



Good Governance Day 2024

For Prelims: [Good Governance Day](#), [World Bank](#), [Rule of Law](#), [Kisan Credit Card](#), [Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana](#), [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#), [Mission Karmayogi](#), Viksit Panchayat Initiative, [PRI](#), [SWAYAM](#), [Skill India](#), [Aadhaar](#), [RTI Act, 2005](#), [PFMS](#), [MGNREGA](#), [CPGRAMS](#), [Bharat Ratna](#), [Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988](#).

For Mains: Good Governance and related challenges, Government Policies & Interventions.

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

[Good Governance Day](#) is celebrated on **25th December** to raise awareness among citizens about **government accountability and effective administration**.

- The **theme** for 2024 is “**India’s Path to a Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens through Good Governance and Digitalisation.**”
- It was started in the year **2014** to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](#).
- The birth anniversary of **Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya** is also observed on **25th December**.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- **Birth:** Born on **25th December, 1924, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**, he was a poet and politician.
- **Political Career:** He served as **India’s Prime Minister three times**: briefly in **1996**, for 13 months in **1998 and 1999**, and full-time from **1999 to 2004**.
- **Recognition:** In **2015**, he was conferred India’s highest civilian honour, the [Bharat Ratna](#). He received [Padma Vibhushan](#) in **1994**.
- **Key Achievements:**
 - **Golden Quadrilateral Project:** Network of four national highways that connect **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata**.
 - **Economic Reforms:** Liberalized India’s economy, fostering **industrial growth and foreign investment**.
 - **Nuclear Tests of 1998:** Established India as a **nuclear power**, promoting peace and non-aggression.

Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya

//

Pt. MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA

25th December 1861- 2nd November, 1946

Educationist, Journalist, Politician and Freedom Activist
Title of '**Mahamana**' by Mahatma Gandhi and '**Karmayogi**' by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

ROLE IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

- He was **midway between the Moderates and the Extremists**
- Took part in **Salt Satyagraha** and the **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930)**
- Elected President of the Indian National Congress for four sessions (1909, 1913, 1919, and 1932)



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Ending the Indian Indenture system (bonded labour)
- Setting up the **Ganga Mahasabha** in 1905
- Member of the Imperial Legislative Council for 11 years
- Popularised the term '**Satyamev Jayate**'
- Introduction of Devnagri in British-Indian Courts
- Helped establish the **Hindu Mahasabha** in 1915
- Founded the **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** in 1916

JOURNALISM

- **Abhyudaya** (Hindi weekly) and **Maryada** (Hindi monthly)
- Chairman of the Board of Directors of the **Hindustan Times**

HONOURS

- Bharat Ratna (2014)
- Varanasi-New Delhi **Mahamana** Express (2016)

What Initiatives were Launched on Good Governance Day 2024?

- **New iGOT Karmayogi Dashboard:** It allows Ministry/Department/Organization (MDO) leaders and state administrators to **monitor the progress and effectiveness** of their entities more efficiently.
- **1600th iGOT Karmayogi Course:** It aims to create a **learning ecosystem** for **government employees**, promoting continuous development and lifelong learning.
- **Viksit Panchayat Initiative:** It aims to strengthen **PRIs'** **ability to deliver quality**

- services**, ensure effective governance, and empower Panchayat leaders with essential skills.
- **CPGRAMS Annual Report, 2024:** It underscores the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of **public service delivery** through a robust grievance redressal mechanism.

What is Good Governance?

