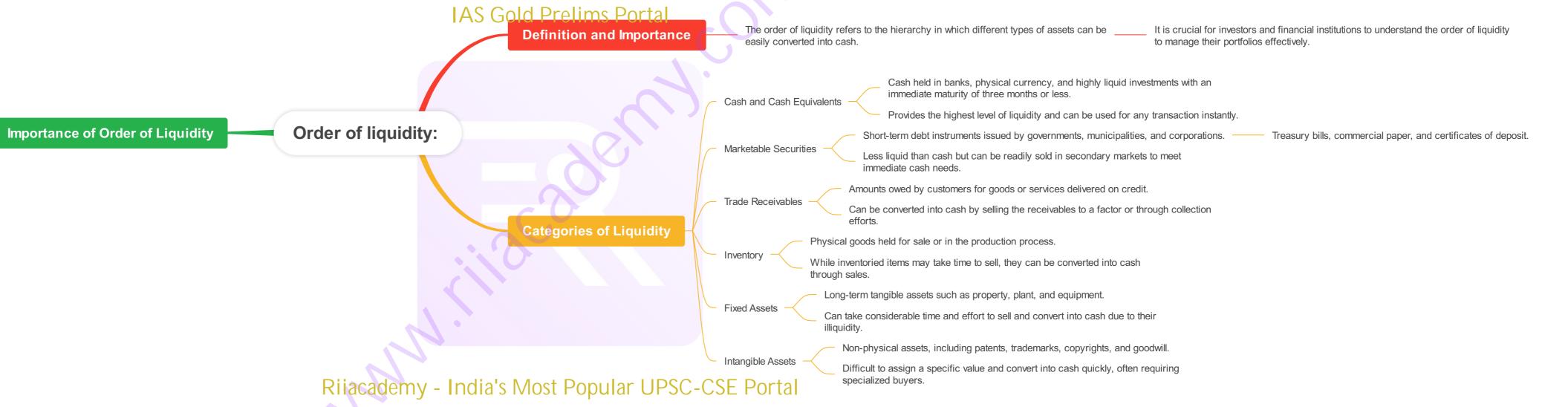


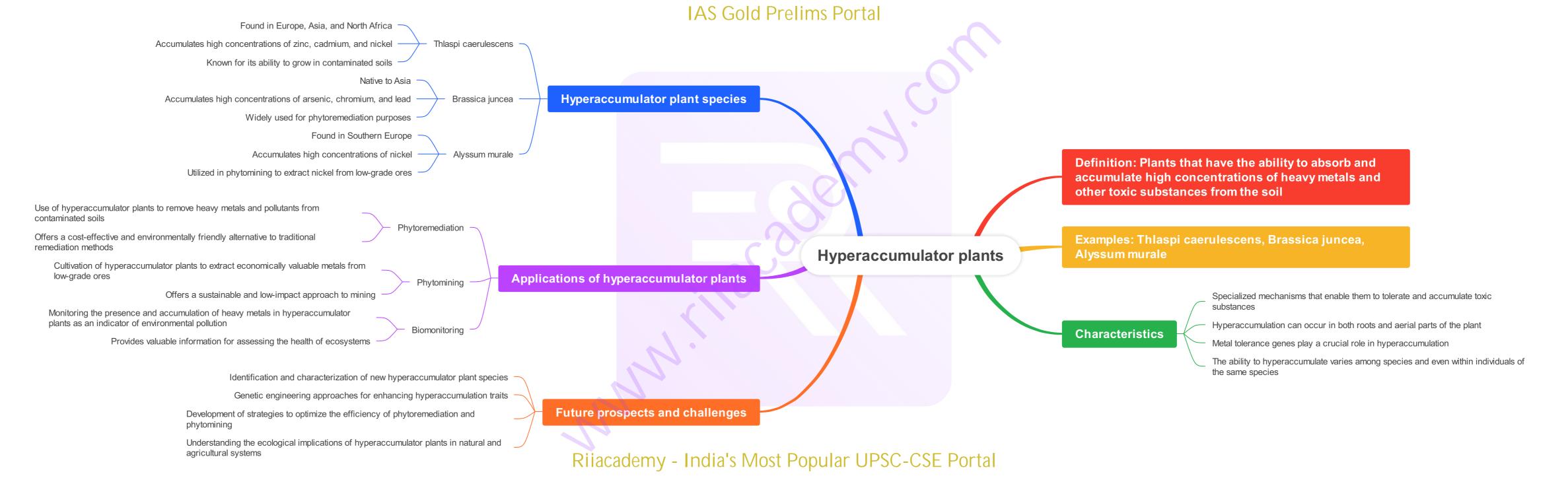
Helps determine the ability of an entity to meet its short-term obligations and cash flow needs.

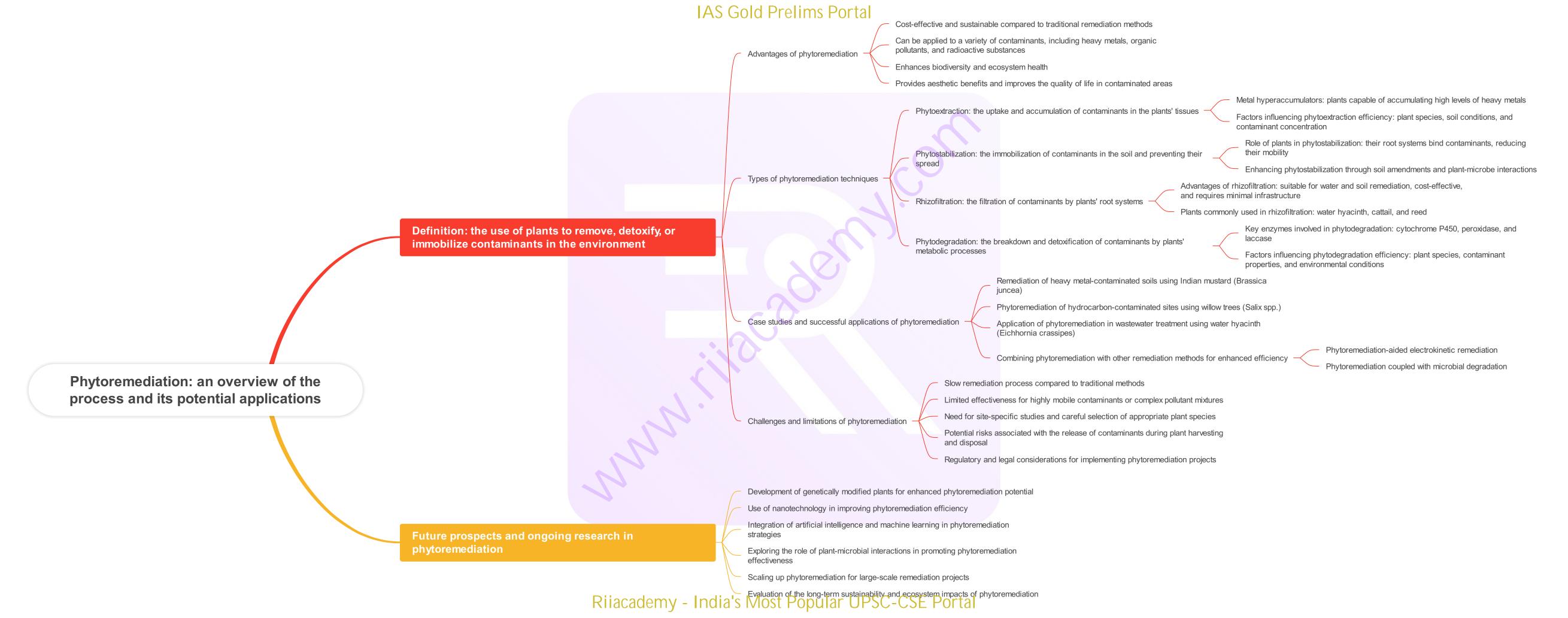
Influences investment decisions as more liquid assets are preferred for quick access to funds.

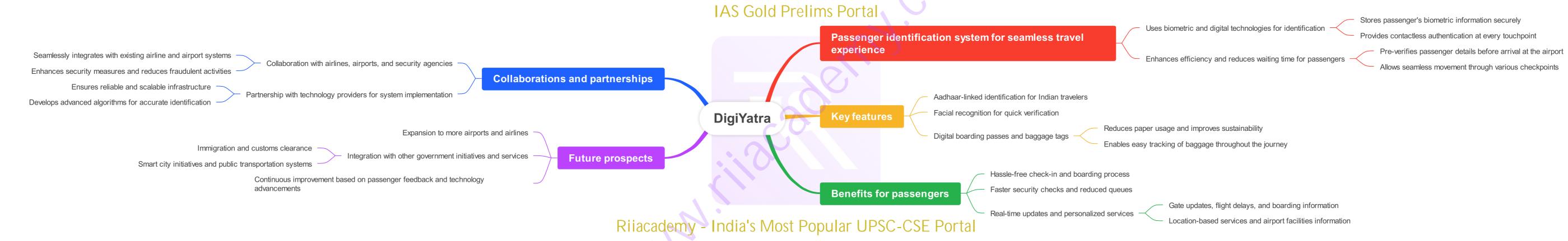
Provides insights into the overall financial health and risk profile of an individual or an organization.

Used in financial planning to optimize cash management and liquidity ratios.

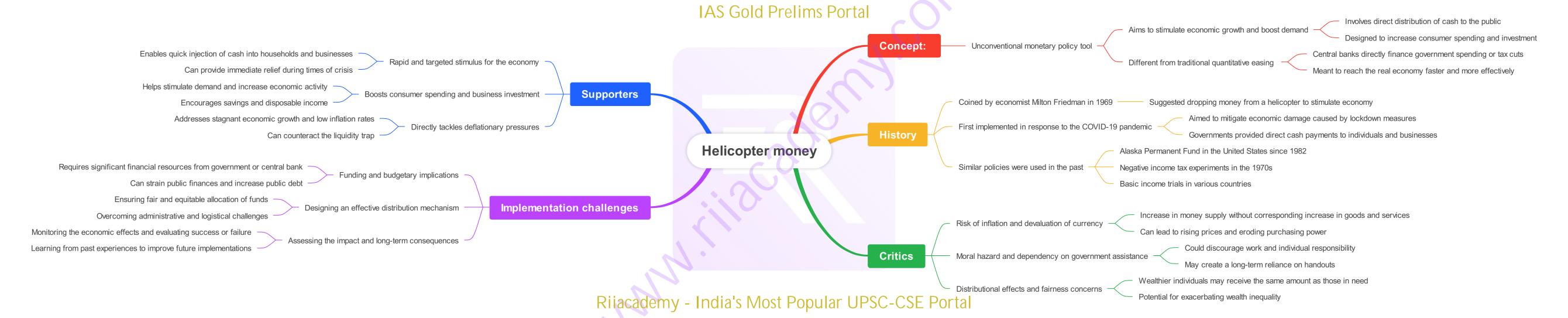


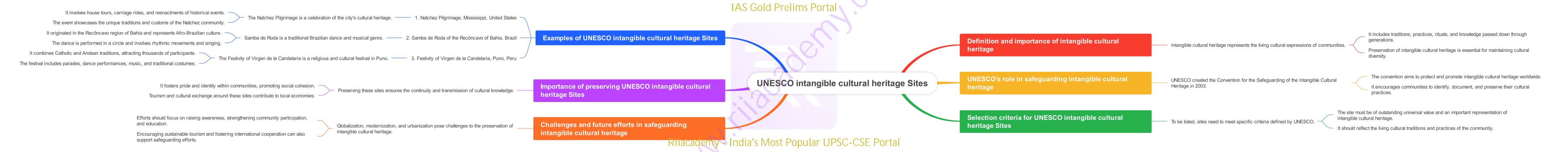






**IAS Gold Prelims Portal** Clear consent mechanisms should be in place when collecting and using facial recognition data. Consent and transparency Facial recognition technology uses algorithms to identify and verify individuals based **Definition and function** It is important to provide transparency about the capabilities and limitations of the on their facial features technology. **Ethical considerations** Regulations and policies should be established to prevent the misuse of facial recognition technology. Facial recognition technology is used for surveillance and identifying suspects in Safeguards against misuse criminal investigations. In law enforcement Safeguards should be in place to protect against unauthorized access and wrongful It can be used to enhance security measures in public spaces and airports. targeting. **Uses and applications** Facial recognition is utilized for unlocking smartphones and tagging people in photos on social media platforms. In mobile devices and social media Research and development efforts aim to improve the accuracy of facial recognition technology. It enables personalized experiences and enhances user convenience. Enhanced accuracy Advances in machine learning and deep learning algorithms contribute to better Facial recognition technology performance Facial recognition technology can achieve high accuracy in identifying individuals. **Future developments** Accuracy The development of ethical frameworks can guide the responsible use of facial It can outperform human recognition abilities in certain scenarios. recognition technology. Advantages Ethical frameworks Automated facial recognition systems can process large amounts of data quickly. International standards and cooperation are essential to ensure ethical practices Efficiency and speed globally. They can match faces against databases in real-time, allowing for rapid Facial recognition technology has diverse applications, ranging from law enforcement to mobile devices. The use of facial recognition technology raises privacy concerns regarding surveillance and data collection. While it offers advantages such as accuracy and efficiency, privacy concerns, bias, Conclusion Privacy concerns and ethical considerations need to be addressed There is a risk of unauthorized access and abuse of personal information. Limitations and challenges Continued research and development, along with proper regulations, are key to Facial recognition algorithms may exhibit bias based on race, gender, or other harnessing the full potential of facial recognition technology. characteristics, leading to potential discrimination. Bias and discrimination Improvements in the algorithms are needed to address these biases and ensure Rijacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal







Ensuring equitable access to quality education for all individuals

Facilitating cross-cultural understanding and respect

Promoting media literacy and media development

Empowering women and girls in education and society

Promoting gender equality in cultural and scientific fields

Promoting intercultural dialogue for peaceful coexistence

Defending the fundamental right to freedom of expression

Identifying and safeguarding cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value

Encouraging the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage

Supporting scientific cooperation and knowledge-sharing

Addressing global challenges through science-based solutions

Fostering lifelong learning opportunities

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**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural** 

UNESCO plays a crucial role in promoting international cooperation and fostering the exchange of ideas and

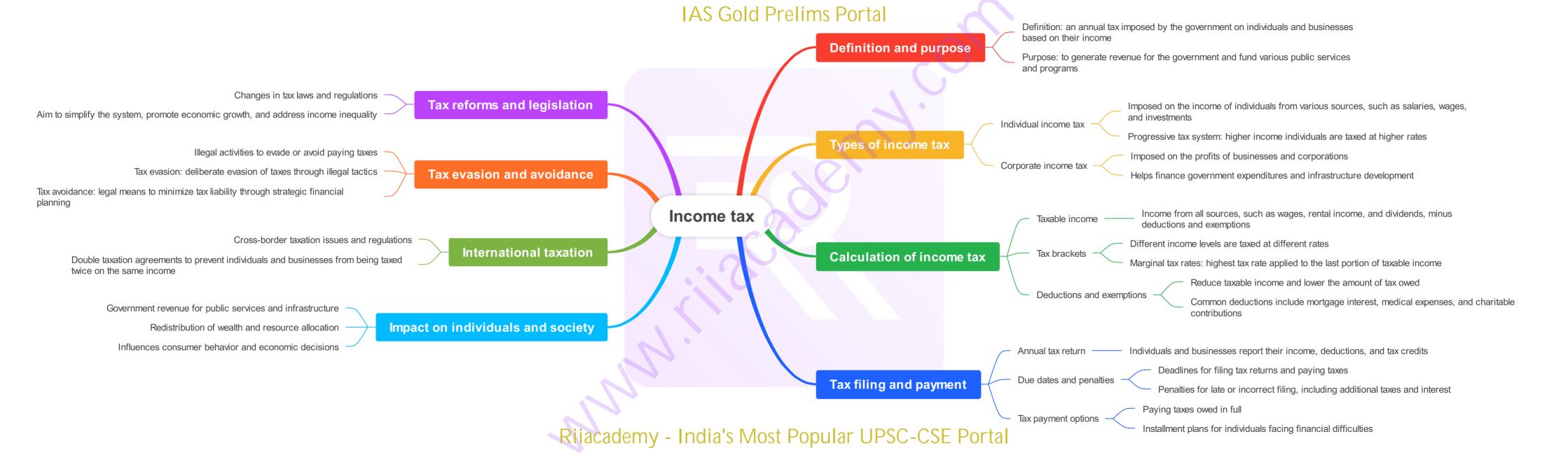
knowledge across diverse cultural and scientific

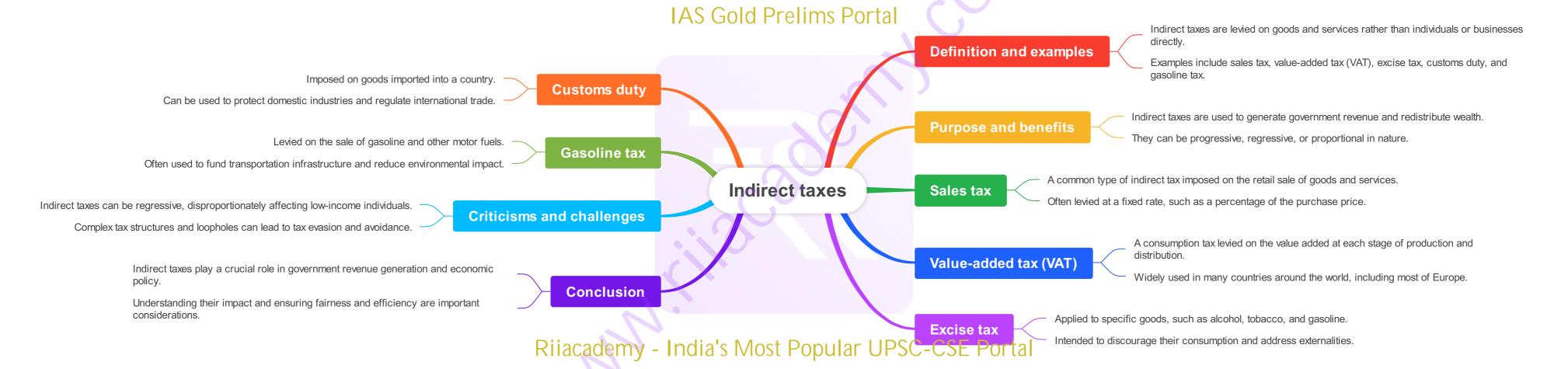
**Organization** 

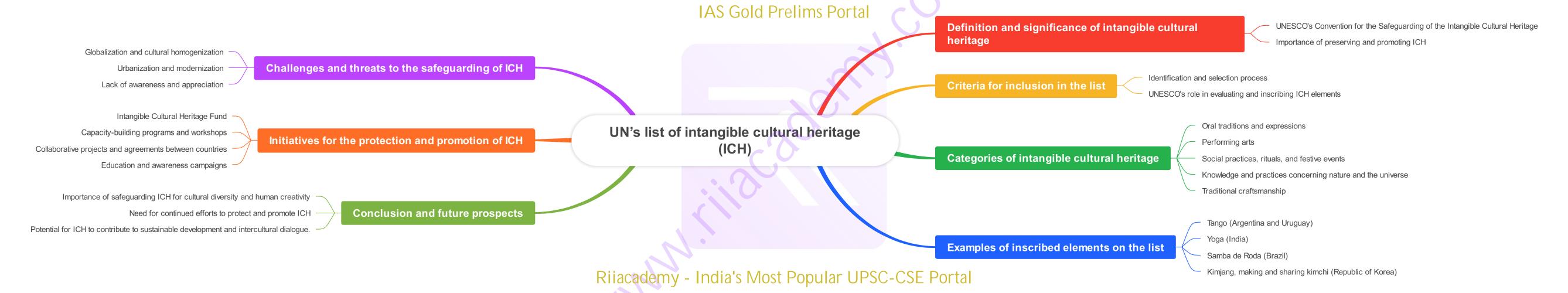
domains.

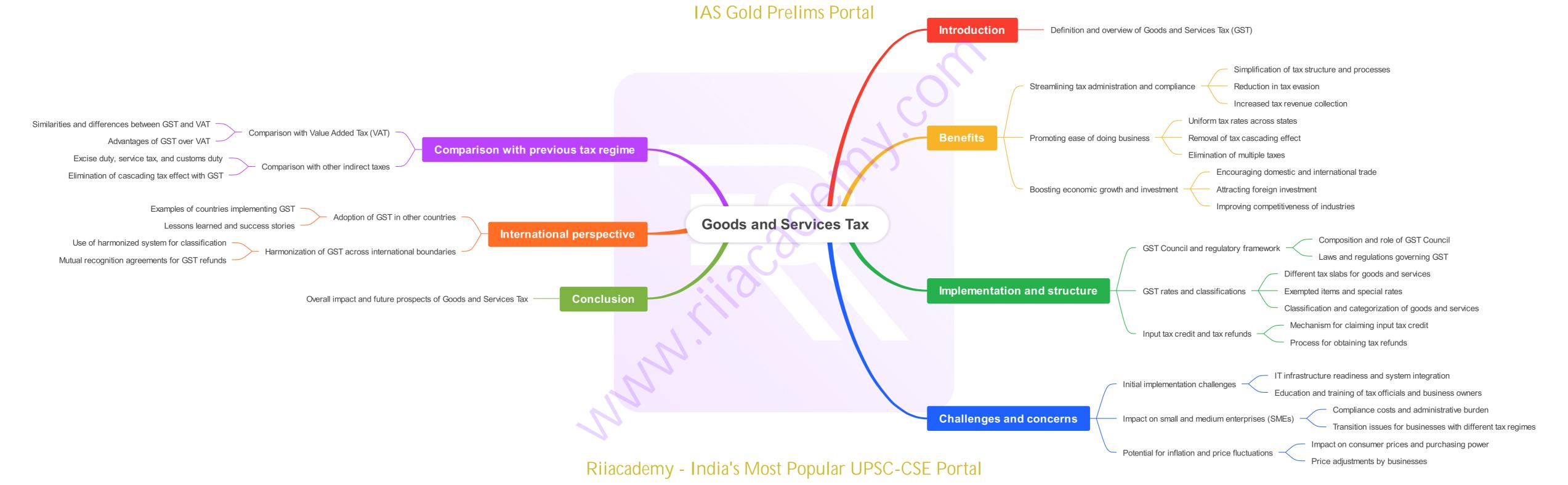
**UNESCO** 

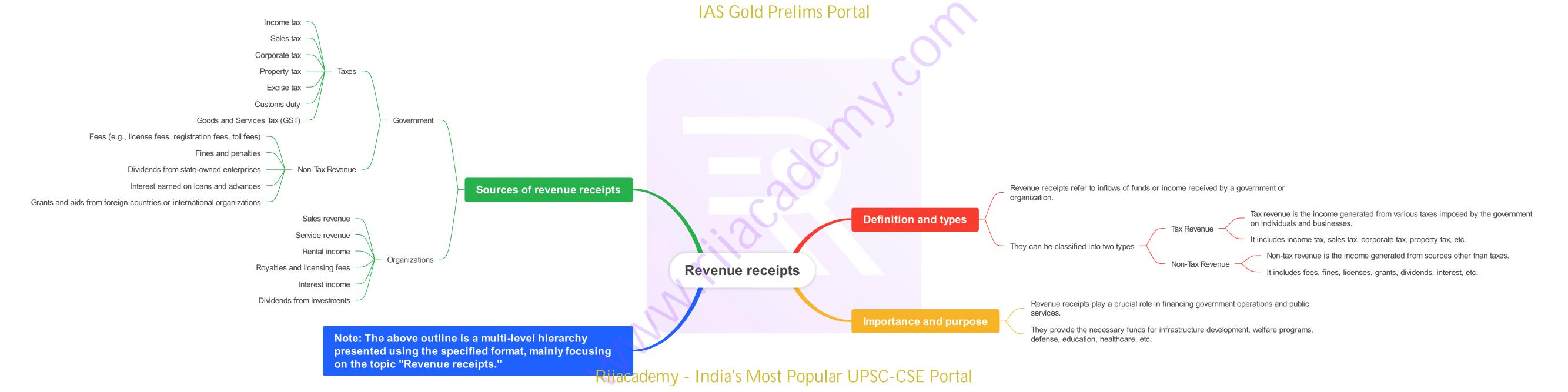
## **IAS Gold Prelims Portal** Personal income tax is paid by individuals. Corporate income tax is paid by corporations. Personal income tax applies to personal earnings. Source of income Corporate income tax applies to corporate profits. Comparison between personal and corporate income tax Individuals may be eligible for certain deductions and exemptions. Tax deductions and exemptions Corporations may also have deductions and exemptions available. Individuals may engage in tax planning strategies. Tax planning and avoidance Corporations may have more complex tax planning options. Direct taxes are imposed directly on individuals or entities. **Definition and classification** They are categorized into two types: personal income tax and corporate income tax. Direct taxes play a crucial role in generating government revenue. Revenue generation They contribute to funding public services and infrastructure. Personal income tax is levied on the income of individuals. Direct taxes help redistribute wealth in society. Description and purpose Distribution of wealth Its purpose is to fund government programs and services. Personal income tax They aim to reduce income inequality and promote economic equity. **Direct taxes** Importance and impact of direct taxes Personal income tax is calculated based on a progressive tax system. Direct taxes can influence economic behavior and incentives. Calculation and rates Economic behavior and incentives Tax rates increase as income levels rise. They may affect work, investment, and consumption patterns. Direct taxes require compliance from taxpayers. Corporate income tax is imposed on the profits earned by corporations. Compliance and enforcement Governments enforce tax laws to ensure fair and accurate taxation Description and purpose Its purpose is to generate revenue for the government. **Corporate income tax** Corporate income tax is calculated based on the net income of corporations. Calculation and rates -Direct tax laws can be complex and difficult to understand. Complexity Tax rates may vary depending on the country and type of corporation. Simplification efforts are often proposed for improved efficiency. Some individuals and corporations engage in tax evasion or avoidance. Tax evasion and avoidance Governments strive to combat these illegal or unethical practices. Criticisms and debates Debates exist on the fairness and equity of direct tax systems. Equity and fairness Various proposals aim to address perceived inequalities. The digital economy and international tax planning pose challenges. Global tax challenges International cooperation is sought to address these global issues. Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal











## IAS Gold Prelims Portal Major source of dietary energy Staple food in many cultures Rich in carbohydrates Common wheat Varieties include Durum wheat Club wheat Grown in farms worldwide Cultivation Requires temperate climates Cereal grain Sensitive to certain weather conditions Contains proteins Nutritional value High in dietary fiber Good source of vitamins and minerals Challenges in wheat production Bread making Pasta production Brewery for beer production Uses Genetic engineering for improved traits Animal feed Biofuels Sustainable farming practices Wheat **Future prospects** Crop rotation and intercropping Heart health Adaptation to changing climates Weight management Improving yield and quality of wheat varieties **Health benefits** Improved digestion Reduced risk of type 2 diabetes Wheat is a versatile and important crop with numerous uses and benefits. However, Conclusion its production faces various challenges that need to be addressed for sustainable Lowered cholesterol levels Resource-intensive crop Water usage **Environmental impact** Pesticide use

Land degradation and deforestation

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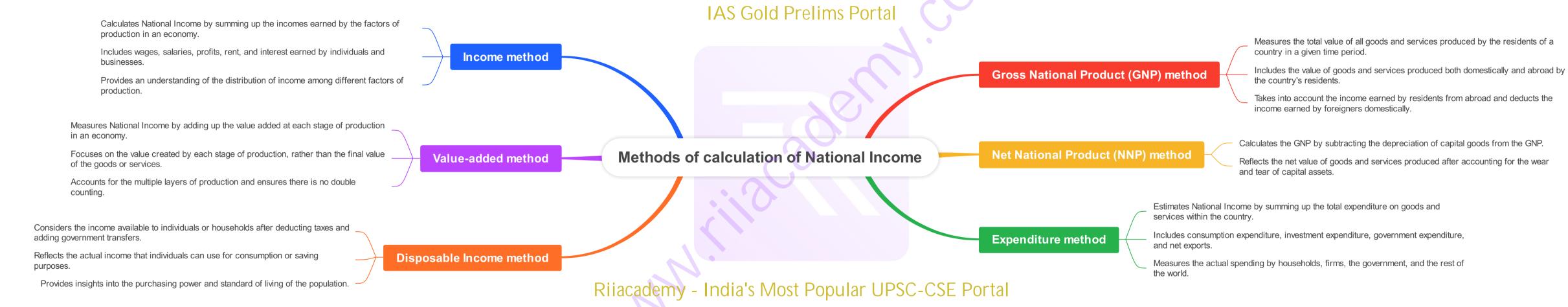
Disease outbreaks

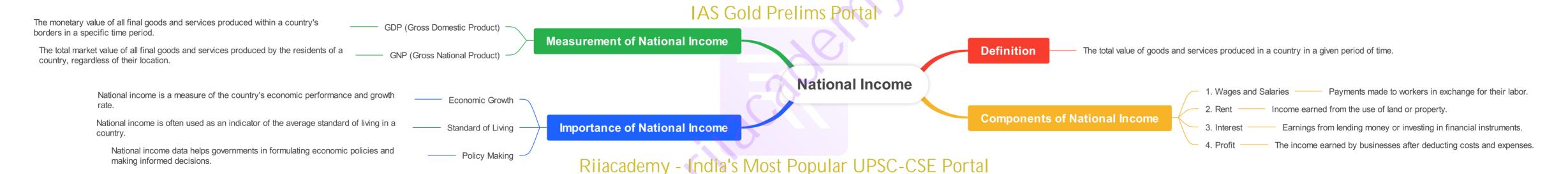
Pests and insects

Climate change impact

Maintaining crop diversity

farming and long-term food security.





Played a significant role in the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Successfully advocated for flexibilities in agricultural trade rules to support small farmers.

Helped secure a special safeguard mechanism for developing countries during WTO negotiations.

Facing resistance from developed countries to accommodate the concerns of developing nations.

Struggling to address the disparities in power and influence within global trade institutions.

Working towards a consensus among members with diverse interests and priorities.

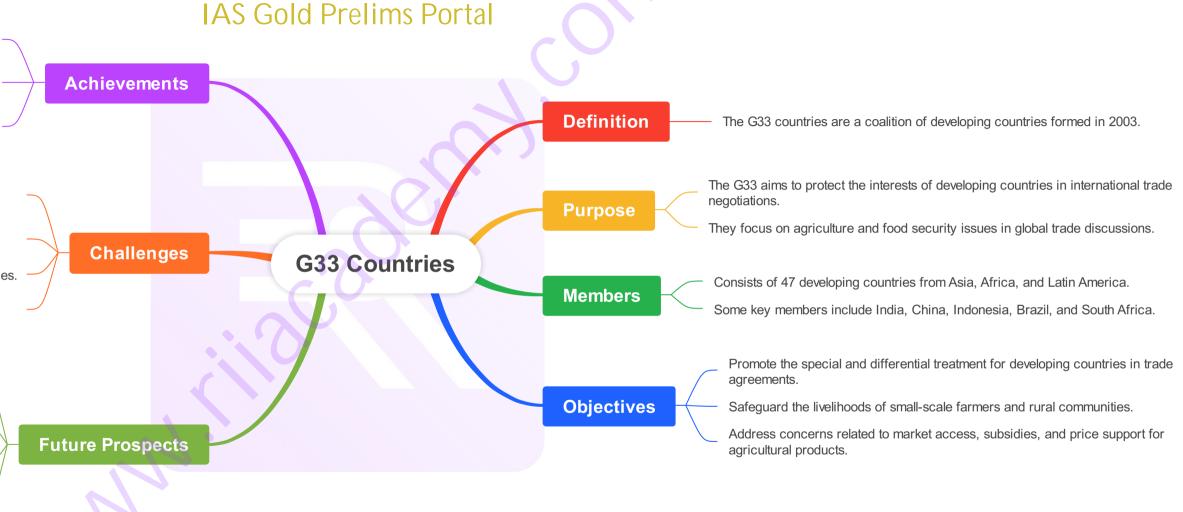
Dealing with the complexities of multiple trade negotiations and agreements simultaneously.

Continuation of efforts to influence global trade policies that benefit developing countries.

