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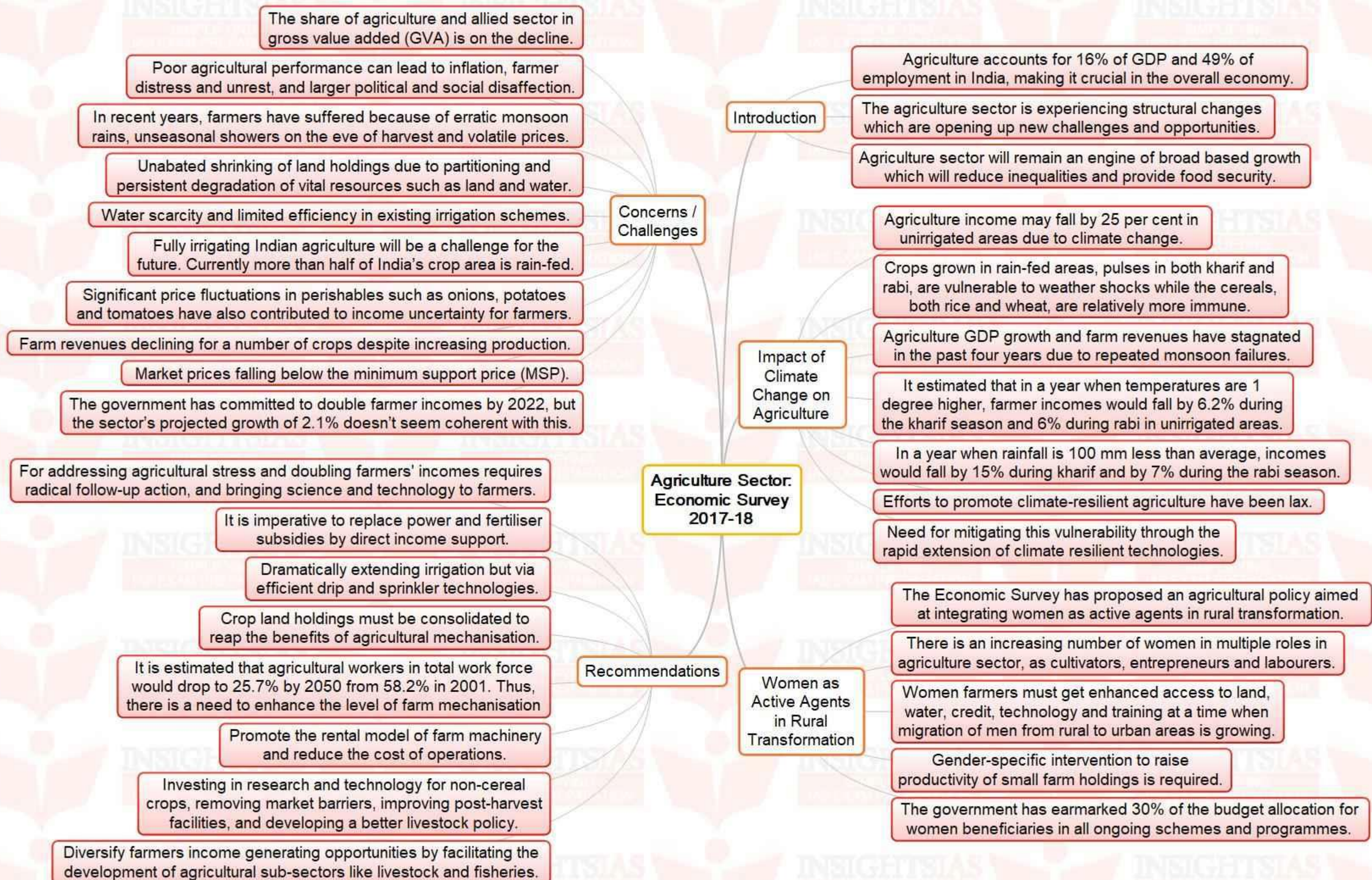
