Good Governance

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In News

- Good Governance Day 2020: **Good Governance Day** is observed annually on December 25th, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

OBJECTIVES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

- To re-engineer Government processes in order to provide an open and accountable administration.
- To make people aware about the Government's commitment for providing a transparent and accountable administration.
- To enhance the welfare and betterment of the common citizens.
- To standardise the Government functioning as well as make it a highly effective and accountable governance for the people.
- To implement the good and effective policies to complete a mission of good governance

THE GGI TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION TEN SECTORS

1. Agriculture and Allied Sectors
2. Commerce and Industries
3. Human Resource Development
4. Public Health
5. Public Infrastructure and Utilities
6. Economic Governance
7. Social Welfare and Development
8. Judicial and Public Security
9. Environment
10. Citizen-Centric Governance

These ten governance sectors are measured on a total 50 indicators. Difference indicators are given different weightage under one governance sector to calculate the value.

What is Good Governance?

- **'Governance'** 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.
- I**n the 1992 report entitled "Governance and Development", the World Bank set out its definition of Good Governance**. It defined Good Governance as "the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development".
  - **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.
  - It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making.
  - It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Initiatives for Good Governance in India

- **Right to Information**
  - **As a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, India is under an international obligation to effectively guarantee citizens the Right to

Information as per Article 19 of the ICCPR.

- **RTI Act, 2005** marks a significant shift in Indian democracy. It gives greater access of the citizen to the information which in turn improves the responsiveness of the government to community needs.

- **E-Governance**

  - The **National e-Governance Plan** envisions 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.
  - **Programs launched under e-Governance:** Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), Digital India Program, MCA21 (to improve the speed and certainty in the delivery of the services of Ministry of Company Affairs), Passport Seva Kendra (PSK), online Income tax return, etc.

- **Focus on 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.**

- **Legal Reforms**

  - The Central Government has **scrapped nearly 1,500 obsolete rules and laws** with an aim to bring about transparency and improve efficiency.
  - Reform criminal justice and procedural laws with focus on pre-institution mediation.

- **Ease of Doing Business**

  - Steps were taken by the government to improve business conditions including legislation meant to improve the country's business environment and policy ecosystems

(such as the Bankruptcy Code, the Goods and Services Tax or GST, and the anti-money-laundering law).

- Government has launched the '**Make in India' initiative.**

- **Decentralization**

  - The **Centralised Planning Commission was abolished, replacing it with the think tank called the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)**, which would usher in an era of "**cooperative federalism".**
  - The **14th Finance Commission increased the tax devolution of the divisible pool to states from 32% to 42% for years 2015 to 2020.** It provides more freedom to states to initiate schemes based on local factors.

- **Police Reforms**

  - Modernizing police forces and implementing the **Model Police Act of 2015.**
  - **Reform of the First Information Report (FIR) lodging mechanism,** including introducing filing e-FIRs for minor offences.
  - Launch a common nation-wide emergency number to attend to emergency security needs of citizens.

- **Good Governance Index**

  - The Good Governance Index Was launched on the **occasion of Good Governance Day on 25 December 2019.**
  - The Good Governance Index is a **uniform tool across States to assess the Status of Governance** and impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and Union Territories.

- The **objectives** of Good Governance Index are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and Union Territories, enable states and Union Territories to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration.

OTHER GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

- **PRAGATI:** Pro-Active Governance and timely implementation aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- **Jeevan Pramaan**: Annual life certificate by senior citizens for pension through electronic means l DigiLocker: For paperless governance
- **UMANG:** It provides a single platform to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies
- **Anubhav:** It enables submission and display of commendable work done by retiring employees

- **Online RTI portal**

  - **Policy of intolerance towards non performing officer**s and encouraging the performing officers
  - **Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)**: It is a cost-effective initiative and helps the Government to post the right man at the right post. It enables employees to see all their details and apply for different kinds of claims on a single platform l
  - **AADHAAR**-enabled biometric-enabled attendance for Government employees

- **National Digital Literacy Mission**

- **e-Post:** A service under which printed or even handwritten messages of customers are scanned and transmitted as email. At the destination offices, these messages are printed, enveloped and delivered through postmen like other letters at the postal addresses

e-Sampark: An online messaging platform with over 90 Lakh registered users