

**Good Governance Day**

December 25



## Good Governance *Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore*

***Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore* is a national initiative to deliver transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric governance directly to rural communities. Rooted in Gandhian ideals and Vajpayee's vision of *Sushasan*, it strengthens grassroots administration through efficient service delivery and grievance redressal. The campaign has processed millions of applications and documented impactful innovations. By combining digital access and participatory governance, it empowers villages. Overall, it builds a responsive and inclusive rural governance framework.**

**Rakesh Kumar Pal**

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ood Governance is a multifaceted concept encompassing governance, which is accountable, transparent, responsive and free from corruption.

The vision of Mahatma Gandhi about the pastoral life of India captures the heart of our nation, where the rhythm of rural life continues to define India's soul. For a country that thrives on agriculture and community, good governance in villages is not just a policy goal— it is the foundation

of national progress.

Over the decades, many governments have pledged to uplift rural India, but challenges have persisted. Recognising the need for deeper change, the Government of India launched *Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore* on 20 December 2021—a campaign designed to bring effective governance right to the doorsteps of rural citizens. Its goal to reach the last person in the line, bringing administration closer to the people it serves.

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Since 25 December, 2014, former PM Shri Atal Behari Vajpayeeji's birth anniversary has been celebrated nationwide as Good Governance Day (*Sushasan Diwas*). It reminds us that governance is not merely a bureaucratic process but a moral commitment to uphold equity and efficiency. It is also an occasion to reflect on the principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance"—a call for an administration that empowers rather than controls.

### Honouring a Visionary Legacy

India's governance journey draws strength from leaders who believed that public service must be transparent, accountable, and accessible to all. Among these visionaries, former Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee stands out for his steadfast belief in *Sushasan*—good governance. His leadership between 1998 and 2004 laid the groundwork for citizen-centric reforms that continue to guide governance today.

The Good Governance Day gives us an opportunity to understand its significance, to explore its historical perspective and to study its impact on the democratic values to bring about an administrative system that is not just inclusive but also upholds the principles of minimum government maximum governance (MGMG). It is also one of those days when the spirit of democracy becomes enlivened and the efforts to foster good governance globally get a boost.

The good governance day also gives us an opportunity to focus on economic reforms, infrastructure development and social welfare. The day is an important cog in the wheel as good governance is a fundamental element in the progress of a nation. The celebration of Good Governance Day on the former PM's birth anniversary not only honours his legacy but also aims to reinforce the principles he championed.

### Taking Governance to the Grassroots

In the year 2021, the government decided to take the principles of good governance to the grassroot level. Therefore, it decided to launch an ambitious programme christened as '*Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore*' to replenish the already existing Good Governance

initiative. The goal was to bring governance closer to rural areas— both in terms of public grievance redressal and improving service delivery. During the 2021 edition, the District Collectors uploaded "good governance practices" and success stories on the portal. Further, according to NCGG / IIPA data: around 2.89 crore (28.9 million) applications for service delivery were addressed during the week. Subsequent good governance events celebrated between 20-25 December 2022-2024 were also themed as '*Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore*' and also met with similar success.

During the Good Governance Week 2024, celebrated from 19 to 25 December, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) led the landmark campaign *Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore* with noteworthy success. This initiative brought together district administrations, local institutions, and citizens from across India in a united effort to take government services to village doorsteps.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi aptly described it as "a transformative effort aimed at bringing effective governance closer to rural people." The campaign focused on key goals— resolving citizen grievances quickly, speeding up service delivery, sharing successful practices, and shaping district-level development blueprints for the future.

### The 2024 edition achieved impressive milestones

Category	Figure
Applications disposed under service delivery	2.99 crore+
Grievances addressed through state portals	15 lakh
Grievances resolved via CPGRAMS	3.44 lakh+
Public service camps organized nationwide	51,000+
Documented innovations in governance	1,167
District Vision @100 documents prepared	272

Source: DARPG (Approximate Figure)

With events spread across more than 700 districts, *Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore* became India's largest people-centred governance campaign. From the plains



# Principles of Good Governance



- ⦿ Participation
- ⦿ Consensus-Oriented
- ⦿ Accountability
- ⦿ Transparency
- ⦿ Responsiveness
- ⦿ Effectiveness and Efficiency
- ⦿ Equity and Inclusiveness
- ⦿ Rule of Law

of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to the valleys of Jammu and Kashmir and the hills of Assam, local communities actively participated, making it a festival of citizen engagement and administrative resolve.

## Building Strong Foundations for Rural India

At its core, *Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore* rests on five guiding pillars:

1. **Decentralised Governance:** Empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions to make local decisions ensures people's voices shape local futures. Strengthening their capacity and autonomy remains key to sustainable development.
2. **Accessibility of Public Services:** Through Common Service Centres (CSCs) and e-Governance platforms, rural citizens can access services like Aadhaar registration, land records, and welfare schemes quickly and efficiently.
3. **Digital Empowerment:** The Digital India mission continues to transform lives by improving internet access and promoting digital literacy, helping villagers connect with opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

**4. Participatory Governance:** True governance thrives when people participate. Gram Sabhas have become spaces where villagers share ideas, raise issues, and hold authorities accountable—fostering trust and inclusion.

**5. Focus on Welfare Schemes:** Programmes like PM Awas Yojana, MGNREGA, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, and Jal Jeevan Mission have strengthened the rural economy while improving living standards and community infrastructure.

## Actual Effect

Now the question arises whether the programme '*Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore*' is moving in the right direction. When the economics of the programme are taken into account, it is found that it has increased administrative transparency, provided the opportunity to take the governance to the grassroot level, helped in achieving enhanced grievance redressal, institutionalised

good governance practices at the local level and above all decentralised the governance, which has been a long standing demand of the common people.

Given the response of the citizens, the plan is to take the programme to more far-flung areas of the country next year and include more citizen welfare programmes.

## The Road Ahead

As India marches ahead, the true meaning of *Sushasan* lies in ensuring that every citizen feels the presence of a responsive government—whether in the heart of a city or a far-flung village. *Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore* has reaffirmed that governance can be both effective and empathetic, combining technology with a human touch.

Good governance is a continuous pursuit of excellence. To realise the vision of *Ram Rajya*—a state of fairness, justice, and prosperity—every official, policymaker, and citizen must share the responsibility of nation-building. When governance becomes a part of daily life, nation building becomes a shared responsibility. □