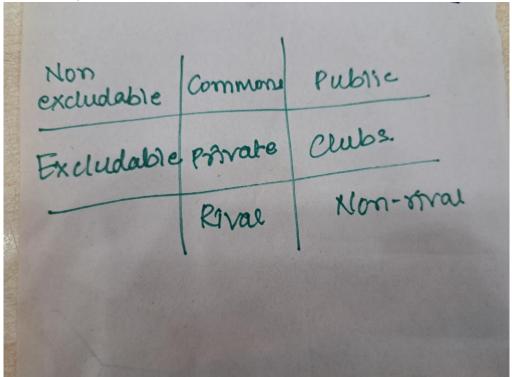**PS 643 Notes (1/10/24)**

- What kind of commodities exist?
- Excludable: For eg: Cinema hall. You can stop people from using it
- Non excludable: For eg: air. You can't stop people from using it because you are using it
- Rivalrous: if you use it, it decreases

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- Data is non rivalrous; you using it is not going to decrease it. But oil is private as companies own it. So data is not oil
- Water was earlier a public property. But now has become private
- So, all oil is oil but not all data is not Data
- There are a lot of companies that are collecting personal data thinking that they will use it to mint money in the future. Therefore, there is an economic angle attached to it.
- This is harmful as they would lead to social and economical inequality
- Should data would be with the government or private companies?
  This debate itself is a lie. The thing that is at stake is the data our data.
- Debate between big countries and small countries- Core periphery debate
  Core: USA
  Periphery: other countries like India, China
  The problem with this debate is that even the periphery wants to become core.
  The core is not geographically inclined to any one country. Because geographically Bangalore is in the periphery but when it comes to the amount of data, that is also in core
- The idea of volunteerism (placing the responsibility on individuals) is not right because most of the personal data is controlled by 4 big companies (FAANG)
- Court case on Aadhar: Idea- Efficiency can't come at the cost of Human Rights, Data driven welfare.
- Means testing: Testing id someone needs welfare (eg: checking everyone's bank account to check who needs economic help). In a country like India, you will make mistakes and some poor people will not get it and die of starvation. That is why it is a problem

- It is better to give unconditional welfare than conditional welfare
- Demanding a documentation is much more harmful than giving everyone that benefit
- Securitisation: you need security to protect the secure the data collected and function creep: you make a software for a harmless small purpose, and it gets famous and you use it for more use which gets harmful
- Aadhar Act: Made people realize that we have to protect our data and have a right to privacy
- The issue of privacy is not a political issue in India
- In Europe there is a very politicized view on data protection
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