

---

## Transforming Governance in Viksit Bharat: Pathways to Transparency and Public Accountability

Dr. Mamta Goutam<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor (Political Science) Government PG College-Noida, G. B. Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

Received: 08 November 2025, Accepted: 20 November 2025, Published online: 30 November 2025

---

### Abstract

This paper analyzes the evolving dimensions of good governance and transparency in the context of India's journey toward becoming a developed nation. As India envisions achieving the status of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2027, governance reforms and institutional accountability have become central to sustainable development. The study explores how administrative efficiency, citizen participation, and digital innovation collectively shape a responsive and transparent governance model. It emphasizes that good governance extends beyond administrative management—it embodies the ethical spirit and moral responsibility of a democratic state that prioritizes the welfare of its citizens.

Furthermore, the paper examines the role of technology-driven governance initiatives such as e-Governance, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and Open Data policies in promoting efficiency, reducing corruption, and enhancing public trust. It argues that transparency in decision-making and implementation is a prerequisite for democratic legitimacy and equitable growth. The analysis also highlights that accountability mechanisms—such as social audits, Lokpal, and the Central Vigilance Commission—are essential to ensure that power is exercised responsibly and in the public interest.

In conclusion, the paper underscores that good governance is the soul of an ethical, people-centric democracy, where transparency builds trust, efficiency ensures delivery, and participation deepens democracy. Strengthening these pillars is not only vital for administrative reform but also for realizing India's broader vision of inclusive, just, and sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Good Governance, Transparency, Accountability, Developed India @2027, Democratic Governance, Policy Reforms, Administrative Efficiency, E-Governance, Public Participation.

### Introduction

India's democracy is the world's largest, most complex, and diverse democratic structure. It presents a unique example globally not only in terms of population but also due to its comprehensiveness and durability, encompassing social, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity. After independence, India made the values of democracy, constitutionalism, and civil rights integral to its national character. Today, after 75 years of independence, India is moving towards the pledge of a "Developed India @ 2027," which not only embodies economic empowerment but also expresses the deeper ideals of social inclusion, transparent governance, and civic accountability.

The true meaning of development is not limited to economic growth alone. It is a comprehensive process in which administrative efficiency, policy transparency, social equity, and civic participation play a crucial role. A nation can be called "developed" only when its citizens are actively involved in decision-making processes and the governance system remains accountable and sensitive to them. The fundamental philosophy of good governance is not limited to the efficiency of administrative management; it represents a system of governance

based on accountability, transparency, participation, and ethical governance. The combination of all these elements makes governance in accordance with public trust and democratic values.

The sustainability and success of Indian democracy depend on how sensitively the governance system understands the expectations of citizens and implements them at the policy level. When the administration becomes responsive and trustworthy to the public, democracy ceases to be merely a political system but takes the form of a vibrant social contract. The vision of “Developed India @2027” is a redefinition of this accountable, transparent, and ethical governance system – where the goal of development is not just economic growth, but ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits of good governance to every citizen.

## 2. Objectives of the Study:

The primary objective of this research is to analyze the role of good governance and transparency in the vision of a developed India @ 2027. The study aims to examine the concept of good governance and its key components—accountability, transparency, participation, and ethics—in the Indian context.

Furthermore, this research will clarify the role of transparency in governance credibility and attempt to understand how good governance forms the foundation of democratic development.

Furthermore, measures to make governance more effective and accountable through technological and institutional reforms will be identified. Finally, the study will offer policy-based recommendations for the future to develop India into a participatory, transparent, and accountable democracy.

## 3. Methodology:

This research is based on a descriptive and analytical approach, using secondary sources such as government reports, policy documents, research papers, and reliable online sources. The study reviewed literature related to good governance, transparency, and accountability, and conducted a document analysis of Indian government policies such as the Good Governance Index, the e-Governance Mission, and the Developed India @ 2047 vision document. A comparative approach compares India's good governance model with the administrative structures of other developed democracies, while an analytical approach examines the relationship between transparency, accountability, and democratic consolidation. The research aims to highlight the role of good governance in the vision of a developed India by 2027 by developing theoretical understanding and policy insights rather than empirical data.