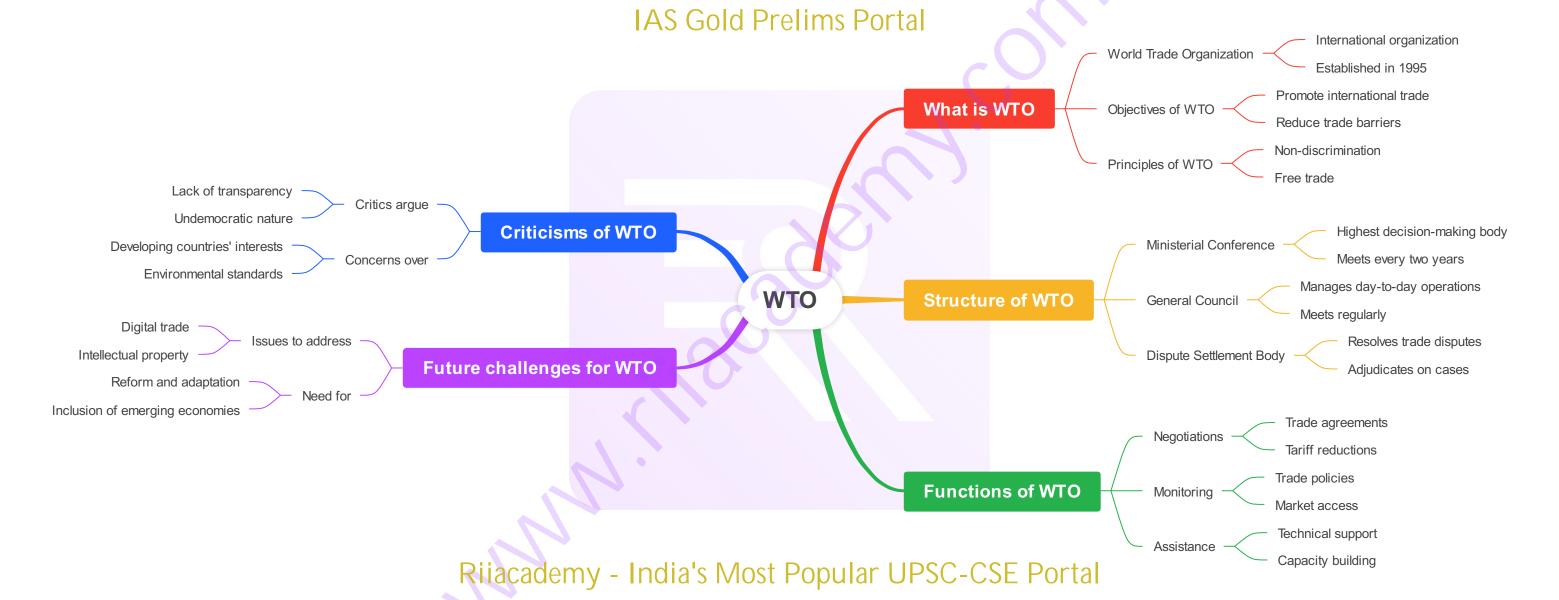
Enhancing collaboration with other coalitions and organizations to amplify their voices.

Strengthening alliances among G33 members to collectively address trade challenges.

Persisting in advocating for fair and equitable trade rules for the development of all nations.



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## IAS Gold Prelims Portal

**Provident fund** 

Definition: a type of financial plan established by an employer to provide benefits for employees after retirement

Purpose: to ensure financial security and stability for employees during their retirement vears

Pension funds: typically managed by institutions and provide periodic payments after

the employer

instruments

their funds before retirement age

provident fund

Provisions for early termination: circumstances under which employees can access

Management and administration: overseeing the operation and regulations of the

Employee benefits: provides a reliable source of income during retirement years

Employer benefits: contributes to employee satisfaction and loyalty, helps attract and retain talented individuals

Advantages of provident funds: benefits and advantages for both employees and employers

> Similar retirement savings schemes: other forms of retirement savings vehicles available globally

Individual retirement accounts: self-funded accounts that offer tax advantages for

retirement

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Contribution rates: vary depending on the employer's policies and the employee's Contributions: regular deductions made from employees' salaries and matched by Tax benefits: contributions to provident funds are often tax-deductible Investment options: typically include bonds, stocks, mutual funds, and real estate Investment: the accumulated contributions are invested in various financial Risk management: strategies employed to minimize the risks associated with the

Vesting schedule: may vary based on the length of the employee's tenure with the company Vesting period: certain period of service required for employees to have full ownership of their contributions Partial vesting: employees may be entitled to a portion of their contributions after a

Retirement payout: the primary purpose of the provident fund, providing a stream of

income after retirement Withdrawal options: options available for employees to access their provident fund Partial withdrawals: in some cases, employees may be allowed to withdraw a portion

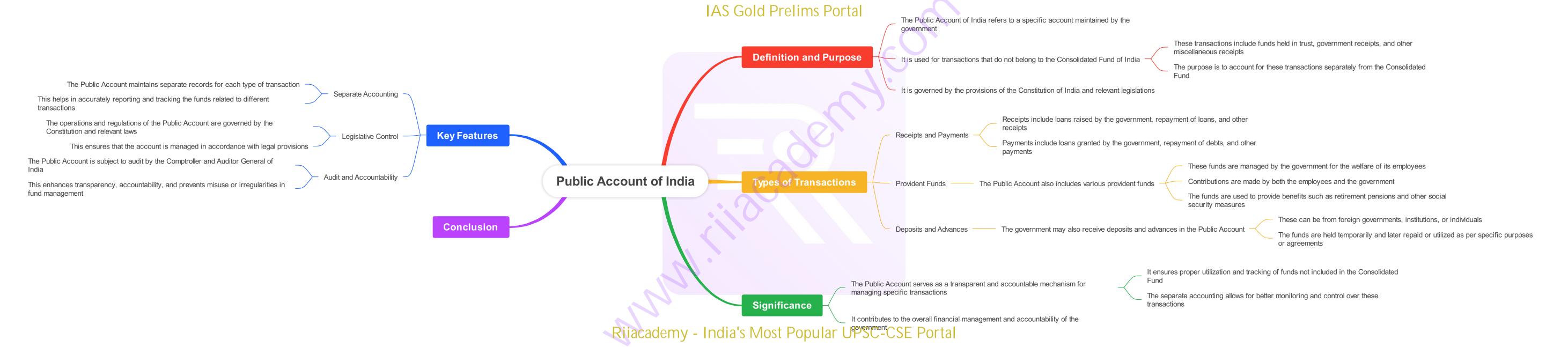
> of their savings before retirement Unforeseen financial hardship: provisions to withdraw funds in case of significant

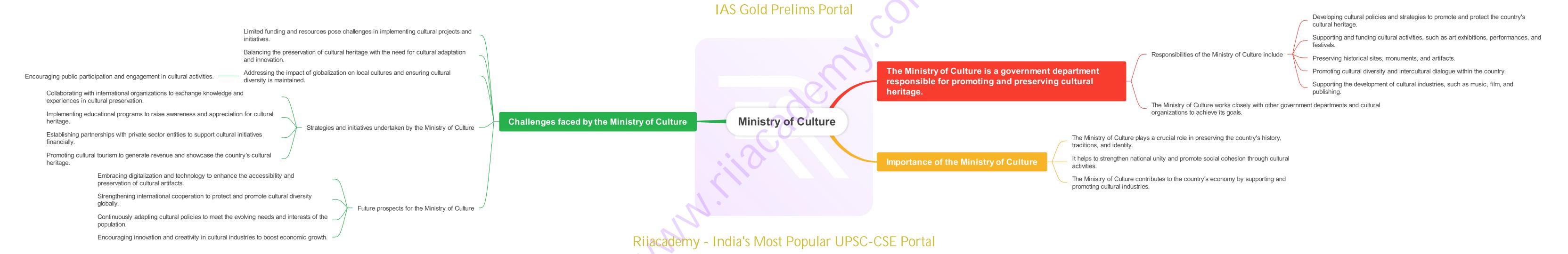
financial difficulties Termination of employment: employees leaving the company can choose to transfer

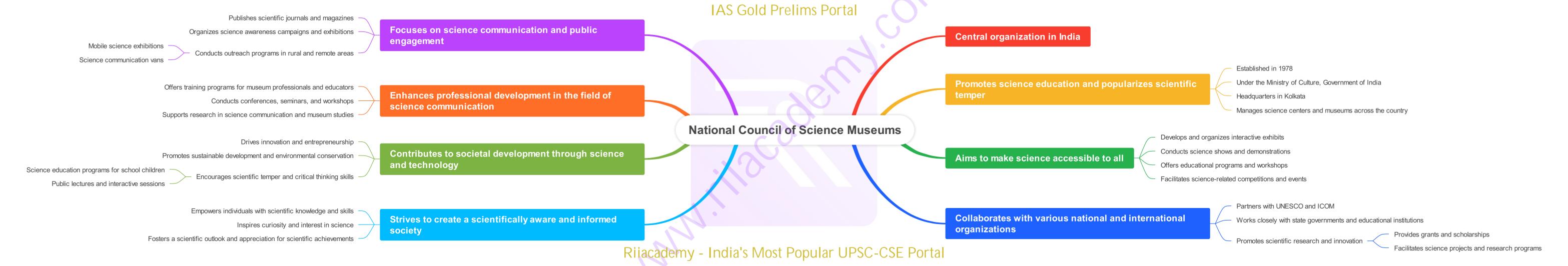
or withdraw their savings

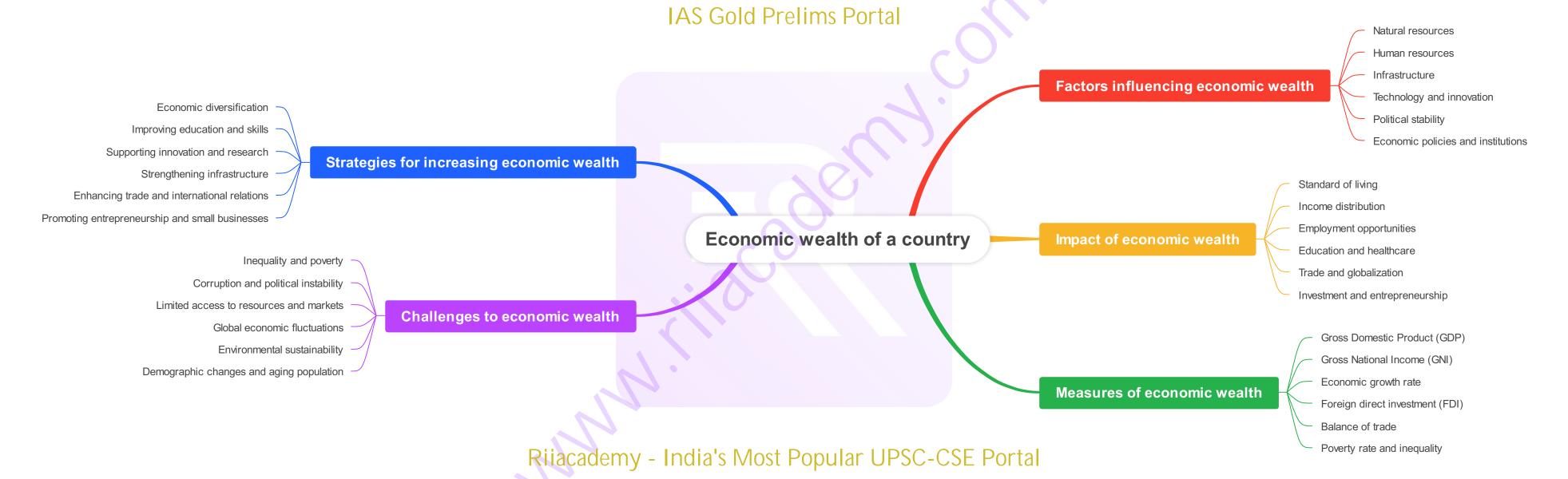
Fund trustees: responsible for managing the investments and ensuring compliance with regulations

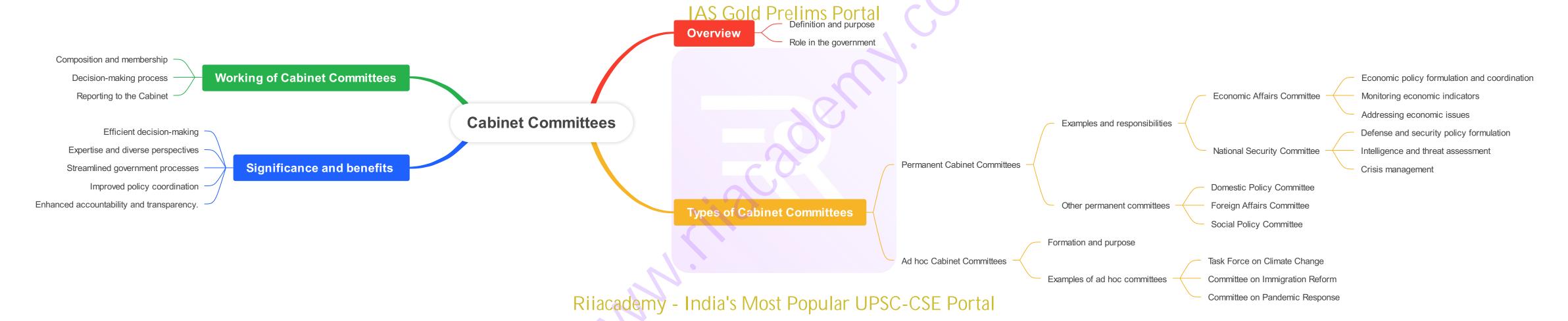
Reporting and disclosure requirements: employers are required to provide annual statements to employees

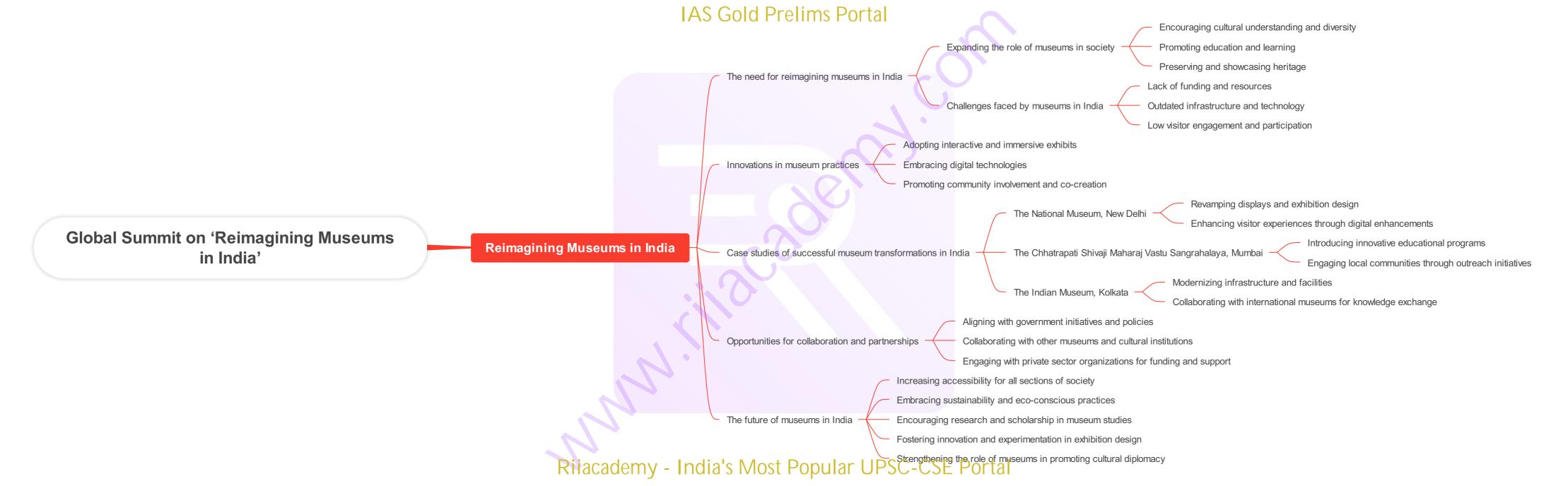


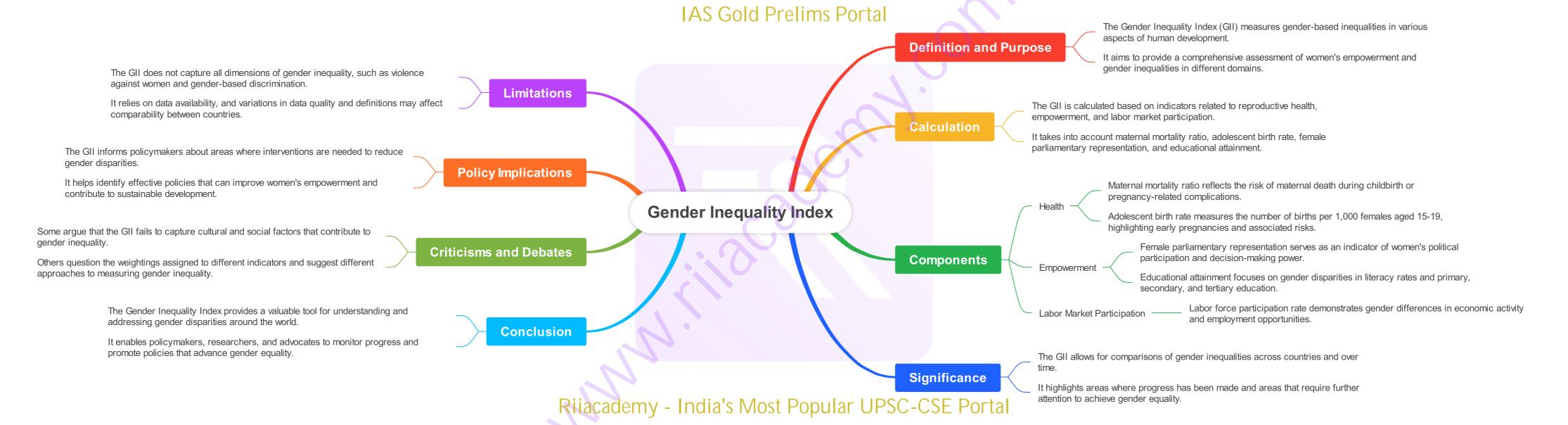












## **IAS Gold Prelims Portal** Definition and measurement of maternal mortality ratio Various initiatives and programs have been implemented globally to reduce maternal mortality ratio. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality ratio These include improving access to essential healthcare services, promoting comprehensive sexual and reproductive health rights, and strengthening health Reducing maternal mortality ratio is essential for achieving sustainable development goals, particularly those related to health and gender equality. Maternal mortality ratio Importance of reducing maternal mortality ratio It is a key indicator of the progress made in improving maternal health and ensuring the rights of women. Maternal mortality ratio is a critical metric that reflects the health and well-being of mothers worldwide. Conclusion Efforts to reduce maternal mortality ratio are crucial for creating a safer and healthier world for women. Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal

Maternal mortality ratio refers to the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in a given population or time period. Maternal mortality ratio is an important indicator of the health and well-being of mothers in a society.

Global maternal mortality ratio

The global maternal mortality ratio has been declining over the years, but it still remains a major public health concern.

Many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, have high maternal mortality ratios.

Causes of high maternal mortality ratio

Lack of access to quality maternal healthcare services is one of the leading causes of high maternal mortality ratio.

Other factors contributing to high maternal mortality ratio include poverty, lack of education, and cultural barriers.

High maternal mortality ratio not only affects the health and survival of mothers but also has significant social and economic implications. Consequences of high maternal mortality ratio

It contributes to the cycle of poverty and hinders the progress of societies.

## IAS Gold Prelims Portal

These countries hold substantial reserves to support their economic and financial stability

The level of reserves can vary greatly between nations, reflecting different economic circumstances and policy priorities.

For example, developing economies may hold reserves as a precaution against external shocks or speculative attacks on their currency.

On the other hand, advanced economies may focus more on managing currency fluctuations and supporting economic growth.

Examples: Notable countries with significant foreign exchange reserves include China, Japan, Switzerland,

and Saudi Arabia.

Definition: Foreign exchange reserves refer to the foreign currencies held by a country's central bank and monetary authorities.

Foreign exchange reserves;

Global Importance: Foreign exchange reserves play a crucial role in the global economy.

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Purpose: They serve as a cushion to maintain stability in international transactions and as a tool to address potential economic crises.

Composition: Foreign exchange reserves usually consist of major currencies such as the US dollar, euro, yen, and pound sterling.

Sources: Foreign exchange reserves can be acquired through various sources.

Management: Central banks carefully manage their foreign exchange reserves to ensure their value and accessibility.

Large reserves held by countries with strong economies provide stability and confidence in the international monetary system.

They facilitate international trade and investment by assuring counterparties of the ability to meet financial obligations.

Additionally, they can be mobilized to intervene in currency markets to influence exchange rates for economic purposes.

The size and management of foreign exchange reserves are closely monitored by financial markets and international organizations.

Importantly, they provide confidence to investors and support the value of the national currency.

They contribute to the overall monetary and financial stability of a country.

Additionally, they can include other highly liquid assets denominated in foreign currencies, such as government bonds or gold.

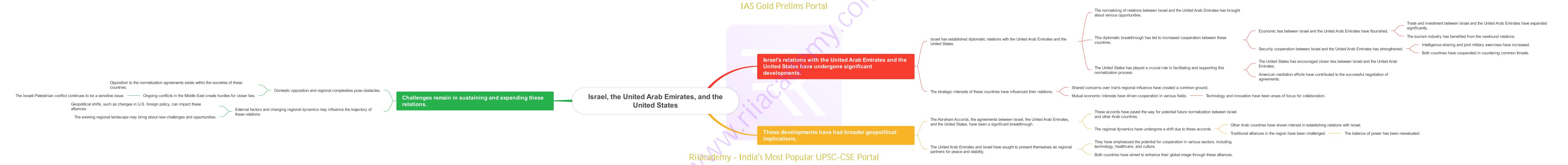
The composition may vary depending on the preferences and strategies of the central bank.

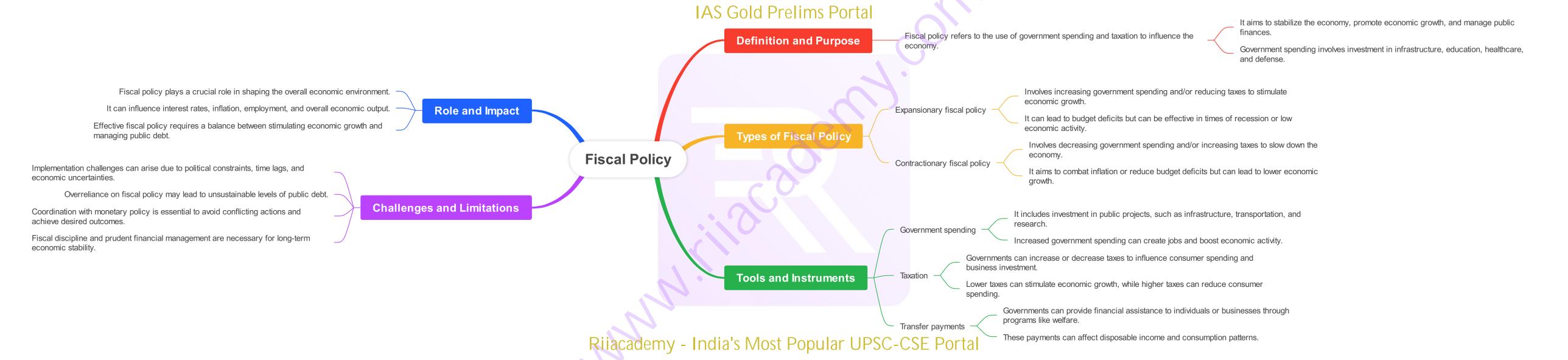
These include exports of goods and services, foreign direct investments, remittances, and borrowing from international financial institutions.

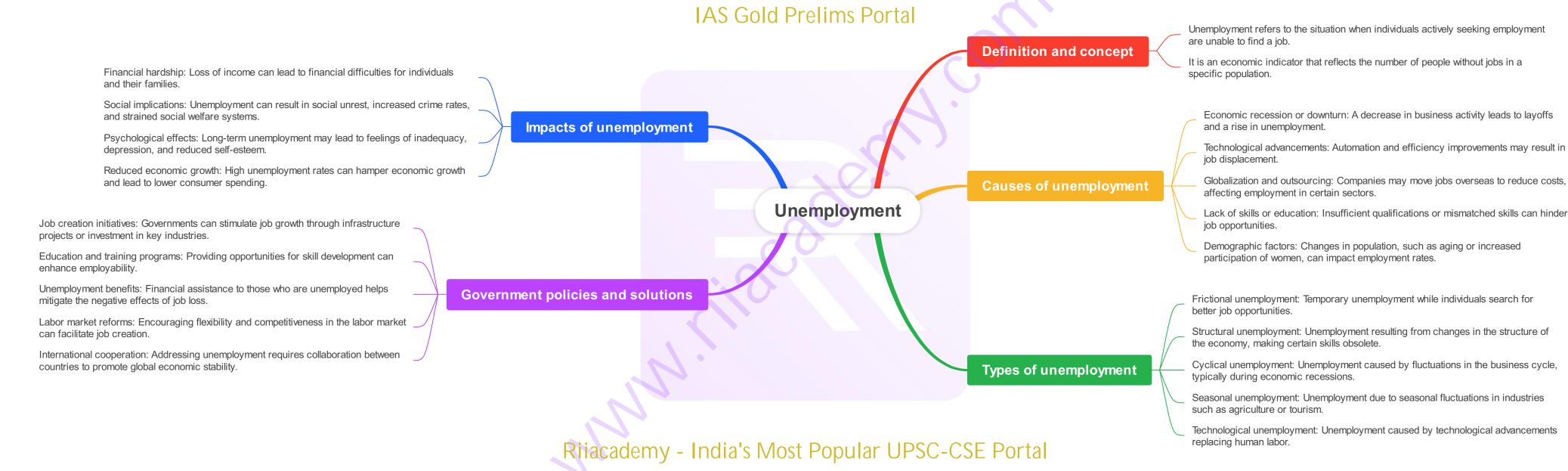
Central banks can also intervene in the foreign exchange market to increase or decrease their reserves as necessary.

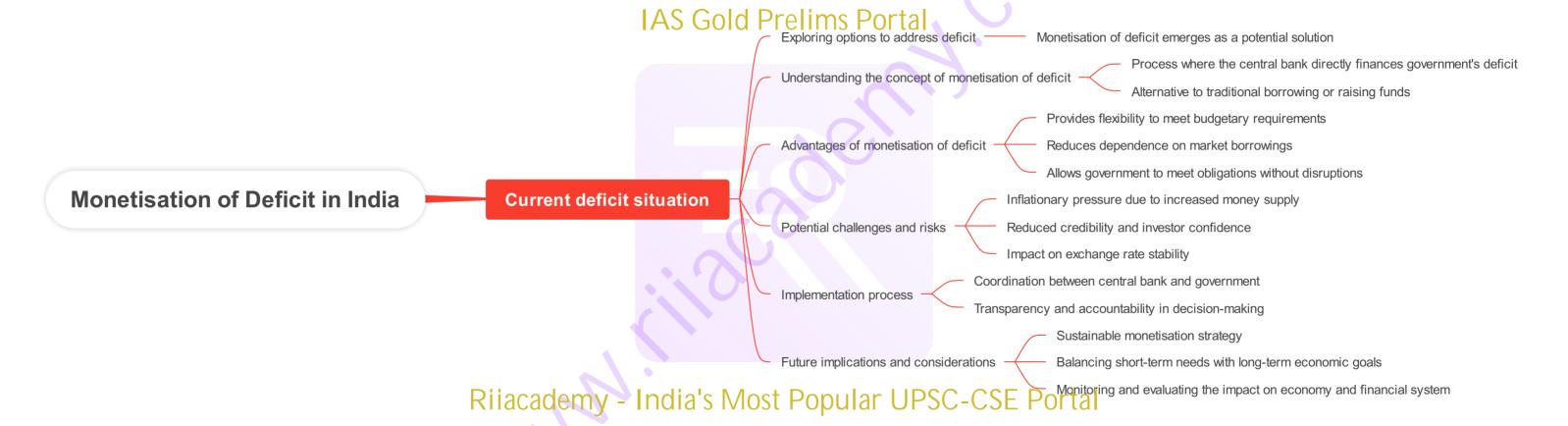
They employ different strategies, including diversification across currencies and asset classes.

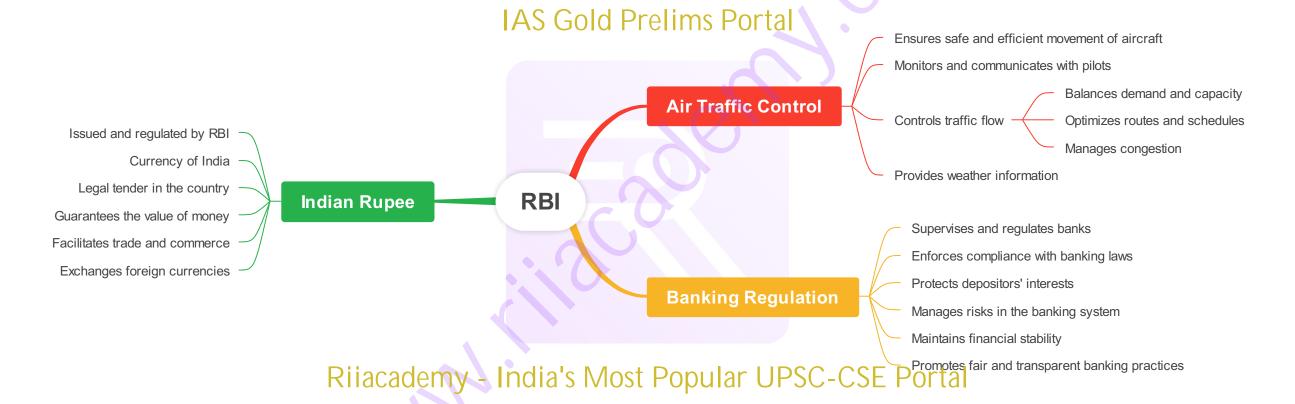
Risk assessment and hedging practices are also applied to protect against potential losses.

