Class 9 Social Science Chapter 13: Governance and Public Policy - Notes, Important Questions and MCQs (2026-27)

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These Class 9 Social Science Chapter 13 notes (Part 2, Chapter 4) cover “Governance and Public Policy” from the new NCERT textbook Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Part 2, 2026-27): the meaning and principles of good governance, its Indian roots in Rājadharma and Rām Rājya, e-governance, what public policy is, the policy cycle, and how different stakeholders coordinate to make policies work – with tables, Q&A, 10 MCQs and a free PDF.

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Chapter Overview

Solving public problems – power cuts, water shortage, waste or road safety – needs more than orders from the government. Governance is the process by which decisions are made and implemented, involving the government, citizens, civil society and the private sector. Good governance is transparent, accountable, participatory, responsive, equitable and follows the rule of law.

Indian thought has long valued righteous rule – Sabha and Samiti, Rājadharma and Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Rām Rājya based on probity, transparency, compassion and welfare. Public policies are government courses of action to address public problems, made through a cycle of identifying problems, formulation, adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Important Topics and Concepts

Governance and Good Governance

- Governance: how decisions are made and carried out to manage public affairs.
- Principles: transparency, rule of law, accountability, participation, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, consensus.
- Good Governance Day is observed on 25 December.
- India’s national motto Satyameva Jayate (Truth alone triumphs) comes from the Muṇḍaka Upaniṣhad.

Indian Roots of Good Governance

- Vedic Sabha and Samiti valued consultation.
- Rājadharma – duty of the ruler to protect and serve people.
- Mahatma Gandhi’s Rām Rājya: probity, transparency, compassion, welfare and people-centred governance.
- The Sengol, a symbol of righteous rule, was placed in the new Parliament building in 2023.

E-Governance

- Use of information and communication technology to deliver government services.
- Makes governance more transparent, accessible, quick and convenient.
- Examples: online applications, digital documents, grievance portals, direct benefit transfers.
- Technology alone is not enough – people’s participation and capacity matter.

Public Policy

- A policy is a plan or course of action; a public policy is adopted by the government to address public problems.
- Not every policy is public – a company’s work-from-home rule is a private policy.
- Contributors: citizens identify needs, legislatures make laws, executives implement, courts review, civil society and media give feedback.
- Case study: a ramp at a health centre shows how a local need became a policy for accessibility.

The Policy Cycle

- Policy desirability: identifying a public problem or need.
- Prioritising among many needs.
- Formulation: consulting stakeholders and drafting options.
- Adoption: approving or framing legislation.
- Implementation: putting the policy into action.
- Monitoring and evaluation: tracking progress and assessing impact, then improving.

Policy Coordination

- Policies need coordination across ministries, Union, State and local governments, private sector and people.
- Khelo Bharat Niti (2025) aims to transform sports with roles for states, districts, schools and federations.
- Poor implementation can make a good policy fail – e.g. trees planted but not watered.

- Citizen participation may slow decisions but improves outcomes.

Who Contributes to Public Policy

Stakeholders.

Contributor	Role
Citizens	Identify problems, give feedback, participate
Legislature	Debates and makes laws
Executive	Implements policies
Judiciary	Reviews legality, protects rights
Civil society and media	Raise issues, monitor, inform
Private sector	Partners in delivery and innovation

Principles of Good Governance

Principle	Meaning
Transparency	Decisions are open and accessible
Rule of Law	Everyone is equal under law
Accountability	Officials answer for their actions
Participation	Citizens take part in decisions
Responsiveness	Timely response to people’s needs
Equity and inclusiveness	All groups benefit fairly
Effectiveness and efficiency	Best use of resources for results

Important Definitions and Terms

Term	Meaning
Governance	Process of making and implementing decisions for public affairs
Good governance	Governance that is transparent, accountable and people-centred
Rājadharma	Duty of a ruler towards people
Rām Rājya	Gandhi’s ideal of welfare-oriented, ethical governance
E-governance	Use of ICT to deliver government services
Public policy	Government course of action to solve public problems
Policy cycle	Stages through which a policy is made and reviewed
Implementation	Putting a policy into action
Evaluation	Assessing the impact of a policy
Stakeholder	Anyone affected by or involved in a policy

Short Answer Questions

Q1. What is governance?

The process by which decisions about public matters are made and implemented.

Q2. Name any four principles of good governance.

Transparency, rule of law, accountability and participation.

Q3. What did Gandhi mean by Rām Rājya?

Governance based on probity, transparency, compassion, welfare and people's needs.

Q4. When is Good Governance Day observed?

On 25 December.

