



# EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

## Section A

### UN reforms: a step long overdue

Some of the national dailies had following headlines in the recent past:

- USA pulls out of the Iran nuclear deal similar to its withdrawal from Paris climate deal and the UNESCO.
- Saudi Arabia led coalition attacks Yemen.
- Nuclear weapons of North Korea threaten to hit Guam 'enveloping it in fire'.
- USA and China launch fresh set of tariffs on each other deepening the trade war.

While nations are going for such unilateral actions that have repercussions for entire globe, a common question arises as to where is the United Nations<sup>(UN)</sup>. Does the UN has no role to play in these times of global turbulences?

The answer is affirmative. As former UN Secretary General Ban-ki-Moon said, "We need more UN than less UN." Then why is the UN unable to act?

The reason for this is lack of UN reforms. Gareth Evans, former Australian foreign minister argues that "no other organisation embodies as many hopes yet as many frustrations like the UN." It is in this context that we must work towards reforming the UN, the only global organisation with almost universal membership. Its reforms are long overdue.

In this essay, we will examine the evolution of UN reforms and steps taken for it. We will also try to find out the type of reforms that the UN ~~is~~ need. We will then analyze why these reforms are a step long overdue. Finally, we will see the challenges in these reforms along

with the necessary solutions for it.

## Tracing UN reforms: Across history and beyond geography

UN was formed from the ashes of 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. It was a replacement of the League of Nations which was quite unsuccessful in preventing mankind from the scourge of a World War. The UN charter aimed to bring peace in the world and create a framework for cooperation among nations.

However, the initial enthusiasm about UN converted into a disillusionment in matter of few years. Soon the world headed towards a Cold War between the USA and the USSR. World got divided into the capitalist and the communist block. The Security Council became centre of power politics. Initial efforts were made by the USA to reform the UN by bringing the Acheson plan. It gave

The General Assembly the powers to override veto of Security Council. But the plan never materialised. Cold War then started playing out in all parts of world leading to frightening events like the Cuban missile crisis. UN reforms were thus kept at the backseat.

The end of Cold War brought a new ray of hope to reform UN. However, the hegemony of the USA, rise of China and revival of Russia again made it impossible to reform UN. Thus there has been only a piecemeal approach towards UN reforms. Minor reforms like expanding the membership of Security Council from 9 to 15 has taken place. Any major overhaul of the UN has never been done.

Having seen the history of UN reforms, let us examine the reforms that the UN needs in current times.

The first reform is necessary in the UN Charter itself. The UN Charter under Article 2 sub-clause 7 does not allow the UN to interfere in the domestic affairs of a state. While respecting a nation's sovereignty is essential, the global community cannot remain silent when the state performs violence. This was seen in the case of Rwandan genocide where UN was hopelessly seeing massacre of the people. Thus UN Charter needs to be amended to make UN act in such cases.

The second reform required is to remove the reference of enemy states from UN Charter. Countries like Germany, Japan were called enemy nations in 1945 when the UN was formed due to 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. However, today they are leading contenders of UN Security Council's (UNSC)

permanent seat. Calling them enemy states is inappropriate.

Further, a complete reformation of the UNSC is needed. UNSC does not represent changing global order. In the UNSC, Europe is over-represented, Asia is under-represented and Africa, Latin America have no representation in Permanent-5 (P-5). Also, the UNSC's veto powers have been used to satisfy national interests of P-5. There is also need for greater transparency and openness in the UNSC. Former India's Permanent Representative to the UN Hardeep Puri called UNSC's functioning as 'internal chaos'. There is need to bring calmness in this chaotic body.

Along with UNSC, there is need to restructure the other organisations of the UN. This includes the Economic and Social Council (CECOSOC) that has become too big.

The USA coming out of the UNESCO shows how easy it is for nations to betray ECOSOC. Similarly, the Trusteeship Council has to be given new role like North-South cooperation. The UN bureaucracy has to include more officials from the developing world. Also, contacts between General Assembly and UNSC have to be enhanced.

