Though it takes time & effort to institutionalise data-backed decision-making in govt. institutions, the positive effect it can have on governance to improve the lives of citizens is significant. Discuss.

Due to rapid increase in penetration of computers, phones & Internet, Large revenue are harnessed by digital companies Though Govt. collects huge amount of data, its usage is very limited across departments. Data can be harnessed for the good of the people.

Benefits of Data on Governance

i) Accounting in Public Services

    - NREGASOFT → to disseminate information

ii) JAM Trinity Programme

    - Jan Dhan Account + Aadhar Card + Mobile no.
    for the benefit transfers.
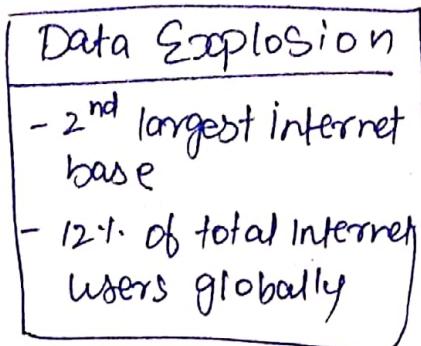   - Avoids inclusion & exclusion error

iii) Case Study of Education: Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, AP

    - Increased learning outcomes by improving Performances of weaker section & teacher training course by collecting & disseminating data thro Dashboard

Economy Survey 2019 Published ! Data "of the People, by the People & for the People" mentioned how data can be used to improve the living stds of the People.

Data as Public Good

Data Explosion
- 2nd largest internet base
- 12% of total internet users globally

Decrease in the marginal cost of data
- decrease in cost of data storage
- Higher Skill level to process data
- Easy dissemination

Increase in marginal cost of society
- Evidence based Policy making
- National integrated Market e.g. e-NAM
- POSHAN Abhiyan

Challenges for India

- Data is Spread across ministries such as administrative data from Home ministry, health data from Health Ministry, Employment Status from Labour ministry etc

- Data in paper format → High cost to convert it to digital cost (infrastructure)

- Data privacy for digital kleptocracy. Should be looked upon

Suggestions:
- Single integrated database: Integrating data from ministries e.g. If govt. used medical data, it would have prevented the loss of lives of people from Japan Enphilaties in Bihar
    - Bank Stmt & tax paid can be verified

- Since the world is going through Industrial Revolution 4.0, Govt. should invest in digital infrastructure for the benefit of future like China did in 1990's

- Passing data privacy law without curbing the rights of the people & to improve the lives of the people.