

GOOD GOVERNANCE: INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Smita Yadav

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science

DAULAT RAM COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION

In contrast to good governance, governance is often used interchangeably with government or the act or process of ruling. International organisations and academics have embraced more inclusive definitions of the term. No one definition of "governance" exists to serve as a "convenient method for organising the literature," as Keefer (2009) points out. For example, Weiss (2000) includes seven definitions from seven organisations. The OECD (2009) also compiles seventeen more definitions as shown below. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1997) defines governance as "the exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels," which "comprises mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations, and mediate their differences," among other things. It is "the mechanism by which public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources," according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2007). That which "encompasses the role of public authorities in establishing the environment in which economic operators function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the nature of the relationship between the ruler and the ruled" is, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "the use of political authority and exercise of control in a society about the management of its resources for social and economic development" (OECD, 1995).

So, what exactly is good leadership? The wide range of interpretations of what constitutes excellent governance and what constitutes high-quality governance, in general, is striking. The United Nations, the Multilateral Development Banks, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are only some of the important multilateral entities represented in Table 1. These descriptions are taken from either the most recent major public statement on the subject (such as the entry under "Governance" on the UN's website) or the organization's current policy on (good) governance (such as the IMF's Good Governance: The IMF's Role, published in 1997). Except for the European Bank for Reconstruction

and Development (EBRD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), these institutions use good governance as a buzzword and list it as one of their primary goals. Democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and institutional development are highlighted by the EBRD and the IADB, but neither organisation defines its work in these terms. While there are some commonalities between different working definitions, there are also significant distinctions.

These definitions highlight at least seven key elements: (1) democracy and representation; (2) human rights; (3) the rule of law; (4) efficient and effective public management; (5) transparency and accountability; (6) developmentalist objectives; and (7) a wide variety of specific political and economic policies, programmes, and institutions (e.g., elections, a legislature, a free press, secure property rights). For example, the United Nations (UN) covers six of the seven pillars but does not make the connection between good governance and progress. (Yet, as will be seen below, other UN documents make this connection directly.) It also emphasises the need for equity and safety. In contrast, World Bank (2007) focuses on efficient and effective public management, transparency and accountability, and the goal of development while ignoring more "political" elements. Technical capability, leadership, and the provision of public services are also addressed. Instead of providing a comprehensive definition, the IMF (1997) defines its discussion in terms of specific aspects of governance that pertain to the organization's purpose of addressing macroeconomic stability.

Several other donor agency definitions also include these same seven factors. Aid agencies from 12 OECD member countries and 5 multilaterals are listed in the OECD's 2009 Sourcebook, Donor Approaches to Governance Assessments (ADB, EC, IMF, UNDP, and World Bank). As the astute reader may have seen, this list collects definitions of governance (as opposed to 'good governance'). Most definitions of "governance" mention criteria for assessing governance quality, and the listing refers to both interchangeably, highlighting the lack of accuracy inherent in practical uses of both terms. All of these institutions use a variety of unofficial meanings. The rule of law, as well as democracy and representation, are emphasised in OECD's (2009) definitions. Austria, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the Asian Development Bank are just six organisations that explicitly link governance to developmental goals; the same number of organisations emphasise human rights and good public management. The ADB focuses on monetary and supervisory institutions, while Sweden elaborates on the core democratic institutions that make up the country's government. Equal opportunity, long-term viability, legitimacy, social welfare, 'the State's ability to serve the population,' and public service delivery are all highlighted by different donors.

Importance of Good Governance

Good government is crucial to the success of any nation. Good governance is essential for achieving sustainable development.

Stable Economic Growth: Good governance is essential for a state's economic growth. Production, distribution, investment, and consumption face challenges as economies grow. In contrast, if good governance is in place, these roadblocks disappear, allowing for a more equitable distribution of state resources.

Social Progress Effective governance is crucial to making progress in society. Not only does it contribute to economic growth, but it also plays other important roles. The end effect of progress is that all social groups can be assured that they are treated fairly. A society contains members of many different faiths, social classes, and social castes. Social unrest will grow if the wealth isn't distributed fairly among all these people. Again, fair distribution of resources is not sufficient. The minority population must be able to walk freely without fear of harassment or violence, so we must make appropriate accommodations. Similar reform laws are needed to close the gender gap in our society.