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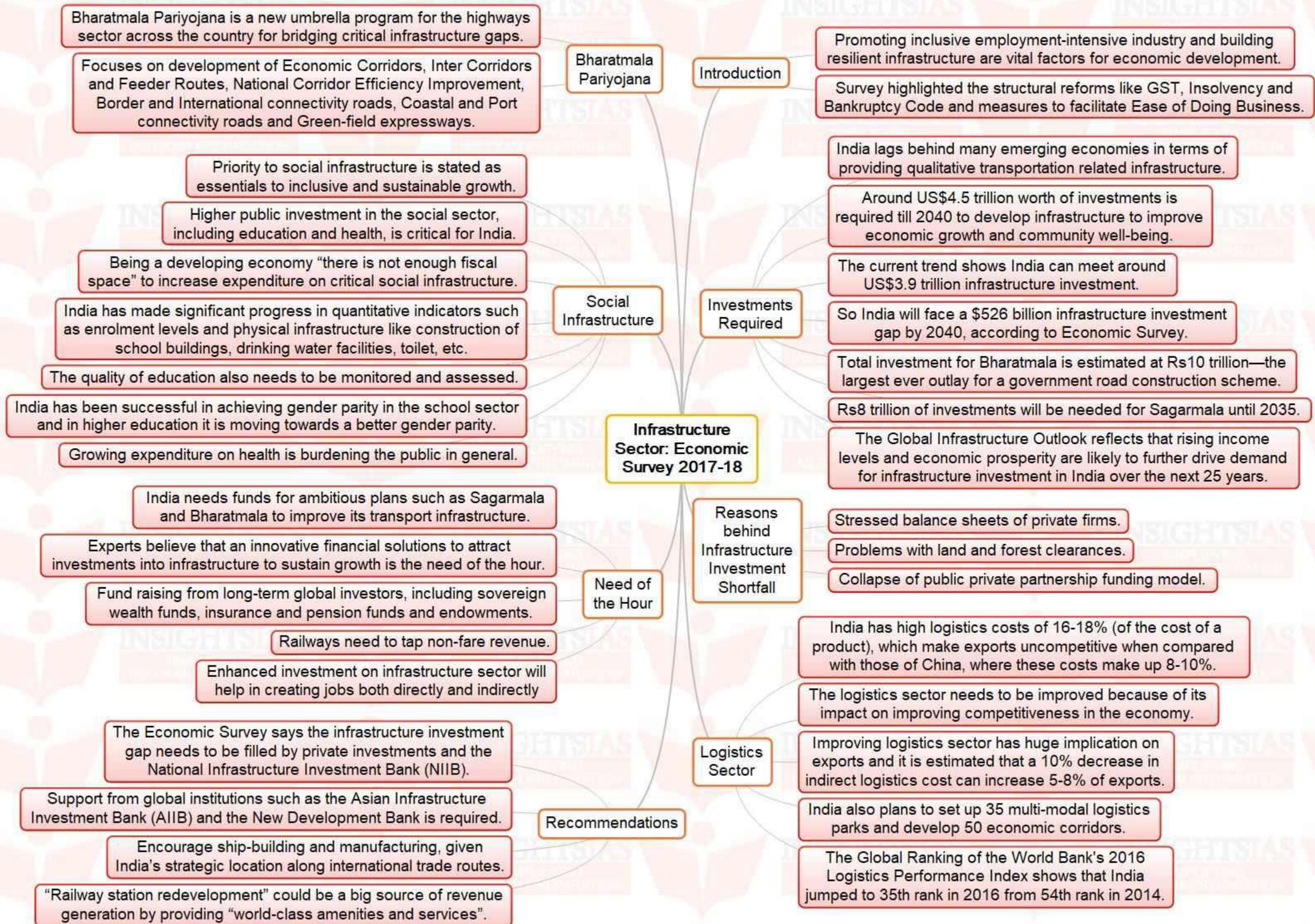
MIND MAPS

