

Good Governance Day -2022

December 26, 2022

In news— Every year Good Governance Day is observed on 25th December in India.

About Good Governance Day-

- **In 2014**, the then newly-elected Narendra Modi government **announced that December 25 would be celebrated as “Good Governance Day.”**
- Marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party doyen Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the day is meant to foster awareness among citizens about government accountability and administration.
- The day is celebrated to ensure that the country’s residents are treated fairly by the government and they receive advantages of various government services.
- A major push, in this regard, was to promote “e-Governance” with the official slogan for the event being “Good Governance through e-Governance.”
- In 2019, the government launched the **Good Governance Index** on this occasion.
- The GGI is a scientifically prepared tool based on various parameters of good governance which assess the level of any state at a given point of time and help in shaping future development.

A brief note on Atal Bihari Vajpayee-

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was **born on December 25, 1924 in Gwalior, present-day Madhya Pradesh.**
- A poet-politician, he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1939, becoming a pracharak (full-time worker) in 1947.
- Due to his literary prowess, **he began working under Sangh Parivar head Deen Dayal Upadhyaya** on various publications.

- After Upadhyaya's passing, in **1968**, he became the **national president of the Jana Sangh**, RSS's new political outfit.
- He was the most eloquent speaker that the Hindu right had at that time and soon proved himself to be a capable administrator as well.
- He held his **first major national position as the External Affairs Minister in Morarji's post Emergency government in 1975**.
- While that government soon fell (in 1977), Vajpayee had earned major plaudits for his tenure, with his **UN General Assembly speech in Hindi** drawing praise from all quarters.
- In **1980**, erstwhile members of the **Jana Sangh coalesced to form the BJP with Vajpayee as its leader**.
- While the party initially struggled for electoral success, by the 1990s, religious polarisation orchestrated by the party and other Hindu outfits started making electoral inroads for the BJP.
- While he first became **Prime Minister in 1996 (for 16 days)** it was his 1998-1999 and 1999-2004 terms that left a lasting impact on the nation.
- Vajpayee expertly toed a line between hardline Hindutva and moderate Hindu nationalism while governing efficiently.
- **Under his tenure, India formally became a nuclear power** despite significant criticism from the West, ably faced war and peace with Pakistan, undertook massive public welfare projects including **Sarva Shikshya Abhiyaan and PM Gramin Sadak Yojana**, and ushered in a new era of foreign investment and international relations, especially with the US.