Q5. What is e-governance?

Using digital technology to deliver government services quickly and transparently.

Q6. Differentiate between a policy and a public policy.

A policy is any plan of action; a public policy is adopted by the government for public problems.

Q7. Name the stages of the policy cycle.

Problem identification, prioritising, formulation, adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Q8. Why can a good policy fail?

If it is not implemented, monitored or coordinated properly.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Explain the principles of good governance.

Transparency – open decisions.

Rule of law – equality before law.

Accountability – officials answer to people.

Participation and responsiveness – involve and serve citizens.

Equity, effectiveness and consensus – fair and efficient outcomes.

Q2. Describe the stages of the policy cycle with an example.

Identifying the problem – e.g. lack of ramps at a health centre.

Prioritising and formulating options with stakeholders.

Adoption – approving the plan or law.

Implementation – building ramps.

Monitoring and evaluation – checking use and impact, then improving.

Q3. Why is coordination important in public policy?

Many departments and levels of government are involved.

Example: Khelo Bharat Niti needs states, districts and schools.

Lack of coordination leads to failure (unwatered saplings).

Coordination ensures resources and responsibilities are aligned.

MCQs with Answers

1. Good Governance Day is on(a) 26 January (b) 25 December (c) 2 October (d) 15 AugustAnswer: (b) 25 December

2. Satyameva Jayate comes from the(a) Rigveda (b) Muṇḍaka Upaniṣhad (c) Arthashastra (d) Bhagavad GitaAnswer: (b) Muṇḍaka Upaniṣhad

3. Gandhi’s ideal of governance was(a) Rām Rājya (b) Swaraj only (c) monarchy (d) dictatorshipAnswer: (a) Rām Rājya

4. The Sengol was placed in the new Parliament in(a) 2019 (b) 2023 (c) 2014 (d) 2025Answer: (b) 2023

5. Putting a policy into action is(a) formulation (b) implementation (c) evaluation (d) adoptionAnswer: (b) implementation

6. Assessing a policy’s impact is(a) evaluation (b) formulation (c) adoption (d) desirabilityAnswer: (a) evaluation

7. Khelo Bharat Niti was launched in(a) 2020 (b) 2023 (c) 2025 (d) 2018Answer: (c) 2025

8. A company’s work-from-home rule is a(a) public policy (b) private policy (c) law (d) constitutional ruleAnswer: (b) private policy

9. E-governance mainly uses(a) ICT (b) postal letters only (c) courts (d) armyAnswer: (a) ICT

10. Which is NOT a principle of good governance?(a) transparency (b) accountability (c) secrecy (d) participationAnswer: (c) secrecy

Quick Revision Points

- Governance vs good governance; principles.
- Roots: Sabha–Samiti, Rājadharma, Rām Rājya, Sengol.
- Good Governance Day 25 Dec; Satyameva Jayate.
- E-governance benefits and limits.
- Policy vs public policy; contributors.
- Policy cycle stages; coordination (Khelo Bharat Niti 2025).

Chapter Summary

Governance is how decisions about public matters are made and carried out, involving the government, citizens, civil society and businesses. Good governance is transparent, accountable, participatory, responsive and fair, and draws on Indian ideals like Rājadharma and Gandhi’s Rām Rājya. E-governance uses technology to make services faster and more open.

Public policies are government actions to solve public problems. They pass through a cycle of

Exam Tips and PYQ Pattern

- Learn principles of good governance as a list with meanings.
- Policy cycle stages in correct order are often asked.
- Use case studies (ramp, tree plantation) in answers.
- Remember dates: Good Governance Day, Khelo Bharat Niti 2025.
- Distinguish policy from public policy with examples.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this chapter in the 2026-27 CBSE syllabus?

Yes. It is part of the new NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook “Understanding Society: India and Beyond” (Part 2, Chapter 4), prescribed for the 2026-27 session.

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What are the principles of good governance?

Transparency, rule of law, accountability, participation, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness, and effectiveness.

What are the stages of the policy cycle?

Identifying the problem, prioritising, formulation, adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Conclusion

Governance and Public Policy explains how good decisions reach people’s lives. Learn the principles and policy cycle tables, practise the Q&A here and save the free PDF for revision.

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Author Bio: Written and reviewed by the Nextoper Editorial Team, a group of CBSE social science educators who build chapter notes directly from the NCERT textbook and past board paper patterns.

Freshness Note: These notes follow the NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook, Understanding Society: India and Beyond (Parts 1 and 2, first edition 2026, NCF-SE 2023), and the CBSE syllabus for the 2026-27 session. Last checked on 23 November 2026.