The connection between political progress and this is crucial. Good governance cannot be established in a country if its political leaders are not engaged. The sincerity of the political leadership and compliance with the norms of the political system is crucial to its success. Good competition and good governance are fostered in part by the constructive cooperation between political institutions and political parties in the design of policies for the welfare of the people. Cooperation between the government and the opposition is crucial to the success of a democracy..

Good Governance in Indian Context

Democracy in India has benefited the country for centuries. Therefore, good governance has been the primary ideal in Indian political thought. Having good governance is, quite simply, having good governance. Good governance is a government that meets or exceeds the needs of its citizens. Good governance, according to some academics, is a government that is both democratic and efficient. However, good governance goes beyond just that. This strengthens the legitimacy and credibility of the system of governance by improving its efficiency. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, an ancient Indian political treatise, the king's happiness depends on the contentment of his people. Mahatma Gandhi, the nation's founding father, also envisioned "Suraj" in the form of just

government. The Indian government and administration now centre on promoting good governance. India's vast cultural and geographical variety makes it difficult to govern effectively. "Good Governance" refers to a state of affairs that can only be achieved through a collaborative effort on all fronts. The public is empowered through Good Governance. Powerful influence it exerts within democracies and among citizens of democratic nations. As long as people are still around to feel the effects of progress, good governance will always be a dwarf. Good governance is essential if government and administration are to achieve their goals and overcome the obstacles in their way. So, if we examine the elements and qualities of effective governance, we may deduce that its fundamental meaning is the achievement of life's goals.

Current democracies are governed by the people, for the people. Democracy in India has benefited the country for centuries. Manu, the founding father of India's political history, also contributed the romantic notion of good governance, which placed a premium on how things ought to be run in authority structures. Likewise, Kautilya did his utmost to provide real-world examples of sound government.

To rule well is to act in the public interest by distinguishing between right and wrong, fairness and injustice, and moral and immoral policies. Various definitions of "good governance" depend on the context. – The Indian version of Kautilya's Arthashastra describes the king's leadership as "excellent administration," with the king finding fulfilment via the success of his subjects. The welfare of his subjects comes before his own, and he places a premium on public interest over personal gain.

INITIATIVES FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

The following initiatives were taken in India to ensure good governance in public Administration:

Right to Information

One of the most significant social innovations of this century in the areas of accountability and transparency and public service delivery, the Right to Information has emerged as a prominent concern in public administration. It is still pushed as a necessary part of policy bundles to boost administration in underdeveloped nations. It has evolved into a crucial tool for improving the quality and effectiveness of public services and fostering a culture of openness, transparency, and accountability in the governance process. Article 19 of the 1948 UDHR established the right to access information. It is the cornerstone of all freedoms the United Nations is dedicated to and a basic human right (UN General Assembly Resolution, 1946). In 1766, Sweden was the first country

to grant its citizens this independence. The right to access government records is not guaranteed in the Indian Constitution. When compared to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, however, the Constitution recognises the Right to Information in Article 19(1)(a) (UDHR). In 2005, lawmakers passed the Right to Information Act. By making government documents available for inspection, "Right to Information" increases transparency and holds officials accountable by giving citizens more insight into the work of their government. Citizens can more actively participate in governance when they can access information about their government's operations.

The Right to Know is a cornerstone of democratic governance (Government of India, 2006). In a corrupt and indifferent system, RTI has shown promise of equipping citizens to ensure accountability and act as enforcers of good governance (Gandhi, 2009). A more transparent, accountable, responsive, and citizen-centric government is possible thanks to the RTI Act. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has provided concrete evidence that the Right to Information (RTI) is an effective tool at the grassroots level (MGNREGA). Display boards and wall paintings in the panchayat offices are mandatory per MGNREGA regulations. The gramme panchayat level MGNREGA accounts and summaries must be publicly reviewed (Aiyar & Samji, 2012). Social audits of the MGNREGA programme are being used to implement RTI at the grassroots level.