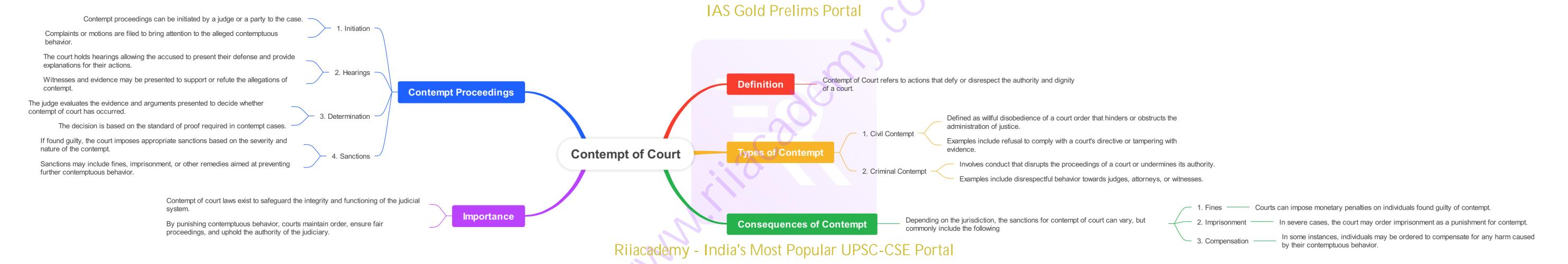


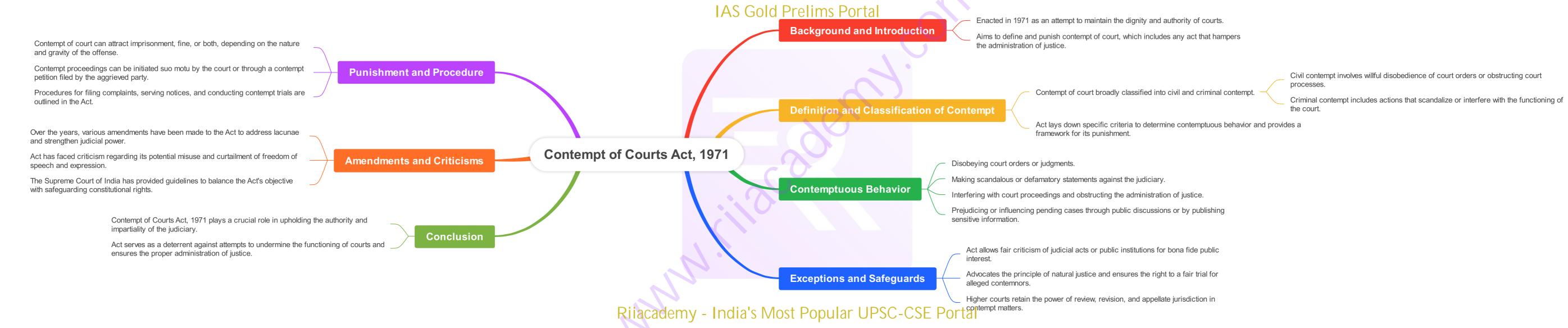


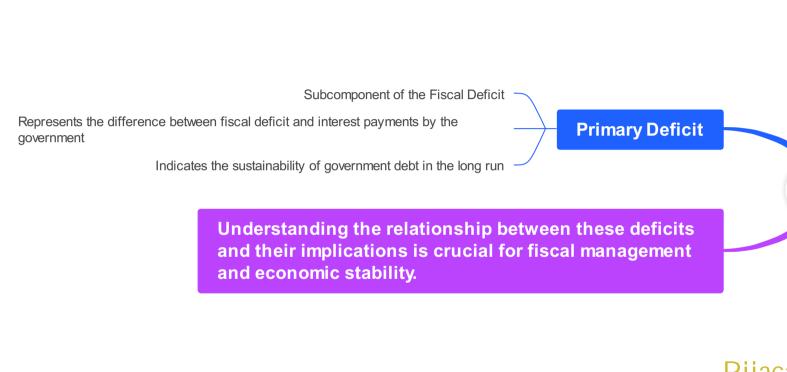


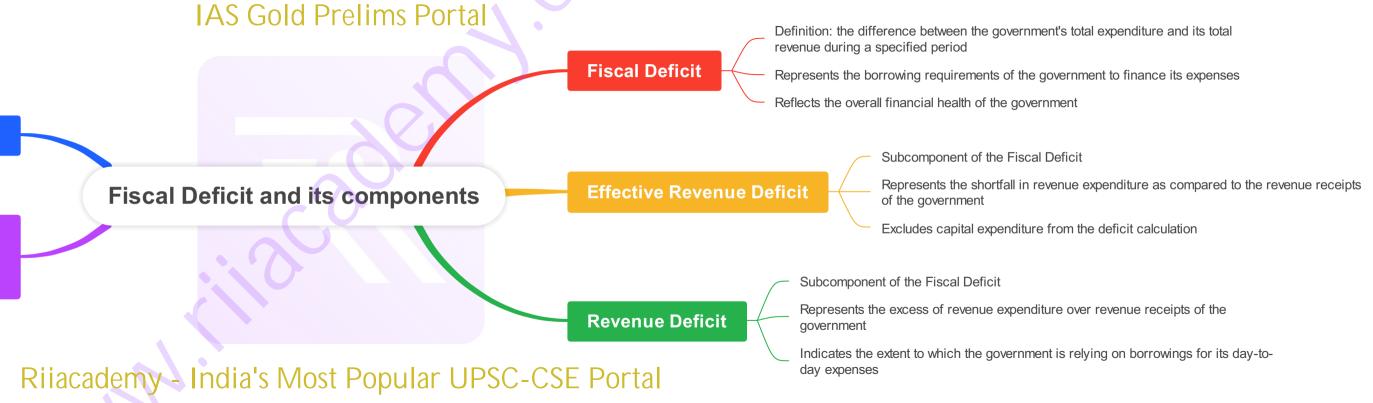


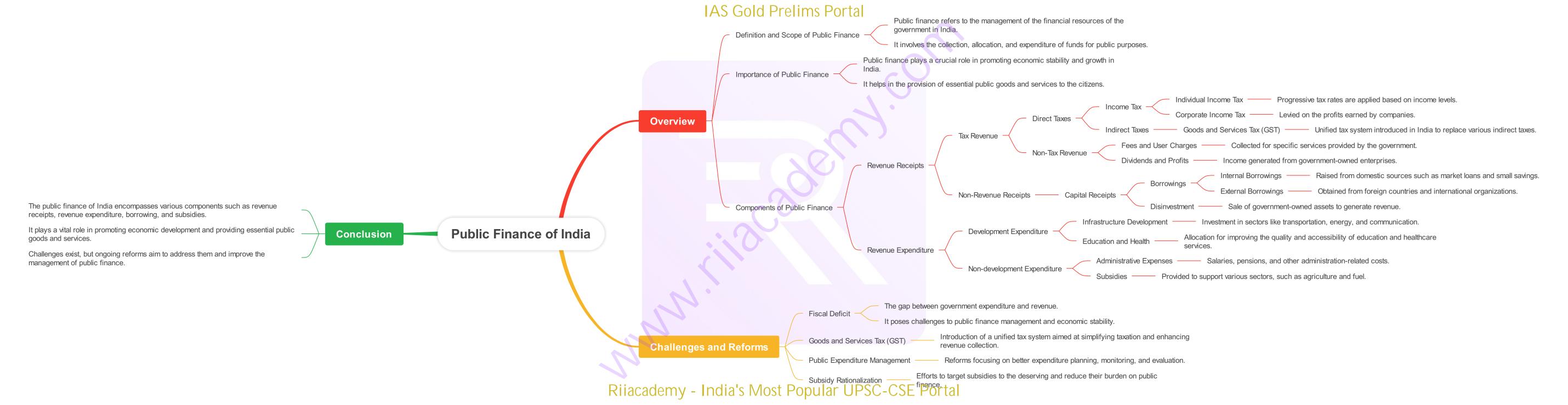


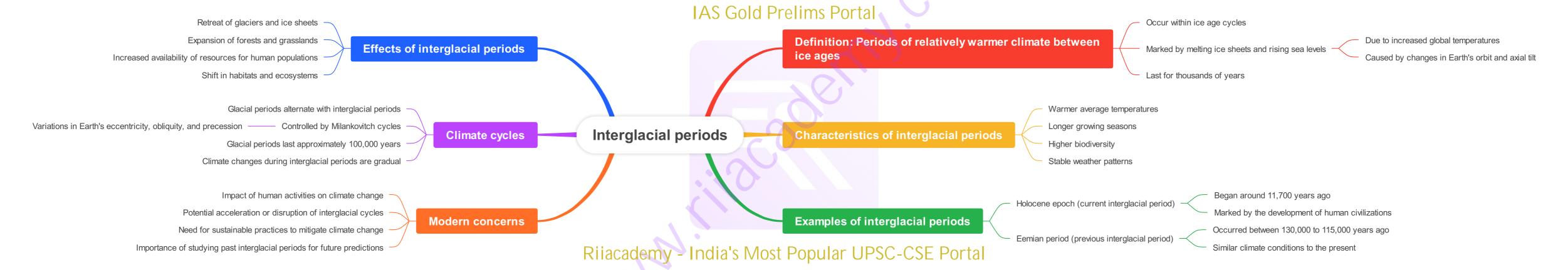


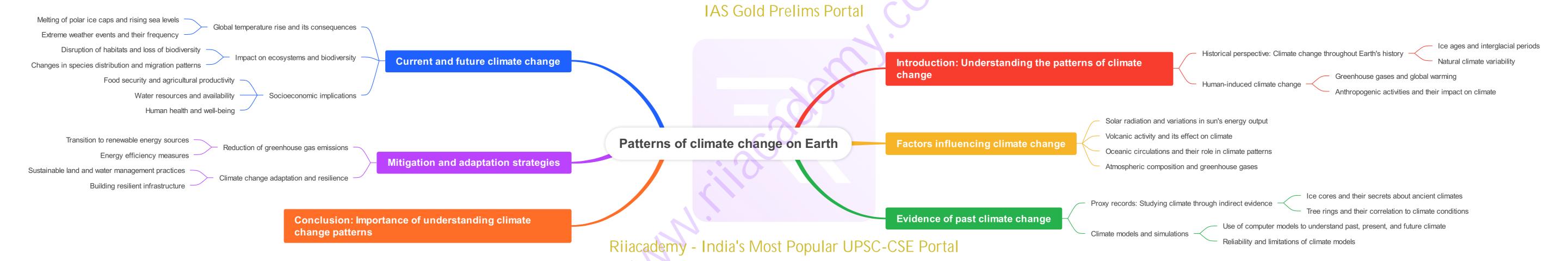












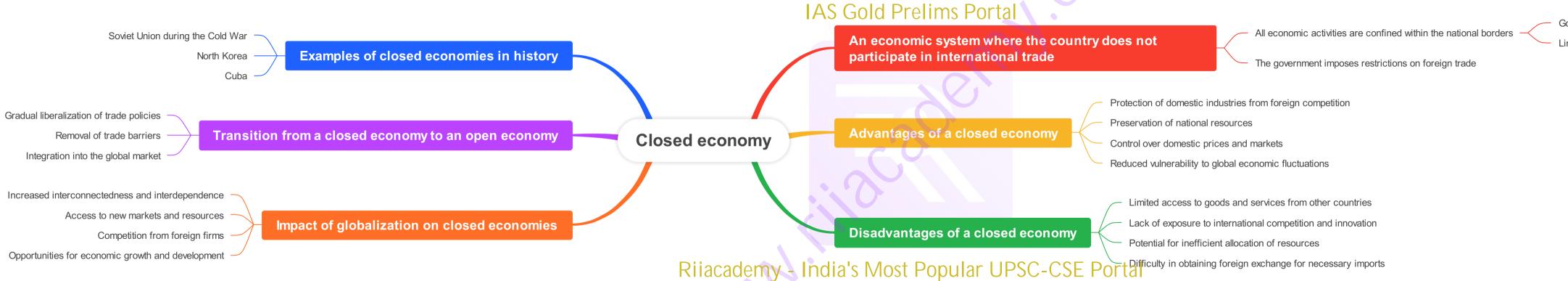


IAS Gold Prelims Portal

The width of each ring can provide information about the growth rate of the tree.

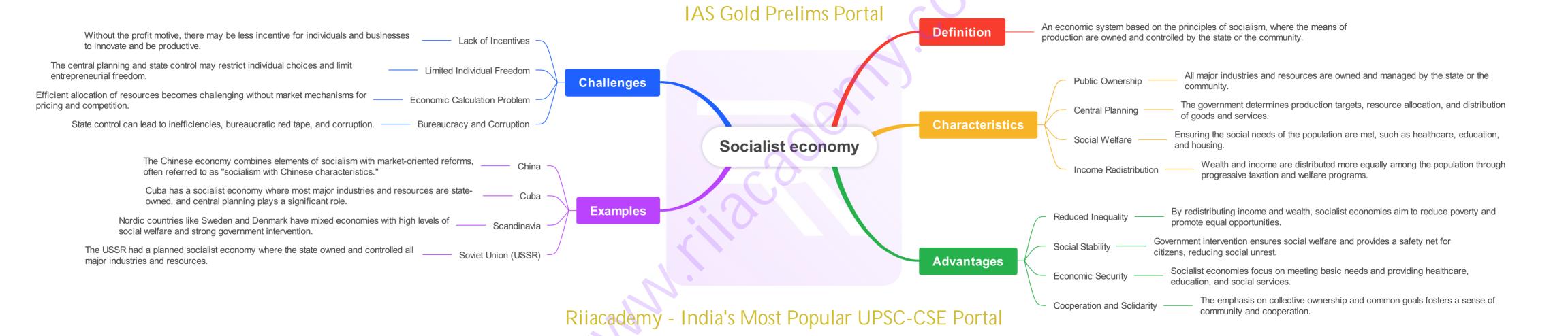
This information can help researchers reconstruct past climate conditions.

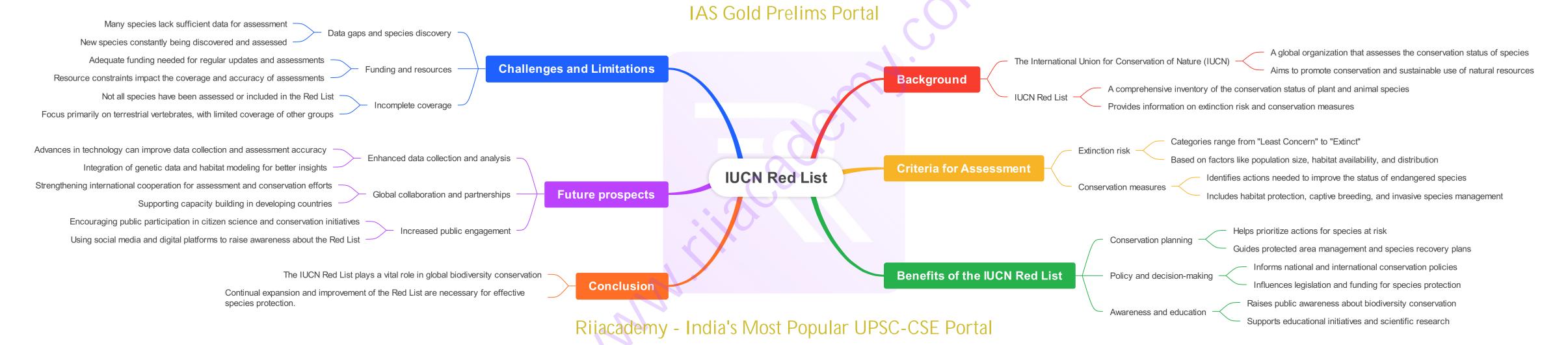
It can also provide insights into long-term climate trends and variability.

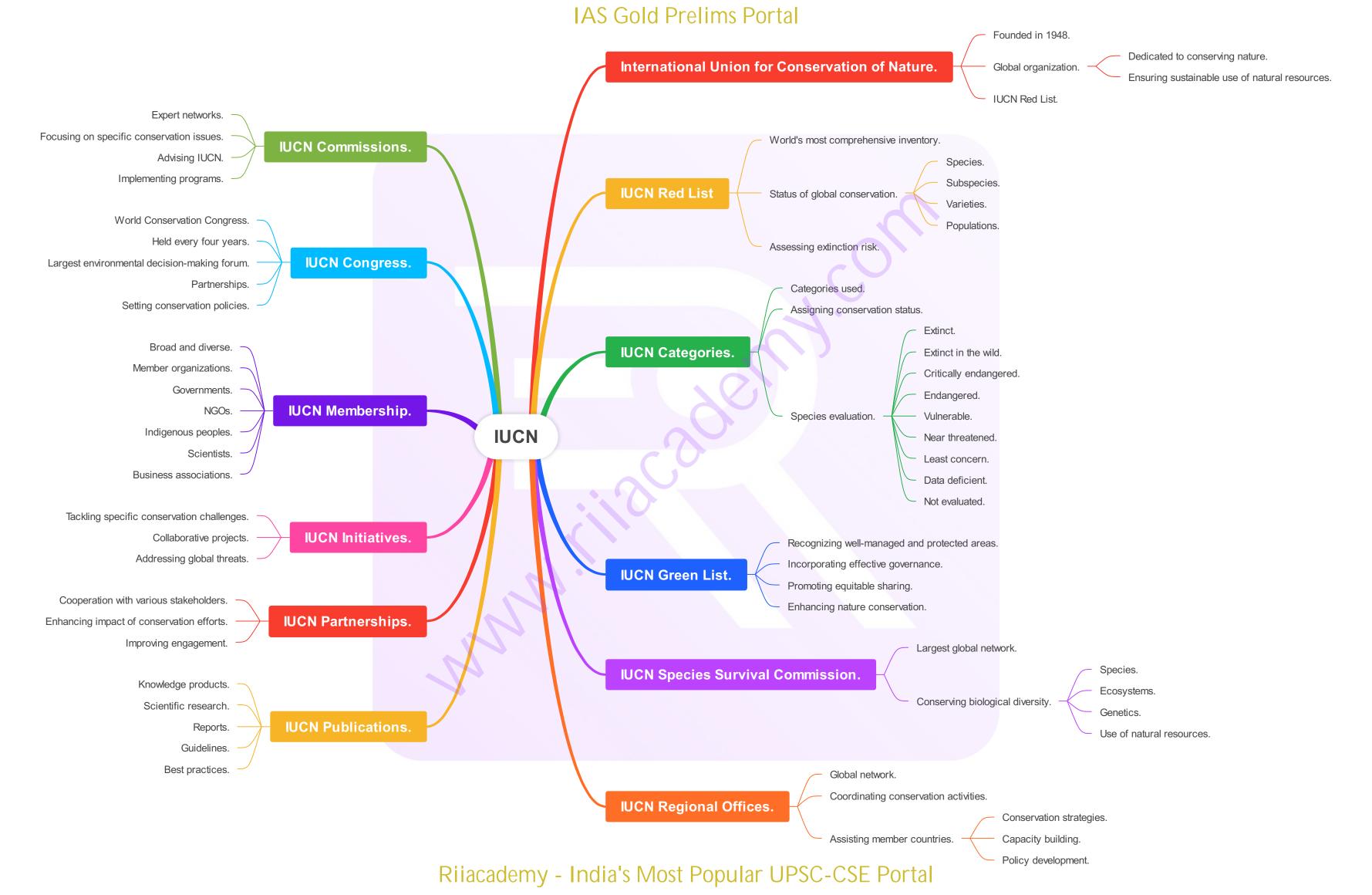


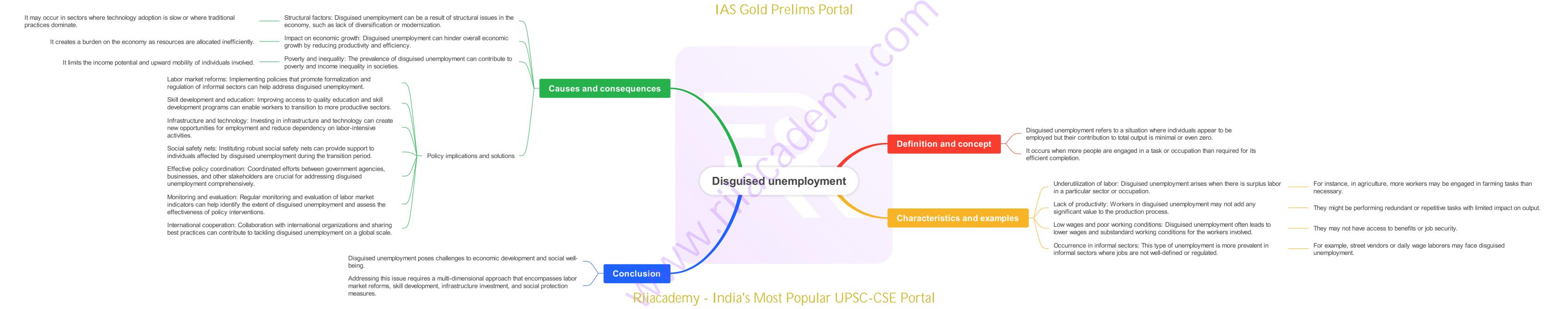
Goods and services are produced and consumed domestically

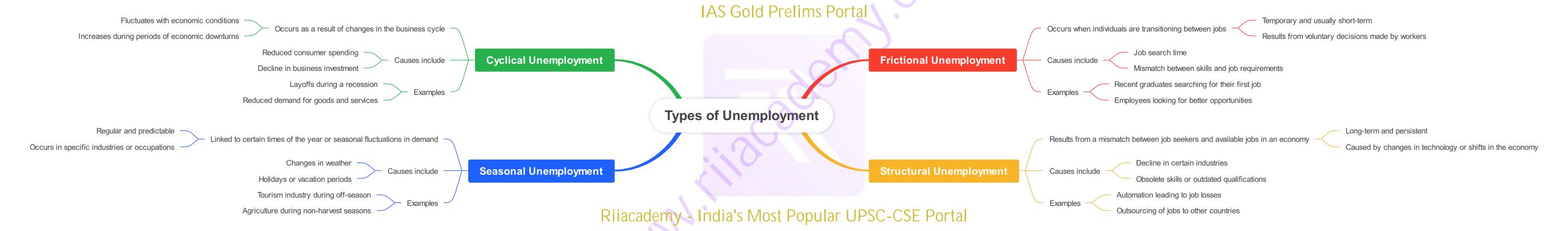
Limited or no imports and exports











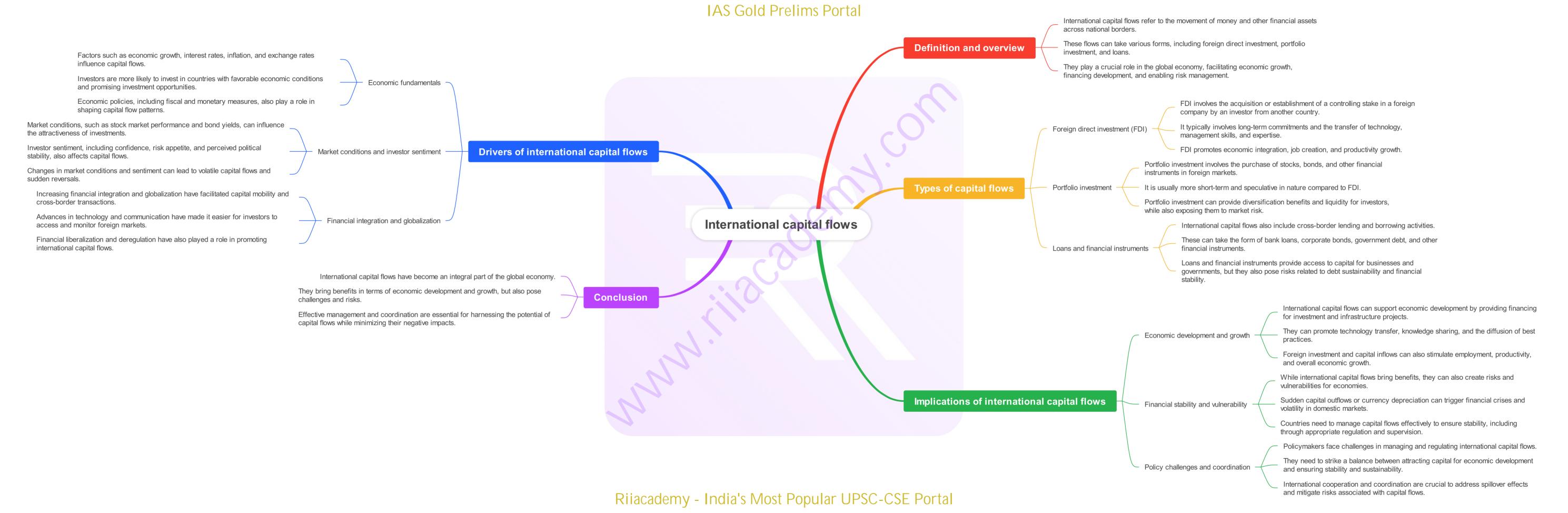
## IAS Gold Prelims Portal Economic growth and development: FDI can contribute to a country's economic growth by creating jobs, increasing productivity, and attracting capital inflows. Technology transfer and innovation: FDI brings advanced technologies, know-how, and management practices to host countries, promoting innovation and upgrading local industries. Enhancing trade and exports: FDI can lead to increased exports as companies **Benefits of FDI** establish production facilities in foreign markets and integrate into global supply chains. Foreign direct investment (FDI) refers to the investment made by a company or an individual from one country into another country. Infrastructural development: FDI often requires the development of infrastructure **Definition and Overview** such as roads, ports, and utilities, which can benefit the host country. It involves the establishment of long-term business interest and controlling ownership in a foreign country. Improved human capital: FDI can provide training and skill development opportunities for local employees, enhancing the host country's human capital. Access to new markets: Companies invest in foreign markets to expand their customer base and increase sales. Political and regulatory risks: Changes in government policies, political instability, and legal uncertainties can pose risks to FDI. Resource acquisition: FDI allows companies to access and exploit natural resources available in foreign countries. Economic risks: Economic downturns, currency fluctuations, and financial crises can impact the viability and profitability of FDI projects. Cost reduction: Investing in countries with lower production costs can help companies achieve cost savings. **Motives behind FDI** Cultural and operational challenges: Cultural differences and unfamiliar business **Challenges and risks of FDI** practices in foreign markets can present operational challenges for investors. Technology transfer: FDI facilitates the transfer of technology and knowledge from **Foreign Direct Investment** developed countries to developing countries. Repatriation of profits: Difficulties in repatriating profits and capital from the host country can affect the financial returns on FDI. Diversification: Companies may invest in foreign markets to diversify their business portfolio and reduce risks. Environmental and social concerns: FDI can have environmental and social implications, such as resource depletion, pollution, and labor rights issues. Strategic considerations: FDI is driven by strategic goals such as gaining a competitive advantage or establishing a global presence. Growing importance: FDI has become increasingly significant in the global economy, with rising flows of investment across borders. Greenfield investment: Companies establish new operations from scratch in a foreign Shifts in FDI destinations: Emerging markets and developing countries are attracting a larger share of FDI, driven by favorable investment climates and growth Mergers and acquisitions: Companies acquire existing businesses or merge with opportunities. local companies in a foreign market. Forms of FDI Technological advancements: FDI is influenced by technological advancements, with Joint ventures: Two or more companies form a partnership to undertake a specific increasing investments in sectors such as digital technology, renewable energy, and business project in a foreign country. artificial intelligence. FDI trends and outlook Cross-border investments: Companies invest in foreign stocks, bonds, or other Policy reforms: Many countries have implemented policy reforms to attract FDI, financial instruments. offering incentives, improving business environments, and reducing trade barriers. Sustainability considerations: Sustainability and responsible investing are gaining importance in FDI decisions, with investors prioritizing environmental, social, and

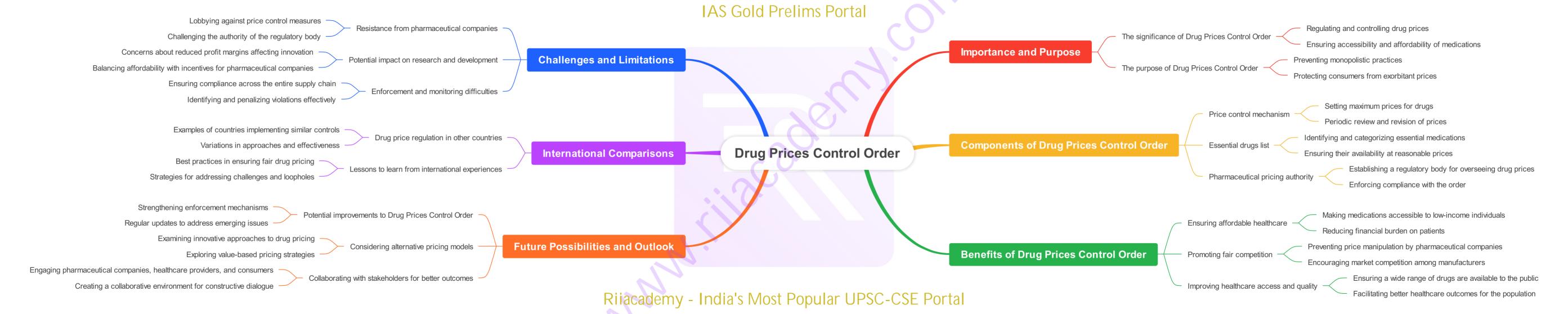
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governance (ESG) factors.

near future.

Uncertainties and challenges: Geopolitical tensions, trade disputes, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have introduced uncertainties and challenges for FDI in the





Under the act, the government has the power to issue control orders to regulate various aspects of the commodity market.

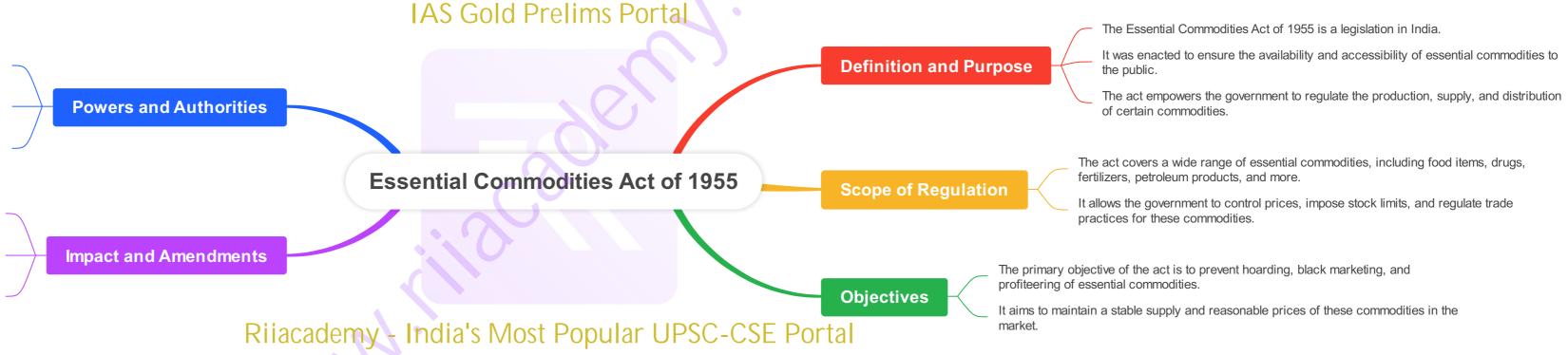
It can authorize officers to conduct searches, seizures, and inspections to ensure compliance with the act.

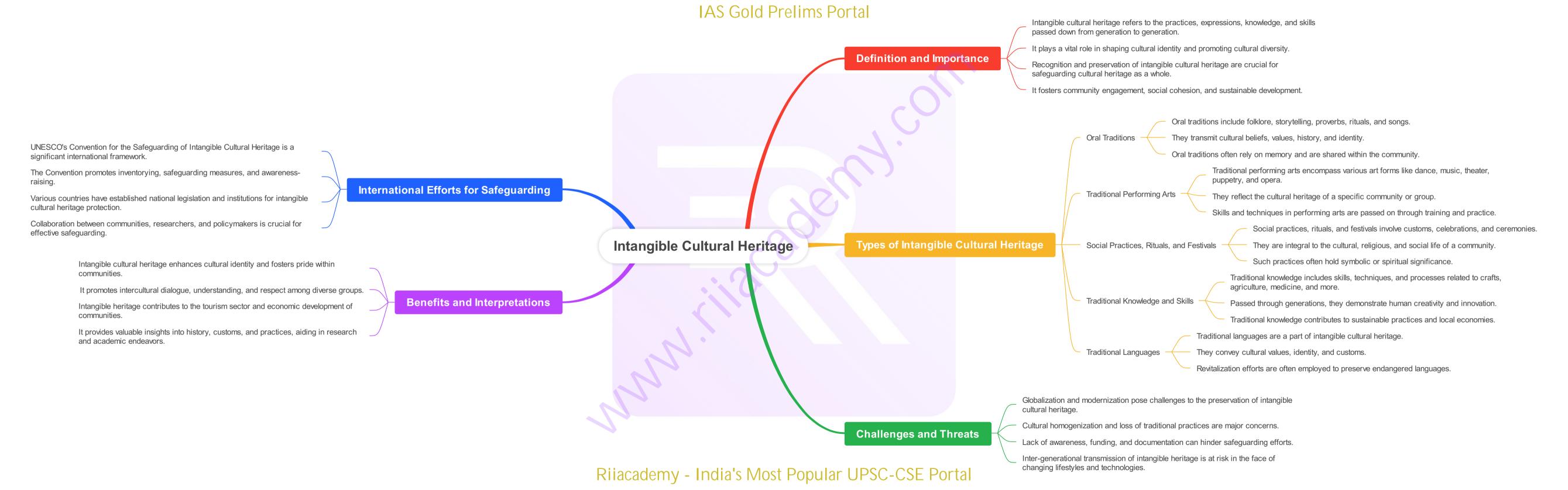
The act also provides for penalties and punishments for violations, including imprisonment and fines.

The Essential Commodities Act has been amended multiple times over the years to adapt to changing market dynamics.

The recent amendment in 2020 aims to liberalize the regulatory framework and promote ease of doing business.

The act has played a crucial role in protecting consumers' interests and maintaining stability in the commodity market.