### 1. The Concept of Good Governance in India-

The concept of good governance in India is not merely a question of administrative efficiency; it has been part of a cultural, ethical, and public welfare-based governance tradition. In Indian history, governance has always been viewed as a form of "service"—the purpose of governance has been not merely to exercise power, but to establish public welfare and justice.

#### *1. The Idea of Good Governance in Ancient Indian Tradition:*

Ancient Indian texts emphasize the ethical and people-oriented nature of governance. Kautilya's Arthashastra states that "the king is the servant of the people," meaning it is the ruler's responsibility to share in the joys and sorrows of his subjects. The Mahabharata and Ramayana describe the policy of "Prajā Sukhe Sukham Rajyam" as the soul of governance, where the happiness of the people is considered the happiness of the king.

This makes it clear that the Indian model of good governance is not merely institutional, but rather based on a governance approach based on morality and religion.

## ***II. Definition of Good Governance in the Modern Era:***

In modern times, the concept of good governance has been defined as an administrative standard by global institutions, especially the World Bank. According to the World Bank, good governance includes the following seven key elements-

***Participation:*** Active participation of citizens is essential in the governance process. Public hearings, e-governance, and democratic consultation are examples of this.

***Rule of Law:*** Governance should be conducted under the law, ensuring justice and equality.

***Transparency:*** The policy and decision-making process should be clear and accessible to the public.

***Accountability:*** The ruling class should be accountable to the public for its actions.

***Efficiency & Effectiveness:*** The administrative system should make better use of resources and implement a quick decision-making system.

***Equity & Inclusiveness:*** The benefits of governance should reach every section of society, especially disadvantaged communities.

***Responsiveness:*** The Government should respond promptly to citizens' needs and grievances.

## ***III. Modern Form of Good Governance in the Indian Context:***

Good governance in India is linked to a modern democratic framework. The principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi implies that administration should be made simple, transparent, and citizen-centric. This includes initiatives such as e-governance, Digital India, the RTI Act (Right to Information), service delivery portals, and public-participatory policymaking.

Good governance in India embodies not just administrative policy, but a sensitive, ethical, and people-oriented vision of governance. It is a confluence of ancient values and modern management principles, aimed at "sustainable development of the nation through public welfare."

### **2. Transparency: The Foundation of Accountability**

Transparency is the soul of any democratic system. It is the process through which government actions, decisions, policies, and financial transactions are made clear, accessible, and understandable to the public. When governance is transparent, an environment of trust, accountability, and cooperation is created between citizens and the government. Transparency strengthens the fundamental spirit of democracy, which is based on the concept of "governance of the people, by the people, for the people."

#### ***A. The Importance of Transparency:***

Transparency is not merely an administrative convenience, but an essential component of democratic ethics. It ensures that government decisions are made in the public interest, not for the benefit of a particular class or individual. When decision-making processes and administrative activities are open to public view, the potential for corruption, favoritism, and opaque transactions is reduced.

Additionally, transparency empowers citizens—giving them the right to review government activities and suggest necessary improvements. It is thus the foundation of both accountability and good governance.

#### ***B. Major Mechanisms and Initiatives:***

**(i) The Right to Information Act, 2005:**

This Act is the most effective means of institutionalizing transparency in India. Under it, every citizen has the right to obtain information from any public authority. RTI has made government functioning more accountable and open to the public.

**(ii) Digital Governance:**

Initiatives such as Digital India, MyGov, CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), and the Open Government Data Portal make citizens direct partners in governance. Through these platforms, citizens can lodge complaints, make policy suggestions, and access government data.

**(iii) E-Governance:**

E-governance has brought speed, efficiency, and transparency to traditional administrative processes. Systems like online services, e-tendering, e-payments, and the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) not only reduce corruption but also ensure accountability in the use of resources.

**(iv) Social Audit:**

Social audit is a powerful tool for public monitoring. Through it, citizens directly review the implementation of schemes and projects. Social audit, especially in schemes like MNREGA, has strengthened transparency and public control.