Evidence shows that citizens and civil society groups are using RTI to legally demand information on the performance of state-sponsored rural development and welfare schemes, proving that the law has been effectively implemented. In 2006, the Gujarati NGO Sabar Ekta Manch used RTI to determine how much MGNREGA workers were paid. It was discovered that workers were not receiving the minimum wage required by the MGNREGA. With this in mind, a petition was submitted to the Gujarat High Court asking for a resolution to the workers' irregular payment (Trapnell, 2014). The Rozgar Evam Soochna Ka Adhikar Abhiyaan and the state government of Rajasthan began working together in November 2007 to create a system for decentralised management of workplaces. The goal of this Abhiyaan has been to establish a team of skilled supervisors who monitor production levels daily. Transparency is the main focus. For citizens of Delhi, a non-profit called Parivartan has been instrumental in helping them exercise their Right to Information to have their complaints heard, to have outstanding government projects completed, and to have government projects subjected to public inspection. Poor people are being assisted in obtaining ration cards and receiving their ration quotas on Antyodaya cards through the public

distribution system, thanks to the RTI (Roy, 2006). Slum residents in Delhi's slums used the Right to Information Act (RTI) to gain access to ration shop records in 2004 with the help of SatarkNagrikSangathan, a local non-governmental organisation. It was discovered that shopkeepers regularly stole rationed goods and sold them to people without valid ration cards (Trapnell, op. cit). These instances show how citizens use RTI for various public service issues, such as elementary and secondary education, healthcare, sanitation, water supply, electricity, and pensions. There is no doubt that RTI has brought a sea shift to the governing process and improved the efficacy and efficiency of public service delivery.

E-Governance

The National e-Governance Plan aims to provide citizens with easy access to all government services in their neighbourhoods via standardised service delivery points while guaranteeing the quality, efficiency, and affordability of those services.

New information and communication technologies (ICTs) usher in exciting possibilities for rapid social and economic transformation on a global scale, and e-government effectively delivers improved programming and services in this brave new digital age. By shifting from a top-down to a bottom-up structure, national and state governments hope to unlock a new economic and social development level. E-Government has an immediate and tangible effect on citizens because they can use it to interact with government services. It delves into uncharted territory regarding how the country's leaders think, operate, and influence their people. E-governance can potentially improve the efficacy and efficiency of government policies and procedures, but only if sufficient time and resources are dedicated to the process. Better policy outcomes, higher quality services, and more citizen engagement can all be made possible through e-governance, which can also improve the relationship between the public, private sector, and government.

Among the many initiatives launched as part of e-Governance are "Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation" (PRAGATI), "Digital India," "MCA21" (an initiative to increase efficiency and predictability in the Ministry of Company Affairs' service delivery), "Passport Seva Kendra," "online Income Tax Return," and many more. "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" is the motto of e-governance.

Legal Reforms

The federal government has repealed approximately 1,500 antiquated regulations and statutes to promote openness and efficiency.

Changes in the law are being made to improve the criminal justice system and procedures, emphasising mediation outside of the formal justice system.

Ease of Doing Business

The government took steps to improve business conditions, including legislation 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.

Make in India

The 'Made in India' project was launched on September 25, 2014, to make India a manufacturing, design, and innovation centre by encouraging investment, fostering innovation, and constructing world-class infrastructure. Government officials in India have made strengthening the country's manufacturing base a top priority. Made in India was early 'Vocal for Local' effort that promoted awareness of India's manufacturing sector internationally. The industry has the potential to boost economic growth and employ a sizable portion of our country's young population. The Make in India initiative has made great strides, and the following 27 industries are currently being prioritised as part of Make in India 2.0.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The Prime Minister of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on October 2nd, 2014, to speed up efforts to attain universal sanitation coverage and to place the focus on sanitation. For the mission to succeed, over 100 million toilets must be built in rural India by 2 October 2019, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. This includes India's villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States, and Union Territories. The Mission is progressing to the next Phase II of SBMG, i.e. ODF-Plus, to guarantee that people keep up their efforts to eliminate the use of open defecation and that everyone has easy access to sanitation facilities for both solid and liquid waste. Under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), ODF Plus initiatives will include interventions for securing solid and liquid waste in rural areas, emphasising reinforcing ODF behaviours.

National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

The Government of India's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances funds an independent institute called the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). The company has a main office in New Delhi and a satellite office in Mussoorie.

The National Committee for Good Governance (NCGG) was established to aid in implementing governance reforms via research, education, information exchange, and advocacy.

Its goals include conducting policy-relevant research and preparing case studies, curating training courses for civil servants in India and other developing countries, providing a platform for sharing existing knowledge, and actively seeking and developing ideas for their implementation in the Government both the national and international levels.

The National Institute of Administrative Research was the forerunner to what is now called the National Centre for Good Governance (NIAR). The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), India's preeminent centre for training those aspiring to leadership positions in the country's civil service, founded NIAR in 1995.

For 19 years, it assisted the Academy with public administration research and education. With a broader focus, NIAR renamed the National Centre for Good Governance on February 24th, 2014.

Decentralization

The National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) was established to replace the defunct Centralized Planning Commission and usher in a new age of "cooperative federalism" in India.

Between 2015 and 2020, the 14th Finance Commission raised the tax devolution of the divisible pool to the states from 32% to 42%. It gives states more leeway in launching programmes tailored to their own needs.

Digital India

Digital India was an initiative the Government of India took to provide high-speed internet networks to rural areas. PM Narendra Modi launched Digital India Mission on 1st July 2015 as a beneficiary to other government schemes, including Make in India, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Startup India, BharatNet, and Standup India.

Digital India Mission is mainly focused on three areas:

- 1) Providing digital infrastructure as a source of utility to every citizen.
- 2) Governance and services on demand.
- 3) To look after the digital empowerment of every citizen.

Digital India was established with a vision of inclusive growth in electronic services, products, manufacturing, and job opportunities.

Digital India aims to provide the much-needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas. Each area is a complex programme and cuts across multiple Ministries and Departments. The nine pillars of Digital India are given below:

- **Broadband Highways:** This covers three sub-components: Broadband for All – Rural, Broadband for All – Urban and National Information Infrastructure (NII).
- **Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity-** This initiative focuses on network penetration and filling the gaps in connectivity in the country.
- **Public Internet Access Programme-** The two sub-components of Public Internet Access Programme are Common Services Centres (CSCs) and Post Offices as multi-service centres.
- **E-Governance:** Reforming Government through Technology- Government Process Re-engineering using IT to simplify and make the government processes more efficient is critical for transformation to make the delivery of government services more effective across various government domains and therefore needs to be implemented by all Ministries/ Departments.
- **E-Kranti:** Electronic Delivery of Services- To improve the delivery of public services and simplify the process of accessing them. In this regard, several e-governance initiatives have been undertaken by various State Governments and Central Ministries to usher in an era of e-Government. E-Governance in India has steadily evolved from the computerization of Government Departments to initiatives that encapsulate the finer points of Governance, such as citizen centricity, service orientation and transparency.
- **Information for All:** This pillar aims to ensure transparency and availability of reliable data generated by the line ministries for use, reuse and redistribution for the people of India.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** This pillar focuses on promoting electronics manufacturing in the country.

- **IT for Jobs:** This pillar focuses on training youth in the skills required for employment opportunities in the IT/ITES sector.
- **Early Harvest Programmes:** This pillar consists of a group of different short-term projects which immediately affect the Indian digital ecosystem, like IT platform for mass messaging, crowd Sourcing of e-Greetings, biometric attendance in government offices, WI-FI in all universities etc.

Police Reforms

Police reforms include modernizing police forces and implementing the Model Police Act of 2015. It also includes the Reform of the First Information Report (FIR) lodging mechanism, including introducing filing e-FIRs for minor offences. It also aims to launch a common nationwide emergency number to attend to the emergency security needs of citizens.

Aspirational Districts Programme

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched in January 2018 to transform the lives of people in the under-developed areas of the county in a time-bound manner.

Anchored in NITI Aayog, the programme aims to transform 115 most backward districts with focused interventions in health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water management, financial inclusion and skill development.

Good Governance Index

The Good Governance Index Was launched on 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 the State Government and Union Territories take up.

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.

CHALLENGES TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

Among other things, good governance is, participatory, transparent and accountable. It is also effective and equitable. And it promotes the rule of law. Good governance ensures that political,

social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in society and that the voices of the poorest and the most vulnerable are heard in decision-making over allocating development resources.

But in the execution of good governance there are some challenges involved, which are given below:

Criminalization of politics

The criminalization of politics in India is a big challenge in the way of good governance. There are two components of political criminalization, one is muscle power and other is money power. The politicians are using muscle power since the first general election and now only the way and means have changed that instead of 'Lathi' they use gun, bomb to affect the election. The money power is also being used by 'Zamindars' and politicians to purchase the vote of the illiterate people.