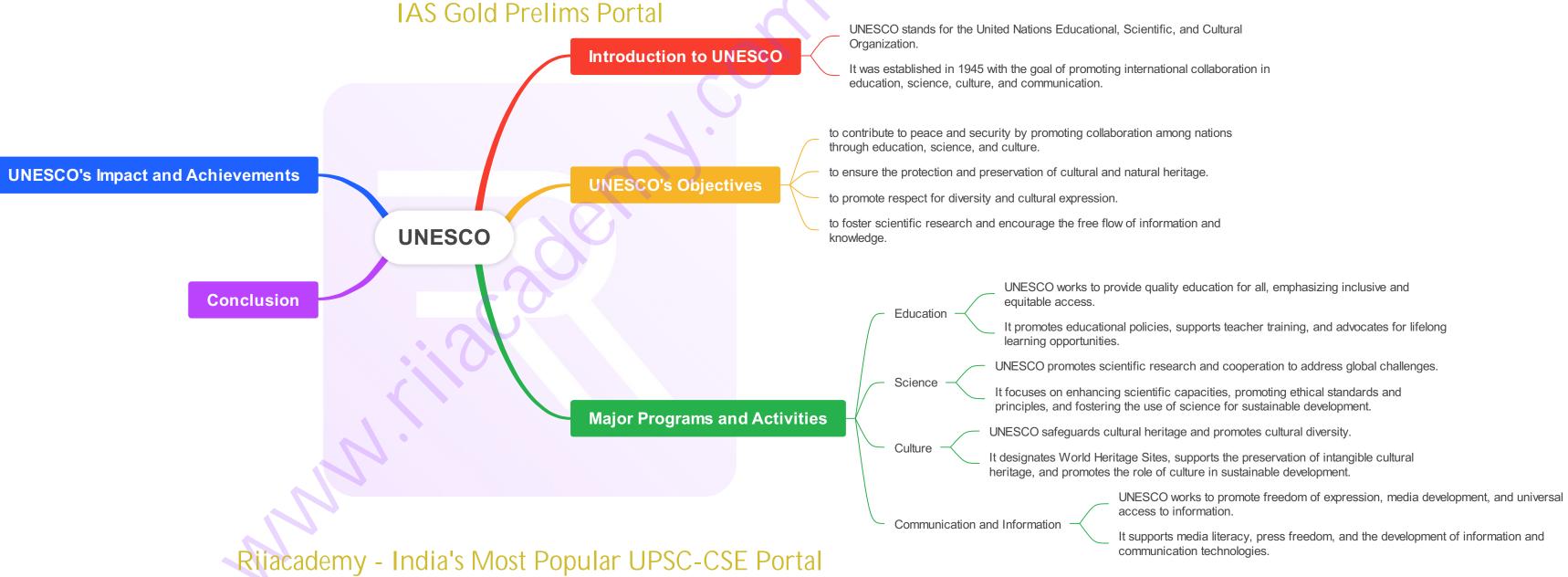


UNESCO has played a crucial role in advancing education, protecting cultural heritage, and fostering dialogue among nations.

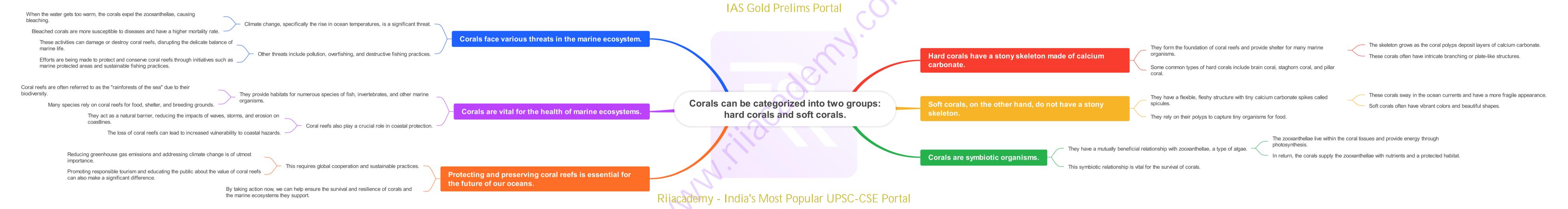
It has successfully implemented numerous programs and projects to promote sustainable development and social inclusion.

Through its initiatives, UNESCO has strengthened international cooperation and contributed to the preservation of cultural diversity.

Its work has brought positive changes to education systems, the protection of natural sites, and the promotion of human rights.



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It supports a diverse ecosystem and provides important habitat for numerous marine organisms.

The Great Barrier Reef is a popular destination for snorkeling, scuba diving, and other water activities.

It attracts millions of tourists each year who come to experience its beauty and explore its underwater world.

The reef is facing numerous threats, including climate change, pollution, and overfishing.

Efforts are being made to protect and preserve the reef, including the implementation of stricter regulations and conservation initiatives.

The Great Barrier Reef is not only an iconic natural wonder but also a symbol of the need to protect our oceans and their fragile ecosystems.

## **IAS Gold Prelims Portal**

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system.

It is located in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

The reef is composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands.

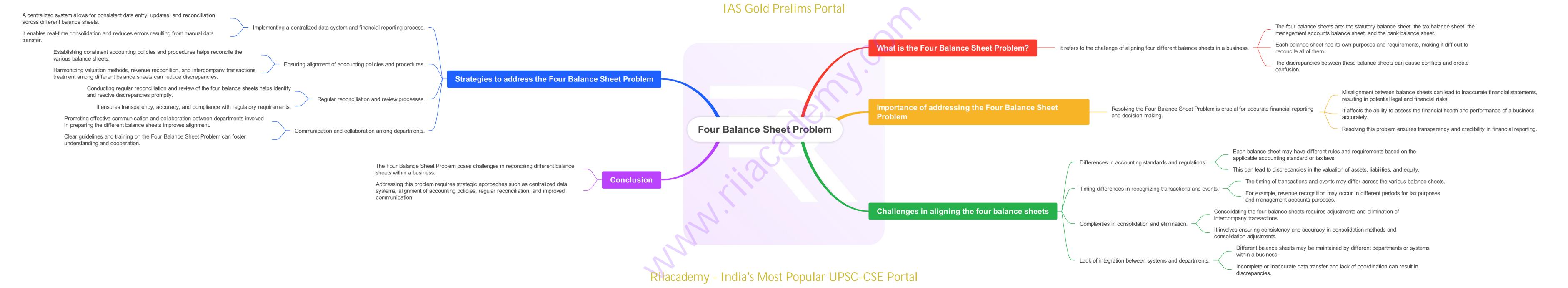
It stretches over 2,300 kilometers along the Australian coastline.

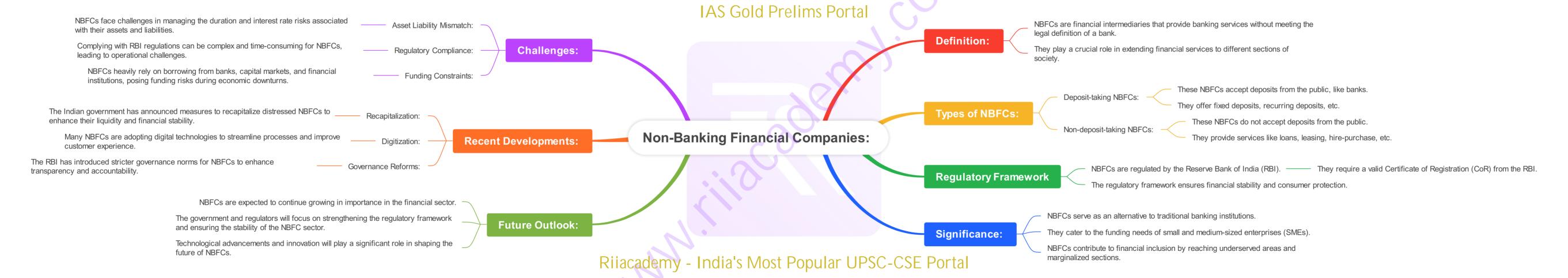
It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

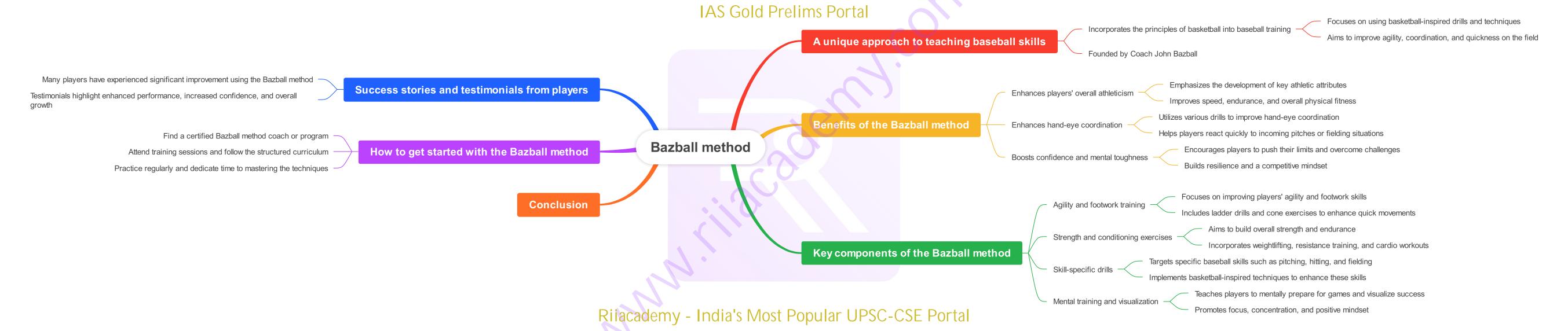
The reef is home to a wide variety of marine species, including 1,500 species of fish and 400 types of coral.

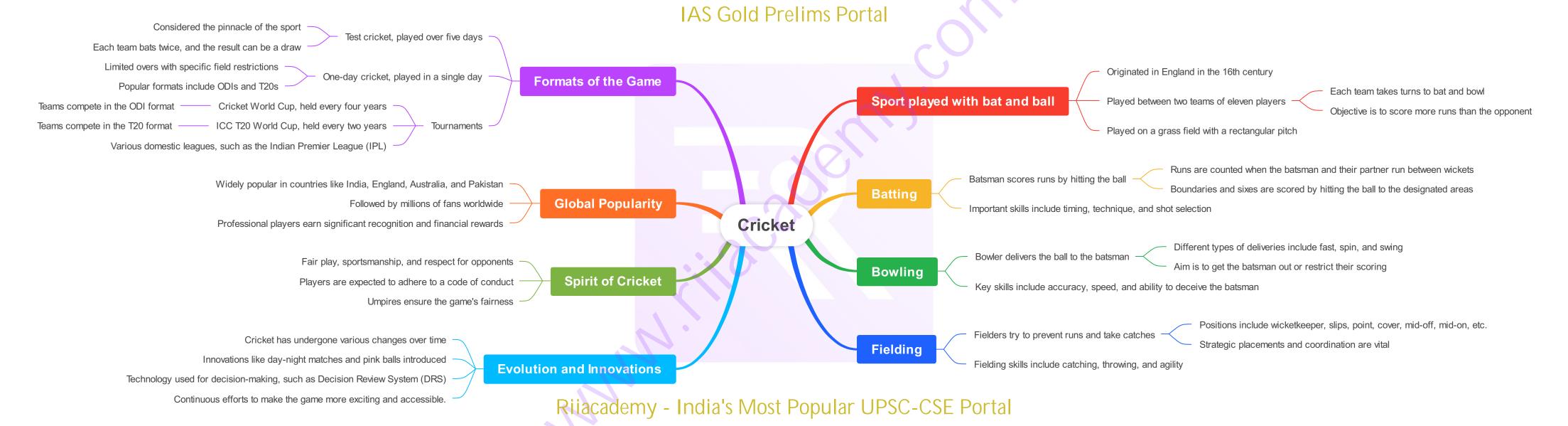
**Great Barrier Reef** 

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Research efforts are ongoing to detect and study black hydrogen

Black hydrogen

Black hydrogen could impact the study of black hydrogen in massive stars could affect their evolution

The presence of black hydrogen in massive stars could affect their evolution

Its existence would challenge current astrophysical models — Scientists would need to update their understanding of star formation

It may have implications of black hydrogen — This could have influenced the distribution of matter in the universe — It may have even contributed to the formation of cosmic structures

Its high sensitivity could potentially detect black hydrogen — This would provide valuable insights into stellar physics

Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-C'SE Portal cessary to confirm the existence of black hydrogen —

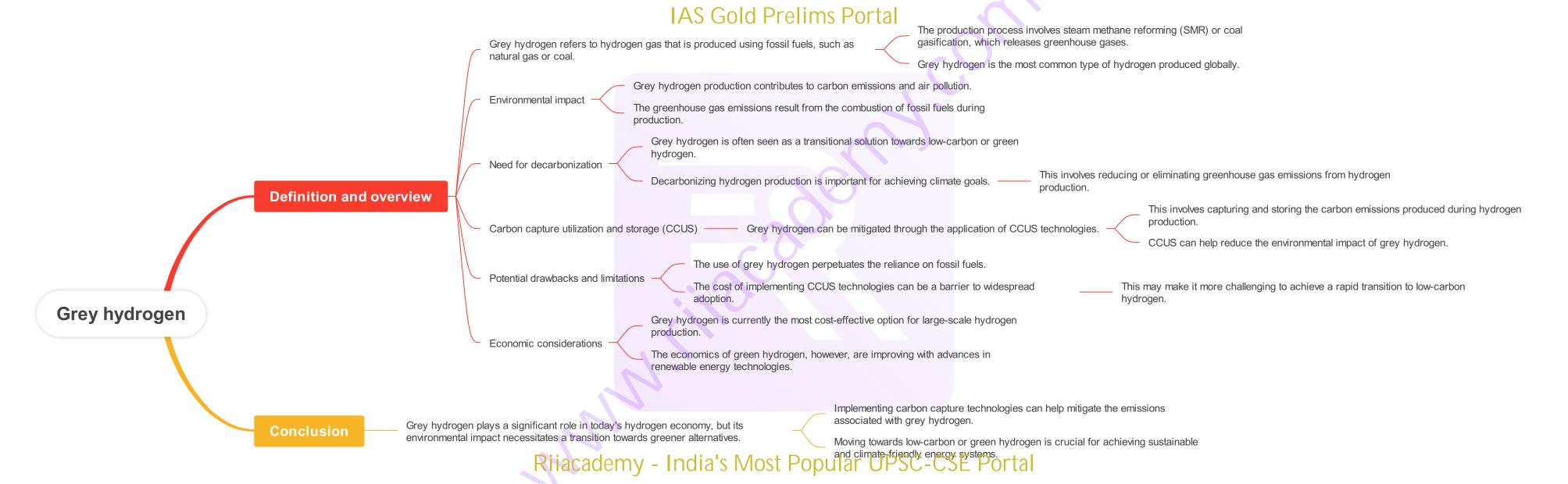
Black hydrogen would have unique properties

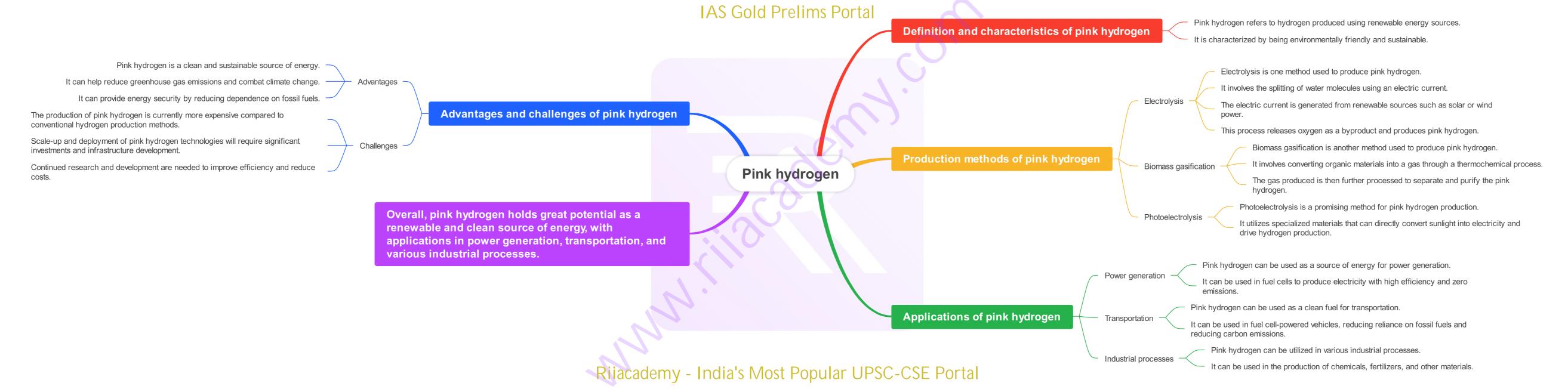
This will require advancements in observational techniques

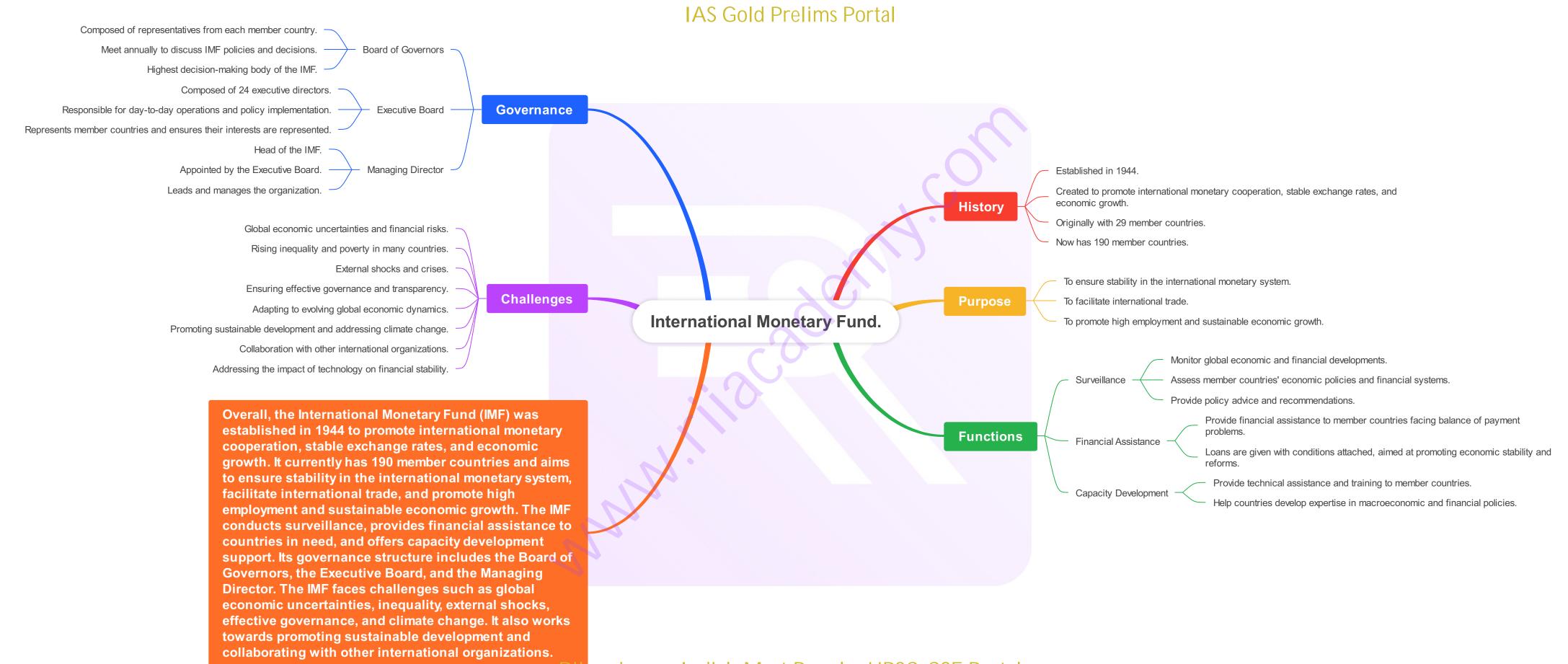
This could impact our understanding of stellar evolution

Understanding black hydrogen could revolutionize our understanding of the universe.

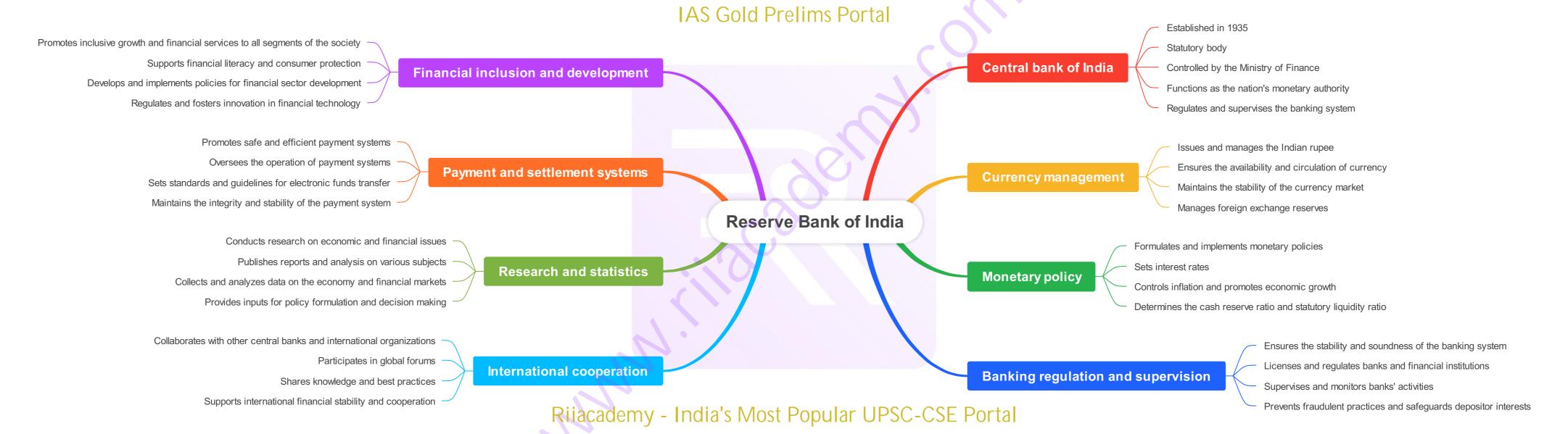
It is an exciting area of research

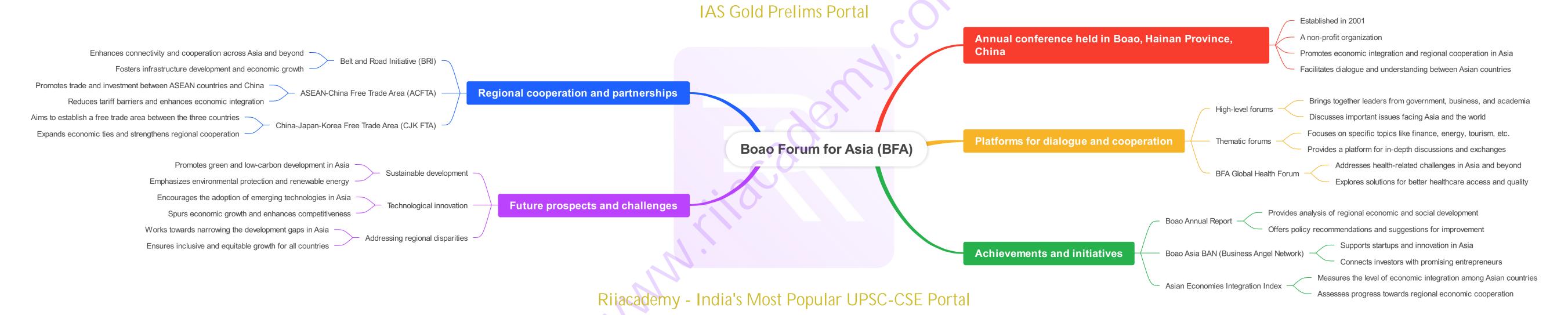


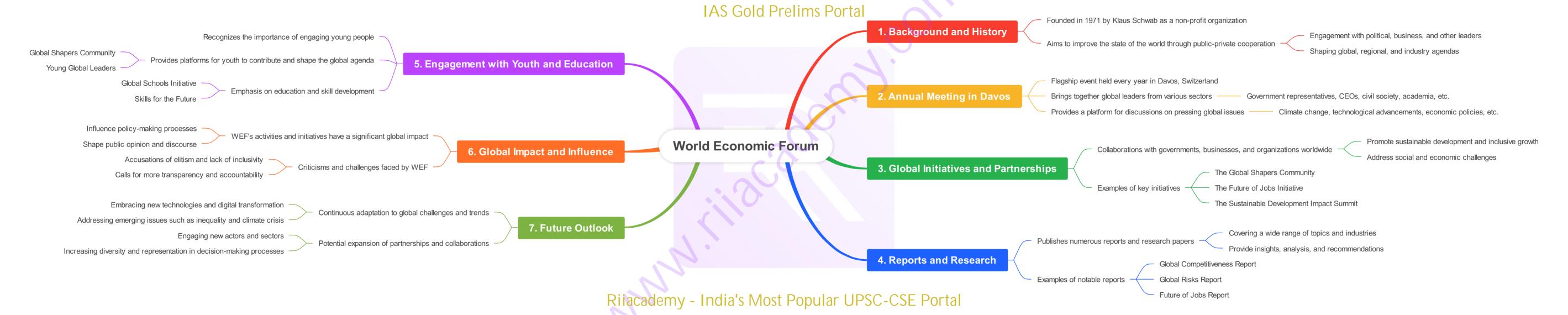


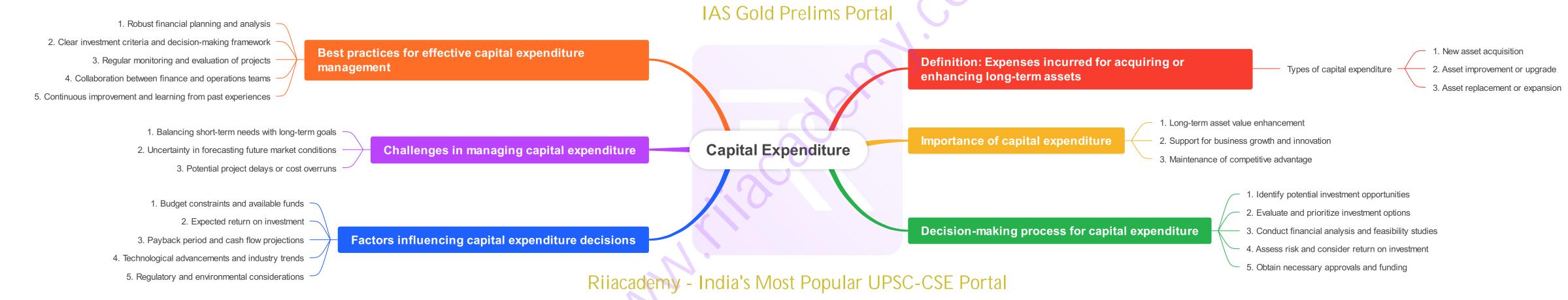


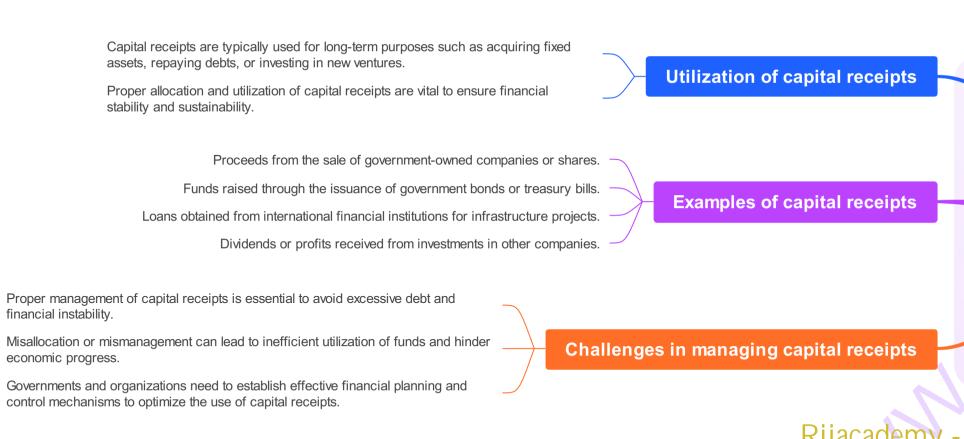
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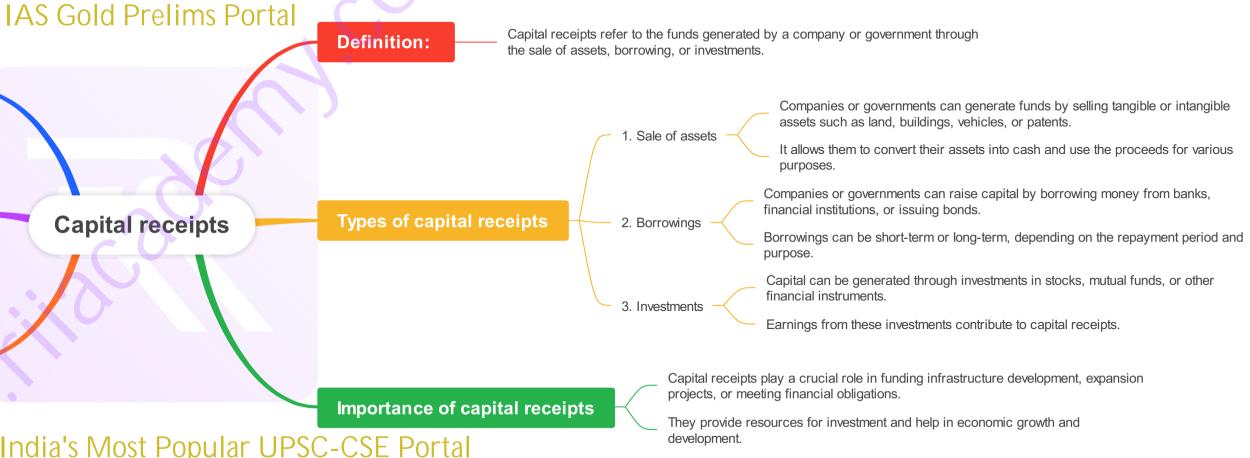




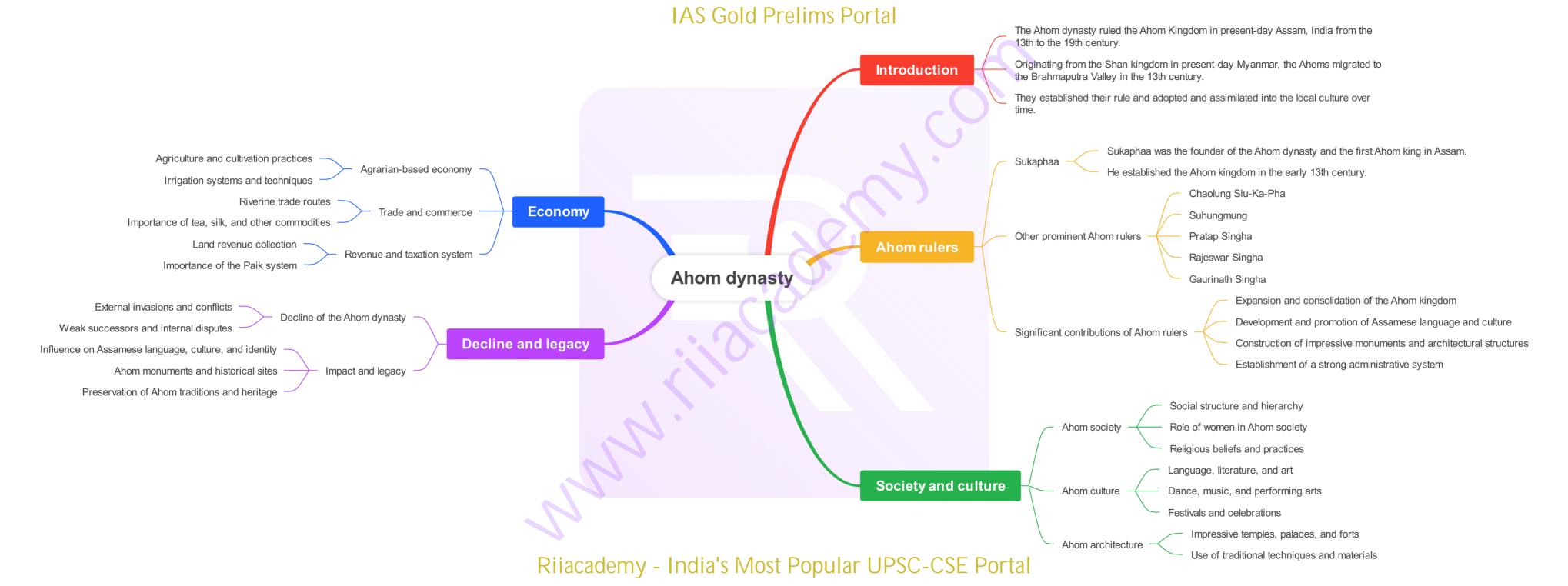


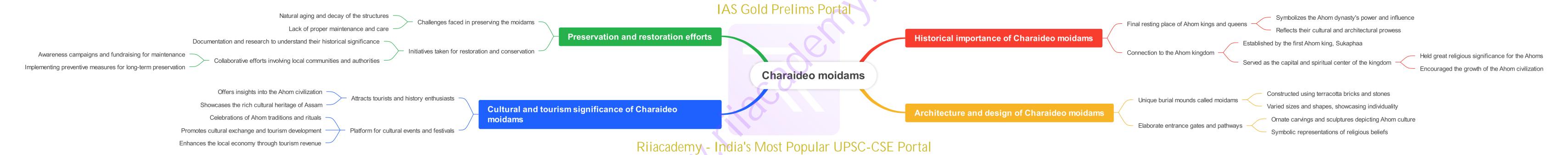






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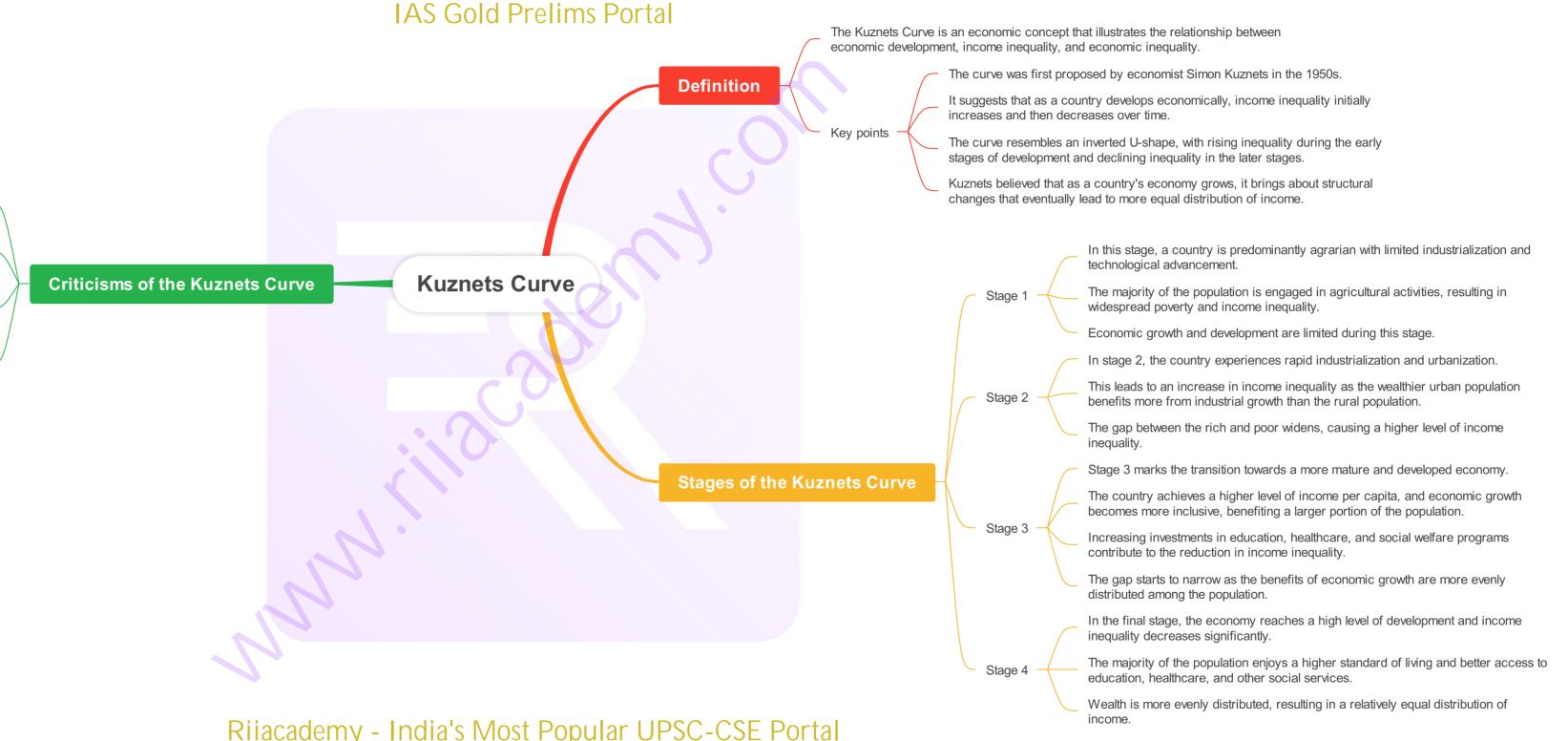


Some economists argue that the Kuznets Curve oversimplifies the relationship between economic development and income inequality.

