



**Sanskriti IAS**



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# **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS**

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## **TOPICS:-**

- 1. The institutionalised sluggishness of the legal system**  
(GS Paper II Polity and Governance)
- 2. India's rural models are shaping development diplomacy**  
(GS Paper II Governance)
- 3. India's migration governance has a blind spot**  
(GS Paper II Governance)

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# 1. THE INSTITUTIONALISED SLUGGISHNESS OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

*(GS Paper II Polity and Governance)*

This editorial 'The institutionalised sluggishness of the legal system' was published in **The Hindu** on 17th Apr 2026, highlights the urgent need for **systemic judicial reform** to make justice faster, inclusive, accessible and accountable.

## Crisis of delay and procedural injustice

- Over **five crore** pending cases have made delay a structural feature, turning the promise of **justice** into an exhausting and costly ordeal for ordinary citizens.
- Long-running disputes make even favourable outcomes hollow, because **litigation** costs and lost years often exceed the value of the **claim** itself.
- Frequent and often needless **adjournments**, along with procedural bottlenecks, keep cases suspended for decades and make the **process** itself punitive.
- This failure is starkest in grave criminal matters, where the **accused** may spend prime years in **prison** before eventual acquittal and without compensation.
- Under stringent laws such as **UAPA**, overcrowded prisons and weak access to **bail** have made incarceration a norm rather than an exception.
- The judiciary must therefore set clear mandatory **timelines**, within one or two years, for either commencing a meaningful **trial** or granting bail.

## Modernisation, inclusivity and affordable access

- Courts still function with a colonial-era dependence on **physical files** and compulsory **presence**, forcing litigants to travel long distances even for brief hearings.
- The editorial treats **digitalisation**, including AI and data-driven case management, as a necessity to reduce backlog, automate routine filing, flag delays and support research.
- Faster courts alone are insufficient, because public trust also depends on greater **inclusivity** in a Bench still seen as an insular **old boys' club**.
- Better **representation** of women and marginalised communities would improve judicial quality by bringing wider lived experience, empathy and social **responsiveness** into rulings.
- Justice remains unaffordable for many, since competent **counsel** and prolonged litigation expenses make the legal system a luxury **good**.

- India must transform **legal aid** into a high-quality institution and also provide means for citizens to defend their **life** and liberty.
- Continued **centralisation** of the highest courts burdens litigants from distant regions, making **regional benches** or stronger virtual hearings necessary for real access.

### Accountability, independence and systemic overhaul

- The deeper aim of reform is to preserve **constitutional morality** and judicial **independence**, so courts can hold the powerful accountable without fear.
- Yet independence cannot mean absence of **accountability**; live-streaming major cases and clearer norms for judicial **appointments** can rebuild public trust.
- The Court must stop treating reform as incremental tinkering and recognise the current situation as a slow-moving **catastrophe** eroding the **rule of law** daily.
- The system must shift from an adversarial culture that prolongs every dispute into a culture of timely **resolution**, aided by judges comfortable with both **technology** and law.
- Judicial success by **Viksit Bharat 2047** should be measured not by national wealth or innovation alone, but by whether people actually secure **justice** in courts.
- Without reform, law risks becoming a tool of the **powerful** rather than a shield for the **weak**.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Constitutional and socio-economic costs of judicial delay

- **Rights burden:** Judicial delay weakens **Article 14** and **Article 21**, as the **Hussainara Khatoon** line of cases recognised speedy trial as integral to liberty.
- **Undertrial injustice:** A slow system turns process into punishment, and **Section 436A CrPC** itself reflects concern over unjustified long detention of undertrials.
- **Economic drag:** Delayed contract enforcement raises transaction costs and hurts business confidence, with **World Bank** assessments long flagging India's contract-enforcement delays.
- **Social exclusion:** Poor households, women, migrants, and marginalised groups suffer more, which is why **NALSA** and legal-services institutions remain critical to equal access.

- **State legitimacy:** When courts cannot deliver timely outcomes, citizens see the state as ineffective, a concern reinforced by **NJDG** pendency data and high **High Court** backlog.
- **Democratic deficit:** Delay in civil and criminal justice erodes faith in the **rule of law**, despite reform efforts such as **FTSCs** and digital systems under the Department of Justice.