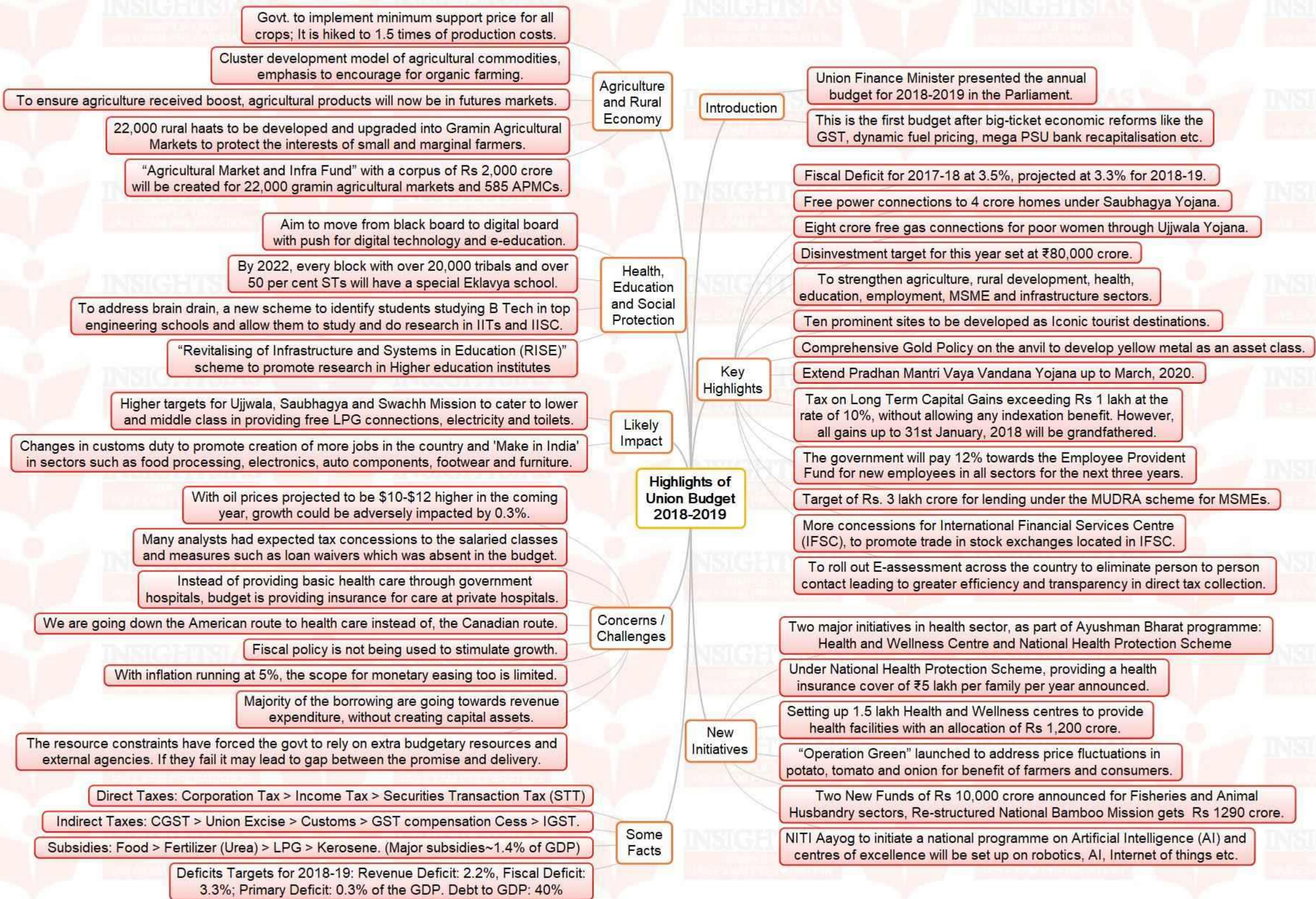
FEBRUARY 2018

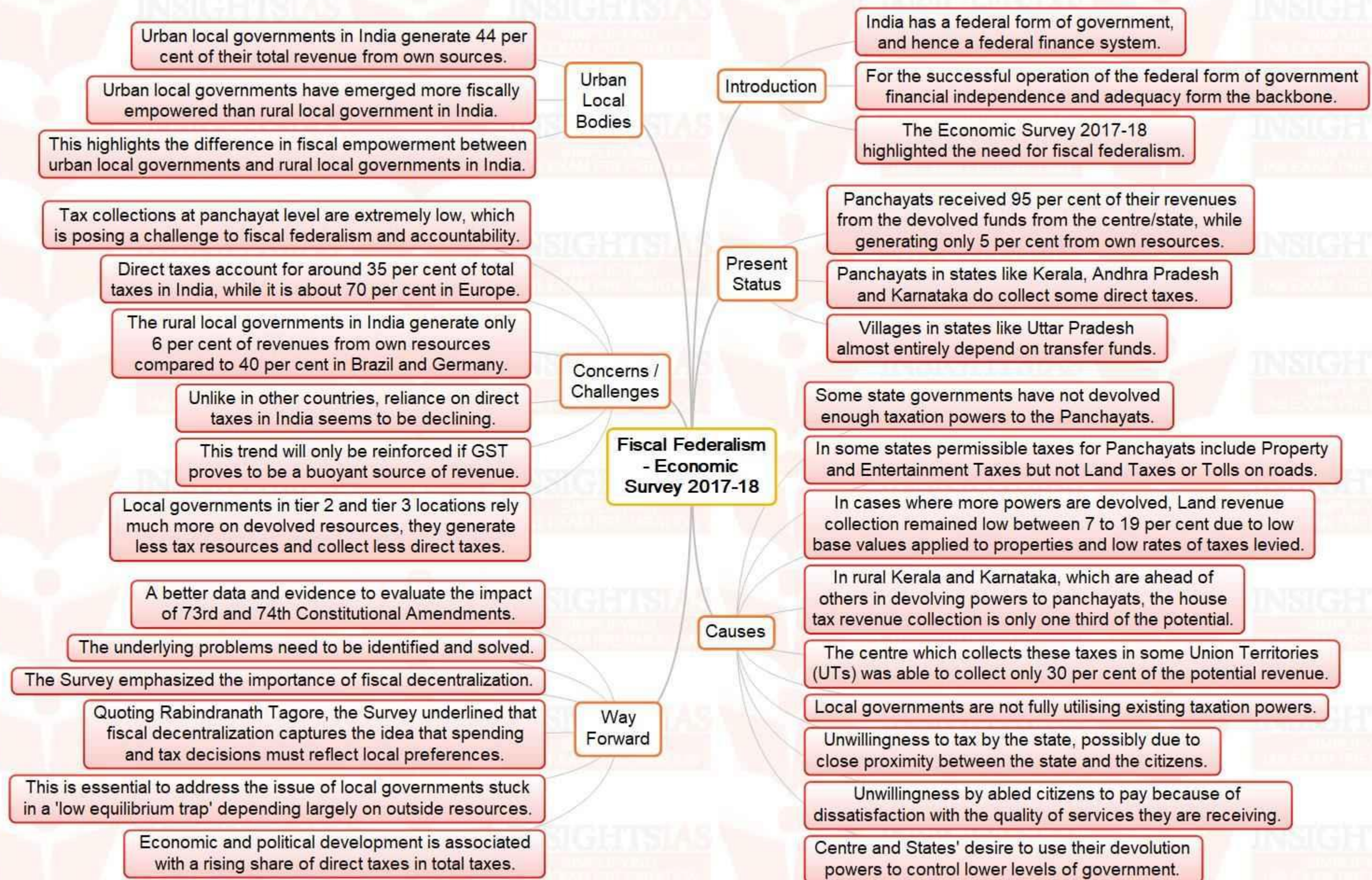


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Indian government continues to "carefully monitor" the situation in Maldives.

India said that the Maldivian government must respect the Supreme Court verdict and release the political prisoners, citing "the spirit of democracy and rule of law".

This will pave the way for genuinely inclusive, free and fair elections with full international monitoring.

India said it was "disturbed" on the declaration of the emergency by the government and expressed "concern" over the arrests of the chief justice and political figures.

India is hoping to work together with countries like US and Saudi Arabia, to bring pressure on the Yameen government.

China called for "resolving differences through dialogue and negotiation".

Western governments, including the US, Canada and Britain, have all expressed dismay at the deterioration of the political situation.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the Yameen government to lift the state of Emergency and guarantee safety for its citizens, "including members of the judiciary".

When the Commonwealth pressed Yameen to uphold the rule of law, his government voted for the Maldives to quit the Commonwealth.

He has also disregarded all international calls to solve the political crisis through dialogue.

In 1988, the then PM Rajiv Gandhi had sent special forces to safeguard President MA Gayoom from an attempted coup

Operation Cactus was a major success in India's foreign policy without signalling any interference in domestic affairs of a sovereign country

India had then intervened following an appeal from MA Gayoom

The international community must persuade Yameen to steer the Maldives out of this crisis amicably without coercion.