Perhaps one of most important reform in contemporary times is of UN funding. Even countries like USA frequently default on payments. It is sad that UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has to publicly state that UN is facing shortage of funds.

Further, peacekeeping operations also need to be reformed as developed nations are not willing to give soldiers for peacekeeping. They have even accused developing nations of using peacekeeping to earn revenue.

After discussing the reforms needed for the UN, let us examine why they are a step long overdue.

Socially, these reforms are overdue as without these reforms it is not possible to provide social welfare under the UN banner.

They are crucial to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) like SDG 1: Zero poverty and SDG 2: Elimination of hunger.

If the UN does not have funds, if the ECOSOC remains dysfunctional, we will not be able to provide health, education, sanitation and food security to our people.

Economically, they are essential to bring faster economic growth in all parts of world. As major powers like USA and China go for trade wars, it is only UN that has potential to stop this as it may slowdown

the global economy. Also, UN is needed to check inequalities brought by neo-liberal globalisation. As Thomas Piketty in his book 'Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' has found out, global inequalities are rising. UN reforms can check these inequalities by its programmes on health, education, etc. Also, the UN Habitat programme to spur growth of cities will bring development to all parts of world.

Culturally, UN reforms are crucial to remove Western hegemony on UN. The Asian nations have always talked of 'Western imperialism' and have fought for 'Asian values'. As refugee crisis sweep Europe and immigrations create multicultural societies, UN has to come to rescue. The recently adopted UN Compact on Migration is step in right direction.

Politically, UN reforms would be a step long overdue as currently UN faces crisis of legitimacy. It is divided among West and Russia, China. UN reforms can make it more inclusive and representational.

Further, the most important reason for UN reforms is to ensure peace in the world. As the nuclear weapons of North Korea and Iran create problems of nuclear proliferation, UN has to step in. It is also needed to deal with incidents of human rights violations like one by Israel on ~~Israel~~ Arabs. Also, UN reforms can check terror groups like Islamic State and Taliban.

Along with security, UN reforms are crucial to tackle climate change and environmental degradation. As sea levels continue to rise and temperature soars to new levels, only UN reforms

can help in implementing Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, Kigali Agreement, etc. UN reforms will ensure that developed nations transfer funds and technology to the developing world.

If Climate Change is a problem, so are new challenges of disaster management. It is here that UN led efforts like Sendai framework are needed. No individual nation ~~to~~ can alone tackle disasters like cyclones and neither do disasters respect national boundaries. Collective action under UN is thus critical.

UN reforms are also a step long overdue as technology has seen massive changes. The rise of cyber threats like Petya, WannaCry attacks and emergence of Artificial Intelligence requires all nations to cooperate under the UN.

If UN reforms are a step long overdue, why are they not happening? There are two reasons for same. Firstly, UN reforms need amendment of UN Charter which is a rigid process. It needs atleast  $2/3^{\text{rd}}$  majority of General Assembly and ratification by countries. This is difficult to achieve.

Further, nations lack consensus on what reforms and how they should happen. Certain nations like Pakistan, Mexico have formed Coffee Club to check reforms in Security Council. African nations continue to be divided on reforms. The West do not want to change the status quo. China is creating its own Sino-centric world order through initiatives like Belt and Road.

What is the solution for it?

The only solution looks that nations have to commit themselves to the UN. Former USA President Truman rightly said that "UN is creation of nation states. It is malleable to their wishes. If they wish, it will succeed otherwise it will become relic of past." We have to reform the UN to ensure safety of our future generations. Countries like India have to play a bridge building role. The ideals of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (whole world is one family) should guide UN reforms.

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## Big Data: lifeblood of decision-making and prudent governance in the contemporary era

A recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report reveals that India's Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have touched a new high of 11.6% in March 2018. It cautions that NPAs are bound to rise and may reach 12.2% by March 2019. This prompted many economists to find solutions to India's burgeoning crisis of NPAs. Among all solutions proposed, few technological experts highlighted the potential of BIG DATA to solve this problem. They suggested that banks can use big data to keep a track on their borrowers.