- **About:** Good governance is the process of **decision-making and the process** by which decisions are implemented that are necessary to achieve the **goals of development**.
 - According to the **World Bank** report titled “**Governance and Development, 1992**”, Good Governance is the manner in which **power is exercised** in the management of a country’s **economic and social resources for development**.
 - The true test of '**good**' **governance** is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of **human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights**.
- **Key Attributes:** According to the **World Bank**, good governance has **8 major characteristics**.
 - It is participatory, consensus oriented, **accountable**, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the **rule of law**.
 - **Participatory: Gender-inclusive** participation is vital for good governance, whether **direct** or through **representatives or institutions**.
 - **Consensus Oriented:** Good governance involves **mediating societal interests** to build consensus on the community's best interests and sustainable development goals.
 - **Accountable:** An organization or an institution should be **accountable** to those who will be **affected by its decisions or actions**.
 - **Transparent:** Transparency means decisions are made according to **rules**, with **information accessible** to those affected by them.
 - **Responsive:** Institutions should **serve all stakeholders** within a reasonable timeframe.
 - **Effective and Efficient:** Good governance ensures processes and institutions **meet societal needs** while **efficiently** using available **resources**.
 - **Equitable and Inclusive:** A society's well-being depends on including **all members**, especially **vulnerable groups**, in opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being.
 - **Rule of Law:** It requires **fair, impartial legal frameworks**, supported by an **independent judiciary** and a **corrupt-free police force**.



- **AB Vajpayee and Good Governance:** His tenure saw transformational initiatives like the [Kisan Credit Card](#), [Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana](#), [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#), and the [National Rural Health Program](#) that transformed governance in the country.

What is the Significance of Good Governance?

- **Economic Growth:** Initiatives under good governance provide **equal rights and protection** to both men and women in the workforce that could **boost India's GDP by USD 770 billion by 2025**.
- **Social Development:** [SWAYAM](#) and [Skill India](#) empower marginalized groups with education and employability skills.
 - [Aadhaar integration](#) prevents leakages while [direct benefit transfer \(DBT\)](#) eliminates middlemen in welfare schemes.
- **Strengthening Democracy:** Platforms like [MyGov](#) allow citizens to **voice their opinions** and [e-Governance](#) helps reduce corruption.
- **Accountability:** The [RTI Act, 2005](#) ensures citizens' right to **access government information** for transparency, while the [PFMS](#) tracks **fund flows** to ensure accountability in public expenditure.
- **Reducing Inequality:** [Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana \(PMJDY\)](#) promotes financial inclusion for the unbanked population.
 - [MGNREGA](#) provides guaranteed wage employment to rural households.
- **Building Trust:** The [e-Courts project](#) digitizes court processes for efficiency and accessibility, while [CPGRAMS](#) offers a platform to address **citizen grievances**.

What are Initiatives for Good Governance in India?

- [Good Governance Index](#)
- [PRAGATI \(Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation\)](#)
- [Right to Information, 2005](#)
- [National e-Governance Plan](#)
- [e-Court System](#)
- [Public Financial Management System](#)

▪ **Mission Karmayogi**

- What are the Hurdles with Good Governance in India?
- **Corruption:** Corruption costs India **0.5% of its GDP annually** and **hampers the business environment** for investors and organizations, according to the **World Bank**.
 - India ranked **93rd out of 180 countries** on the **corruption perceptions index for 2023**.
- **Lack of Accountability:** Lack of accountability **erodes citizens' trust** in the government, leading to **political apathy, lower voter turnout, and diminished civic engagement**, weakening institutional legitimacy.
- **Criminalisation of Politics:** Politicians with criminal backgrounds **weaken efforts to ensure justice and equal treatment for all citizens**.
 - The **Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)** reports that **251 (46%)** of the **543 newly elected 18th Lok Sabha** members have criminal cases, with **27 convicted**.
- **Ineffective Implementation of Laws:** India's anti-corruption laws, like the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** are criticized for ineffective enforcement, causing public disillusionment.

Way Forward

- **Decentralization:** Power is concentrated with central and state governments; local bodies like **municipalities and panchayats** need more functional and **financial authority** to ensure good governance at ground level.
- **Ethical Standards:** Ethical values like **integrity, accountability, and selflessness**, as recommended by the **Nolan Committee** (1994), should be instilled in public servants.
- **Gender Equality:** Promote **gender equality** to encourage women's participation in socioeconomic sectors, ensuring the needs of all society are met.
- **Whistleblower Protection:** More protection should be provided to **whistleblowers** who expose corruption in government ministries/departments.

Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the importance of Good Governance in India. What are the key attributes of Good Governance?

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

Q. E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about the critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. **(2018)**

Q. The Citizens' Charter is an ideal instrument of organizational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizens' Charter. **(2018)**