Fresh elections, with the opposition free to contest with an equal playing field, are the best option for the Maldives

Being largest neighbouring nation and SAARC member, India also has a moral responsibility to facilitate "inclusive, free and fair elections in the Maldives" in 2018.

International Reactions

Introduction

The political crisis in the Maldives reached a flashpoint, as President Abdulla Yameen declared a 15-day state of Emergency in the country.

Suspending many citizens' rights, and giving the security forces sweeping powers to arrest and detain protesters and dissidents.

The chief justice and other top judges were also arrested.

The Maldives Supreme Court ordered the release of political prisoners including former President Mohamed Nasheed and former Vice-President Ahmed Adeb.

The court said the previous proceedings had violated the constitution and international law.

It also reinstated 12 Members of Parliament who had earlier been stripped of their seats.

This gives the opposition coalition a majority, and makes President Abdulla Yameen vulnerable to impeachment.

The court annulled all proceedings against the jailed political prisoners.

How did the current crisis begin?

Supreme Court had ordered the release of political prisoners and reinstate 12 Opposition MPs in parliament — a directive that the President has refused to follow.

Yameen asked the judges to reverse their decision citing that the court had carried out an "infringement of national security and public interest".

He said, releasing the incarcerated politicians would "raise concerns over national security".

Standoff between Government and Supreme Court

The crisis could affect the tourism in Maldives, the lifeblood of the country's economy.

China, which has boosted its investments in the Maldives may slow down the deals, given concerns about political stability.

The Maldives will descend into instability, constitutional crisis and lead to a national security crisis.