If this is the potential of big data then it is worth examining this concept. The question

arises: what is Big Data? Can it be an important component of decision-making and governance?

In this essay, we will find the definition of big data. We will also analyze the importance of it in governance, decision-making. Then we will turn to the flaws of big data. Finally, we will examine some solutions to successfully utilise big data.

## The big challenge of defining Big Data

Data collection is not a new thing for governments. Even in ancient India's Maueryan empire, there was a dedicated committee for registration and collection of data. European countries and governments all over the world have relied on census to collect data after particularly time frame. However, big data is a concept

of modern times. It has got an impetus after rise of computers and high speed internet. Big data refers to a large amount of data that cannot be processed by conventional softwares. This data is not only large in volume but even in variety.

Can this data be used for prudent governance and is it a lifeblood of decision making?

To answer this question, we have to find how big data can be beneficial in different spheres of our life. In social context, big data can help in prudent decision making in health and education sector. Take for instance, the antibiotic resistance that India is facing. By using big data, we can track the movement of drugs and thus alleviate antibiotic resistance. In education,

big data can monitor performance of childrens and enhance the quality of education. As the ASER report of N40 Pratham points out, only 43% children in 14-18 years of age can do simple division. Using big data can check this deteriorating quality.

Further, big data can be used for successful implementation of flagship programmes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc. It can track the number of houses or toilets built. It can also track the sex detection centres and curb female infanticides. Big data thus has potential to provide health security, nutritional security to our population.

In political context, big data can be of immense help to the

Election Commission. It can use this big data to ensure wider voter outreach and creating awareness among voters. It can also use it to check funding to political parties. The Association for Democratic Reforms has pointed out that 69% funds of political parties come from unknown sources. Big data can make these 'unknown' sources 'known' to the people.

Along with Election Commission, even the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) can use it. CAG audits get hampered due to lack of proper data. This can be checked thus making the governments accountable. Similarly, the judiciary can use big data to reduce amount of pending cases that have crossed 3 crore. Big data can help it to merge similar type of cases and reduce

adjournments.

Administratively, big data is surely the lifeblood of prudent decision making. For example, the recently launched Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme to develop 115 most backward districts of country would need massive amount of data. Also, NITI Aayog's role to monitor government schemes and promoting competitive federalism require huge data. To curb leakages in various subsidies, an Aadhaar-linked Direct Benefit Transfer operated by big data can prove to be a boon. Even programmes like geo-tagging of assets under MNREGA or National Mission to Clean Ganga will be successful by using big data.

Economically, potential of big data to tackle NPAs have

already been depicted. By utilising big data and blockchain technology, banks can easily deal with their borrowers.

Moreover, they can also find out customer preferences. This can thus act as lifeblood of decision making even for the corporate sector.

Along with banking, other sectors of economy like agriculture and manufacturing also benefit by big data. Farmers can take proper decisions as to when they want to sell their produce by big data. Manufacturers can find out what is the demand of market. Government can use it to deal with macroeconomic fluctuations like recent depreciation of rupee due to USA-Turkey crisis. Similarly, tracking inflation, trade and fiscal deficits are easier. In agriculture, insurance claims

under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana can be swiftly settled. Big data thus benefits in prudent governance.

As in domestic sphere, big data is also crucial for deciding India's external affairs. Take for example, the current debate among strategists on impact of trade war on India. Such trade wars have happened in past and using big data their impact on us can be extrapolated to present times. Similarly, policies of USA, China, Russia, Pakistan, etc. can all be determined by using them.

If foreign policy is important, so is the security policy. India faces many internal and external security challenges. It is here that big data can come to the rescue in making prudent decisions. For example, the Punjab

drug menace can be resolved by using big data and targeting the drug traffickers. Recent incidents of mob lynchings in Alwar, Dhule, etc. can also be researched and documented to reduce such cases in future. Problems of North East and Jammu and Kashmir show similarities from past. Big data can help in taking wise decisions in such scenario.

