



Good Governance Day

Why in News

Good governance day is **celebrated annually on 25th December** to mark the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

- The aim is to **create awareness of accountability in government** among the citizens of India.

Key Points

▪ Governance:

- It is the **process of decision-making** and the **process by which decisions are implemented** (or not implemented).
- Governance **can be used in several contexts** such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance.

▪ Eight Characteristics of Good Governance (as identified by the [United Nations](#)):

◦ Participation:

- People should have a **voice in decision-making**, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests.

◦ Rule of law:

- **Legal frameworks should be fair** and enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights.

◦ Transparency:

- Transparency is built on the free **flow of information**. Processes, institutions and information are directly accessible to those concerned with them, and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them.

◦ Responsiveness:

- Institutions and processes **try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe**.

◦ Consensus orientation:

- Good governance requires **mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus** in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved.

◦ Equity:

- All groups, particularly the most vulnerable, have **opportunities to improve or maintain their well being**.

◦ Effectiveness and efficiency:

- Processes and institutions produce results that **meet needs while making the**

best use of resources.

◦ **Accountability:**

- Decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organisations are **accountable to the public, as well as to institutional stakeholders.**

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▪ **Challenges to Good Governance in India:**

◦ **Women Empowerment:**

- Women are not adequately represented in government institutions, and other allied sectors.

◦ **Corruption:**

- The high level of corruption in India has been widely perceived as a major obstacle in improving the quality of governance.

◦ **Delay in Justice:**

- A citizen has the right to avail timely justice, but there are several factors, because of which a common man doesn't get timely justice. One such factor is lack of personnel and logistics under disposal of court.

◦ **Centralisation of Administrative System:**

- Governments at lower levels can only function efficiently if they are empowered to do so. This is particularly relevant for the **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**, which currently suffer from inadequate devolution of funds as well as functionaries to carry out the functions constitutionally assigned to them.

◦ **Criminalisation of Politics:**

- The criminalisation of the political process and the unholy nexus between politicians, civil servants, and business houses are having a baneful influence on public policy formulation and governance.

◦ **Environmental security, sustainable development.**

◦ Challenges of **globalization, liberalisation and market economy.**

▪ **Initiatives Taken:**

◦ **Good Governance Index:**

- GGI has been launched by the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** to determine the status of governance in the country.
- It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.

- **National e-Governance Plan:**

- It has the vision to “make all government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man.”

- **Right to Information Act, 2005:**

- It plays an effective role in ensuring transparency in governance.

- **Other Initiatives:** Setting up of **NITI Aayog**, **Make in India** programme, **Lokpal**, etc.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee



- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on 25th December, 1924 in the erstwhile princely state of Gwalior (now a part of Madhya Pradesh).
- He entered in national politics during the **Quit India Movement of 1942** which hastened the end of British colonial rule.
- In 1947, Vajpayee **started working as a journalist for newspapers of Deendayal Upadhyaya** — Rashtradharma (a Hindi monthly), Panchjanya (a Hindi weekly) and the dailies Swadesh and Veer Arjun. Later, influenced by Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Vajpayee **joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951**.
- He was the **former Prime Minister of India** and was **elected to the position twice in 1996 and 1999**.
- As a parliamentarian, Vajpayee was awarded with the **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award for Best Parliamentarian in 1994**, which defines him as "a role model par excellence for all legislators."
- He was **conferred** with the country's highest civilian honour, the **Bharat Ratna in 2015** and second-highest civilian honour, the **Padma Vibhushan in 1994**.