Impact

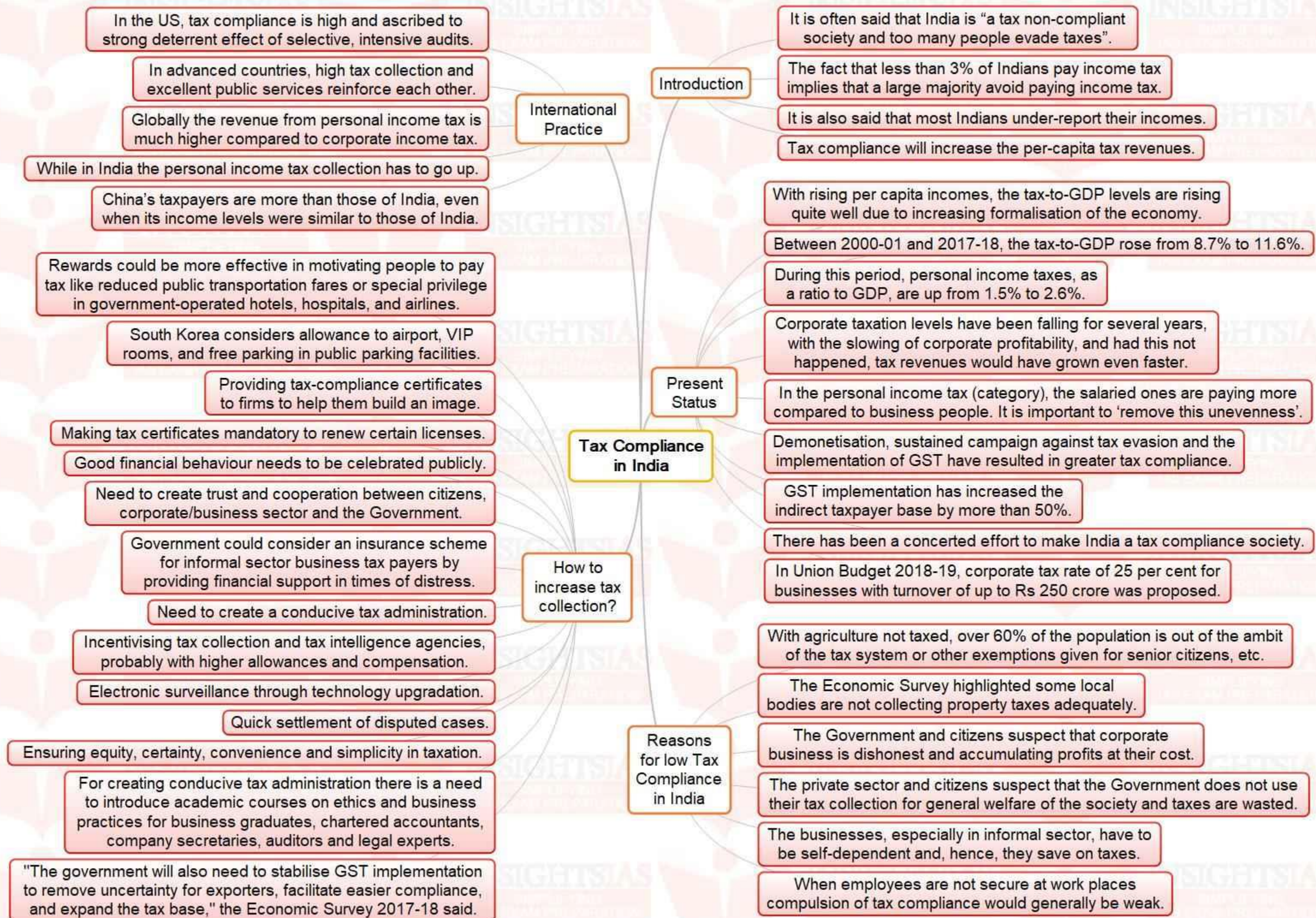
Crisis in Maldives

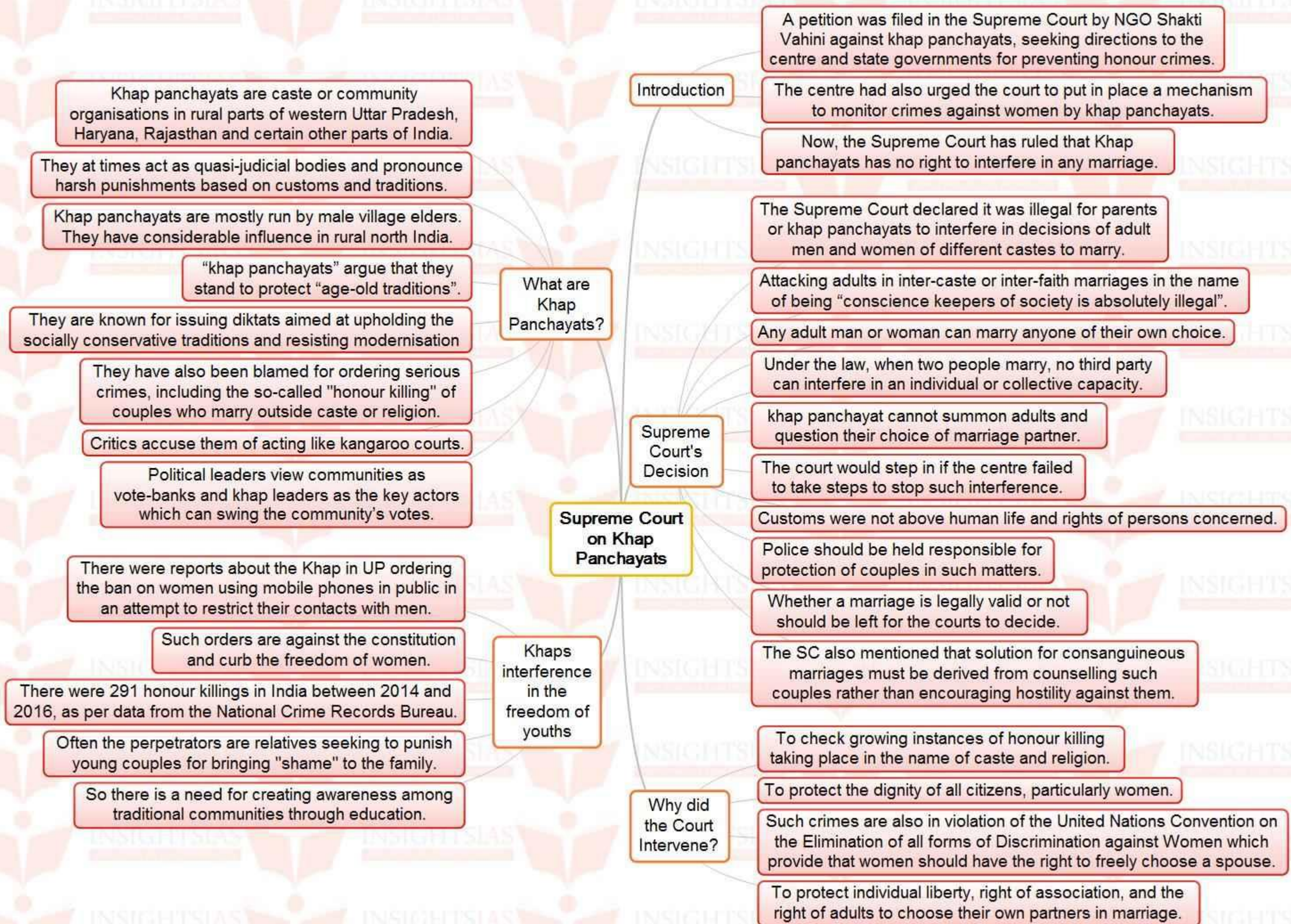
Yameen's Reaction

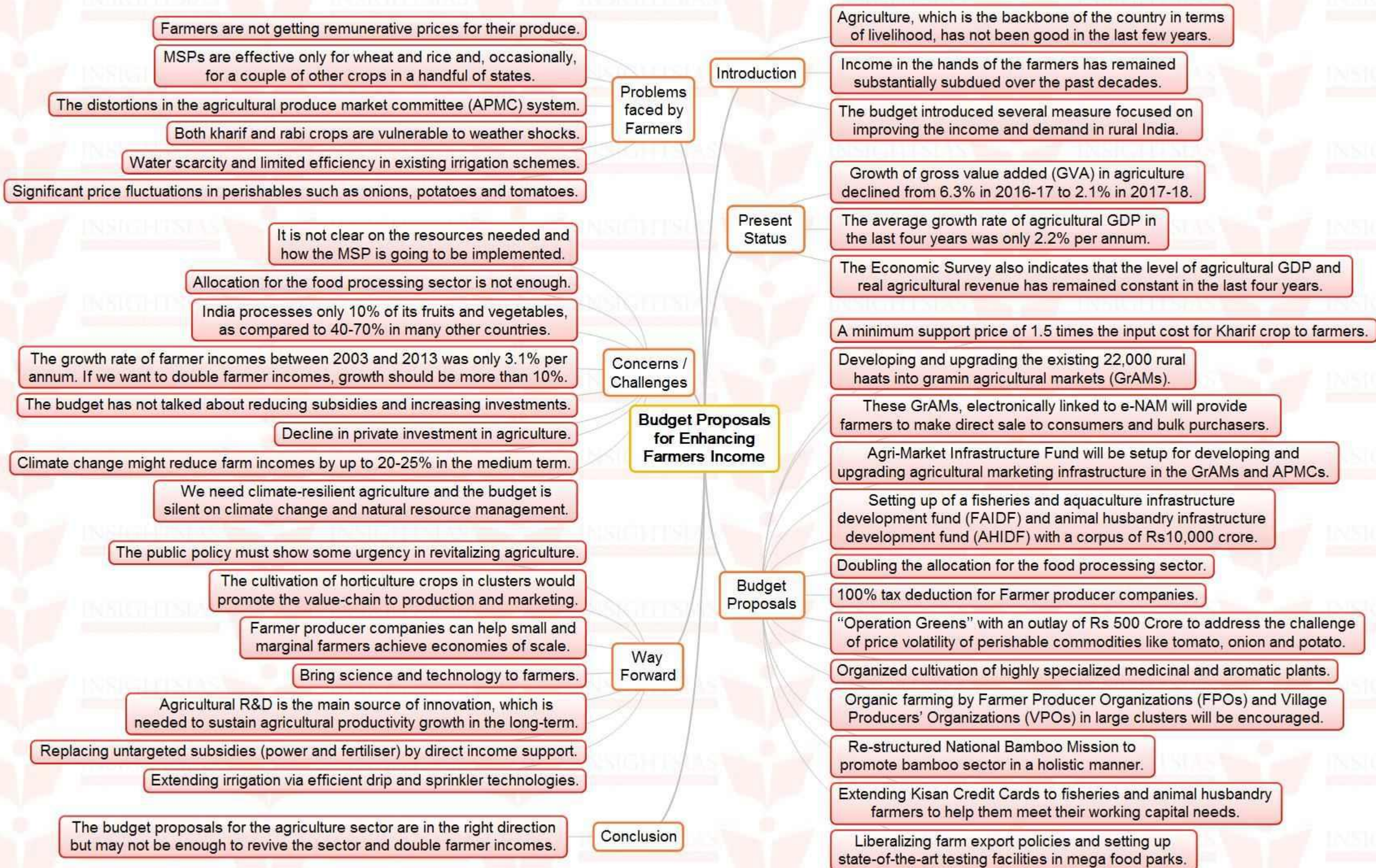
Operation Cactus: When India Helped

Way Forward

Way Forward







India - UAE Relations

Introduction

India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) enjoy strong bonds of friendship based on age-old cultural, religious and economic ties between the two nations.

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited UAE and the two sides signed five new agreements related to energy sector, railways, manpower and financial services.

This was PM Modi's second visit to the UAE. These visits are important for enhancing and strengthening the bilateral relations.

This signifies India's growing engagement with the Gulf.

ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOC) and a unit of Bharat Petro Resources Ltd (BPCL) paid \$600 million for a 10% stake in the UAE's offshore oil and gas field Zakum.

This is the first Indian Investment in upstream oil sector of UAE, transforming the traditional buyer-seller relationship to a long-term investor relationship.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Abu Dhabi.

Both sides signed a MoU that aims to institutionalise the collaborative administration of contractual employment of Indian workers in the Gulf country.

Under the MoU, both the sides will work for ending the existing malpractices, combat trafficking and organise collaborative programmes for education and awareness of contractual workers.