Further, big data can be lifeblood to take decisions on disaster management and environmental destruction. The recent Kerala floods can be avoided in the future using big data. Past incidents like Uttarakhand floods could had been a handy tool to reduce destruction in Kerala had big data been used. Big data can also help in earthquakes, cyclones, tsunami mitigation, etc.

On other hand, big data helps in Environment Impact Assessment. It can check poaching and illegal wildlife trade and thus help in decision-making.

Having seen how big data is important for decision-making and governance, let us find the challenges and issues in big data.

## The other side of the coin

Firstly, big data requires new softwares and hardwares that are costly. They would need supercomputers to process huge amount of data. Also, there will be huge maintenance cost as big data equipments need constant upgradation.

Secondly, it can impact privacy of an individual. Concerns are already being raised on use of Aadhaar as it may give rise to

surveillance state. After the Supreme Court declaring right to privacy as a fundamental right in the Puttaswamy case, these concerns have more importance.

Thirdly, India's big data is stored abroad mostly in USA that impacts our national security. The recent Cambridge Analytica case shows how big data can be misused to influence India's electoral process.

Fourthly, big data can also be used by terror groups like Islamic State. If they use it for spreading rumours, radicalisation and terror funding then big data can be a disaster for humanity. They can be used for cyber attacks and banking frauds.

Lastly, there are limited professionals, limited research in this sector. This limits its use.

What are the solutions to these challenges? In first instance, the government has to play a lead role. It should support the private sector, promote Start-Ups in this field. Government can use big data in its flagship programmes like Make in India, Skill India. Workforce has to be created to deal with this data.

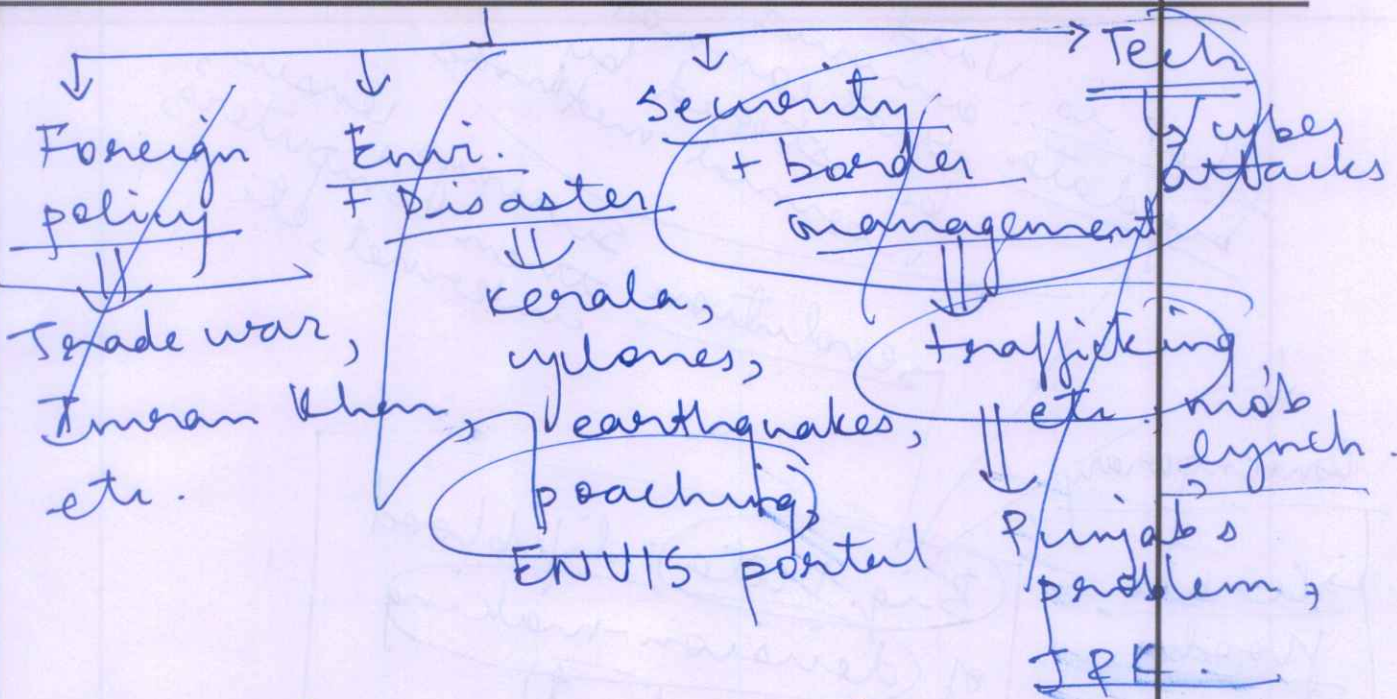
As regard privacy, the major solution is educating people. Nelson Mandela rightly said that education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world. People have to be more literate about potential misuse of big data. Similarly, the B. N Srikrishna Committee's draft data protection law is correct step. Government has also asked social networking sites to set up their databanks in India. This can alleviate the