## 2. INDIA'S RURAL MODELS ARE SHAPING DEVELOPMENT DIPLOMACY

*(GS Paper II Governance)*

This editorial '**India's rural models are shaping development diplomacy**' was published in **The Hindu** on 17th Apr 2026, highlights how the **National Rural Livelihood Mission** is turning India's rural transformation model into an instrument of South-South development cooperation.

### **NRLM's scale and domestic transformation**

- Launched in **2011** under the **Ministry of Rural Development**, NRLM sought to reduce multidimensional poverty through self-employment, financial inclusion and skills.
- In 15 years, **Self-Help Groups** have expanded beyond early expectations, with over 20 million women earning above ₹1,00,000 and women banking correspondents present in over 60% of local governments.
- More than 50 million women have accessed **bank credit**, and the programme is credited with boosting female **labour force** participation since 2018.
- By mid-2025, **NRLM** operated in 742 districts, reached over 100 million households and mobilised more than nine million **SHGs**.
- The mission facilitated ₹51,368 crore in **capitalisation support** and enabled bank linkages of about ₹12 lakh crore, reflecting both scale and institutional depth.
- The **Union Budget 2026-27** allocated ₹19,200 crore, reaffirming NRLM as India's flagship programme for rural **poverty alleviation**.
- NRLM's distinctiveness lies in the ecosystem it built through federated community institutions, last-mile cadres and formal financial inclusion rather than a narrow welfare scheme.

## Why the model travels across borders

- Development innovations often remain context-bound, but the **NRLM** model appears unusually portable across the **Global South**.
- Delegations from **Ethiopia**, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya and Rwanda have studied not just NRLM outcomes but its operating mechanisms and scaling architecture.
- Their interest centres on how India expanded **SHGs** to tens of millions, sustained **credit linkages** and mobilised communities into federations.
- They also examined how trained cadres worked at scale and how **accountability** and financial **discipline** were embedded institutionally.
- The editorial links this interest to a wider shift from Western development templates toward **peer learning** rooted in local and contextual innovation.
- African policymakers find the model relevant because its focus on **women's empowerment** aligns with efforts to deepen economic participation across the continent.
- The pooled savings, peer learning and trust-based **credit discipline** of the **SHG** model offer a structured yet flexible route to strengthen women's agency.
- The architecture is attractive because it is **cost-effective**, community-driven and scalable even for **resource-constrained** states.
- It also aligns with Africa's large **informal economies**, where livelihood diversification and microenterprise formation are central.
- The model appeals further because it is an **institution-building** approach that strengthens local governance, accountability and long-term community capacity.

## Implications for India's development diplomacy

- India's development cooperation has traditionally relied on **capacity-building**, concessional finance and **technical assistance**, but NRLM dissemination marks an institutional turn.
- India is now exporting **social-sector institutions** grounded in its own developmental experience rather than only material resources.
- Such models create durable linkages among **bureaucracies**, implementing agencies and **community organisations**, opening a distinct channel for international engagement.
- They also create collaboration pathways in **digital governance**, agriculture and **financial architecture**.

- The NRLM case shows that India's domestic innovations are shaping **South-South cooperation** through the circulation of knowledge and institutional practices.
- To build on this, the editorial proposes institutionalising rural livelihoods exchange through a dedicated **Knowledge Exchange Platform** linking Indian missions, training institutions and African governments.
- Expanded training, longer fellowships, immersion visits and **joint pilots** could help adapt **SHG-based** initiatives to local conditions.
- The broader claim is that India can generate development solutions whose relevance extends beyond its borders and helps shape a new paradigm of global development.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Strategic gains for India from institution-based South-South cooperation

- **Soft power depth:** Exporting workable rural institutions, as seen in African study visits on **NRLM**, gives India more credible soft power than rhetoric alone.
- **Global South leadership:** By sharing scalable models like **SHGs** with Ethiopia and Kenya, India strengthens leadership through practical solutions, not only diplomatic positioning.
- **Norm-setting role:** Institution-based cooperation lets India shape development discourse around women's empowerment and local capacity, unlike many older donor-driven aid templates.
- **Diplomatic capital:** Long-term engagement through training, immersion visits, and policy partnerships, as with African delegations to India, builds deeper trust than one-time grants.
- **Strategic partnerships:** Collaboration in livelihoods, finance, and governance with countries such as Rwanda and Tanzania can widen India's influence beyond trade or geopolitics.
- **Model credibility:** When **NRLM** and **SHG** architecture gain overseas relevance, India's domestic welfare successes become instruments of legitimacy and external engagement.