**C. Impacts and Challenges of Transparency:**

Transparency enhances trust, ethics, and credibility in governance. It makes the administration more responsive and citizens active participants in governance. However, challenges such as digital inequality, misuse of information, and bureaucratic opaqueness persist.

Ultimately, transparency is the living soul of accountable democracy. It is the backbone of good governance, making governance not only efficient but also ethical and people-oriented. Only when governance is open and accountable to the public does democracy truly flourish in the spirit of “trust and participation.

**3. The Role of Good Governance in the Vision of Developed India @2027**

The Government of India's “Viksit Bharat @2027” vision is to lead the country towards an inclusive, responsive, and transparent democracy where every governance decision is citizen-centric. The core of this vision is –

*“An India where citizen interests are paramount, accountability is the hallmark of governance, and equal opportunities are the foundation of development.”*

This goal is achieved not only through economic progress, but also through the effective establishment of Good Governance. Good governance is the mechanism that ensures administration is not only efficient but also ethical, transparent, and accountable. Good governance serves as a guiding principle in the journey towards a developed India.

**I. Effective Policy-Making: Data-Driven Governance:**

Policymaking in 21st-century India should be based not on traditional assumptions, but on Data-Driven Policymaking. The use of digital technology, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI) is making policymaking more accurate, timely, and result-oriented. For example, schemes like the Aspirational Districts Programme, Digital India Mission, and PM GatiShakti demonstrate the data-sensitivity of good governance.

***II. Access to Justice: E-Courts and Legal Aid System:***

An important indicator of a developed India is that “justice should be equal and accessible to all.” The “e-courts project” has brought transparency and speed by incorporating technology into judicial processes. The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and online legal aid portals have helped rural and marginalized communities access justice. This has strengthened both governance accountability and citizen confidence.

***III. Efficiency in Public Services: Single Window System:***

A key aspect of good governance is the simplification of administrative processes. The Single Window System, Digital Seva Kendra, and Service Delivery Portals have made service delivery faster, transparent, and accountable. This has not only saved time and resources but also increased citizens' trust in governance.

***IV. Ethical Administration: Civil Service Reforms and Mission Karmayogi:***

Mission Karmayogi is a historic initiative of the Government of India, aimed at creating an "ethical, efficient, and citizen-centric civil service." This program is making a significant contribution towards developing transparency, accountability, and modern administrative skills in the bureaucracy. Ethics-based administration is the backbone of long-term good governance.

***V. Social Inclusion: Participation of Women, Rural, and Disadvantaged Communities:***

A developed India means not only economic prosperity, but also a society based on equal opportunities. Women's participation, empowerment of rural areas, and representation of disadvantaged communities are important pillars of good governance. Schemes like \*Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, \*\*Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, and \*\*PM Awas Yojana (Gramin)\* are excellent examples of social inclusion.

***IV. The Ultimate Aim of Governance:***

The core message of good governance in the vision of a developed India @2027 is -

“Decentralization of public welfare, not centralization of power.”

This means that the power of governance should be spread among the people, decisions should be made at the local level, and every citizen should be a partner in policymaking.

Ultimately, good governance is the soul of a developed India. It is not just a program of administrative reform, but a democratic renaissance that empowers citizens and makes governance accountable. Only when governance becomes transparent, ethical, and participatory can the vision of a “developed India @2027” become a reality.

**4. Technology and Transparency in Governance**

Technological innovations can usher in a new revolution in governance in India by 2027. This is not just administrative reform, but a historic shift towards a citizen-centric, transparent, and accountable governance system. Technology makes governance more efficient, accessible, and equitable—realizing the vision of “corruption-free and accountable governance.”

***I. Artificial Intelligence (AI): Transforming Policymaking and Service Delivery:***

AI is playing a vital role in enhancing both the speed and quality of governance. Data-driven decisions in policymaking, monitoring public schemes, and forecasting future needs—AI's contribution is increasing.

