

## Good Governance Day

### Empowering Lives, One Drop at a Time



A little girl named Muskaan clapped her hands in joy as clean water gushed from the new tap in her home. It was a moment of celebration in Damhedi village, where the tap water's introduction transformed lives in ways the residents had never imagined. Her mother, overwhelmed with emotion, performed a small ritual to mark the occasion. She knew that this tap signified more than just convenience. It was a source of dignity, health, and a promise of a brighter future. For Muskaan, it meant she could play without worrying about pestering her mother for water. For her mother, it

meant time saved and fewer worries about her children's health. This simple act of water flowing into a home symbolizes how good governance can uplift lives.

### Celebrating Good Governance Week and the Jal Jeevan Mission

Good Governance Day, celebrated on December 25 in honor of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday, highlights governance

that improves citizens' lives. Shri Vajpayee exemplified accountability, transparency, and inclusivity, principles that continue to guide the government.

From December 19 to 25, Good Governance Week spreads these values from districts to villages, reinforcing commitment to transparent and accountable governance. Through activities, the government demonstrates its dedication to uplifting citizens.

### **What is Governance?**

Governance involves decision-making that benefits society, with good governance emphasizing participation, equity, and sustainability. According to the United Nations, effective governance is participatory, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, equitable, inclusive, and law-abiding.

Historically, Indian governance has been rooted in Rajadharma, emphasizing justice and welfare. Today, the Jal Jeevan Mission embodies these values, transforming lives by ensuring clean water access.

### **Rural Water Connections**

In 2019, only 17% of rural households had tap water. The Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has connected over 12 crore households with tap water by December 2024, transforming access for millions.

## Jal Jeevan Mission's Impact

Transparency and responsiveness define the mission's success. Real-time data and community meetings ensure effective resource use and grievance redressal. Access to tap water frees women from fetching water and protects children from waterborne diseases, highlighting how good governance uplifts communities.

In tribal and marginalized areas, the mission empowers by prioritizing clean water access. It embodies leadership rooted in equity and inclusiveness.

## Additional Government Schemes

Government initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, and Ayushman Bharat address housing, financial, health, and entrepreneurial needs, showcasing comprehensive governance. Muskaan's laughter at home symbolizes the power of good governance, which listens and uplifts. On Good Governance Day, the Jal Jeevan Mission represents hope, progress, and dignity for all, resonating with Rajadharma ideals and inclusive development.

## References:

- <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2021/sep/Jal%20Jeevan%20Eng.pdf>
- <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf>
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