

2. Good Governance Day- Polity

Good Governance Day is observed on 25th December every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

About Good Governance Day

Good Governance Day is observed annually on 25 December in India to promote awareness about accountable, transparent and citizen-centric governance. The day marks the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India, known for institutional reforms, consensus-based politics and administrative probity. In 2014, the Government of India officially declared 25 December as Good Governance Day, underscoring the commitment to ethical and effective public administration.

Concept of Good Governance (UN Perspective)

According to the United Nations, good governance is a normative framework that ensures

1. **Participatory governance**- Inclusive involvement of citizens in decision-making processes.
2. **Consensus-oriented approach**- Mediation of diverse interests to achieve broad societal consensus.
3. **Accountability**- Public officials, institutions and private actors are answerable for their actions.
4. **Transparency**- Decisions and enforcement are carried out in an open and accessible manner.
5. **Responsiveness**- Institutions respond promptly and appropriately to citizens' needs.
6. **Effectiveness and efficiency**- Optimal use of resources to deliver public services.
7. **Equity and inclusiveness**- Ensuring no section of society is excluded from development benefits.
8. **Rule of Law**- Fair legal frameworks applied impartially, particularly in human rights protection.

Good Governance Index (GGI)

The Good Governance Index (GGI) is a diagnostic and reform-oriented assessment tool introduced by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). Launched on 25 December 2019, aligning symbolically with Good Governance Day.

Primary objectives

1. Measure governance performance across States and Union Territories.
2. Promote competitive and cooperative federalism.
3. Identify governance gaps and best practices.

Structural features

Covers 10 key governance sectors, including

1. Agriculture and allied sectors
2. Commerce and industries
3. Human resource development
4. Public health
5. Infrastructure and utilities
6. Social welfare
7. Economic governance
8. Judiciary and public security
9. Environment
10. Citizen-centric governance

Uses 58 outcome-based, citizen-centric indicators.

Significance

1. Shifts focus from input-based governance to **outcome-based performance**.
2. Encourages data-driven policymaking and administrative reforms.
3. Serves as a benchmarking tool for inter-state learning.

Major Government Initiatives for Good Governance

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)- A national public procurement portal enabling online purchase of

common-use goods and services by government entities. Enhances

1. Transparency in procurement.
2. Reduction in corruption and cartelisation.
3. Efficiency, speed and cost savings through competitive bidding.

Supports Digital India and Minimum Government, Maximum Governance principles.

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)– Developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and National e-Governance Division. Provides single-window mobile access to PAN-India government services. Key benefits

1. Improves service accessibility, especially for rural and remote citizens.
2. Reduces physical interface with bureaucracy.
3. Enhances citizen convenience and digital inclusion.

Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)– A 24×7 online grievance redressal platform for citizens. Key features

1. Time-bound grievance disposal.
2. Dashboard-based monitoring by senior officials.
3. Increased transparency, accountability and feedback-based governance.

Plays a critical role in administrative responsiveness.

e-HRMS 2.0 Mobile Application– A digital human resource management platform for government employees. Provides seamless access to

1. Service records.
2. Leave, salary and career-related information.

Improves internal administrative efficiency and workforce transparency.

Challenges to Good Governance

Ineffective Implementation of Laws– Poor policy sequencing, inadequate capacity and weak coordination result in

1. Implementation gaps.
2. Increased compliance burden on citizens.
3. Declining public trust in state institutions.

Corruption– Root causes include

1. Opaque administrative procedures.
2. Weak enforcement of anti-corruption laws.
3. Limited access to information and legal remedies.

Undermines service delivery, fiscal discipline and social justice.

Criminalisation of Politics– Entry of individuals with criminal antecedents into legislatures leads to–

1. Conflict of interest.
2. Policy capture and rent-seeking.
3. Erosion of democratic legitimacy and rule of law.

Low Awareness of Rights and Duties– Limited civic education results in

1. Weak citizen participation.
2. Under-utilisation of grievance mechanisms.
3. Poor social accountability and misuse of democratic freedoms.

Way Forward– Strengthening Good Governance

Digital Deepening– Fully leverage digital platforms, AI-enabled analytics and real-time dashboards for service delivery and grievance redressal.

Institutional Capacity Building– Strengthen civil service training, performance management and inter-departmental coordination.

Citizen Empowerment– Promote civic education, legal literacy and awareness of rights and duties.

Evidence-based Governance– Use data, feedback loops and outcome indicators to refine policies.

Scaling Best Practices– Replicate successful state-level innovations through cooperative federalism.

From Policy to Practice– Ensure governance reforms translate into consistent, on-ground outcomes, not merely procedural compliance.

About Atal Bihari Vajpayee

He was born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Early involvement in politics. Joined the Quit India Movement in 1942 during his student days. Prime Ministerial terms Served three times as India's Prime Minister briefly in 1996, for 13 months in 1998-1999, and full-time from 1999 to 2004. 1. He became the first non-Congress leader to complete a full term as Prime Minister. Nuclear achievement- Oversaw India's declaration as a full-fledged nuclear state. First Indian leader to address the UN General Assembly in Hindi. Awards He received the Padma Vibhushan in 1992 for his selfless dedication to the nation and was conferred with Bharat Ratna in 2015.

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