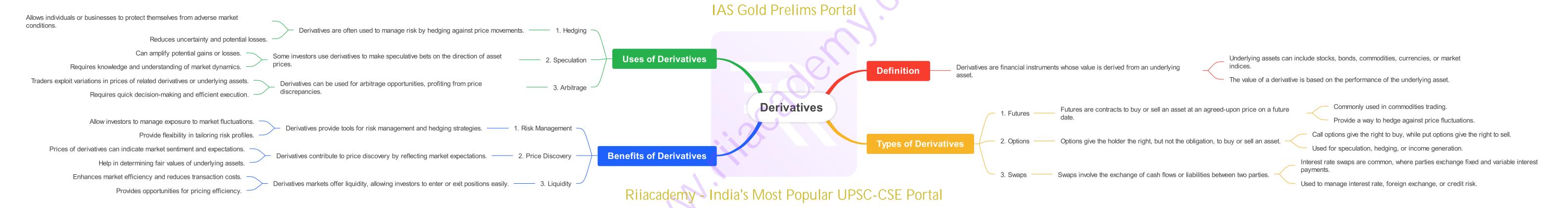
They argue that the curve fails to consider various factors that can influence income distribution, such as government policies, cultural differences, and technological advancements.

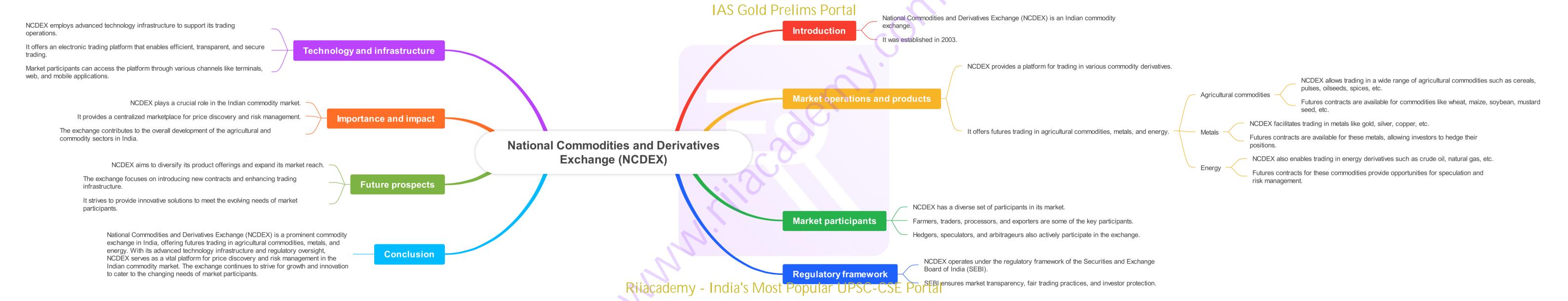
Additionally, the curve does not take into account the possibility of structural changes that could lead to a perpetual increase in income inequality even in advanced economies.

Overall, while the Kuznets Curve provides a useful framework for understanding the relationship between economic development and income inequality, it should be interpreted with caution and considered alongside other economic indicators.



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Lowering the repo rate can signal accommodative monetary policy and potential economic stimulus.

Raising the repo rate can signal tightening monetary policy and potential cooling of the economy.

The repo rate is closely watched by financial markets and investors for signals about monetary policy.

The reporate is a powerful tool for central banks to It helps manage inflation by influencing borrowing costs and credit availability. influence the money supply and overall economic It also helps stabilize financial markets by providing liquidity to banks when needed.

## IAS Gold Prelims Portal

The repo rate is a key interest rate set by the central

Repo Rate

Changes in the repo rate can have significant impacts

on the economy.

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It is the rate at which commercial banks can borrow money from the central bank.

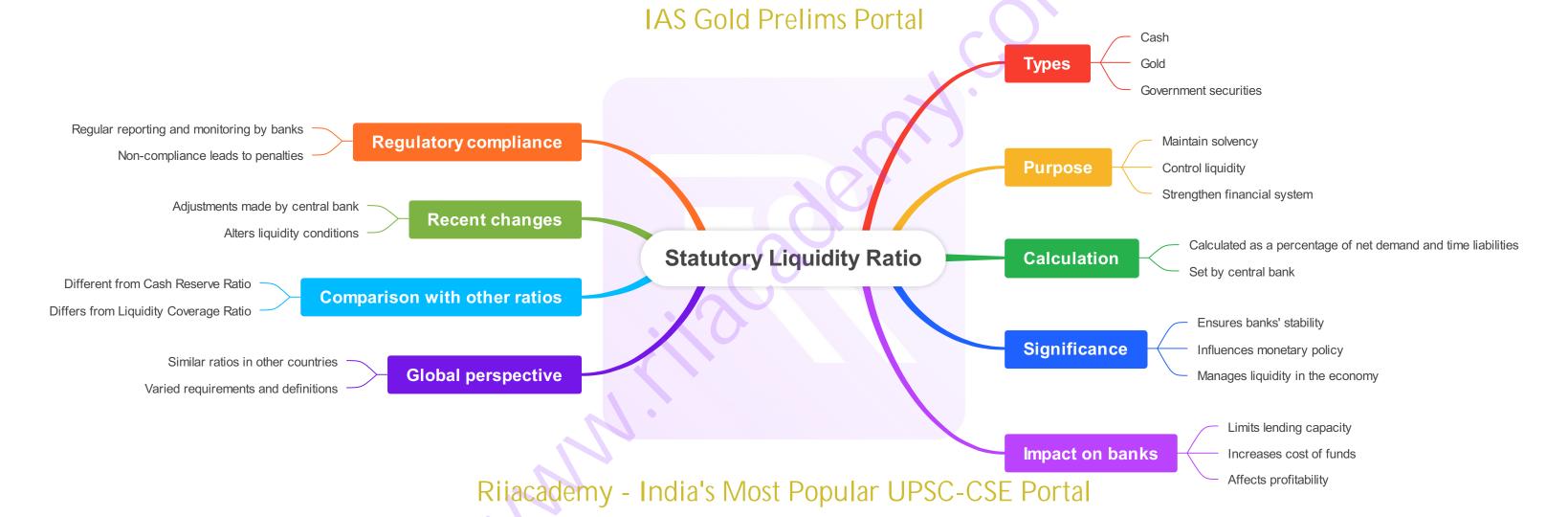
The central bank adjusts the reporate to control inflation and stimulate economic

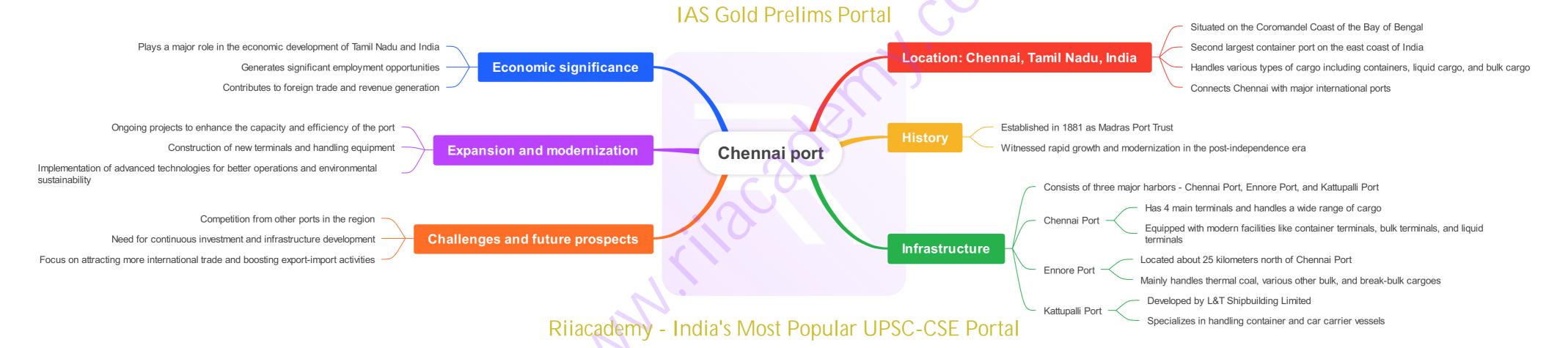
A decrease in the repo rate encourages borrowing and investment, stimulating economic activity.

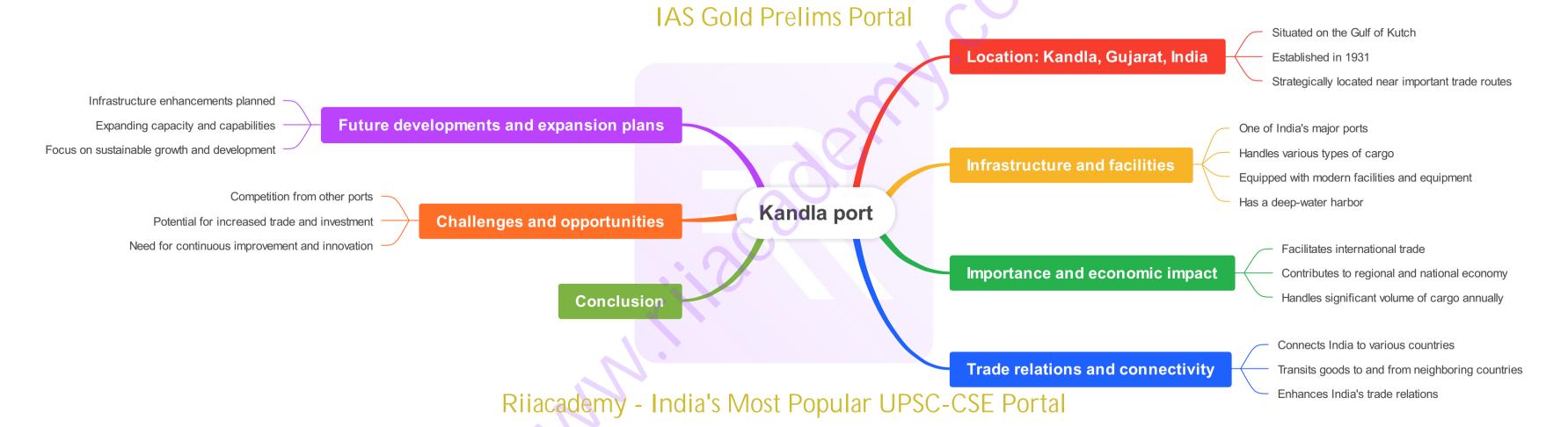
An increase in the repo rate slows down borrowing and investment, dampening economic activity.

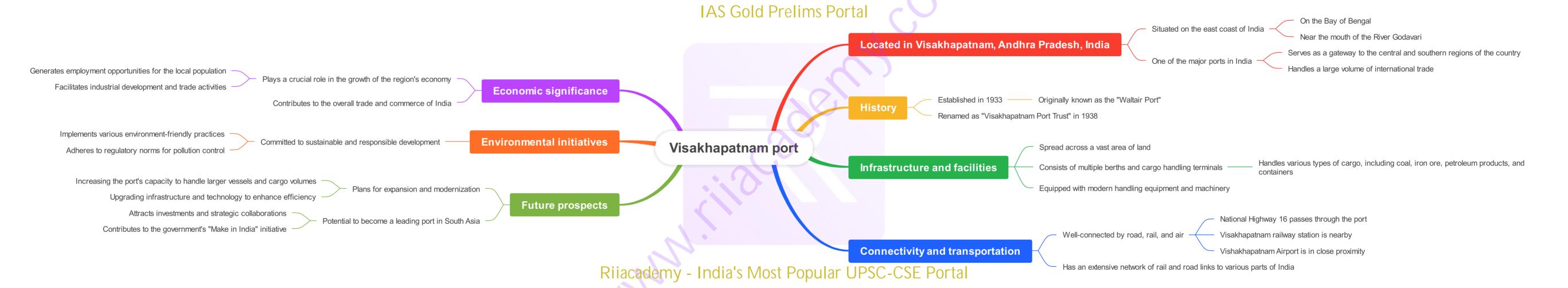
Commercial banks use repo rate for short-term borrowing to manage their liquidity needs.

The repo rate acts as a benchmark for other interest rates in the economy.

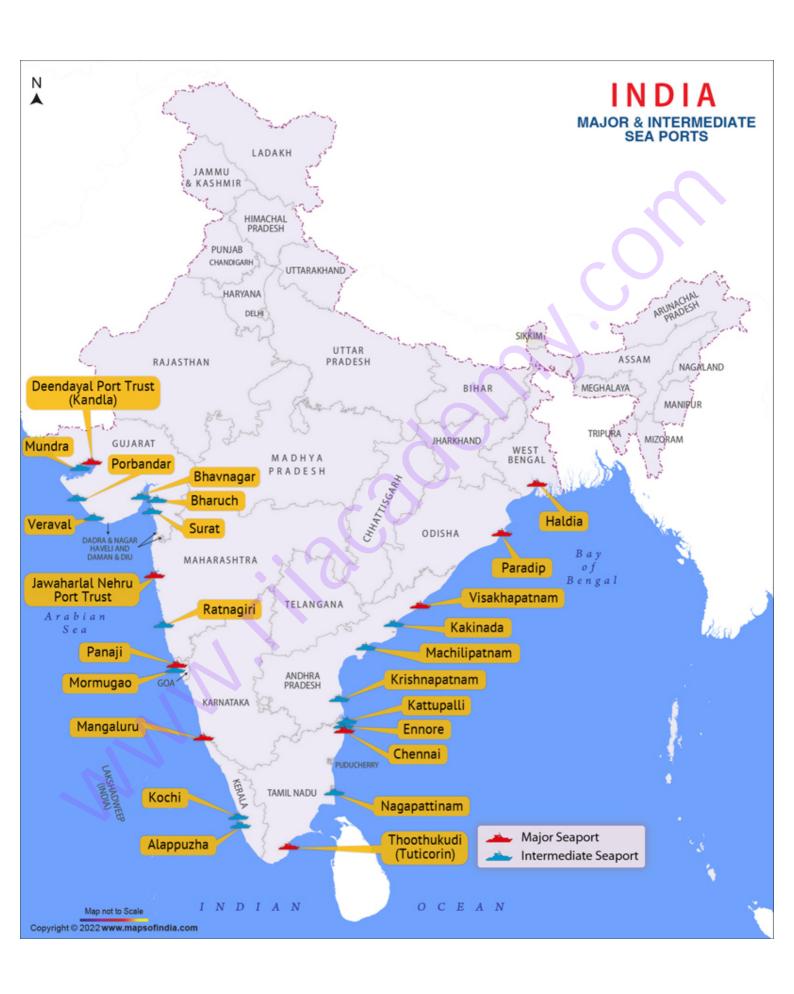


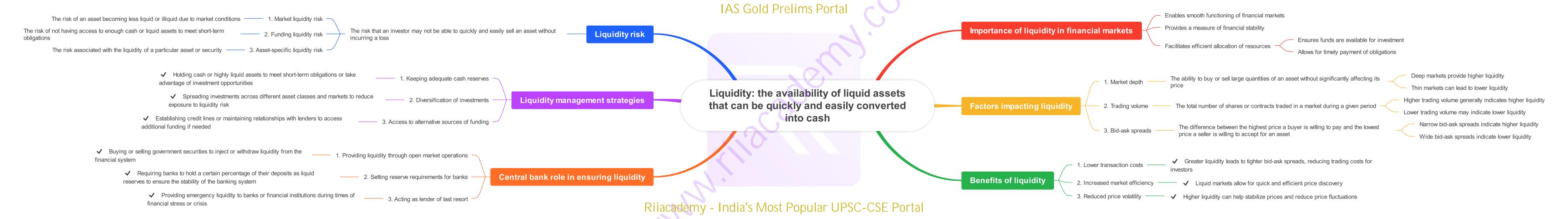


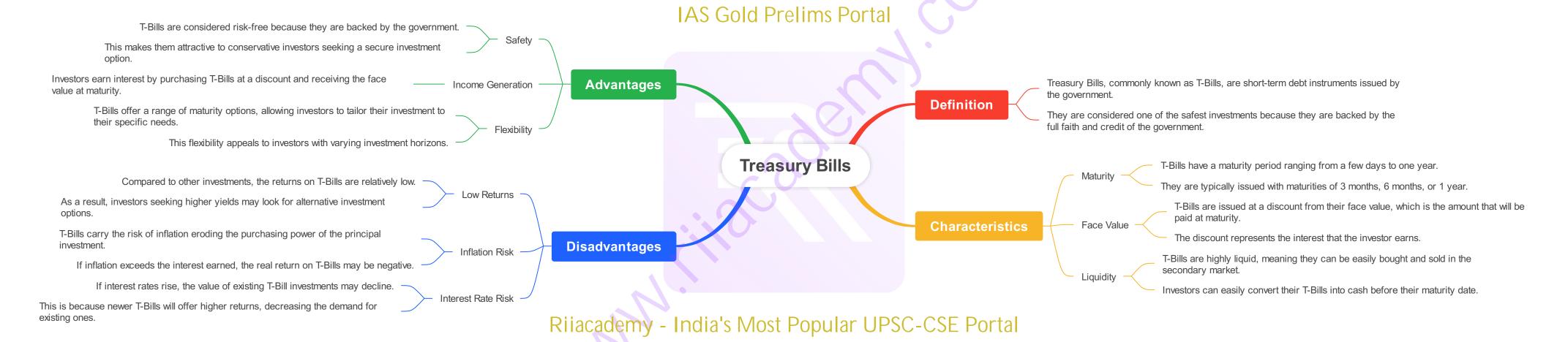


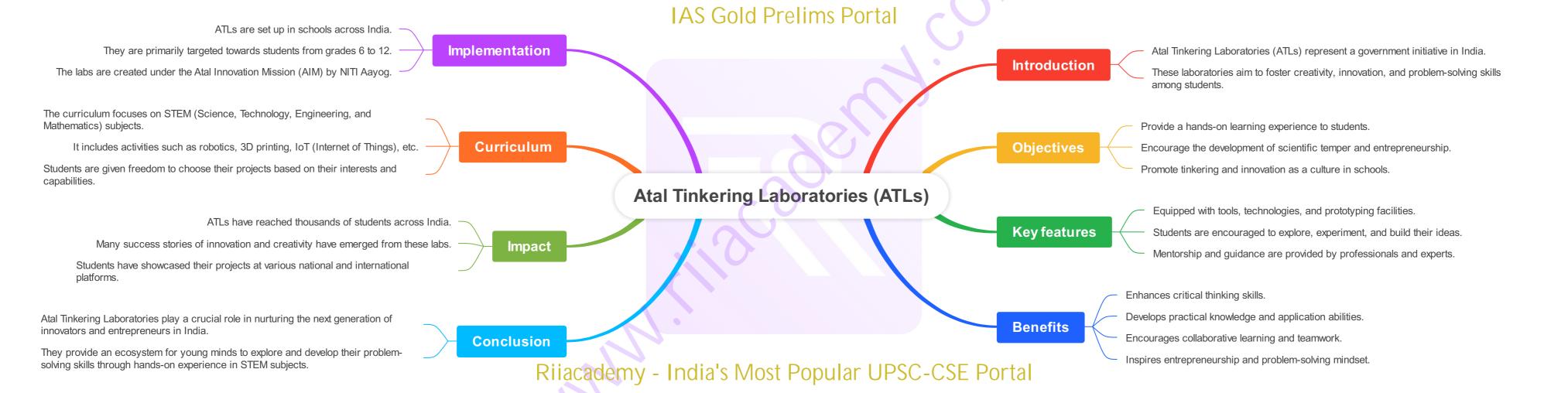


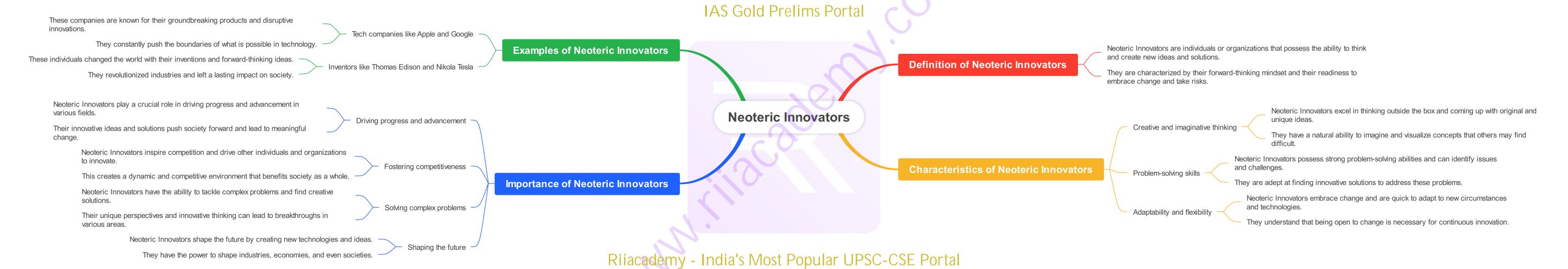
## **IAS Gold Prelims Portal**

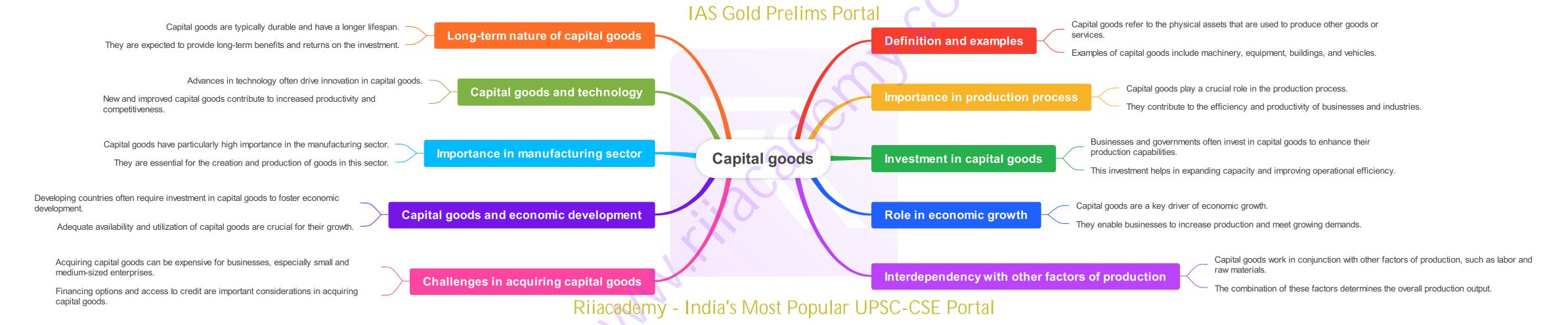


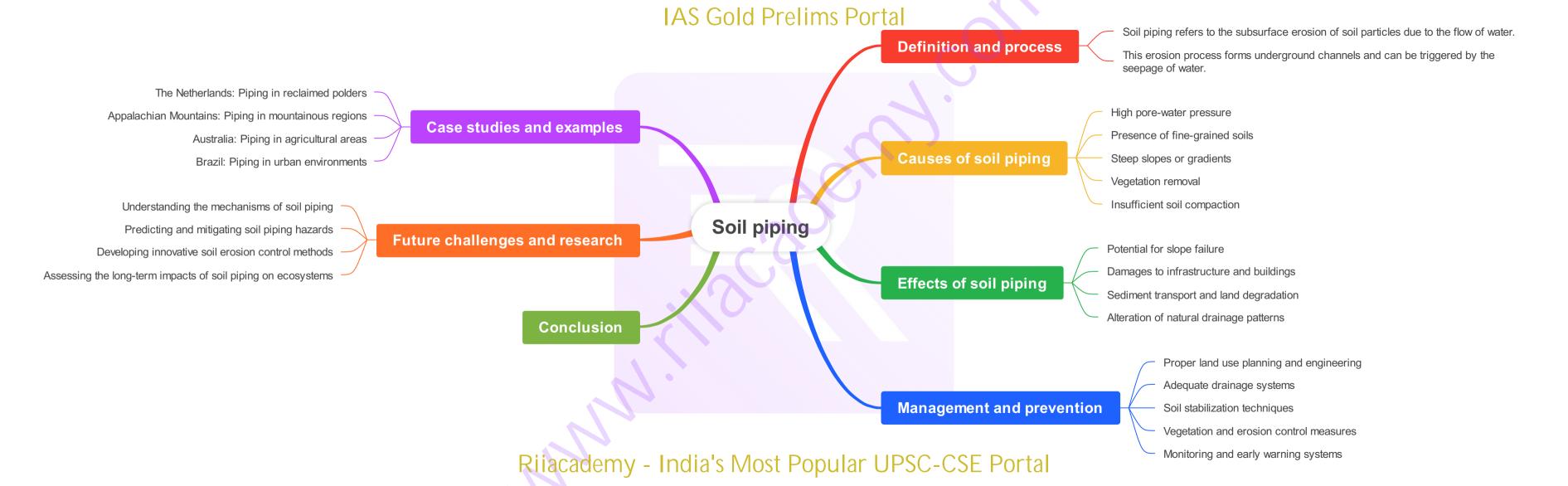












Deforestation: Illegal logging and encroachments are leading to deforestation in the Western Ghats

Habitat loss: Conversion of forests for agriculture and urbanization is resulting in

Invasive species: Several invasive plant and animal species are disrupting the native ecosystems of the Western Ghats

Protected areas: Many national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and reserved forests have been established to conserve the biodiversity of the Western Ghats

Conservation initiatives: Various organizations and agencies are working towards the conservation and sustainable management of the Western Ghats

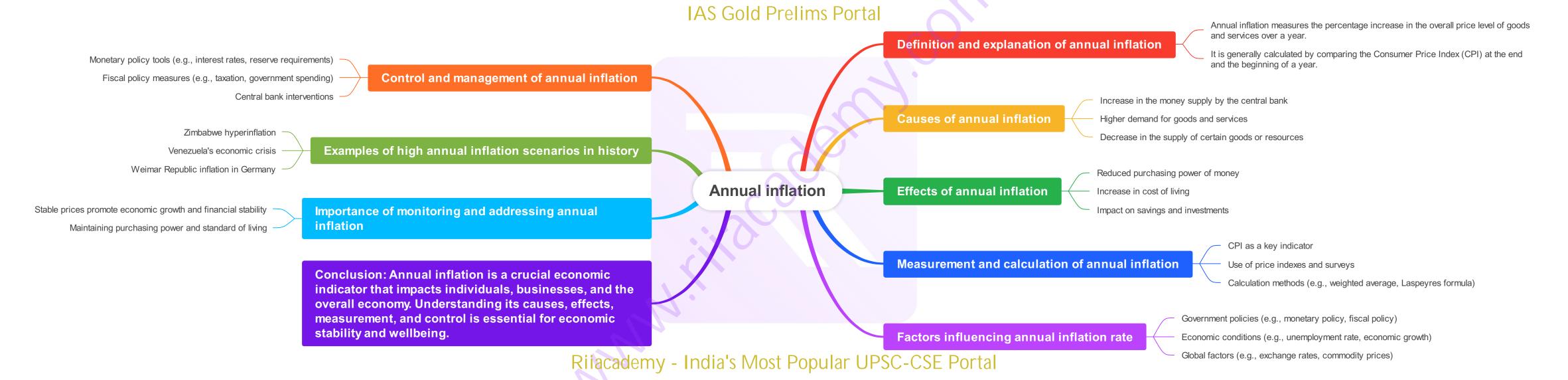
Awareness campaigns: Public awareness programs are conducted to educate people about the importance of preserving the Western Ghats

Threats: The region is facing various threats to its biodiversity and ecosystems

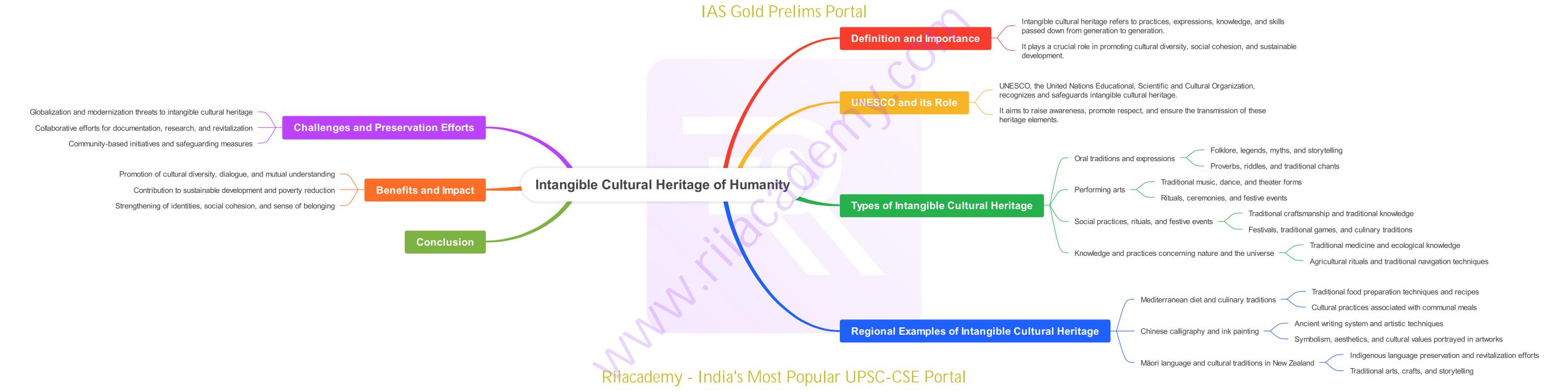
**Conservation efforts: Several conservation measures** are being taken to protect the Western Ghats

Note: The above outline exceeds 2000 tokens.