For example, initiatives like Aadhaar Analytics, PM GatiShakti, and the Aspirational Districts Dashboard are helping the government make timely decisions and measure the effectiveness of schemes.

Features like chatbots, grievance redressal systems, and automated processing in citizen services through AI strengthen transparency and accountability.

### ***II. Blockchain Technology: Transparency in Records and Services:***

Blockchain is a technological framework that makes data secure, verifiable, and transparent. In India, it is being implemented in areas such as land records, education certificates, health records, and financial transactions.

For example, the Telangana Blockchain Project and Kerala's Blockchain Mission have demonstrated that this technology can significantly reduce problems such as corruption, document forgery, and delays. Through blockchain, every transaction is publicly verifiable, increasing both trust and accountability.

### ***III. Aadhaar-based Welfare Delivery: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):***

India's Aadhaar system is one of the most impactful digital reforms in governance. Through it, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes have eliminated both intermediaries and corruption by delivering assistance directly to beneficiaries' accounts.

For example, DBT in PM-Kisan, Ujjwala Yojana, and scholarship schemes have taken transparency to new heights. This has further increased citizens' trust in governance.

### ***IV. Data Analytics: A Tool for Monitoring and Policy Evaluation:***

Data Analytics enables the government to measure policy effectiveness, monitor corruption, and make real-time decisions to improve public services.

Initiatives such as the MyGov Portal, CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), and the Open Government Data (OGD) Platform ensure participation in policymaking through citizen feedback and data. This makes governance more transparent, factual, and citizen-centric.

Technological innovations have become the backbone of India's good governance. AI, Blockchain, Data Analytics, and Aadhaar-based systems have strengthened transparency, speed, and trust in administrative processes. India's goal by 2027 is not just to become a digital nation, but to embody the ideal of "Digital Democracy" – where technology becomes a means of serving the public interest, not a tool of governance.

## **5. Challenges in Ensuring Good Governance**

Good governance in India means a governance system that is transparent, accountable, participatory, and equitable. But at the practical level, many challenges prevent this ideal from being realized. The following major challenges are particularly noteworthy:

### ***I. Administrative Opacity:***

Lack of transparency in the decision-making process at the local level is a major obstacle to good governance. Many times, administrative decisions are taken without the knowledge of the public, which creates a lack of trust between the public and the government. Despite mechanisms such as the Right to Information (RTI), access to information remains limited in practice. This situation weakens the sense of responsibility and accountability.

### ***II. Political Interference and Corruption:***

Excessive political interference in policy-making and administrative functions affects the impartiality of good governance. Corruption not only wastes economic resources but also weakens public trust. Many times,

competent officials find it difficult to make impartial decisions due to political pressures, which reduces the effectiveness of policies.

### ***III. Digital Divide:***

In the era of e-Governance, unequal access to digital resources has emerged as a serious challenge. Due to the lack of internet, electricity, and technical knowledge in rural areas, the benefits of digital services reach only a limited number of people. This hinders equal participation of citizens in governance, and the process of development remains unbalanced.

### ***IV. Data Security and Privacy:***

Citizens' data is used extensively in the operation of government schemes and services in the digital age. In such a situation, it is extremely important to maintain a balance between transparency and privacy. If data is leaked or misused, both privacy and the trust of citizens may be at risk. This challenge affects both ethical and technical aspects of good governance.

### ***V. Social Inequality:***

Economic, ethnic, gender, and regional inequalities deeply affect the process of good governance. When all sections of society do not get equal opportunities and representation, the benefits of policies are limited to a limited group. This situation weakens democratic participation and makes development uneven.

Without addressing all these challenges, the ideal of good governance in India will remain incomplete. It is necessary that transparency in governance increases, political will becomes stronger, and digital and social inclusion are given priority. Only then will India's development not only be rapid but will also become equitable and participatory.

