

- **Consensus Oriented:**
 - Consensus oriented decision-making ensures that even if everyone does not achieve what they want to the fullest, a common minimum can be achieved by everyone which will not be detrimental to anyone.
 - It mediates differing interests to meet the broad consensus on the best interests of a community.
- **Equity and Inclusiveness:**
 - Good governance assures an equitable society.
 - People should have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being.
- **Effectiveness and Efficiency:**
 - Processes and institutions should be able to produce results that meet the needs of their community.
 - Resources of the community should be used effectively for the maximum output.
- **Accountability:**
 - Good governance aims towards betterment of people, and this can not take place without the government being accountable to the people.
 - Governmental institutions, private sectors, and civil society organizations should be held accountable to the public and institutional stakeholders.
- **Transparency:**
 - Information should be accessible to the public and should be understandable and monitored.
 - It also means free media and access of information to them.
- **Responsiveness:**
 - Institutions and processes should serve all stakeholders in a reasonable period of time.

References of Good Governance

- Bhagavad Gita provides numerous cues for good governance, leadership, dutifulness and self-realization which are re-interpreted in the modern context.
- In Kautilya's Arthashastra (2nd-3rd century BC), the welfare of people was considered paramount in the role of King. Mahatma Gandhi emphasized "su-raj" which essentially means good governance.
- Importance of governance is clearly inscribed in Indian Constitution which is built on-premise of Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic committing itself to democracy, rule of law and welfare of people.

- Under Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 16 can be considered to be directly linked as it is dedicated to improvement in governance, inclusion, participation, rights, and security.
- According to former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "Good governance is ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law; strengthening democracy; promoting transparency and capacity in public administration." He also said that "Good Governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development".

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.
- The right to information, promotes openness, transparency and accountability in administration by making the government more open to public scrutiny.

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.
- **E-Governance** effectively delivers better programming and services in the era of newly emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs), which herald new opportunities for rapid social and economic transformation worldwide.
- E-Governance has a direct impact on its citizens who derive benefits through direct transactions with the services offered by the government.
 - 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**'.

Note: