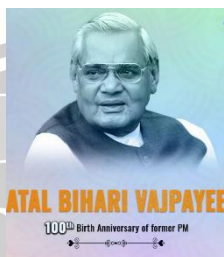


Good Governance Day

Key Points:

- ❖ Sushasan Diwas, which is translated into Good Governance Day, is an annual observance in India that marks the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ This day aims to promote awareness among citizens about government accountability and administration while also instilling “good governance” as a practice for Indian civil servants.
- ❖ It is observed to guarantee that the nation’s citizens are treated equitably by the government and that they get a chance to avail themselves of the benefits of diverse government services.



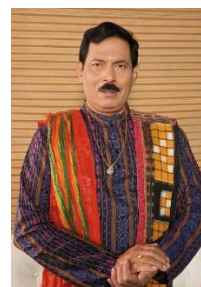
- ❖ In 2014, the newly elected BJP announced that former PM of India and Bharatiya Janata Party’s doyen Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth anniversary will be commemorated as Good Governance Day.
- ❖ A poet-politician, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, which is why Good Governance Day is celebrated every year in India on December 25, and in 2024, it will be observed on Wednesday.
- ❖ Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, served as India’s Prime Minister three times: briefly in 1996, for 13 months in 1998 and 1999, and full-time from 1999 to 2004.
- ❖ His tenure saw transformational initiatives like the Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the National Rural Health Program.

- ❖ The Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) festivities began on December 19, according to the official website, and will end on December 25. This year, in 2024, the government of India will commemorate the day under the **theme, “India’s Path to a Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens through Good Governance and Digitalisation.”**

The first Vice Chancellor of Maa Manikeswari University, Bhawanipatna, Sanjay Kumar Satapathy, passed away

Key Points:

- ❖ The first Vice Chancellor of Maa Manikeswari University, Bhawanipatna, Sanjay Kumar Satapathy, passed away while undergoing treatment at Private Hospital in Bhubaneswar, today.
- ❖ He was suffering from prolonged illness and was admitted to the private healthcare facility. Known for his transformative leadership, Satapathy played a pivotal role in the development of Maa Manikeswari University.
- ❖ Under his guidance, the university witnessed significant progress, and its students excelled across various disciplines. He joined as the Vice Chancellor of the university on April 16, 2021. Apart from his academic contributions, Satapathy was a noted orator, a popular announcer, and a singer.



- ❖ A notable figure in education, literature, and the arts, Satapathy was honoured with the esteemed ‘Devgiri Samman’ in 2022, recognizing his lifelong contributions.

- ❖ Over his career, he guided more than 25 PhD candidates and worked in several colleges and universities throughout the state.
- ❖ His involvement in stage, radio, and television began in 1971, and he gained recognition as a lyricist and singer with All India Radio, in addition to being a regular television presenter.

Tonga elects 'Aisake Valu Eke' as new Prime Minister

Key Points:

- ❖ The Pacific island nation of Tonga has elected veteran politician Aisake Valu Eke as its new Prime Minister on 24 December 2024. Aisake Valu Eke will succeed the former Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni who resigned two weeks ago after a no-confidence motion was moved against him in the Parliament. Aisake Valu Eke will be formally sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the country in February 2025 and is expected to lead the country into the next general elections scheduled for November 2025.



- ❖ Parliament elects Aisake Valu Eke as Prime Minister. Tonga is a constitutional monarchy where the executive power is vested in a popularly elected government.
- ❖ The Parliament of Tonga is a unicameral house known as the Legislative Assembly of Tonga or Fale Alea O Tonga. The parliament consists of 26 members of

which 17 are elected by the people for a three-year term.

- ❖ The rest 9 members are hereditary nobles elected by their peers. The Prime Minister needs to have a majority in the Parliament. Aisake Valu Eke secured 16 votes and his closest rival Viliami Latu secured eight votes. Thus Aisake Valu Eke was elected as the new Prime Minister of Tonga.
- ❖ Aisake Valu Eke was first elected to parliament in 2010 and served as finance minister between 2014 and 2017.

Democracy in Tonga

- ❖ Tonga is a monarchy where the King or Queen held absolute power for over 100 years. After the 2006 violent pro-democracy protest movement in the country, the power of the Monarch was diluted and power was transferred to a popularly elected government responsible to the Parliament. The Monarch is still the Head of the State and appoints the Prime Minister but his role is mainly ceremonial.



About Tonga

- ❖ Tonga is an archipelago of about 170 islands in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean. Tonga falls in the active volcanic rim and many of its islands are volcanic in origin. Coral reefs are also found in Tonga.
- ❖ The country consists of around 106,000 people spread across its islands. The country is highly indebted to China.