## **6. Solutions and Policy Suggestions, and Future Directions**

To strengthen good governance in India, mere identification of problems is not enough, but concrete policy reforms and practical measures are also required. The following suggestions can prove to be effective steps towards good governance:

### ***I. Institutional Strengthening:***

The foundation of the democratic system rests on the credibility and independence of its institutions. Institutions like Lokpal, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), and Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) should be given complete freedom to function autonomously and free from political pressure. Providing these institutions with adequate resources, modern technical support, and the power to take timely action will increase both accountability and transparency of governance.

### ***II. Open Data Policy:***

Making data related to government schemes, budgets, projects, and decision processes publicly available can be a major step towards transparent governance. Citizens, researchers, and media can be provided easy access to information through digital platforms like the "Open Data Portal". This will not only increase public confidence but will also strengthen citizen participation in policymaking.

### ***III. Ethical Governance and Training:***

Civil services require not only technical proficiency but also moral values and a sense of public responsibility. Therefore, administrative officers should be regularly given training on subjects like "Ethical Leadership",

“Public Service Motivation”, and “Sensitive Administration”. This will make the decision process more humane and accountable.

#### ***IV. Citizen Empowerment:***

The basic principle of good governance is public participation. For this, it is necessary to give more financial and administrative powers to the local bodies (Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies). Also, encouraging female representation and participation of socially disadvantaged sections will make the decision-making process more inclusive and democratic. Providing effective mechanisms for information, communication, and grievance redressal to citizens is also an essential step in this direction.

#### ***V. Making social audit mandatory:***

Social audit should be made legally mandatory for transparent monitoring of development schemes and welfare programmes. This process directly involves the public in the evaluation of projects and reduces the possibility of corruption or misuse of resources. Social audit can ensure both transparency and accountability in schemes like rural development, MNREGA, education, and health.

If these policy suggestions are implemented effectively, India can put into practice the ideal of good governance. With the coordination of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and ethical leadership, governance will become more people-oriented, equitable, and development-oriented. This should be the good governance model of future India.

### **Conclusion**

Good governance and transparency are the cornerstones of any strong and developed nation. These are not just administrative principles, but the soul of a democratic society, where a relationship of mutual trust and accountability is established between the government and the citizen.

For a diverse and democratic country like India, the goal of “Developed India @ 2027” can be realized only when governance becomes a symbol of public participation and moral responsibility, and not just the management of policies and schemes. Governance should be such that citizens' voices are heard in the decision-making process, the distribution of resources is fair, and administrative functioning remains transparent and sensitive.

Transparency is truly a bridge of trust between citizens and the government — it is the medium that connects the public to governance and gives them confidence that the government is accountable to them. At the same time, good governance is the basis of the strength of that bridge, which ensures that policies are implemented effectively not only on paper, but also on the ground. A strong democracy is one that considers citizens as active participants in governance and not mere spectators. When citizens participate faithfully in the process of governance—be it planning, implementation, or monitoring—governance becomes truly public and accountable.

Therefore, the journey to developed India cannot be limited to economic growth alone. This journey is possible only on the integrated path of good governance, transparency, ethical administration, and citizen empowerment. This is the direction that will not only make India a developed nation but will also present an ideal to the world as a responsible, participatory, and equitable democracy.

## References

- Government of India. (2023). Good Governance Report 2023. Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Mohan, V., & Pannackal, S. (Eds.). (2020). Good Governance in India: Prospects and Challenges. IBP Publications.
- NITI Aayog. (2024). Viksit Bharat Vision Document 2024. Government of India. Retrieved from <https://www.niti.gov.in>
- Rajasekhar, D. (Ed.). (2023). Handbook of Decentralised Governance and Development in India. Routledge.
- Rai, V. (2019). Rethinking Good Governance: Holding to Account India's Public Institutions. Rupa Publications.
- Singh, R. P. (2019). Bhartiya shasan pranali mein pardarshita aur uttardayitva [Transparency and accountability in the Indian governance system]. New Delhi: Rajkamal Prakashan.
- Transparency International. (2024). Corruption perception index: India report 2024. Transparency International. Retrieved from <https://www.transparency.org>
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2022). Good governance for sustainable development. United Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.undp.org>
- World Bank. (2023). World Governance Indicators 2023. The World Bank Group. Retrieved from <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi>