

Q) What is meant by Public Good? Should the data of Citizens need to be placed under the public good by Government of India? Explain. (200 words)

Ans Public Good :- A Public good is a commodity or service that is both "non-excludable" and "non-rivalrous". It is provided without profit to all members of the society either by the government or private individuals or organisations.

Data of citizens as a public good by Government :-

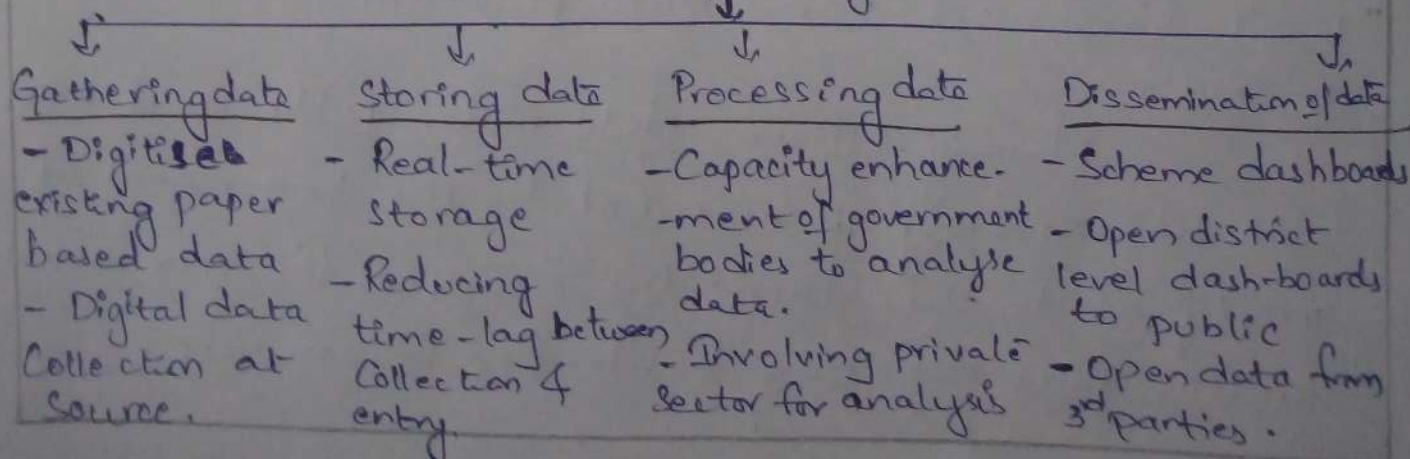
In the Economic survey 2018-19, Government of India acknowledged the need to leverage data of citizens as public good "to boost welfare of the society."

Government of India collects 4 types of data.

- 1) Administrative data  
eg:- Birth, marriage, pensions
- 2) census data
- 3) Transaction & Institutional data eg:- UPI
- 4) Public hospital data of patients

All these data sets have to be consolidated as "One Common Repository" to avail multiple benefits through better governance.

Data as a public good Constituents :-



## Benefits :-

- Enhancing "Ease of living" for citizens through better governance as data is generated "By the people, of the people and should be used for the people."
- "Targeted delivery" of Government services by reducing errors. for instance, e-NAM and DBT in agriculture sector created greater benefits to farmers.
- "Increasing investments" by private sector by generating optimal quantity of data for social welfare.
- Can be one of the corner-stones for new forms of "Public-private partnership," thus generating revenue from data to the government by monetising the data.
- "Incentivising the private sector" generates insights and new innovations creating win-win situation.

## Challenges :-

- "Privacy implications" and inherent fairness of data
- We should emphasize the privacy of intimate/confidential data is different from public data.
- Creating data as a public good should be within the "legal framework" unless data protection laws are framed in India.

Placing Citizens data under public good with legal transparency is essential for the betterment of society which strengthens the ecosystem for government services thus creating hassle-free Governance.