A MoU for technical cooperation in railways was also signed. This aims at cooperation in infrastructure sector especially railways.

It will facilitate development of joint projects, knowledge sharing, joint research and technology transfer.

A MoU between Bombay Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange was also signed.

It aims at enhancing cooperation between both the countries in financial services industry.

It would facilitate investment in financial markets by investors from both the countries.

A MoU to establish multi-modal logistics park and hub in Jammu & Kashmir comprising warehouses and specialised storage solutions.

Around 2.8 million Indians are living harmoniously in the UAE.

As India seeks to enhance economic engagement and deepen security cooperation with the Gulf, it finds a willing partner in the UAE.

As UAE 'Look[s] East' to find partners for its economic growth and with security concerns emanating from turmoil in West Asia and growing threat from terrorism, it finds a natural partner in India.

UAE has a special place due to its business-friendly atmosphere, willingness to invest in the Indian economy and its important role in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Agreements signed during the Visit

Establishing an Enduring Link

The UAE occupies a key place in India's West Asia policy.

The high-level visit from both sides has given a new impetus to this partnership.

In Jan 2017 the two sides signed the agreement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).

Economic Relations

Trade and commerce forms the backbone of the bilateral relations.

Investment from UAE to India exceeds \$11 billion, about \$4-5 billion in the format of FDI.

UAE has been one of India's leading sources of FDIs.

UAE is India's third largest trade partner after China and the United States.

The UAE accounts for 8 percent of India's oil imports and was fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2015-16

Security and Defence Cooperation

Another significant pillar of India-UAE ties is reflected in their growing cooperation in security and defense sector.

With the spread of radicalism in Gulf and South Asia, India looks to enhance security cooperation with UAE to counter terrorist threats and combat radicalization.

'Desert Eagle II', a ten day air combat exercise, was held in May-June 2016 between the air forces of India and UAE.

Concerns / Challenges

As far as investments are concerned, slow implementation from Indian side is a major obstacle.

The bilateral trade has come down significantly in the past four years.

It has been noticed that workers from other nationalities including Filipinos and Bangladeshis are replacing Indian workers.

Way Forward

India needs to ensure the execution of the investment projects with required expertise.

Potential areas to enhance bilateral trade include defense trade, food and agricultural products as well as automobiles.

Medical tourism can be an important area where India can attract Emiratis.

Indian companies with expertise in renewable energy sector can invest in UAE.

In defense sector, there is a need to further enhance cooperation through joint training programmes.