At present, we have been seeing that most of the MPs of Parliament and MLAs of State Assemblies have criminal backgrounds and many of them are undertrial in different courts –the case of rape, murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, harassment, domestic violence, smuggling etc. Almost all political parties have their nexus with corporate houses, smugglers, criminal groups and mafias, and these groups help them in the funding or doing campaigns for the elections and when these parties came into the power they make policies in the favour of these groups. So in these cases how the good policy making is possible? "A stage has now reached when the politicians openly boast of their criminal connections. A Bihar minister's statement in the assembly that he patronized and would continue to patronize gangsters to fight and win elections is a pointer to the growing phenomena where criminal background has become an invisible requisite to win elections".

Certain legislative checks such as "Chapter IX A of IPC deals with offences relating to elections. It comprises of nine sections. It defines and provides punishment for offences, such as bribery, undue influence and personation at elections etc. The maximum punishment for the offence of bribery is one year's imprisonment of either description or fine or both but bribery by treating is punishable only with fine. Similarly the maximum punishment for undue influence or personation at an election is one year's imprisonment of either description or fine or both, Sec. 171 G provides the punishment of fine for false statement in connection with elections and for illegal payment in connection with an election. Sec 171 H provides the punishment of fine up to Rs. 500. According to Sec 171 E, if there is failure to keep election accounts, the offender shall be punished

with fine not exceeding Rs. 500. Thus, in IPC, provisions have been made to check election evils but nominal punishments have been provided and interest is not taken in prosecution of election offenders. These provisions have failed to check criminalization of politics.”

The Supreme Court ordered the Election Commission to issue a fresh notification on the basis of its judgment. Accordingly the Election Commission issued a fresh notification on 27th March 2003. According to the fresh notification, the candidates now have to furnish the following information on affidavit, while filing nomination.

- Whether the candidate is convicted/ acquitted/ discharged of any criminal offence in the past- if any, whether he is punished with imprisonment or fine?
- Prior to six months of filing of nomination, whether the candidate is accused in any pending case, of any offence punishable with imprisonment for two years or more and in which charge is framed or cognizance is taken by the court of law. If so, the details thereof.
- The assets (immovable, movable, bank balances etc) of a candidate and of his or her spouse and that of dependants.
- Liabilities, if any, particularly whether there are any over dues of any public financial institution or government dues.
- Educational qualifications.

But only making of rules and laws regarding these is not enough, a systemic change is required and the awareness programs and quick and fast hearing of the cases of criminal politicians is required. However the criminal politician sentenced appropriate punishments by the respected courts but the administration of jails provide all kind of facilities to these accused politicians. The accused are also able to fight elections when he/she is under trail and they have another way that they introduce their family member in the election as their representatives and fight elections.

Corruption

Corruption and favouritism surround bureaucratic allocations of investment licenses, import licenses and the award of government contracts. A consequence of this system is that government machinery is increasingly used to serve personal interests.³¹ Many cases there are in India about different scams by politicians in centre as well as instates most popular scams are — Bofors scandal, Fooder Scam, Bihar Solar lamp Scam, 2G Scam, 3G scam, Lalit Modi Scam, Indian coal allocation Scam, Commonwealth Game Scam, Saradha Group Financial scandal etc.

the personal interest of politicians have engaged them in these immoral works of scam and scandals and this has become a big challenge of the good governance.

Not only the politicians but also the bureaucrats are involved in the corruption. Corruption has everywhere – in Gram Panchayat level, block level, district level and then state and central level. The entire system of bureaucracy is involved in corrupt activities in India. They take bribes on the name of red tapism, they demand money for offering tenders, they ask for money in the appointments of some officials etc. The academic institutions are not left with the corruption but many universities, colleges, departments have been founded involved in many corrupt activities and this shows that how much the corruption has rooted in the different institutions of Indian administration.

In spite of auditing of the administrative, financial, educational, banking, industrial and other department/sectors, enactment of RTI, establishment of Lokayuktas indifferent states, and many legal provisions corruption has not stopped or decreased. But the way of corruption has changed and increased in corruption can be seen.

Judicial System

Our judicial system is not up to the mark. Because by the availability of the above two reasons this is also a big challenge to upgrade our existing judicial system. The unavailability of the concern officers as well as delay in the implementing policies, all covers our judicial system very weak. This is also the matter of concern for the implementation of good governance.

CASE STUDY: DENMARK

Denmark, a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe, is widely recognized as a country with good governance. It has been ranked first in the world for its democracy, public sector, rule of law, and transparency. Let us explore the good governance initiatives in Denmark.

- **Openness and Transparency:** Denmark has a culture of transparency, which is reflected in its Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides citizens with the right to access public information, including government documents, statistics, and reports. This initiative ensures that the government is accountable to its citizens and promotes trust between the government and the people.
- **Decentralization of Power:** Denmark has a decentralized government structure, with power distributed between the central government and the local governments. The local

governments have autonomy in decision-making, which ensures that decisions are made closer to the people and are more responsive to local needs.

- E-government: Denmark has embraced e-government, which has improved service delivery and reduced corruption. The government has developed an online portal, Digital Post, which allows citizens to access government services and communicate with public authorities electronically.
- Welfare State: Denmark has a strong welfare state, which provides universal access to healthcare, education, and social services. This initiative ensures that all citizens have access to basic needs and reduces inequality.

Denmark's good governance initiatives have contributed to its ranking as one of the best-governed countries in the world. The country's culture of transparency, decentralization of power, e-government, and welfare state have promoted accountability, responsiveness, and reduced inequality. However, Denmark faces challenges, such as immigration, an aging population, and corruption, which require continued attention and innovative solutions. The government's commitment to addressing these challenges will ensure that Denmark remains a leader in good governance.

CONCLUSION

India has implemented several initiatives in recent years aimed at improving good governance. These initiatives cover many areas, such as transparency, efficiency, and accountability. The RTI Act was enacted in 2005, which allows citizens to obtain information from public authorities, thus promoting transparency and accountability in governance. India has made significant progress in e-governance, which uses technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery. Several initiatives, such as Digital India, have been taken to make government services available to citizens electronically. India has implemented several legal reforms aimed at streamlining the legal system and enhancing access to justice, such as the introduction of the National Judicial Data Grid, which provides information on pending cases across the country. The government has taken several measures to improve the ease of doing business in India, such as introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and simplifying procedures for obtaining licenses and permits. Launched in 2014, Make in India is an initiative to promote manufacturing and investment, thus boosting economic growth and creating employment opportunities. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a cleanliness drive launched in 2014, aimed at improving the sanitation and hygiene levels in the country, thus promoting public health and environmental sustainability. The NCGG was

established in 2014 to provide training and capacity building to public officials, thus enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of governance. India has taken steps towards decentralization of power and decision-making, which enhances local governance and promotes accountability. Several measures have been taken to reform the police system in India, such as introducing the Police Act, which aims to enhance police accountability and citizen participation. Launched in 2018, Aspirational Districts Programme aims to improve the socio-economic indicators of the most underdeveloped districts in the country, thus promoting inclusive and sustainable development. In 2019, the government launched the Good Governance Index, which ranks states and union territories based on various governance parameters, such as infrastructure, social welfare, and economic development.

On the other hand, good governance in India faces several challenges that hamper its effectiveness and efficiency. Infiltrating criminal elements into politics is a major challenge to good governance in India. Many politicians have criminal backgrounds, which often leads to corruption and the misuse of power. Corruption is another major challenge that impedes good governance in India. It is prevalent in various sectors, such as public procurement, public service delivery, and the judicial system. The judicial system in India is often criticized for its inefficiency, delays, and backlogs. This hampers the delivery of justice, an essential component of good governance.

In conclusion, good governance is a crucial aspect of the development and progress of India. Despite numerous initiatives taken by the government to improve governance, several challenges still need to be addressed, such as corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, political instability, and inadequate infrastructure. To overcome these challenges, measures such as strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms, reforms in the bureaucracy, electoral reforms, public service delivery mechanisms, building infrastructure, and empowering citizens must be taken. It is important to address these challenges for the country's sustainable development. The prospects for good governance in India are promising if these measures are implemented effectively. Good governance is essential for promoting economic growth, social development, and democratic governance in India.

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