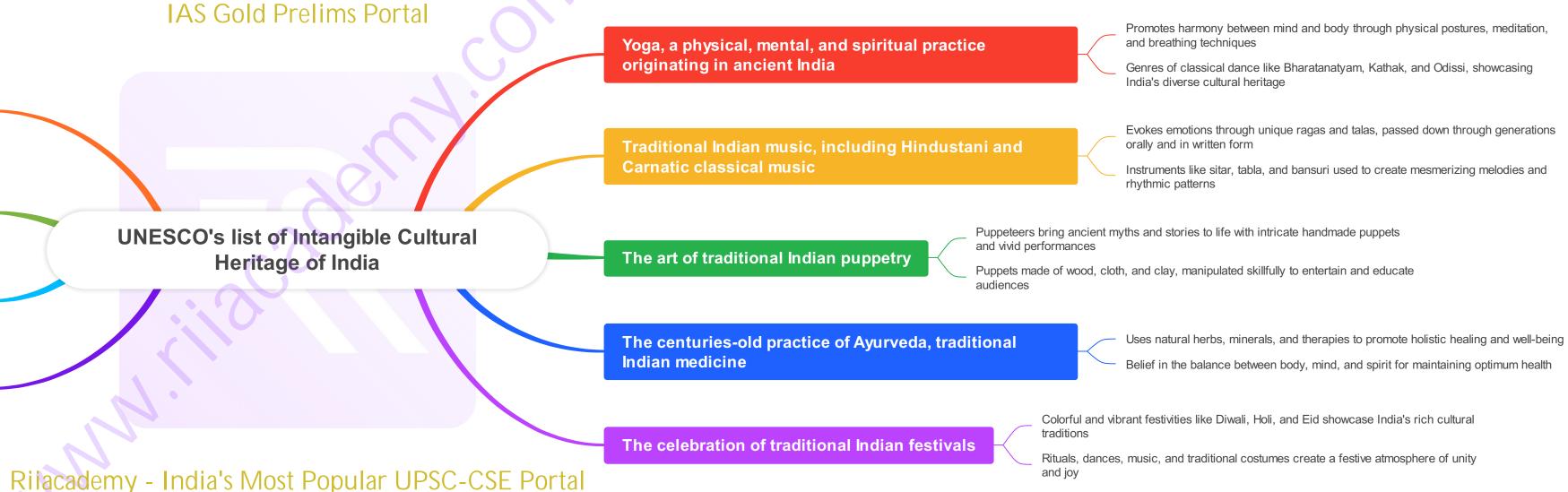




IAS Gold Prelims Portal The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee responsible for formulating Introduction and implementing monetary policy in a country. The MPC typically consists of a group of experts and policymakers from the central The MPC operates with transparency by disclosing its policy decisions, minutes from meetings, and rationale behind the decisions. The committee may include the central bank governor, deputy governors, and other Composition The committee may also issue statements, hold press conferences, or provide officials. **Transparency and Accountability** reports to communicate its policy stance to the public and financial markets. External members, such as economists and financial experts, may also be part of the The MPC is accountable for its actions and is subject to scrutiny and oversight by committee. government authorities, auditors, and the public. The primary role of the MPC is to set interest rates and regulate the money supply to In a globalized world, the MPC may collaborate with international central banks and achieve specific macroeconomic objectives, such as controlling inflation or **Monetary Policy Committee** participate in global monetary policy discussions. promoting economic growth. **International Cooperation** The committee may exchange information, share best practices, and coordinate The committee assesses the current economic conditions and forecasts future trends actions with other central banks to address global economic challenges. to make informed decisions on monetary policy. **Roles and Responsibilities** The MPC conducts regular meetings to discuss economic data, exchange views, and make policy decisions. The Monetary Policy Committee plays a crucial role in setting and implementing Conclusion monetary policy to maintain price stability, support economic growth, and achieve The committee uses a range of tools, including adjusting interest rates and sustainable development. implementing quantitative easing measures, to influence the economy The MPC follows a democratic decision-making process where members express their views and vote on policy actions. The committee considers various factors, such as inflationary pressures, **Decision-Making Process** employment levels, GDP growth, and exchange rates, when making policy decisions. Each member's vote carries equal weight, and the majority view determines the final policy decision. Rijacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal



## Varied regional cuisines like North Indian, South Indian, and East Indian offer diverse culinary experiences Traditional Indian cuisine, known for its use of aromatic spices and unique flavors Time-honored cooking techniques and recipes passed down through generations add richness to Indian food culture Skillful artisans create intricate and beautiful textiles using techniques specific to each region The craft of handloom weaving in India Fabrics like silk, cotton, and wool transformed into sarees, shawls, and other garments Provides a means for self-discovery, physical well-being, and spiritual growth The ancient practice of yoga and meditation in India Various styles and schools of yoga cater to different needs and preferences Passed down orally from generation to generation, preserving cultural knowledge and The centuries-old tradition of storytelling through Indian epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata Epics continue to inspire literature, art, and theater, contributing to the rich tapestry of Indian culture



- 1. Improved fiscal discipline: The Act has contributed to better control over fiscal deficits and debt levels.
- 2. Enhanced transparency and accountability: The Act's provisions have increased transparency in budgetary processes.
- 3. Fiscal consolidation: The Act's implementation has supported the government's efforts to achieve fiscal consolidation.
- 4. Challenges and criticisms: Some challenges include the need for flexibility and potential conflicts with other priorities.

IAS Gold Prelims Portal The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2003 is a legislation Background implemented in India. 1. Long-term sustainability of public finance. 2. Reduction of fiscal deficits and government debt. Impact and Challenges The Act has had several impacts on India's fiscal management The Act aims to achieve certain key objectives 3. Strengthening fiscal prudence and financial stability. 4. Enhanced efficiency in resource allocation and utilization. Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2003 1. Fiscal targets: Sets specific targets for fiscal indicators like revenue deficit, fiscal The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2003 is a significant legislation in India, promoting fiscal discipline and effective budget management. Its Conclusion provisions have contributed to improved fiscal sustainability, transparency, and accountability. However, challenges remain in achieving flexibility and balancing competing priorities. The Act introduces various provisions to ensure fiscal responsibility and effective **Provisions** budget management Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal

It was enacted to promote fiscal discipline, transparency, and accountability in the management of public funds.

- 5. Improved transparency and accountability in fiscal operations.
  - deficit, and outstanding debt.
  - 2. Medium-term fiscal policy: Establishes a medium-term fiscal policy statement to guide fiscal planning.
  - 3. Expenditure control: Emphasizes controlling non-plan expenditure and subsidies to reduce fiscal deficits.
  - 4. Revenue mobilization: Focuses on increasing tax revenues and non-tax revenues through reforms and measures.
  - 5. Budget formulation: Enhances transparency by introducing a uniform presentation of budget documents.
  - 6. Fiscal transparency and reporting: Mandates disclosure of fiscal information and financial statements.
  - 7. Fiscal responsibility and budget management committees: Establishes committees to monitor and advise on fiscal matters.

- 1. Quantitative easing (QE): Central banks implement QE programs by buying government bonds to inject money into the economy and stimulate growth.
- 2. Direct government financing: In some cases, governments directly create money to fund their deficits by issuing new currency or increasing the money supply.
  - 1. Effectiveness: There is an ongoing debate about the effectiveness of monetization of the deficit in stimulating economic growth and managing budget shortfalls.
  - 2. Long-term consequences: Critics argue that excessive monetization can lead to long-term economic distortions, such as unsustainable debt levels and financial instability
  - 3. Alternative approaches: Some propose alternative approaches to financing deficits, such as structural reforms, reducing government spending, or increasing tax revenues.

Monetization of the deficit can provide short-term financing solutions for governments, but it also carries risks of inflation, currency devaluation, and loss of confidence. The effectiveness and long-term consequences of this approach are subjects of ongoing discussion and debate. Governments should carefully consider alternative approaches and strike a balance between financing needs and maintaining economic stability.

**IAS Gold Prelims Portal Examples of Monetization of the Deficit Discussion and Critics Monetization of the Deficit** Conclusion

**Definition and Explanation** 

Monetization of the deficit refers to the process of financing government budget deficits by printing or creating money.

This approach allows governments to cover their budget shortfalls by increasing the money supply rather than relying solely on borrowing or taxing.

**Advantages of Monetization of the Deficit** 

governments to finance their deficits without going through lengthy borrowing processes.

. Immediate financing: Monetization provides a guick and direct way for

- 2. Flexibility: It allows governments to have greater flexibility in managing their fiscal policies as they can create money as per their requirements.
- 3. No reliance on external sources: Monetization reduces the dependence on external sources of financing, such as borrowing from international markets.

Disadvantages and Risks

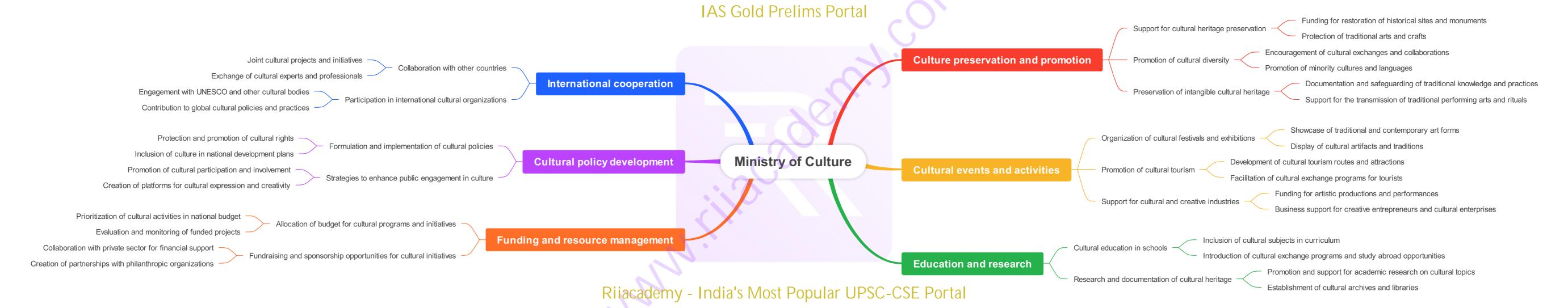
2. Currency devaluation: If monetization is excessive, it can lead to a decline in the value of the currency, making imports more expensive and affecting international

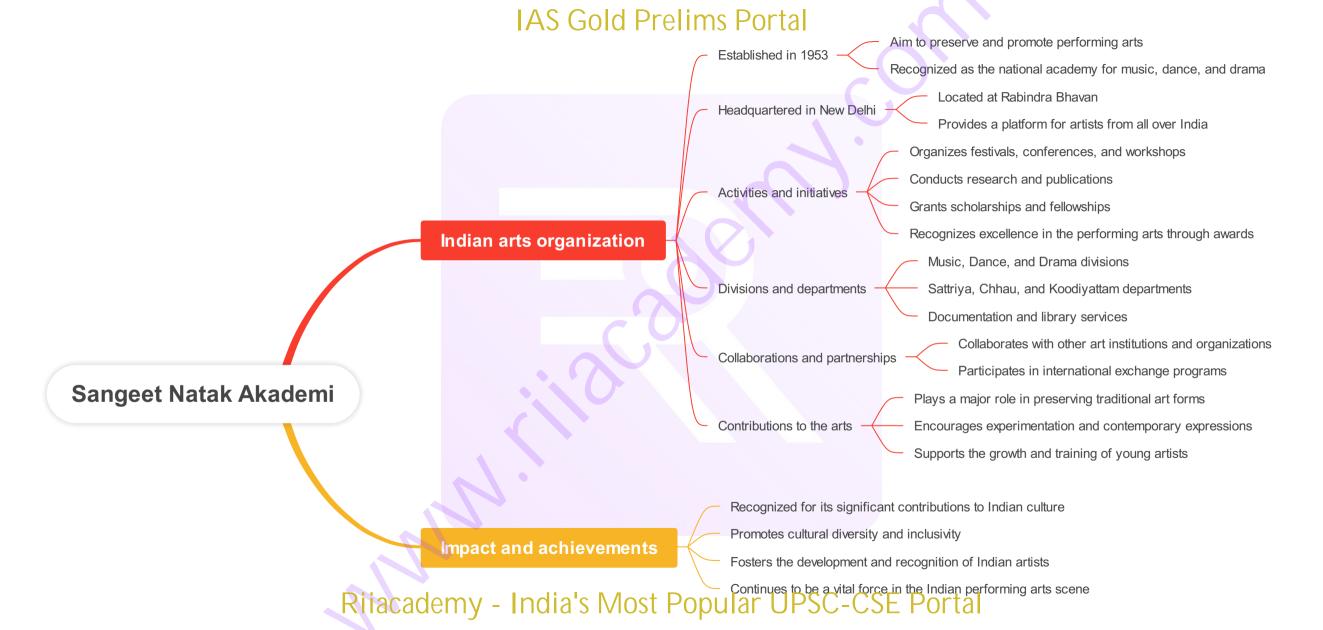
1. Inflationary pressure: The increase in the money supply can lead to inflationary

pressure as the excess money in circulation may cause prices to rise.

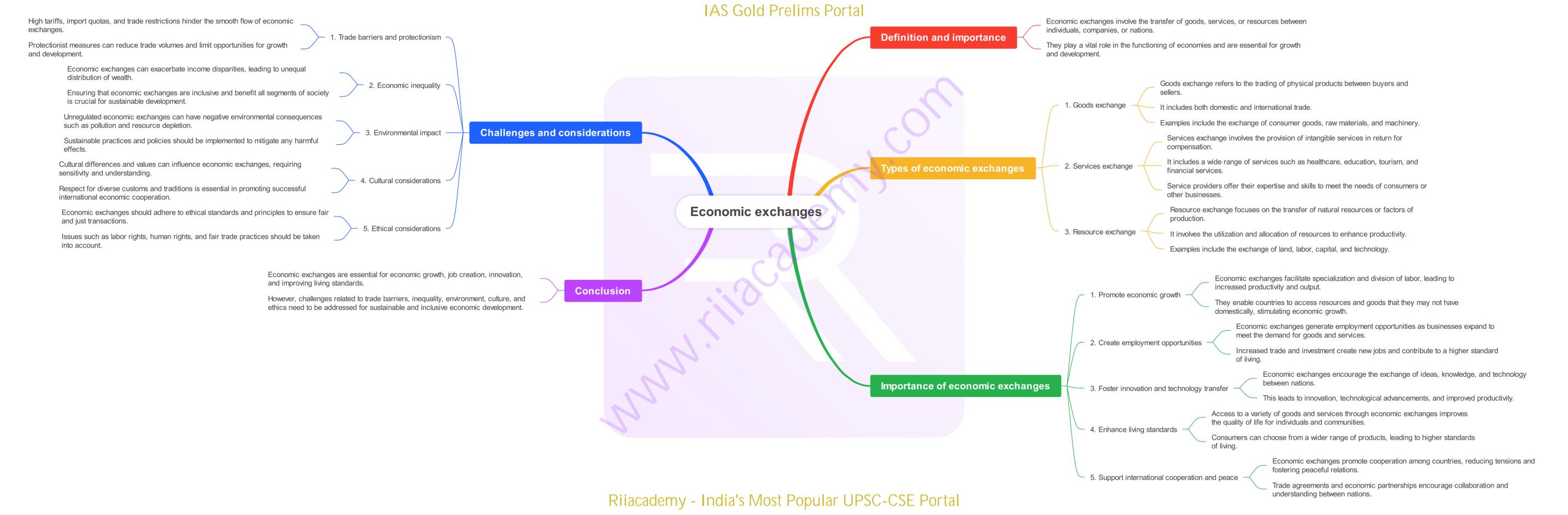
3. Loss of confidence: If investors and the public lose confidence in the government's ability to manage its finances, it can result in a loss of faith in the currency and the economy.

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IAS Gold Prelims Portal Barter exchange has found new applications through online platforms and networks. Barter exchange is a form of trading goods or services without using money. Online barter exchanges connect individuals and businesses from different locations. It has been used throughout history and across various cultures. Modern applications of barter exchange Introduction to barter exchange These platforms facilitate barter exchanges by providing a common marketplace. Barter exchange works on the principle of mutual benefit and the value of goods. Barter exchange can be used for various purposes, such as business transactions or It can be a direct exchange between two parties or involve a larger network. personal needs. Barter exchange offers various advantages over traditional monetary transactions. Barter exchange has a long history and has been used in different societies. It allows individuals and businesses to acquire goods or services without using Ancient civilizations, such as Mesopotamia and Egypt, relied on barter exchange. money Barter exchange Advantages of barter exchange **Examples of barter exchange in history** The Silk Road facilitated barter exchange between different regions and cultures. It promotes resourcefulness and creativity in finding mutually beneficial trades. Barter trade was prevalent during times of economic instability or currency Barter exchange can help to reduce waste and promote sustainability. shortages. Barter exchange also has its challenges and limitations. Barter exchange offers an alternative method of trading goods and services. The value and demand for goods may vary, making it difficult to find equal trades. While it presents challenges, it promotes resourcefulness and sustainability. **Challenges of barter exchange** Conclusion The lack of a standardized system can complicate the process of barter exchange. With modern applications and historical significance, barter exchange continues to play a role in our economy. Barter exchange may require more time and effort to negotiate and arrange trades. Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal







**IAS Gold Prelims Portal** Core inflation may not accurately reflect the inflation experienced by every individual or household. Limitations Different countries or regions may have different components in their core inflation measure, leading to variations in results. An increase in housing costs without significant changes in food and energy prices would lead to higher core inflation. **Examples** If education costs rise faster than overall inflation, core inflation will capture this Core inflation When core inflation exceeds the target set by central banks, it may prompt them to take monetary tightening measures. **Policy implications** A low core inflation rate may indicate weak demand, which could warrant expansionary monetary policies. Central banks and market participants closely monitor core inflation indicators to anticipate future trends. Monitoring By tracking these indicators, policymakers can assess if their policy measures are effective in controlling inflation.

Core inflation refers to the measure of inflation that excludes the price changes of volatile goods like food and energy.

It provides a more stable and reliable indicator of underlying inflation trends.

Core inflation is composed of various factors such as housing, healthcare, education, and transportation.

These components are considered to have a more lasting impact on overall price levels.

Core inflation is important for policymakers and economists to gauge the long-term inflationary pressures in an economy.

It helps in formulating monetary policies and assessing the health of an economy.

Core inflation is calculated by excluding food and energy price changes from the overall inflation rate.

This is usually done using different indices or statistical methods.

Core inflation helps in filtering out short-term fluctuations caused by temporary factors like seasonal changes or supply shocks.

It provides a better understanding of underlying inflationary pressures and helps in making more informed decisions.

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**Definition** 

Components

**Importance** 

Calculation

**Advantages** 

Low headline inflation may indicate weak economic growth and can result in reduced business investment and hiring.

It can also signal deflationary pressures, where prices of goods and services decline, leading to a negative impact on economic activity.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile components such as energy and food prices, provides a more stable measure of underlying inflation trends.

Unlike headline inflation, core inflation focuses on the long-term inflationary pressures in an economy.

Central banks closely monitor headline inflation when formulating monetary policy.

Controlling inflation within a target range is often a key objective of central banks to maintain price stability and promote sustainable economic growth.

Changes in headline inflation can influence interest rate decisions and other policy actions taken by central banks.

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Impacts of low headline inflation

Relationship with core inflation

Importance for monetary policy decisions

**Definition and explanation** 

economy.

It is generally measured using the consumer price index (CPI) or the producer price index (PPI).

Headline inflation refers to the overall increase in prices of goods and services in an

Factors influencing headline inflation

Changes in the prices of key goods and services, such as energy, food, and housing, can have a significant impact on headline inflation.

Monetary policy decisions, such as interest rate changes, can also affect inflation

living increases. Impacts of high headline inflation

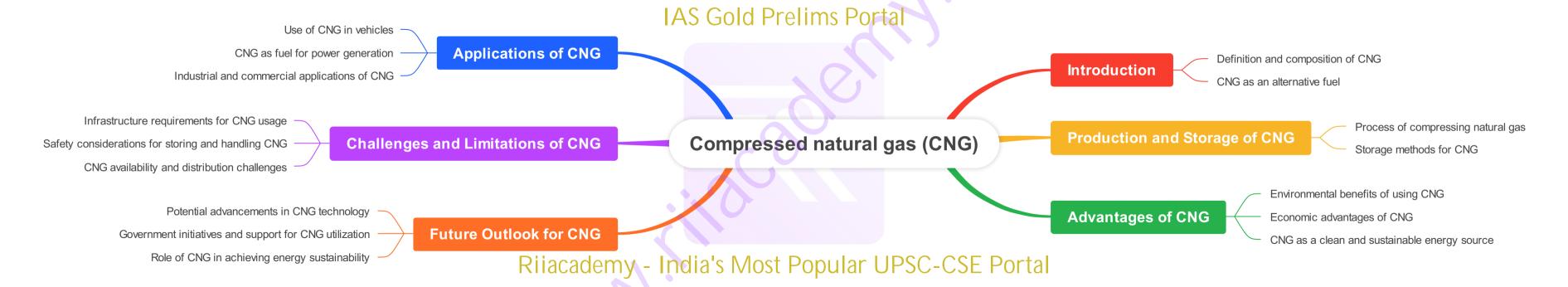
It can lead to reduced consumer spending and economic slowdown.

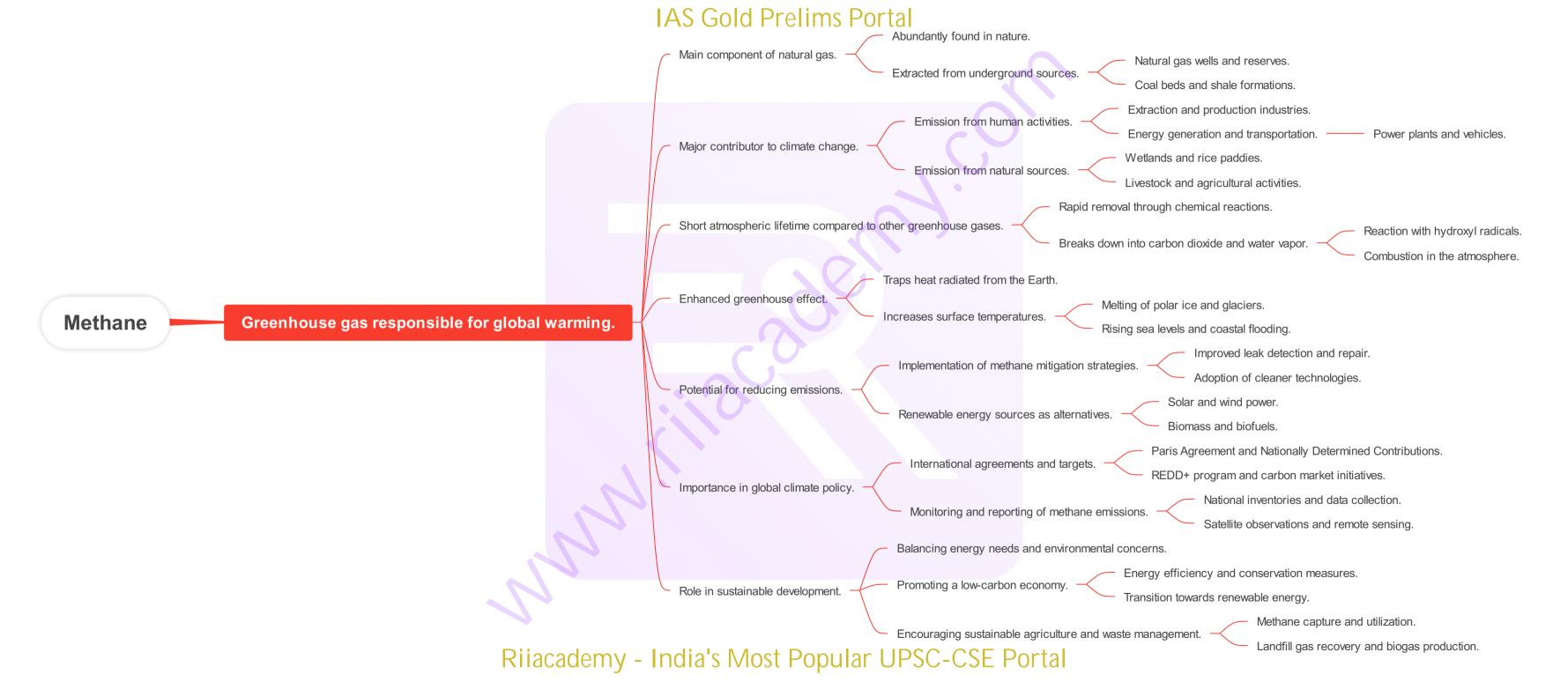
Central banks may respond to high inflation by raising interest rates to control inflationary pressures.

High headline inflation erodes the purchasing power of consumers as the cost of

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headline inflation





## IAS Gold Prelims Portal **Definition of inflation** Monetary policy: Central banks use various tools, such as adjusting interest rates and managing the money supply, to control inflation. Fiscal policy: Governments can use fiscal measures, such as taxation and **Controlling inflation** government spending, to influence inflation levels. Wage and price controls: Governments may implement policies to limit wage and price increases, although these can have unintended consequences. Causes of inflation Weimar Republic hyperinflation: In the early 1920s, Germany experienced hyperinflation, with prices doubling roughly every few days. Zimbabwe hyperinflation: In the late 2000s, Zimbabwe faced hyperinflation, reaching an estimated inflation rate of over 89.7 sextillion percent. **Examples of historical inflation** Great Depression deflation: During the Great Depression in the 1930s, the United Inflation States experienced deflation, exacerbating economic hardships. Inflation in the 1970s: Many countries, including the United States, faced high inflation rates during the 1970s due to oil price shocks and expansionary monetary **Effects of inflation** Rational expectations theory: Suggests that individuals form expectations about future inflation based on available information and adjust their behavior accordingly. Adaptive expectations theory: Proposes that individuals base their expectations on past inflation rates, leading to a lagged adjustment to changing economic conditions. Inflation expectations Importance of managing inflation expectations: Central banks often aim to anchor inflation expectations to maintain price stability and influence economic behavior. Types of inflation Communication by central banks: Clear and transparent communication by central banks regarding their inflation targets and policy actions can help shape inflation expectations.

policies.

Inflation is the sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services in an economy.

It is often measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Producer Price Index

Demand-pull inflation occurs when demand for goods and services exceeds the available supply, leading to price increases.

Cost-push inflation occurs when production costs, such as wages or raw materials, rise, causing businesses to pass on the increased costs to consumers.

Monetary inflation is caused by an increase in the money supply, which leads to a decrease in the value of money and subsequent price increases.

Reduced purchasing power: Inflation erodes the value of money, reducing the purchasing power of individuals and businesses.

Redistribution of wealth: Inflation can benefit debtors as the real value of their debts decreases, while creditors and savers suffer.

Uncertainty and economic instability: High inflation can create uncertainty and distort economic decision-making, leading to economic instability.

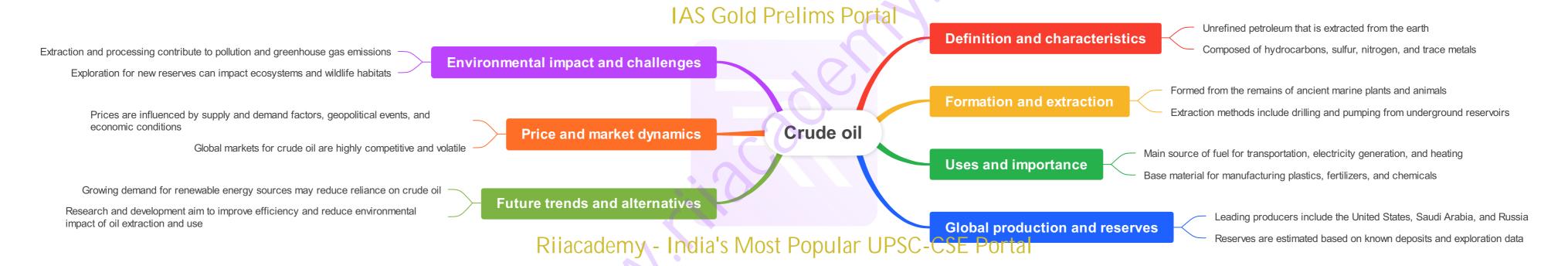
International competitiveness: Persistent inflation erodes a country's international competitiveness as the prices of goods and services become relatively higher compared to other countries.

Mild inflation: Moderate and controlled inflation that occurs within a reasonable range, often considered beneficial for economic growth.

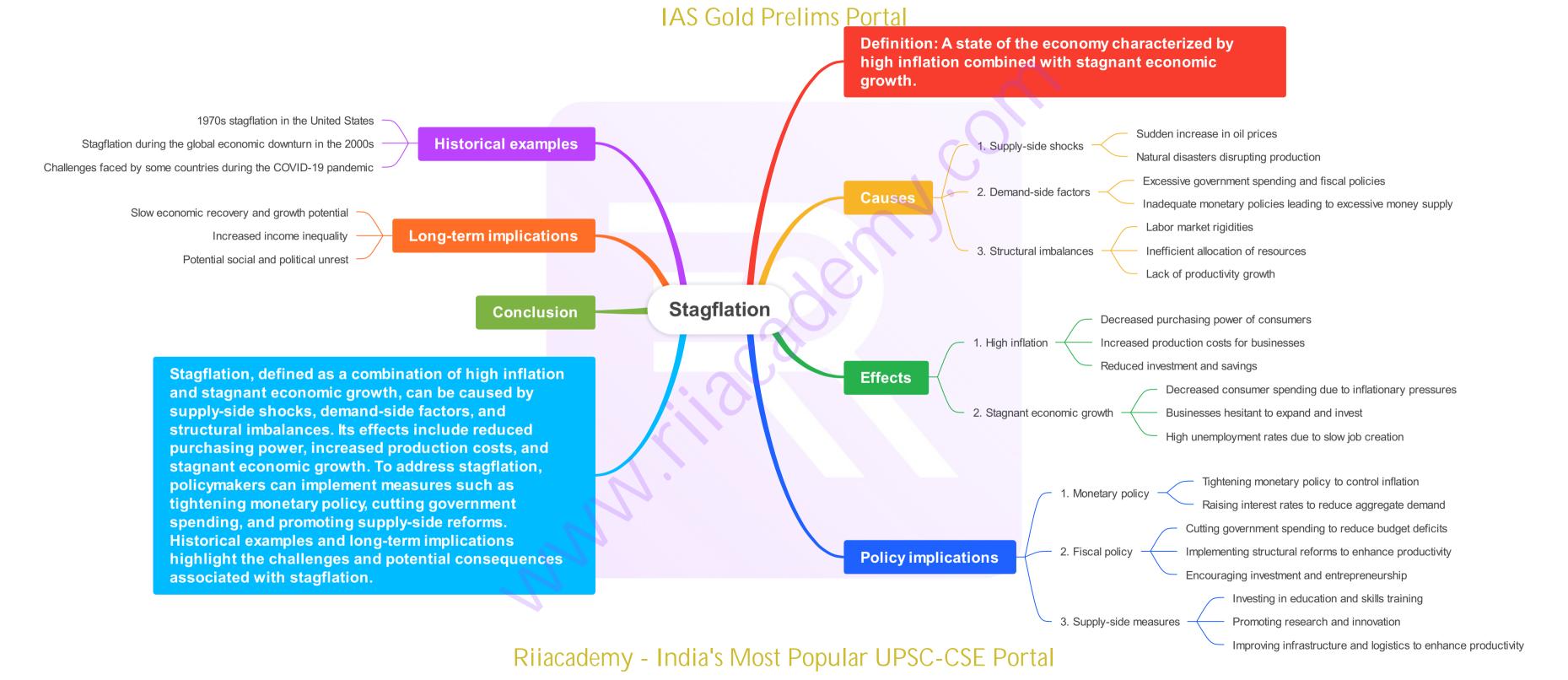
Hyperinflation: A rapid and uncontrolled increase in prices, usually exceeding 50% per month, leading to the collapse of a nation's currency and economy.

