



## Good Governance Day

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### Why in News

The Good Governance Day is observed on **25<sup>th</sup> December** to mark the **birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

On this occasion, a number of initiatives have been taken by the government viz. the launch of **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)**, naming of **tunnel under Rohtang Pass** as **Atal Tunnel** and the launch of **Good Governance Index (GGI)**.

### Atal Bhujal Yojana

- The Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is a **central sector scheme** worth **Rs.6,000 crore** to be implemented over **5 years** for sustainable management of **groundwater** with community participation.
- ATAL JAL will promote **panchayat led** groundwater management and **behavioural change** with a primary focus on demand-side management.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** (earlier known as Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation).
- The scheme is being funded by the **Government of India** and the **World Bank** on **50:50** basis.

The entire World Bank's loan component and central assistance will be passed on to the States as grants.

- The identified **over-exploited and water-stressed areas** for the implementation of the scheme are **Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**.

The States have been selected according to the degree of groundwater exploitation and degradation, established legal and regulatory instruments, institutional readiness, and experience in implementing initiatives related to groundwater management.

## Atal Tunnel

- The **8.8-kilometre-long** Atal tunnel under Rohtang Pass is the **world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres**. It has a **fireproof emergency tunnel** built into the main tunnel itself.
  - Rohtang Pass (elevation 3,978 m) is located in the state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
  - It is present on the **Pir Panjal Range** of Himalayas.
  - It connects the **Kullu Valley with Lahaul and Spiti Valleys** of Himachal Pradesh.
  - The **Ravi river rises** west of the Rohtang pass in the Kullu hills of Himachal Pradesh.
- It will provide **all-weather connectivity to remote border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh** which otherwise remained cut off from the rest of the country for about six months during winters.
- The tunnel will help to promote tourism in the region.

## Good Governance Index



- The Good Governance Index (GGI) has been launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to determine the **status of governance** in the country.

- It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.
- **Objectives of GGI:**
  - Provide quantifiable data to compare the State of Governance in the States and UTs.
  - Enable States and UTs to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance.
  - Shift to result-oriented approaches and administration.
- The GGI takes into consideration the following **ten sectors:**
  - Agriculture and Allied Sectors,
  - Commerce & Industries,
  - Human Resource Development,
  - Public Health,
  - Public Infrastructure & Utilities,
  - Economic Governance,
  - Social Welfare & Development,
  - Judicial & Public Security,
  - Environment
  - Citizen-Centric Governance
- The States and UTs are divided into **three** groups – **the Big States, North-East and Hill States, and Union Territories.**
- Findings of GGI:
  - **Big States: Tamil Nadu topped** the index followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh whereas Odisha, Bihar, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are poor performers.
  - **North-East and Hill States: Himachal Pradesh** ranked first, followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim. Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh are the worst performers in this group.
  - **Union Territories: Puducherry** is the **best-governed** UT followed by Chandigarh and Delhi. **Lakshadweep** is the **worst** performing UT.

## Atal Bihari Vajpayee



- Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on **December 25, 1924** in the erstwhile princely state of **Gwalior** (now a part of the Indian State of **Madhya Pradesh**).
- He **entered in national politics** during the **Quit India Movement of 1942** which hastened the end of British colonial rule.
- He was the Prime Minister of the country in **1996 (for a short period of time) and 1999**. He is the first Prime Minister since Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to have become Prime Minister of India **with two successive mandates**.
- He has been elected to the **Lok Sabha nine times** and to the **Rajya Sabha** twice. In **1994**, he was named **India's 'Best Parliamentarian.'**
- He was conferred with the **country's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna** in **2015** and **second-highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan** in 1994.

**Source: PIB**