### 3. INDIA'S MIGRATION GOVERNANCE HAS A BLIND SPOT

*(GS Paper II Governance)*

This editorial 'India's migration governance has a blind spot' was published in **The Indian Express** on 17th Apr 2026, highlights the need to **govern migration** as a continuous system of mobility, welfare and return rather than only as a crisis response.

#### **Crisis visibility and structural importance**

- India's evacuation of over 4.75 lakh citizens from **West Asia** by March-end showed diplomatic capacity, but it also exposed the limits of crisis-only **migration governance**.
- The **Gulf** remains central to Indian mobility, welfare and labour-market dependence, with nearly 99.35 lakh Indians in the **GCC** in December 2025.
- The region accounted for 37.9 per cent of India's **remittance** inflows in 2023-24, so instability quickly transmits into districts, households and **state welfare** systems.
- The present moment is therefore not only a foreign-policy test, but also a test of how India understands **mobility** governance **itself**.

#### **Institutional blind spot in migration governance**

- India's internal and external **mobility** systems rest on interconnected chains that remain thinly **institutionalised** and highly disruption-prone.
- The **COVID** lockdown exposed this fragility through the sudden immobilisation of millions of **internal migrants**.
- Fresh pressures such as rising **living costs**, higher LPG prices, tighter mobility conditions and sectoral slowdown are again steadily eroding **worker stability**.
- Diplomatic engagement, consular coordination and **repatriation** remain valuable, but they address disruption only after **crisis** becomes visible.
- By the time return flights are arranged, deeper questions about **recruitment**, destination support and **return conditions** have already gone unaddressed.
- Many fragilities emerge gradually without halting **production** itself, as workers continue to move, work and remit under increasingly **precarious** conditions.
- Policy frameworks struggle to capture these slow accumulations of **stress** because the system is not designed around whole **journeys**.

## Fragmented architecture and data deficit

- India's governance architecture was not built around migrants' **journeys** across districts or borders, but around fragmented **administrative** mandates.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** manages emigration clearances and diplomacy, while the **Ministry of Labour** oversees recruitment and worker welfare.
- State governments add separate **skilling** schemes and welfare funds, yet the worker's lived journey does not follow these neat **institutional** boundaries.
- Workers move through source districts, passport channels, recruitment systems and multiple administrative jurisdictions, remaining visible only in **parts** of the **system**.
- This partial visibility is sharpest in **data**, because India still lacks sufficiently granular and dynamic **migration information** for participatory governance.
- In ordinary times this appears as an **administrative** gap, but in extraordinary times it becomes a direct **welfare** challenge.

## Need for connected and continuous governance

- Unevenness across India is significant, as **Kerala** shows how sustained political attention can build stronger migration **institutions**.
- But such capacity cannot be assumed across all major **sending States**, because return shocks are absorbed differently by district systems, labour markets and **households**.
- The pending **Overseas Mobility Facilitation** and Welfare Bill offers a chance to embed welfare into the system's **architecture**.
- Whether a worker goes from **Jharkhand** to Surat or to Riyadh, the policy challenge is to recognise both as parts of one connected **mobility landscape**.
- That requires steady **protections**, coherent governance and assured **accessibility** across all stages of migration.
- India now has strong **policy** foundations, growing bilateral ties and wider global labour **corridors**, but this maturity demands institutional deepening.
- The editorial's core claim is that India must build a continuous architecture of **visibility**, coordination, welfare and **return** before, during and after crises.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Need for a rights-based and portable social protection framework

- **Portability gap:** Migrants often lose welfare access when they move, making portable systems like **ONORC** essential across districts, States, and destinations.
- **Rights perspective:** Migration policy should treat workers not merely as remittance earners, but as citizens entitled to dignity, safety, and protection, as reflected in **NORKA ROOTS** support systems.
- **Federal coordination:** Since migration spans source areas, destinations, and Union institutions, stronger **Centre-State** coordination is vital, as Kerala's **NORKA** model shows.
- **Labour security:** Portable entitlements in health, insurance, skilling, and grievance redress, through **PM-JAY** portability and **e-Shram**, can reduce worker vulnerability.
- **Gender sensitivity:** Women migrants face layered risks in work, safety, and care, making gender-responsive community support vital, as seen in women-centred **Self-Help Group** networks.
- **Inclusive governance:** A portability-based welfare architecture, backed by **e-Shram** data and **ONORC**, would make migration governance more humane before disruption becomes crisis.