- ❖ The country owes around \$130 million to the Chinese banks which is around one-third of its gross domestic product (GDP).
- ❖ The loan was taken by the Tonga government to rebuild its cities after the 2006 riots. Capital: Nuku'alofa Currency: Paanga Head of State : King Tupou VI

M Raghu & Devika Sihag crowned 2024 Sr National Badminton Champion

Key Points:

- ❖ Karnataka's M.Raghu and Haryana's Devika Sihag won the men's and women's singles title respectively, at the 86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024.
- ❖ The 86th Senior National Badminton Championships was organised by the Badminton Association of India and hosted by Karnataka Badminton Association in Bengaluru, Karnataka from 20-24 December 2024.
- ❖ Before the Senior National Badminton Championship, the 77th Inter Zonal Badminton Championship was organised by the Badminton Association of India in Bengaluru on 18 & 19 December 2024.
- ❖ The Inter Zonal Badminton Championships is a team event while the Senior National Badminton Championship is a singles /doubles and mixed doubles events.



PM Modi laid foundation of Ken Betwa Interlinking River Project

Key Points:

- ❖ In a function organised in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh on 25 December 2024, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project, inaugurated Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project and performed the Bhoomi Pujan of over 1,100 Atal Gram Sushasan Bhawans.
- ❖ The function was organised to mark the 100th birth anniversary of the 10th Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also released a stamp and coin in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Since 2014 the central government has observed 25th December as the Good Governance Day. Mangubhai Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Dr Mohan Yadav Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patel were also present at the event.



- ❖ The Ken Betwa National River Linking Project The Ken-Betwa national river interlinking project is the first of the 30 rivers to be interlinked under the central government's 'Interlinking of Rivers under the National Perspective Plan'.
- ❖ The plan proposes to interlink 30 rivers -16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan rivers ,so as to transfer the surplus water of a river to a

water deficit river. It is expected to solve the problem of flooding, drought and provide assured drinking water and irrigation facilities.

Who is implementing the Project ?

- ❖ The project is being implemented by the National Water Development Agency under the Union Ministry of Jalshakti.

MoU between center and the state government on Ken -Betwa Project

- ❖ The Central government and the state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on March 22, 2021 for the implementation of Ken-Betwa link national Project. To implement the project a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called KenBetwa Link Project Authority (KALPA) has been set up.

Cost of the Project

- ❖ The total cost of the project is Rs 44 thousand 605 crores (at the 2020-21 price level) . The cost of the project will be shared by the center and the states in a 90:10 ratio. The central government will provide Rs.39,317 crore of which Rs 36,290 crore will be in the form of grant and Rs 3,027 crore as loan. The rest of the amount will be contributed by the two states.

Phase of the project

- ❖ Under Phase-I Daudhan Dam will be built along with the Ken-Betwa Link Canal. The Daudhan dam will be a multipurpose project with a hydel power generating capacity of 103 MW.
- ❖ It will be constructed on Ken river in the Panna Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh. Phase-2 Lower Orr dam to be built on river Orr, a tributary of Betwa in the Didauni village, situated on the border of the Shivpuri and Ashok Nagar districts in Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ Kotha Barrage on Betwa river in Madhya Pradesh will be constructed. Bina Complex Irrigation and Multipurpose Project will be built on Bina and Dhasan, both are tributaries of river Betwa and Dehra Nullah which is tributary of Bina river.
- ❖ It comprises construction of four dams namely Madia reservoir, Dehra dam, Dhasan dam and Chakarpur dam in Sagar district.

Benefits to Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ People of Panna, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Sagar, Damoh, Vidisha, Shivpuri, Datia, and Raisen districts benefit. Irrigation facilities in more than 8 lakh hectares of area to benefit more than 7 lakh farmer families of 2 thousand villages in 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh. 44 lakh population of 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh to get drinking water facility.

Benefits to Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Banda, Mahoba, Jhansi & Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh are to be the main beneficiaries. 2.51 lakh hectares to have Irrigation facilities 21 lakh population to have drinking water facilities. It will improve the ground water level in drought prone Bundelkhand region.

About Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project

- ❖ The 90 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project was commissioned by the SJVN Limited in August 2024. It was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on 25 December 2024. The Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is built on River Narmada and is located in the Khandwa District of Madhya Pradesh. The Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is in the largest floating solar park of India, the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park.

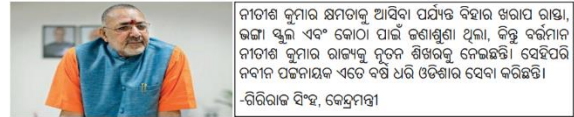
Union minister Giriraj Singh demanded highest civilian award for Bihar CM as well as for former CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, a former NDA ally

Key Points:

- ❖ Two weeks after JD(U), a major ally of the ruling NDA, demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to felicitate Bihar chief minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar with the Bharat Ratna award for his sincere efforts to take the state out of a morass and set things on the right track, Union minister Giriraj Singh on Wednesday demanded the highest civilian honour not only for Bihar CM but also for former CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, a former NDA ally. The opposition RJD laughed at the demand and wondered who was stopping them from giving highest civilian honour to CM Nitish.