concerns on privacy.

Further, government has to cooperate with countries like USA, Japan, Israel that have been working on big data. Along with Centre, State governments have to use big data in agriculture, water management, etc.

## Conclusion

India's Constitution aims to provide liberty, equality and justice to the people. Big data has potential to fulfil its ideals. It can guide governance and help to make prudent decisions. It has its dark side. We have to remember that technology is a useful ~~master~~ <sup>servant</sup> but a dangerous master. While using big data we have to be careful of its potential misuse. But that should not limit us in making its use for 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.



## Flip Side

National security as data abroad

- can also be used by terror. groups
- Privacy Cambridge
- High cost/softwares
- Hardware needs like supercomputers
- less professionals...

## Sol<sup>n</sup>s

use in India, etc  
Japan, USA, etc

- R&D, databanks
- F.N Srikishna committee
- awareness
- short steps like asking whatsapp

End → const. values. India's potential, etc.

What is big data: vast amount that cannot be stored by normal methods

evolution: Surveys, census, then computers, internet, etc.

Contemporary

- Kerala floods
- cyber attacks
- NPAs
- ~~text~~

Big Data: lifeblood of decision-making and prudent governance in the contemporary era

Social

- TAD prog.
- SBA
- BBBP
- sex detection
- disabled
- health medi
- antibiotic resis

Economic

- by banks
- tackle consumer preference
- infl<sup>n</sup>, forex, etc
- Agri. prices
- MSPs, insurance

blockchain

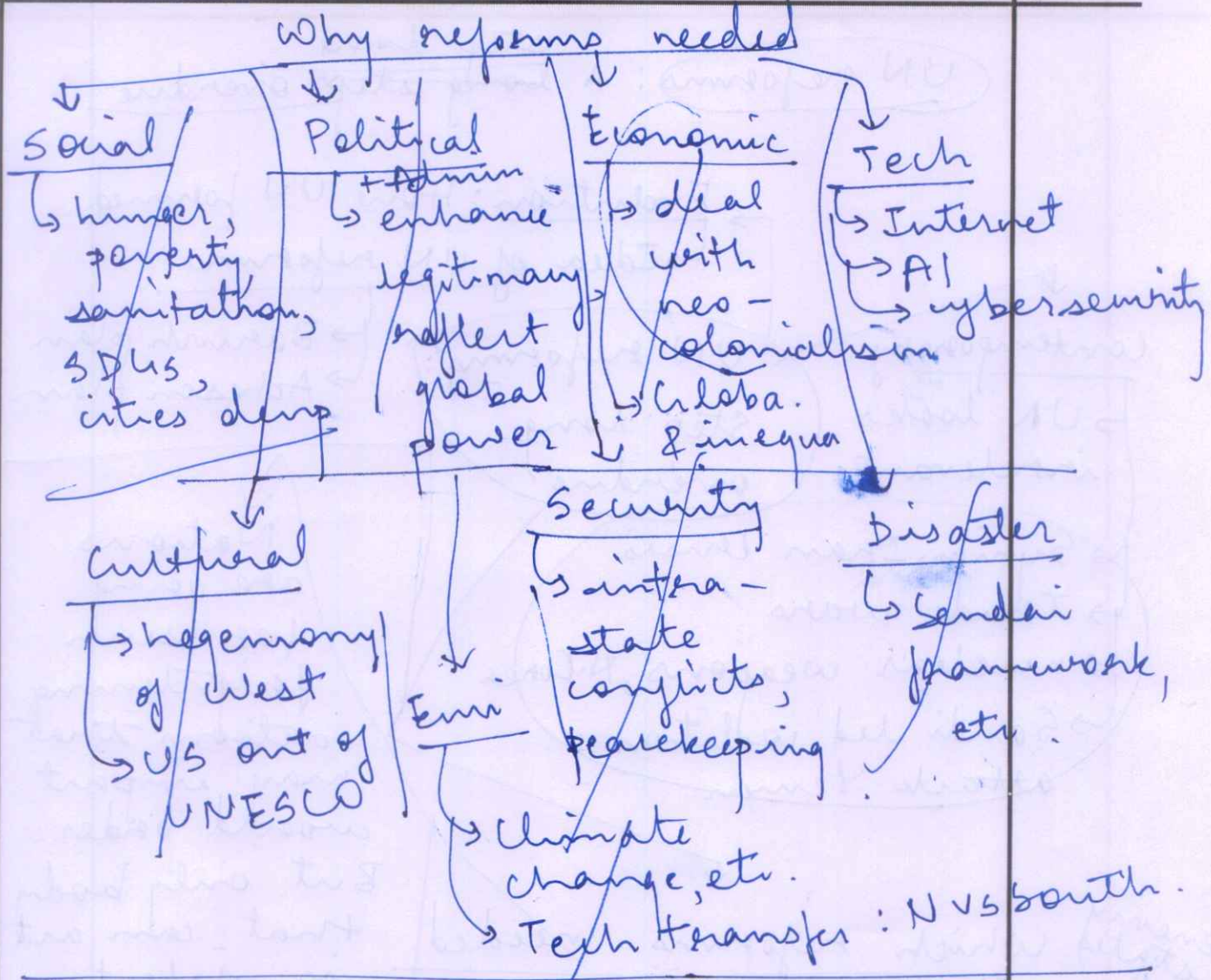
Political

- EC can use it
- voters preference
- CAG to audit
- In judiciary to reduce cases.

→ Adhaar to reduce leakage

JAM

- work group
- Citizen Charters, laws
- Accountability



Why not happening → UN charter & rigid process  
 → Nations go unilateral, Coffee Club, etc.

Conclusion:

Thuman: — UN is making of member states. If they want, otherwise relic of past

→ Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam  
 UN's lead role.

UN reforms: A ~~long step~~ <sup>step long</sup> overdue

Evolution: How UN formed.

↳ Idea of UN reforms

Contemporary

↳ UN looks irrelevant,

UN reforms:   
 Step long   
 overdue

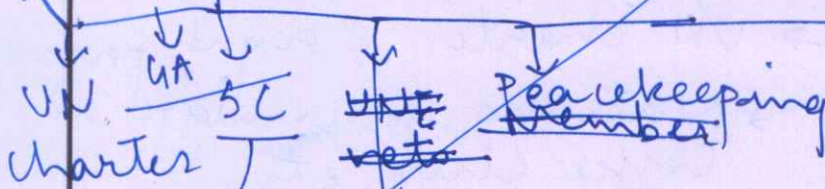
↳ Baruch plan  
↳ Adheson plan, etc.

- ↳ Syria, Iran Crisis
- ↳ Trade wars
- ↳ nuclear weapons, N. Korea
- ↳ Saudi led coalition attack Yemen

Nations are going for such frightening actions that may impart world order. But only body that can act is silent.

Thus UN reforms.

enemy states which reforms needed



Start: Some of newspaper articles are:

- ↳ US pulls out of Iran deal, Paris & UNESCO
- ↳ Saudi led coalition
- ↳ N. Korea threaten attacking
- ↳ US-China retaliate trade tariff