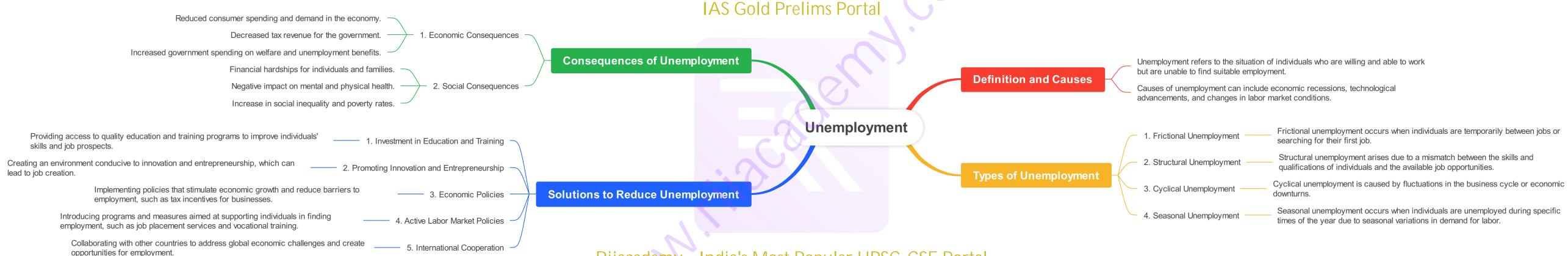
Deflation: The opposite of inflation, deflation is a sustained decrease in the general price level, often associated with economic downturns.

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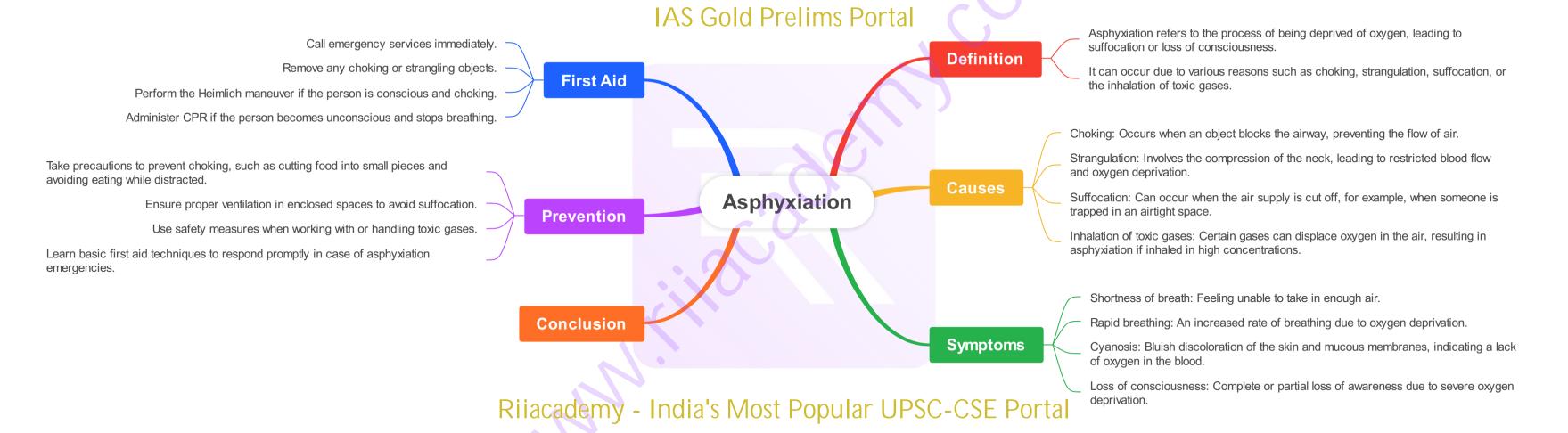


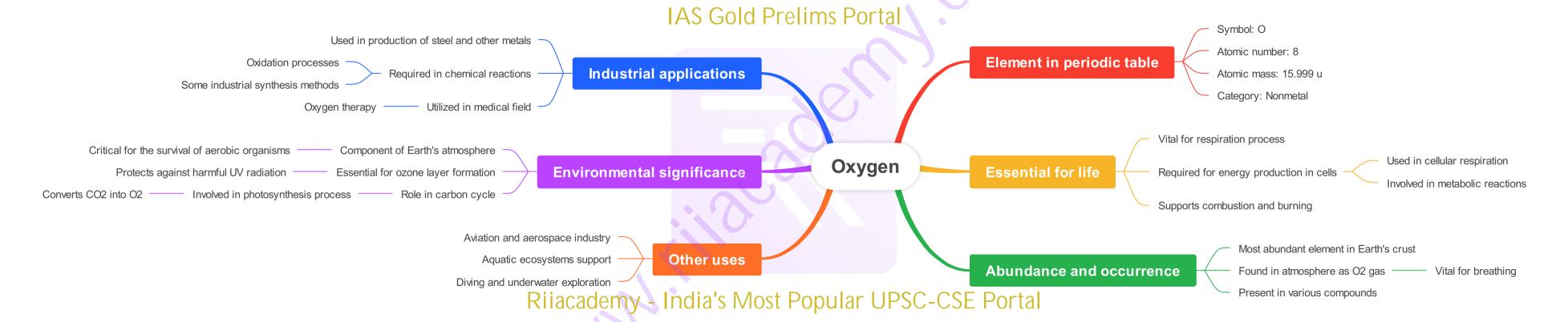
**IAS Gold Prelims Portal** A tarball is a compressed archive file format commonly used in Unix-based systems. **Definition** It combines multiple files into a single file for easier distribution or storage. Tarballs are commonly used for backup purposes. **Use Cases** They are also frequently used for distributing source code and software packages. Tarballs are typically created using the tar command. They can include directories, subdirectories, and files. While tarballs are popular in Unix-based systems, other platforms may prefer The files and directories are stored with their original paths relative to the tarball's different archive formats. Some alternatives to tarballs include zip files, 7z files, and Windows Installer **Alternatives** Tarballs: packages (MSI). Tarballs can be compressed using different algorithms such as gzip, bzip2, or xz. These formats offer different features and may be more suitable for specific use Compression reduces the size of the tarball, making it more efficient for storage and cases. Compression transmission. The compressed tarball file often has a file extension corresponding to the Tarballs provide a flexible and efficient way to combine multiple files into a single compression algorithm used. archive. Conclusion They are widely used in Unix-based systems for various purposes such as software Tarballs preserve file permissions, ownership, and timestamps. distribution and backup. **Advantages** They can be easily extracted using various command-line tools. Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal Tarballs are widely used for packaging and distributing software in the Unix world.

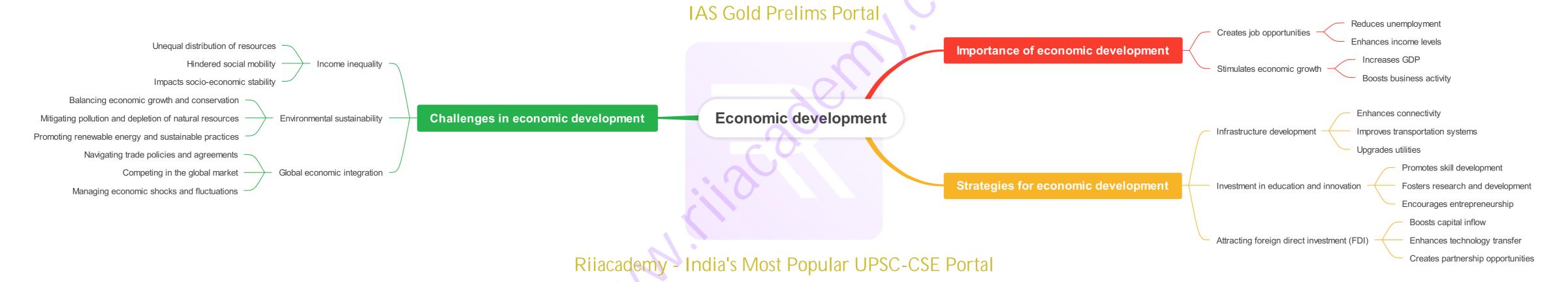


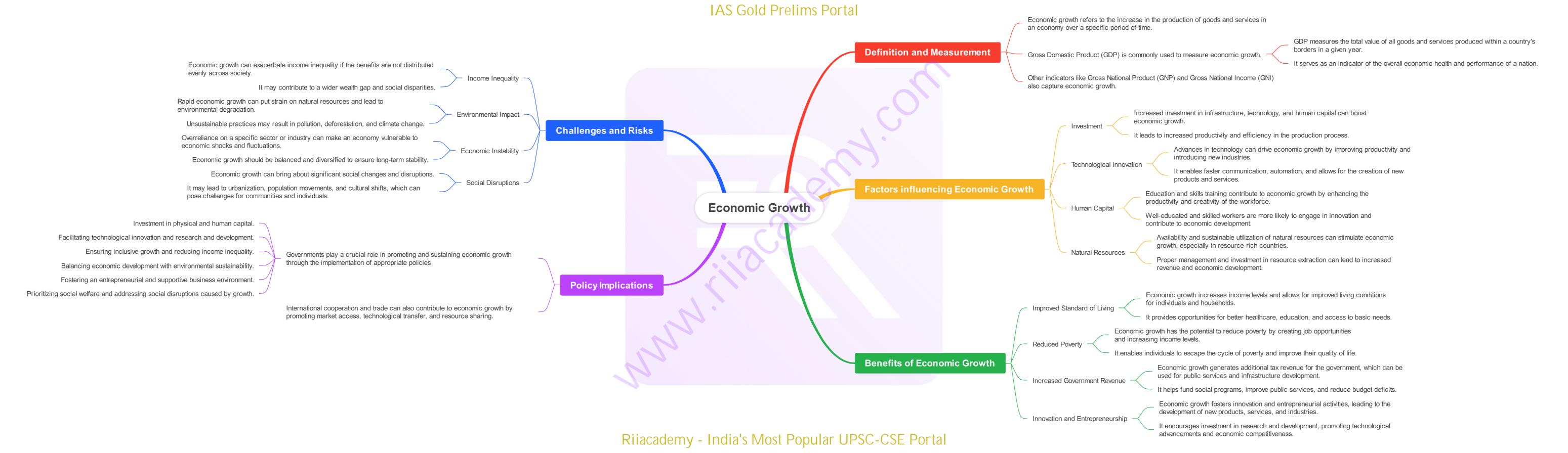


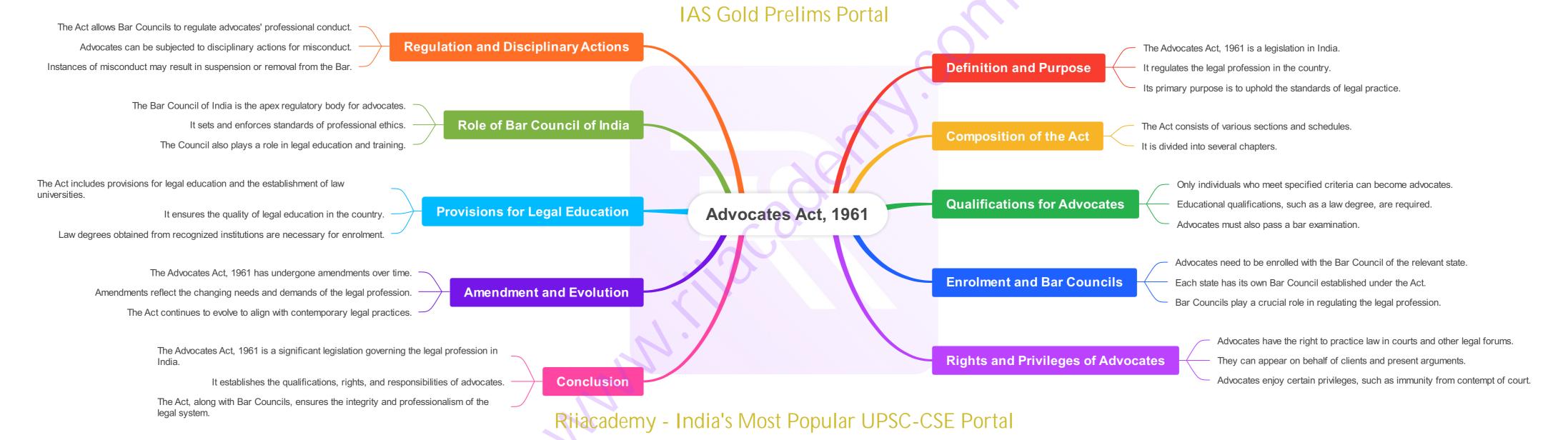
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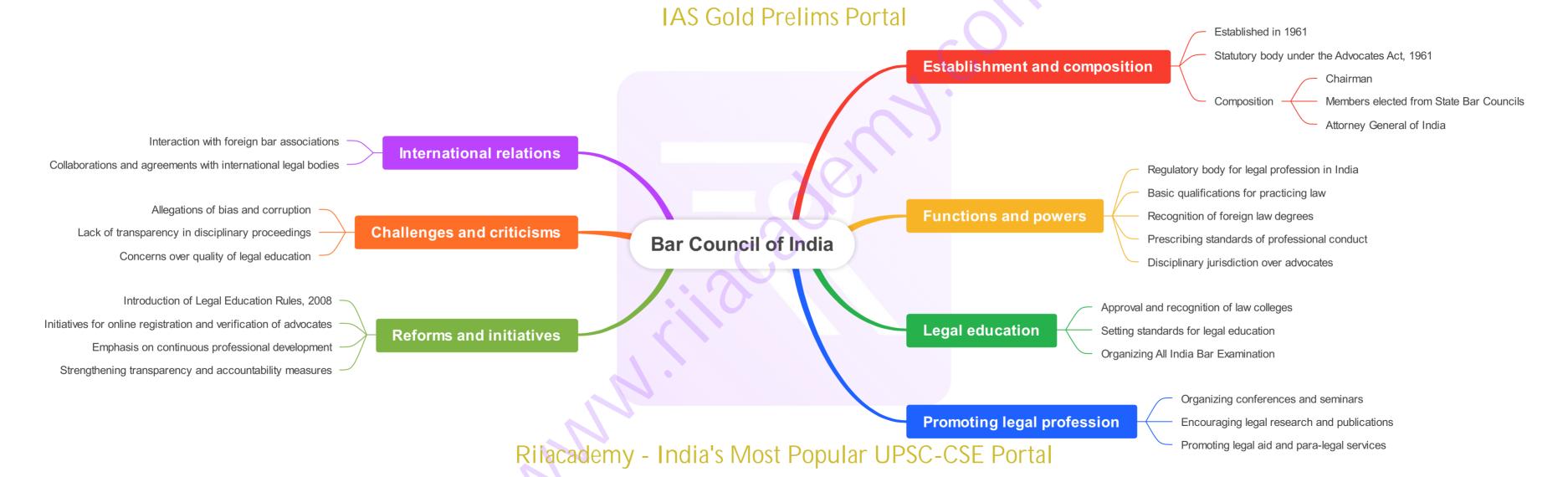


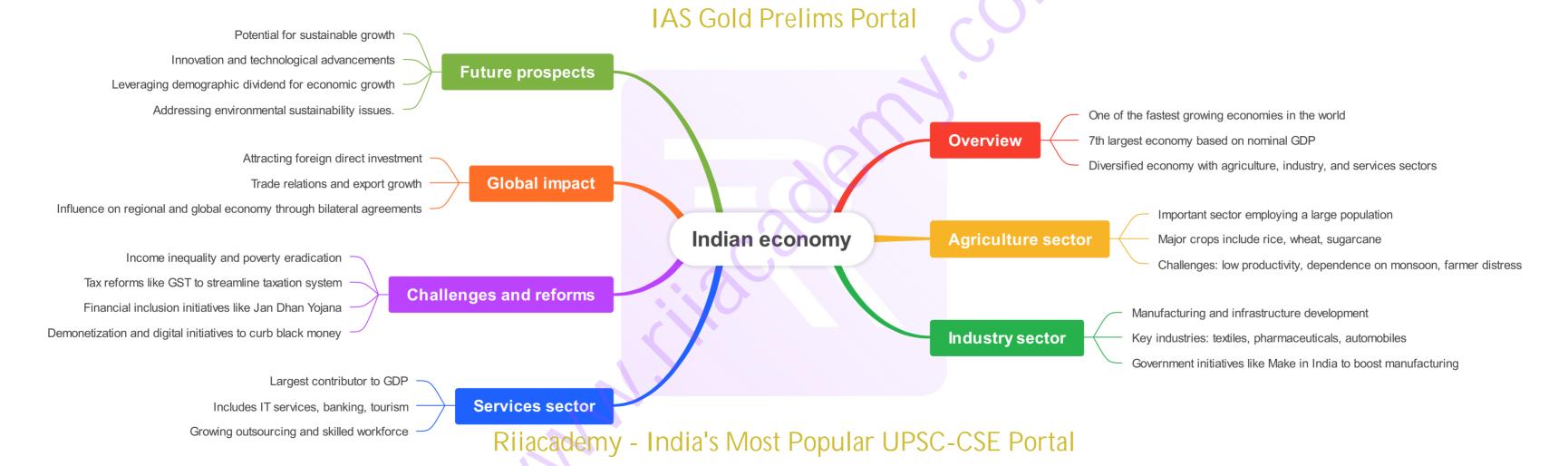


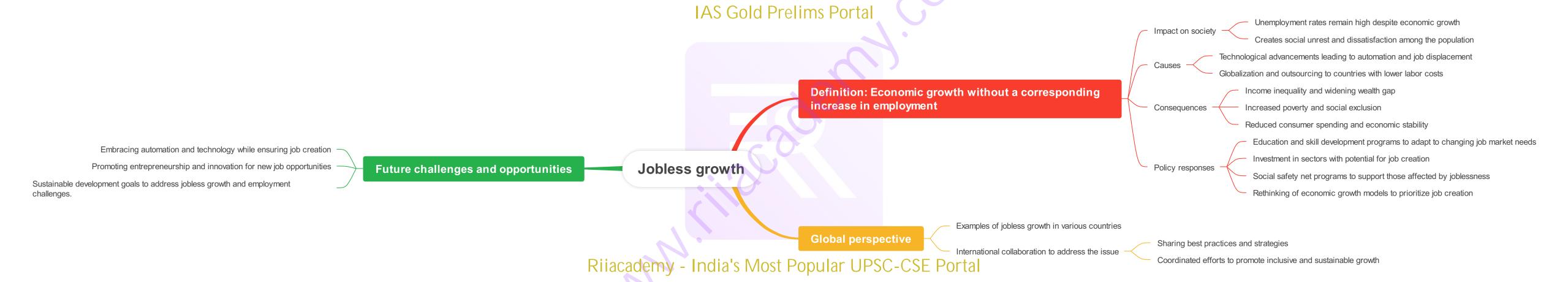


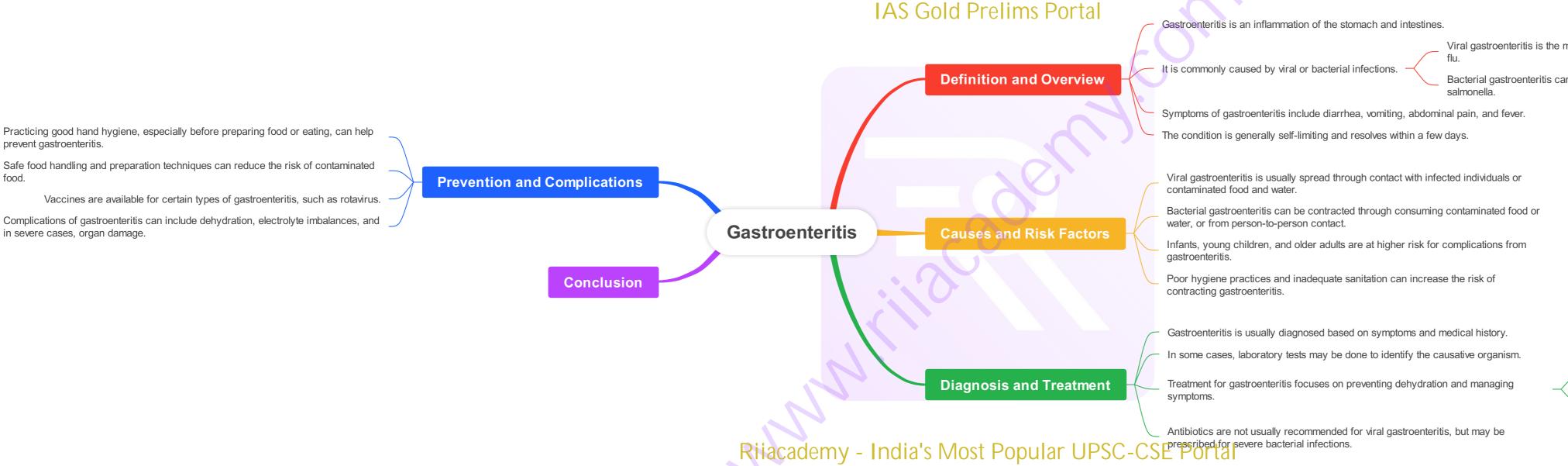










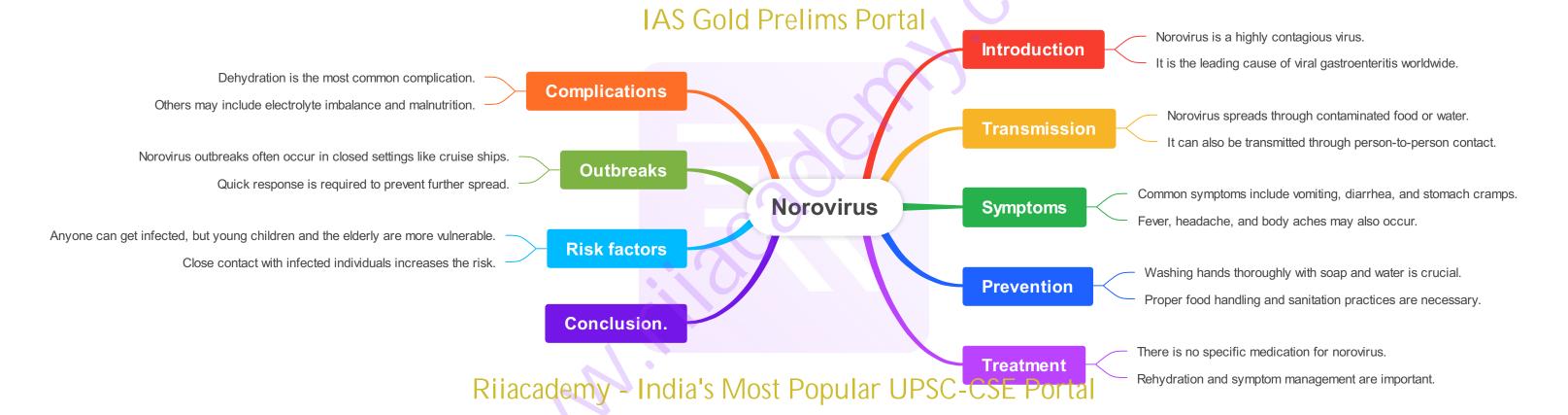


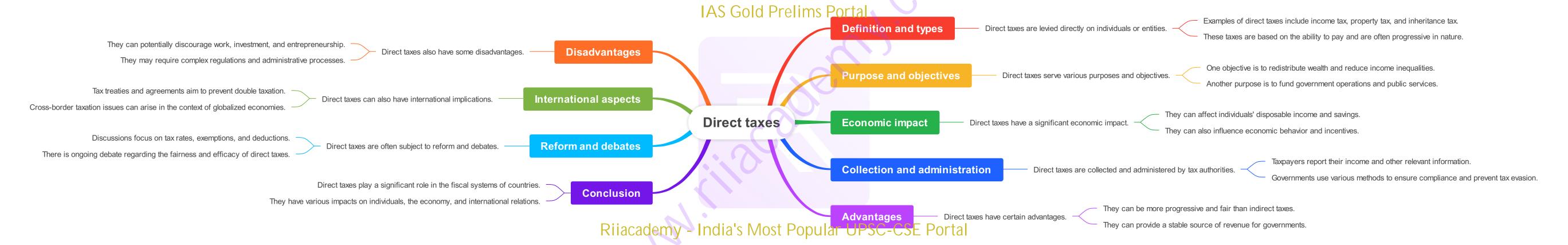
Viral gastroenteritis is the most common type and is often referred to as the stomach flu.

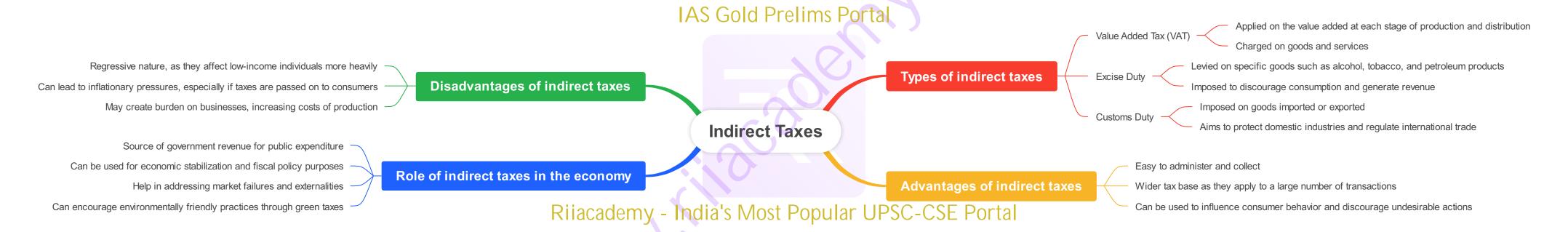
Bacterial gastroenteritis can be caused by various bacteria such as E.coli or salmonella.

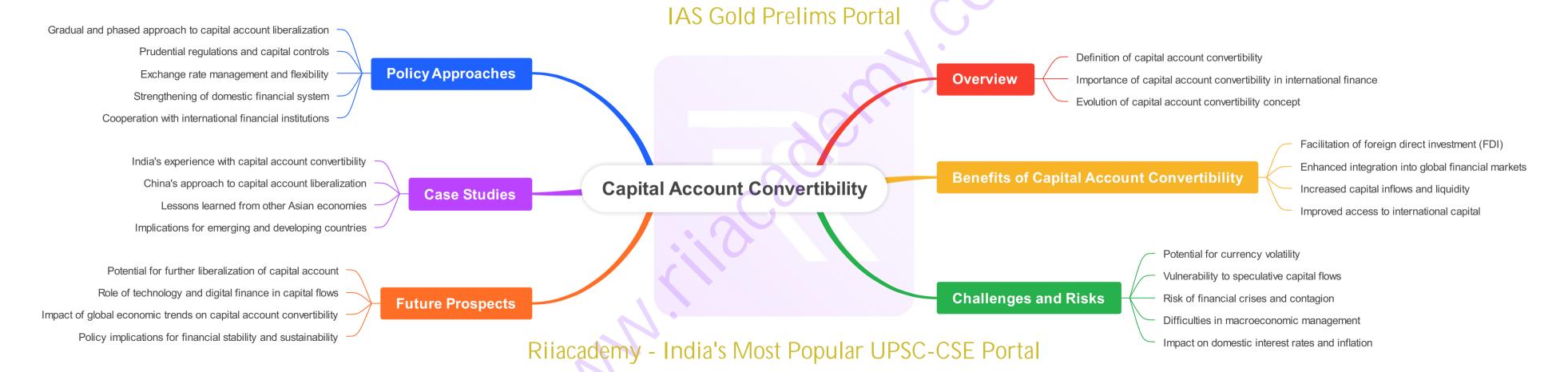
Rehydration with fluids and electrolytes is essential to replace lost fluids.

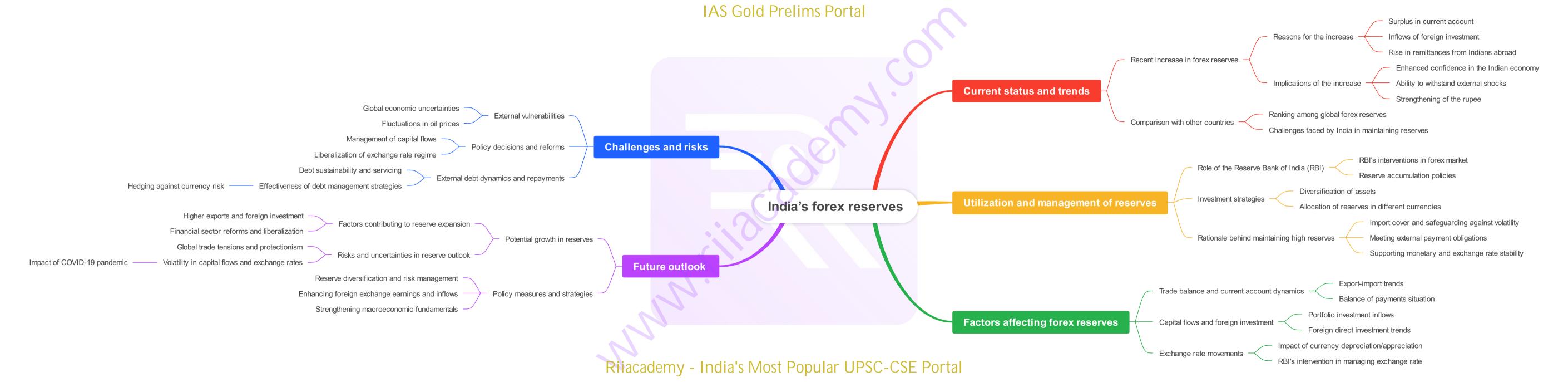
Over-the-counter medications can provide relief for symptoms like diarrhea and abdominal cramping.



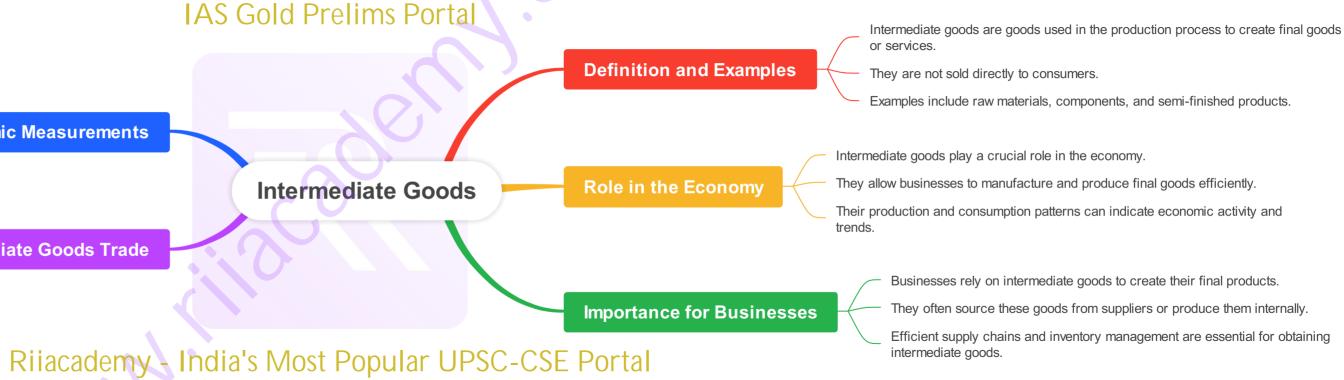


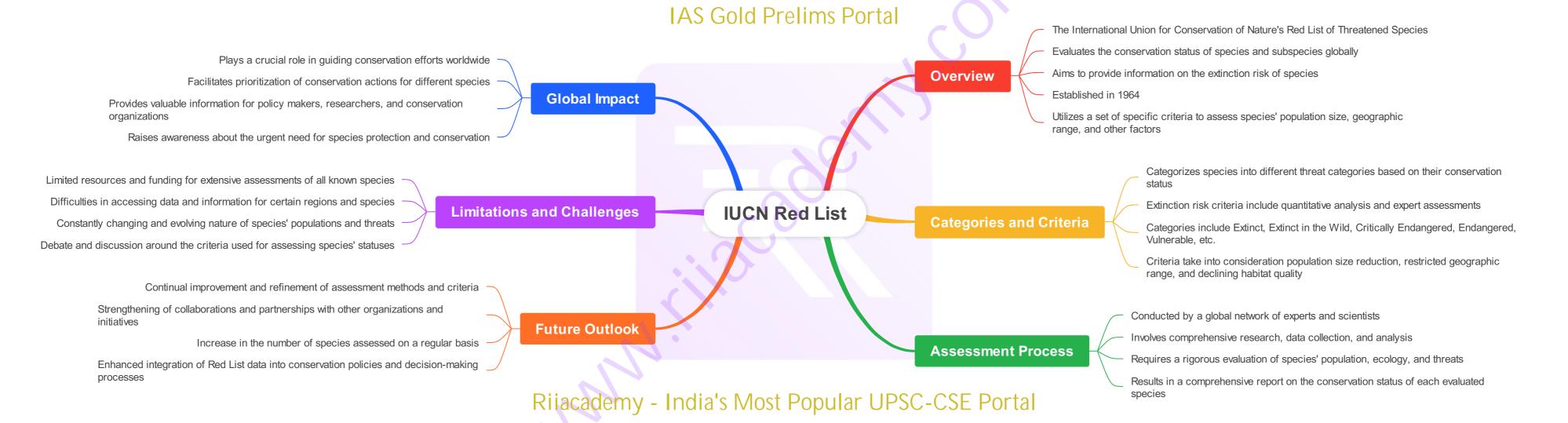


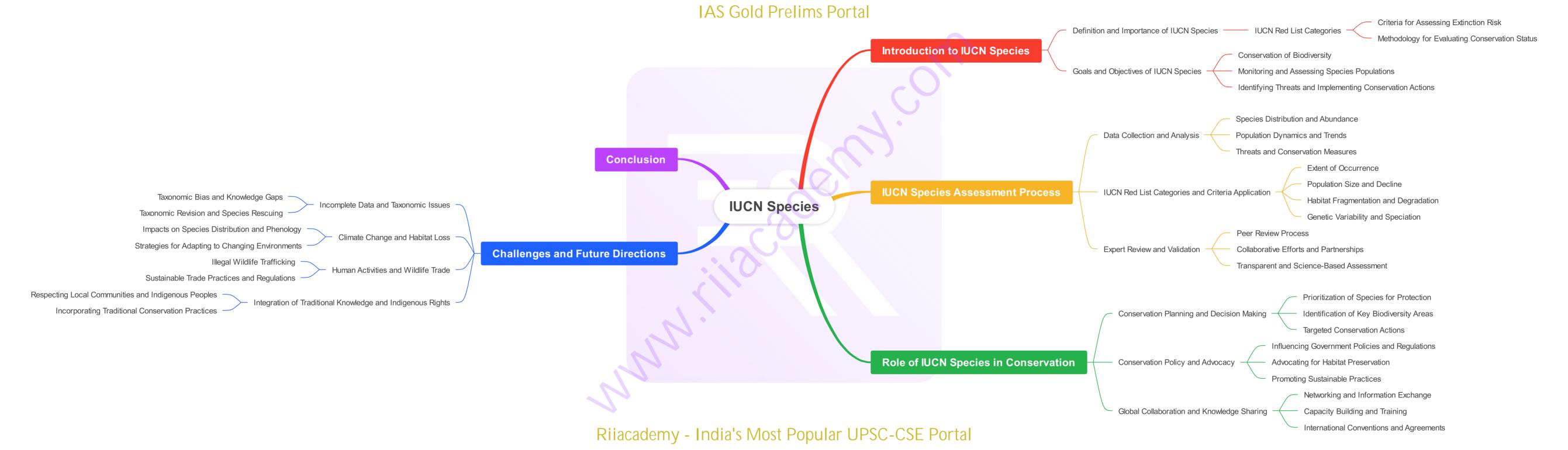


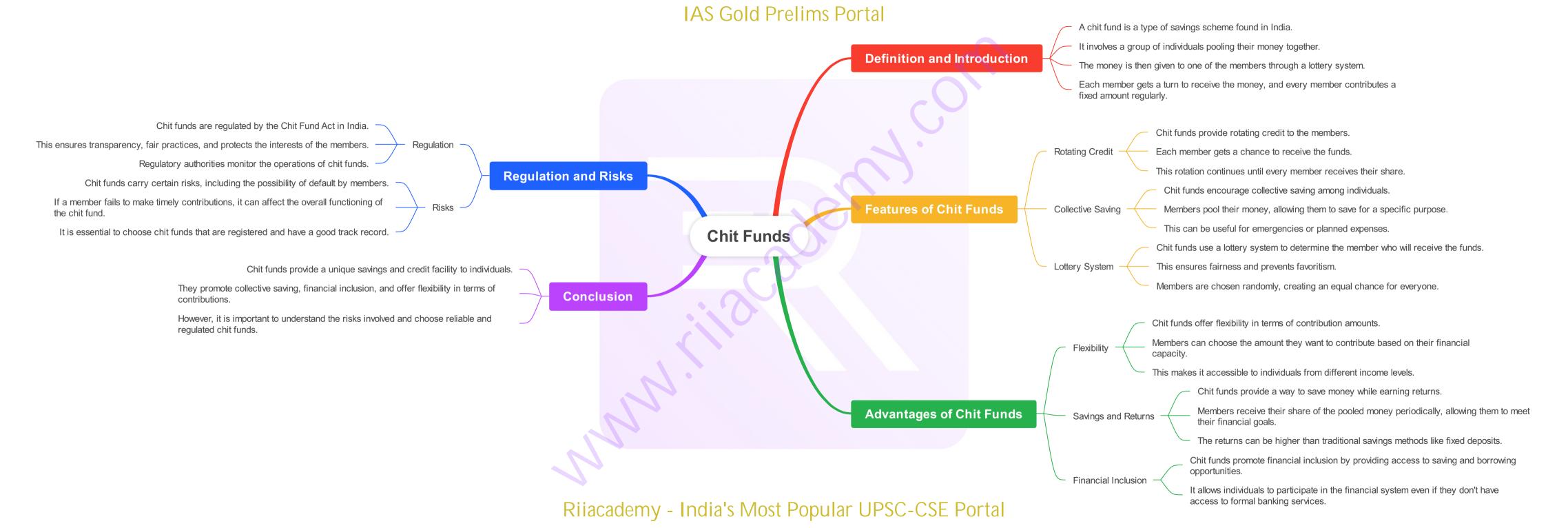


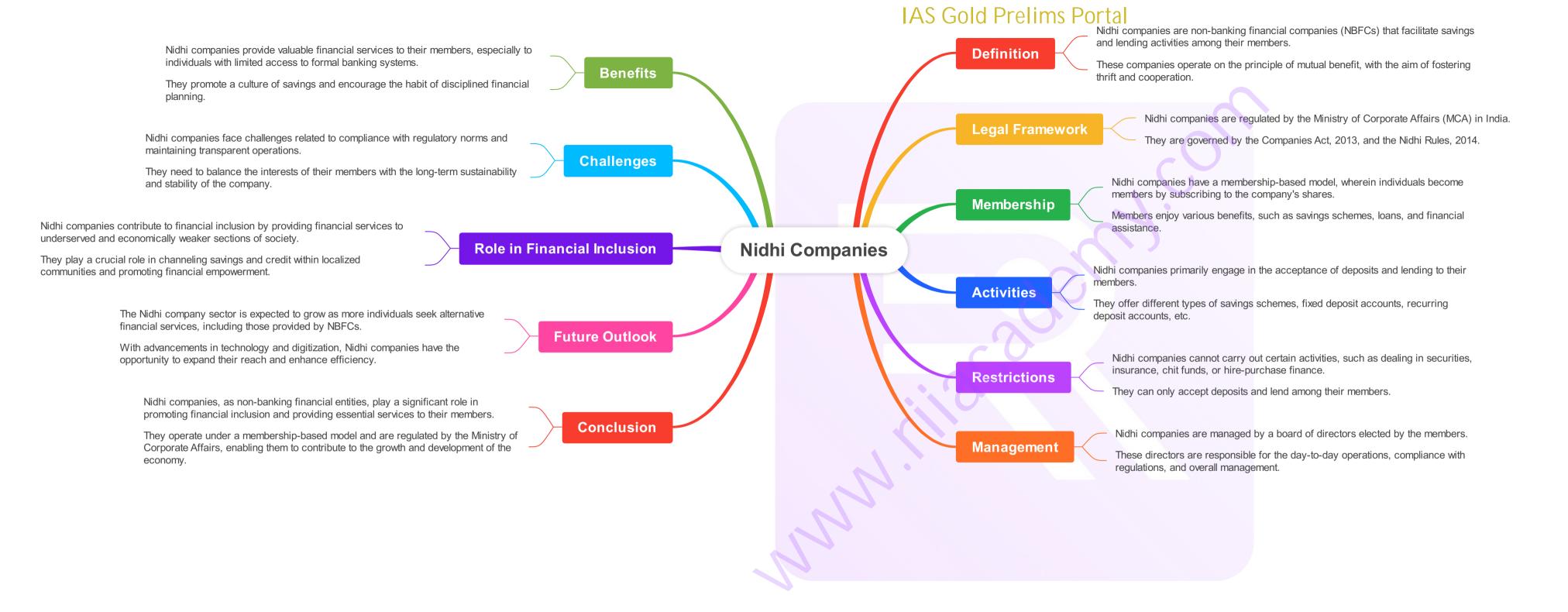
## Intermediate goods affect various economic measurements. Their inclusion/exclusion can affect GDP calculations, as only the value of final Impact on Economic Measurements goods is recorded. Their prices can also impact inflation rates and producer price indexes. International trade of intermediate goods can face challenges. **Challenges in Intermediate Goods Trade** Customs and trade regulations may impact their flow across borders. Global supply chain disruptions can cause shortages or price fluctuations.

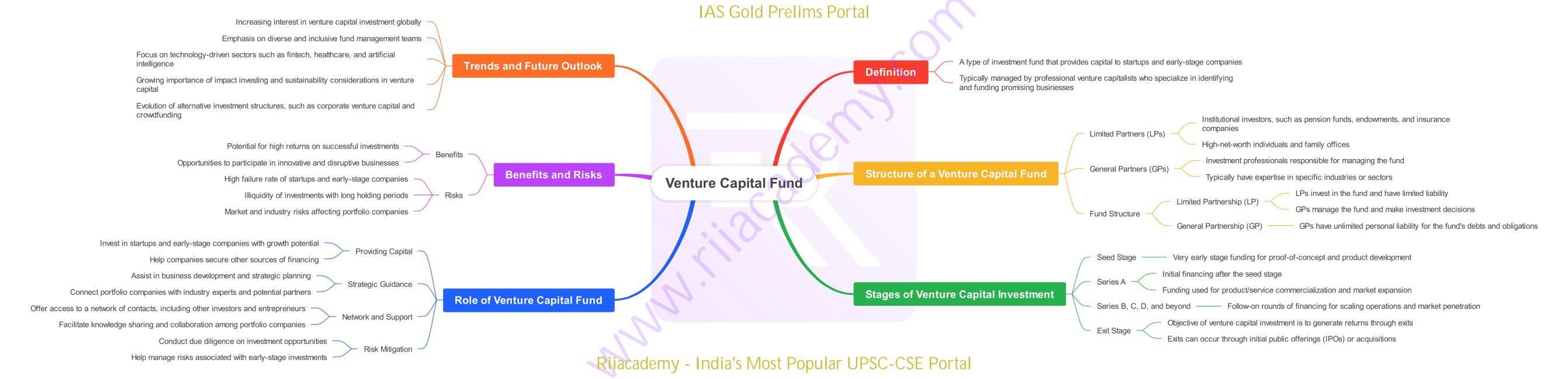


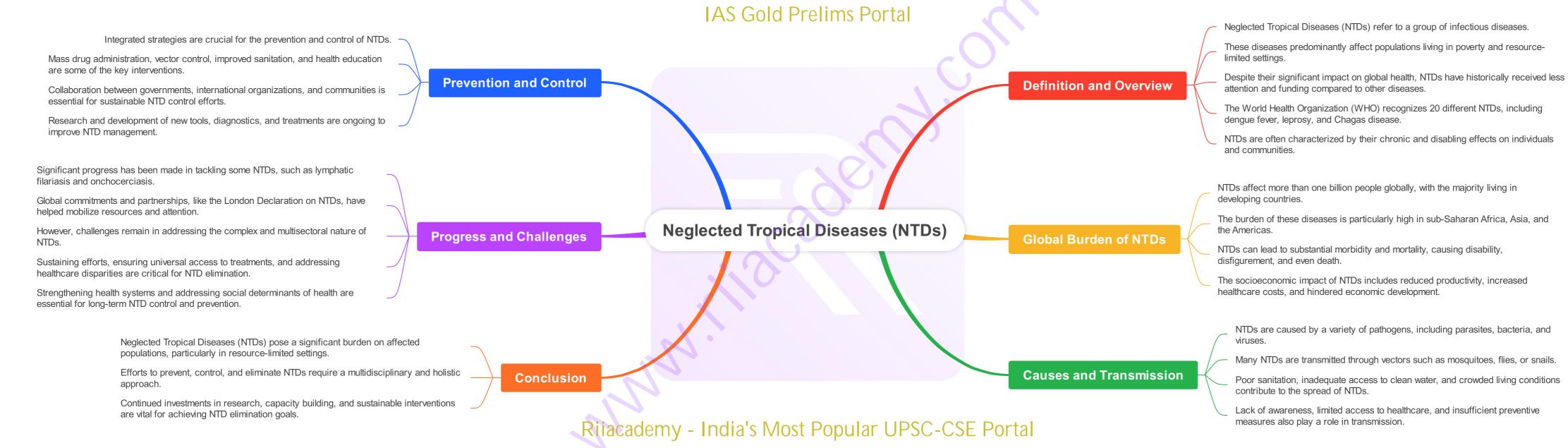


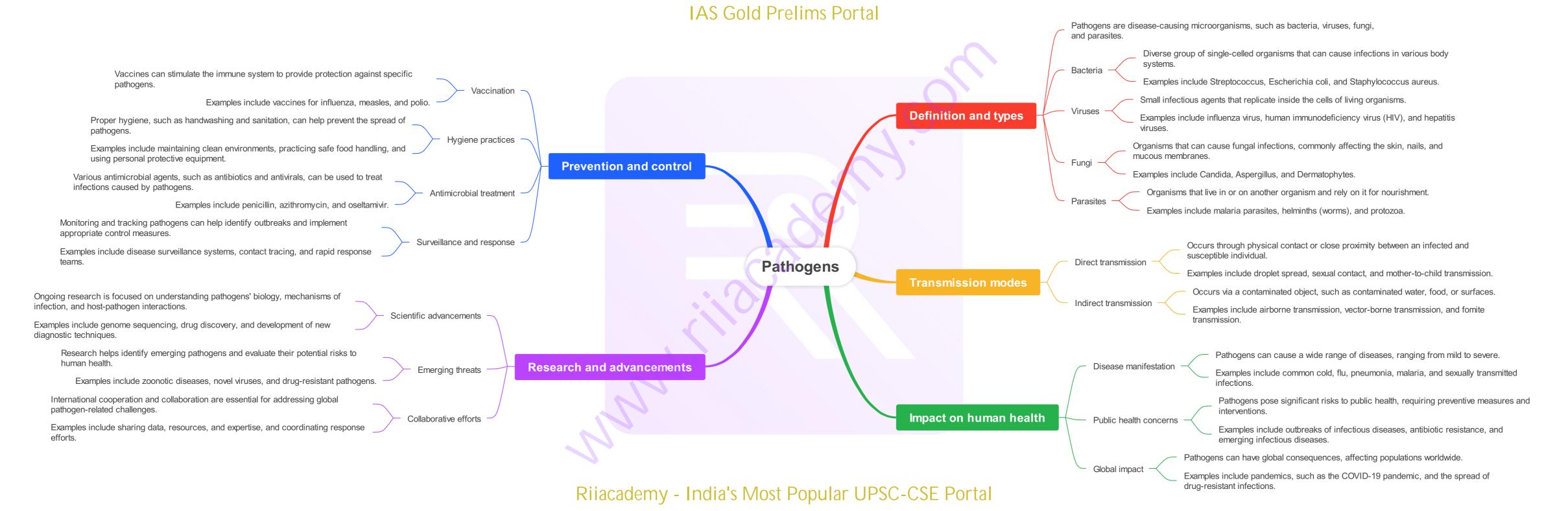


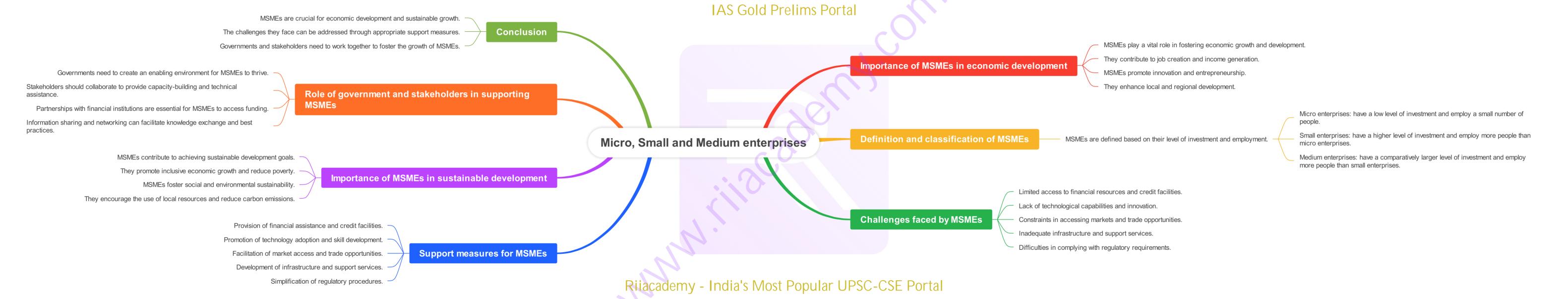


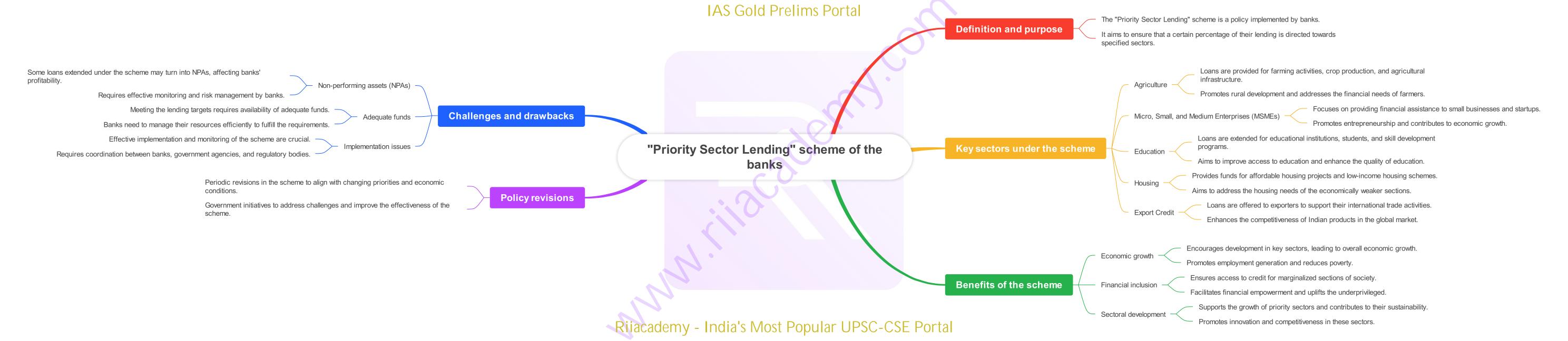




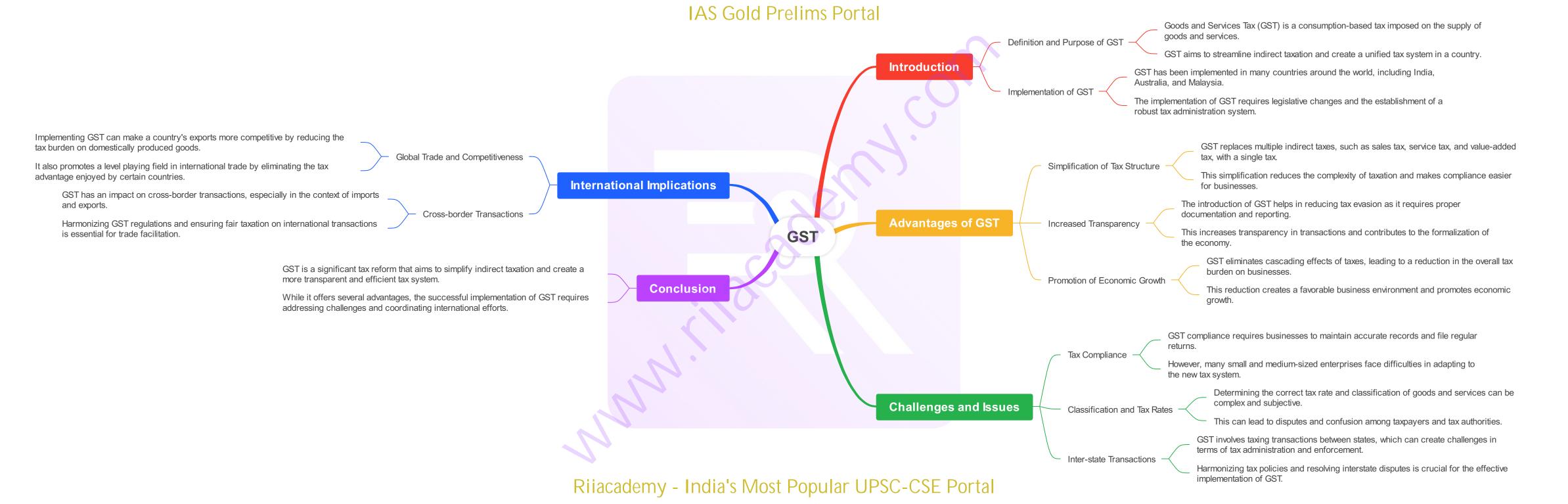


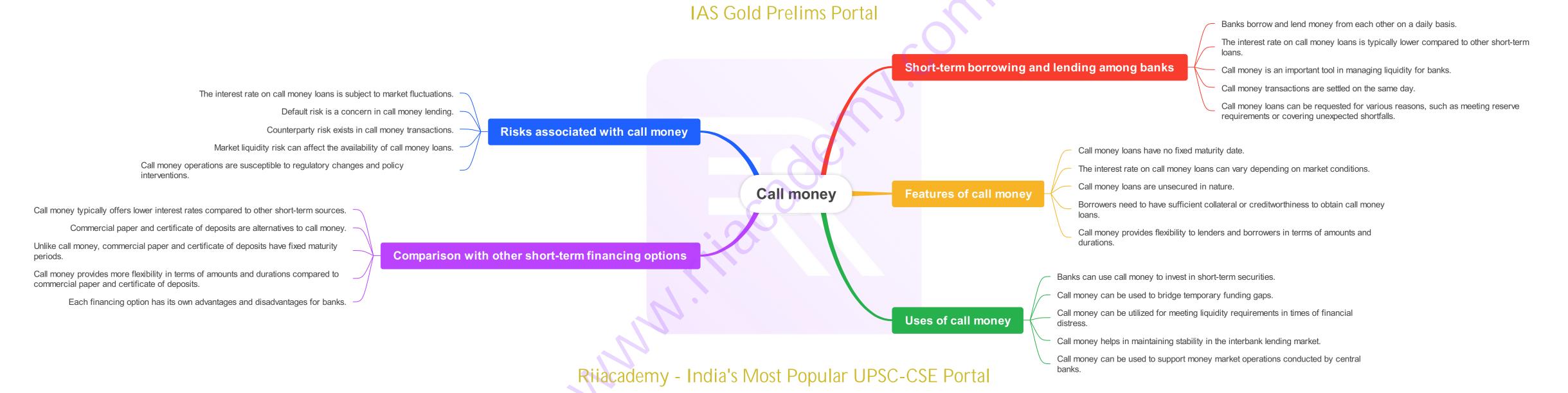


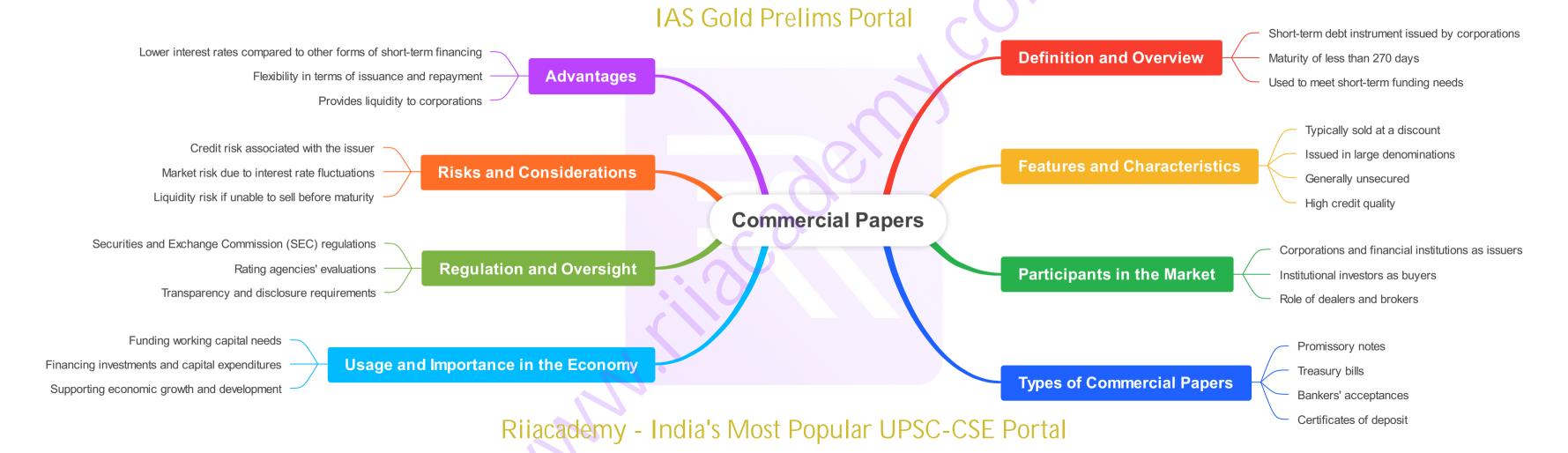


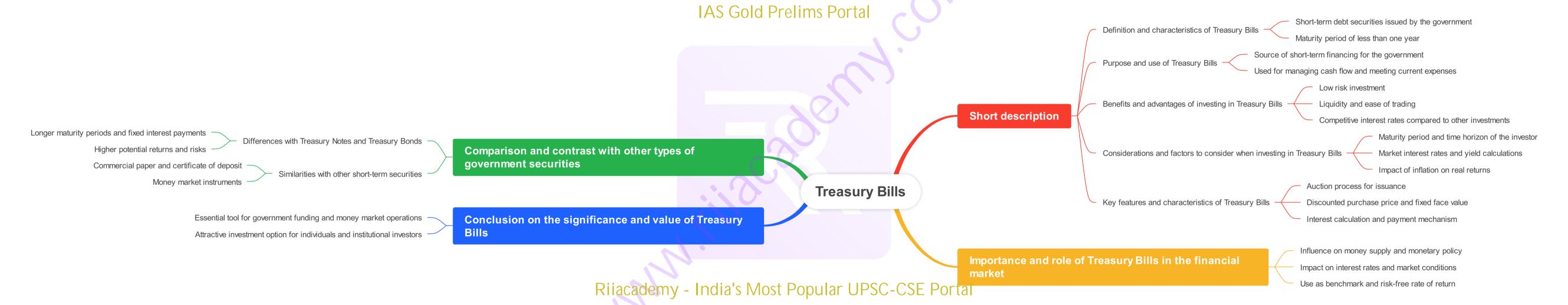


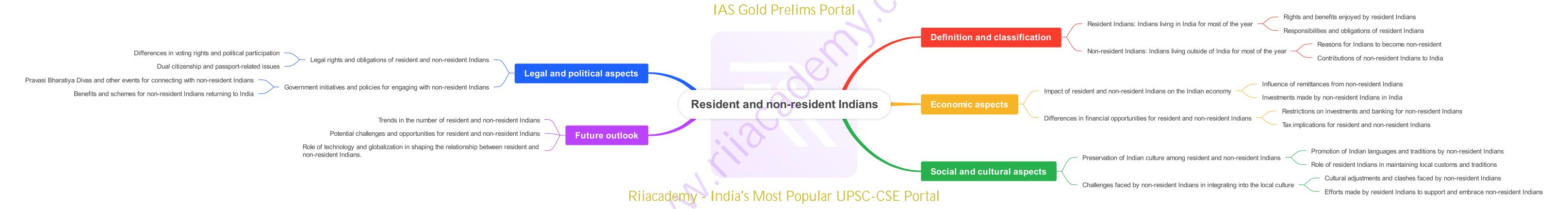
IAS Gold Prelims Portal The GST Council is a decision-making body responsible for governing the Goods The council holds regular meetings to discuss and make decisions on various GST-Introduction and Services Tax (GST) in India. related matters Meetings Important decisions taken during the meetings are communicated to the public and stakeholders The council consists of representatives from the central and state governments and is Composition \ chaired by the Union Finance Minister. The GST Council plays a crucial role in shaping the tax structure and policies. **GST Council Impact** ensuring uniformity and transparency in the tax system. The council formulates policies related to the GST, including rates, exemptions, and . Policy formulation threshold limits It determines the tax rates for goods and services under different categories. The council faces challenges in addressing the concerns of different stakeholders 2. Tax rates and structure and balancing revenue requirements. Challenges and opportunities The council decides on the classification of goods and services for lew of GST. It has the opportunity to simplify and streamline the tax structure, promoting ease of **Functions** The council recommends amendments to the GST law, ensuring smooth doing business and attracting investment. 3. GST law ---implementation and administration. It resolves any disputes that may arise among the states or between the center and 4. Dispute resolution the states regarding GST. The council takes decisions on any other matter related to the GST, guided by 5. Decision-making consensus among the members. Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal

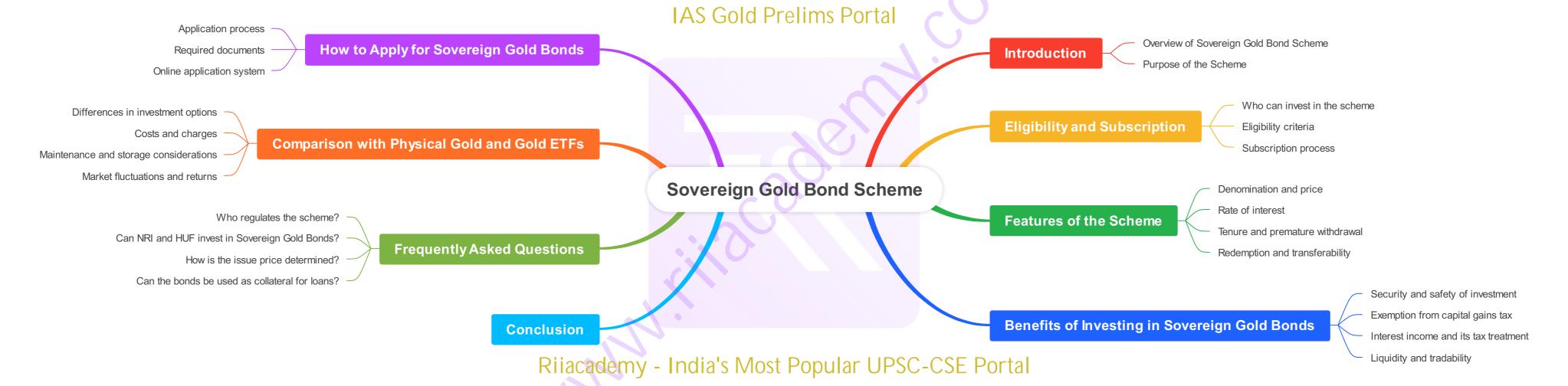












## Safe and secure investments backed by the government Provides stable and reliable income streams Benefits of Investing in Government Treasury Bills and Diversification and risk management opportunities Bonds Liquidity in secondary markets Potential tax advantages for certain investors — Inflation risk and purchasing power erosion Interest rate fluctuations and bond prices Credit risk and default possibility **Considerations when Investing in Government Treasury Bills and Bonds** Market conditions and timing of investments Understanding the terms and conditions of specific securities Evaluating the impact of economic and political factors

**IAS Gold Prelims Portal** Short-term debt securities issued by the government Used to finance immediate funding needs **Government Treasury Bills** Typically have maturities of less than one year Considered extremely low-risk investments Long-term debt securities issued by the government Used to finance long-term projects and budget deficits **Government Bonds** Maturities vary from a few years to several decades **Government Treasury Bills and Bonds** Generally offer higher interest rates compared to Treasury Bills Include different types such as Treasury notes and Treasury bonds Maturity duration Purpose of issuance Interest rate levels Differences between Treasury Bills and Bonds Risk levels Investment horizon Market liquidity Riiacademy - India's Most Popular UPSC-CSE Portal