- ❖ Singh's demand is taken with a pinch of salt as the vocal BJP leader is known as a detractor of Kumar and someone who minces no words to criticise him. But of late, he has been showering lavish praise on him. Union minister expressed similar sentiment in Begusarai, his Lok Sabha constituency, lavishing praise on Kumar, and Patnaik, a former alliance partner whom the saffron party ousted from power earlier this year.



ନୀତୀଶ କୁମାର ଶ୍ରମଜୀବୀ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିହାର ଖରାପ ରାଜ୍ୟ, ଭଙ୍ଗା ସ୍କୁଲ ଏବଂ କୋଠା ପାଇଁ ଜଣାଶୁଣା ଥିଲା, କିନ୍ତୁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ନୀତୀଶ କୁମାର ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ନୂତନ ଶିଖରକୁ ନେଇଛନ୍ତି। ସେହିପରି ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଏତେ ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସେବା କରିଛନ୍ତି।
-ଗିରିରାଜ ସିଂହ, କେନ୍ଦ୍ରମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

- ❖ The Bharat Ratna Award is the highest civilian award in India. Instituted on 2 January 1954, the award is conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order". It is bestowed upon individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the nation in various fields, such as arts, literature, science, and public service. However, the Government, in 2011, expanded the criteria to include "any field of human endeavour". The recommendations for the award are made by the Prime Minister to the President.



- ❖ The recipients receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a peepal leaf-shaped medallion with no monetary grant associated with the award. Bharat Ratna recipients rank seventh in the Indian order of precedence. There is no formal provision that recipients of the Bharat Ratna should be Indian citizens. It has been conferred on one naturalized citizen, Mother Teresa, and on two non-Indians: Abdul Ghaffar Khan (born in British India and later a citizen of Pakistan) and Nelson Mandela, a citizen of South Africa.
- ❖ The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were: the former Governor-General of the Union of India C. Rajagopalachari, the former President of the Republic of India Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan; and the Indian

physicist C. V. Raman, who was honoured in 1954. Since then, the award has been bestowed upon 53 individuals, including 18 who were awarded posthumously.

Noted Hindi Writer Suryabala wins 34th Vyas Samman

Key Points:

- ❖ Hindi writer Suryabala has been chosen for the 34th Vyas Samman 2024 in recognition of her novel "Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary" which was published in 2018. This Hindi novel explores how Indian youth see America as a land of opportunity, the challenges they face when moving there, the temptations they encounter, and the cultural conflicts they experience. The selection was made by a committee chaired by Prof. Ramji Tiwari. Note: Pushpa Bharathi was honored with the 33rd Vyas Samman for the book "Yaadein Yaadein Aur Yaadein".



- ❖ Suryabala, born in 1943 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh(UP). Throughout her extensive career, she has authored more than 50 novels, biographies, and children's stories, many of which have been adapted into television serials. Noted works: Dikshanta (1992), Mere sandi-patra (2003) and Dishahen (2010) Awards: In 2019, she was honored with the Bharat Bharti, the highest literary award from the UP Hindi Sansthan.
- ❖ In 2003, she received the Priyadarshini Award from Maharashtra state government

in recognition of her outstanding contributions to literature.

- ❖ She has also been honored with the Maharashtra Hindi Academy Award, the Ratni Devi Goenka Award, and the 'Vyanga Sri' award by the Hindi Bhavan Nyas.

About Vyas Samman:

- ❖ The Vyas Samman is a prestigious literary award presented annually by the **K.K. Birla Foundation** to honor outstanding **Hindi literary works** published in the last 10 years.
- ❖ **The first Vyas Samman was awarded in 1991 to Dr. Ram Vilas Sharma** for his work **Bharat ke Pracheen Bhasha aur Hindi**. The award includes a cash prize of Rs 4 lakh, along with a citation and a plaque. The K.K. Birla Foundation also presents the Saraswati Samman and the Bihari Puraskar.

Christopher Nolan and Emma Thomas Honored with Knighthood and Damehood

Key Points:

- ❖ In December 2024, Oscar award winning filmmaker Christopher Nolan and his wife, Emma Thomas were honored with royal honors 'knighthood' and 'damehood', respectively, by King Charles III for their remarkable contributions to the film industry in a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace in London, the United Kingdom (UK).
- ❖ The couple has worked together on numerous blockbuster films since 1997 through their Syncopy production company. About the honor: An honor knighthood is a title bestowed upon men and an honor damehood is a title bestowed upon women.
- ❖ These honors allow them to use the titles 'Sir' and 'Dame' before their names, recognizing their outstanding work in film production.



- ❖ About Christopher Nolan & Emma Thomas: Christopher Nolan, the director of Oppenheimer, Inception, and Interstellar has earned global recognition for his visionary film making. Emma Thomas has worked as a producer on all of his films, including Memento (2000), Batman Begins (2005) and The Prestige (2006).

