EDITORIALS - 19TH NOV 2026

1. TURNING POLICE REFORM INTO PRACTICE (GS PAPER II GOVERNANCE)

This editorial '**Turning police reform into practice**' was published in **The Hindu** on 19th Nov 2026, highlights how police-station reforms can improve **citizen services**, prevent **misconduct** and strengthen **working conditions**.

Evidence and scope

- Citizens reported repeat visits to register complaints, fear of **police harassment** and few inquiry updates, while personnel cited heavy workloads and inadequate **weekly rest**.
- The **Indian Police Foundation (IPF)**, supported by the Azim Premji Foundation, used surveys, focus groups and interviews across **15 police stations** in Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Most proposals can be implemented at station level without extra funding, except those requiring structural changes.

Police response, prevention and safeguards

- Delhi's **e-FIR** rollout under the **BNSS** eased online filing, but converting e-complaints into regular FIRs still requires complainants' signatures, and insurance-only recording is inadequate for tackling property offences.
- A digital **visitor management system** and a **help desk** can reduce complaint and FIR registration delays, alongside QR codes at police stations.
- Proposed **crime prevention** measures include night escorts for working women, mandatory taxi QR codes and panic buttons linked to district control rooms, body-worn and dashboard cameras, and wider **CCTV coverage** linked to district control centres.

- Proposed **community policing** measures include a citizen sentinel scheme, beat- and station-level outreach, student internships with police, and **skills training** for school dropouts and people with drug addiction.
- Beyond statutory arrest duties, proposed **custodial safeguards** include DySP scrutiny of arrest reasons, a post-arrest phone call, notice of the right to **free legal aid**, standardised and video-recorded personal searches to protect valuables, and remote lock-up monitoring by senior officers.

Working conditions and capacity

- Better **working conditions** require rest rooms, weekly offs, transport or vehicle allowances for investigating officers, contingency funds for investigation supplies, devices for the **e-Sakshya app**, and a recruitment board.
- Periodic soft-skills training and a **police e-academy** would support continuous learning, while linking training to **career progression** and involving constables in investigations would expand their roles.

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Independent oversight of police misconduct

- **Independent redress**: In *Prakash Singh v. Union of India* (2006), the Supreme Court directed states to establish state- and district-level Police Complaints Authorities so citizens could report serious misconduct outside the police hierarchy.
- **Independent appointments**: The Court envisaged retired judges as chairpersons and dedicated staff for field inquiries, giving complaints authorities the leadership and capacity to examine cases independently.
- **Accessible complaints**: The Delhi Police Complaints Authority publishes its office address, email and phone number, giving

complainants a direct point of contact outside the police station concerned.

- **Witness protection**: The Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, endorsed in *Mahender Chawla v. Union of India*, provides for safeguards such as identity protection when witnesses face threats in criminal cases.
- **Evidence preservation**: In *Paramvir Singh Saini v. Baljit Singh* (2020), the Supreme Court directed CCTV coverage of police stations, including lock-ups and interrogation areas, to help verify allegations of custodial abuse.
- **Enforceable findings**: The *Prakash Singh* judgment made complaints authorities' recommendations for departmental or criminal action binding on the authorities concerned, giving findings a route to enforcement.
- **External reporting**: NHRC guidelines require custodial deaths to be reported within 24 hours, enabling prompt scrutiny by a body outside the police department.

2. COURT'S MESSAGE: A RIVER CANNOT BE REVIVED IN SILOS (GS PAPER III ENVIRONMENT)

This editorial '**Court's message: A river cannot be revived in silos**' was published in **The Indian Express** on 19th Nov 2026, highlights the need for **basin-wide coordination**, effective **sewage management** and **rehabilitation** to revive the Yamuna.

Basin-wide governance and accountability

- The **Supreme Court** treats the Yamuna as a **single ecological system**, requiring basin states and Union Territories to coordinate and answer for declining water quality within their jurisdictions.

- The Court tasked the **Central Pollution Control Board** with designing a **liability framework** to penalise polluters and negligent officials and improve transparency.

Sewage management

- Inadequate capacity, poor utilisation and weak management undermine treatment. Delhi's **37 sewage treatment plants** consistently miss **discharge standards**, and treated effluent often enters drains carrying raw sewage.
- The editorial prioritises improving existing plants, expanding **treated-water reuse** and bringing **unsewered areas** into effective wastewater treatment and waste disposal systems.

Floodplain restoration and rehabilitation

- **Floodplain encroachments**, including unauthorised colonies, shrink the Yamuna's natural space and alter the **river flows** needed for self-cleansing.
- Unauthorised settlements often reflect a shortage of **affordable housing**. The Court requires **rehabilitation** to accompany restoration, with alternative housing and livelihoods for displaced residents to protect human dignity.

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Non-sewage sources of Yamuna pollution

- **Industrial effluents**: The CPCB identified untreated or partly treated industrial wastewater among the discharges reaching the Yamuna through Delhi's drains, making industrial outlets a distinct enforcement priority.
- **Shared treatment plants**: The National Green Tribunal called for a joint inspection of Panipat's Common Effluent Treatment Plant, illustrating why shared facilities serving industrial clusters need capacity and compliance checks.

- **Pesticide residues**: A published study detected pesticide residues in the Yamuna and its canals in Haryana and Delhi, underscoring the need to sample agricultural drains and trace runoff pathways.
- **Construction debris**: The National Green Tribunal addressed dumping of construction debris on Delhi's Yamuna floodplain, highlighting the need for designated disposal sites and enforcement along riverbanks.
- **Landfill leachate**: Delhi's Yamuna rejuvenation report flagged leachate from dumpsites, making collection and treatment of this contaminated liquid relevant to river clean-up.
- **Idol immersion**: Delhi's 2025 directions restricted immersion to designated sites and prescribed ₹50,000 in environmental compensation for violations, providing a specific measure to prevent festival-related pollution.
- **Source-specific monitoring**: Delhi's frothing study measured surfactants at outlets such as the Najafgarh drain, showing how chemical testing can help identify where foam-forming pollutants enter the river.

3. ONE OFFICER, ONE CHANGE THAT THE CITIZEN CAN FEEL (GS PAPER II GOVERNANCE)

This editorial '**One officer, one change that the citizen can feel**' was published in **The Indian Express** on 19th Nov 2026, highlights how **civil servants** can use their existing authority to make measurable improvements in citizens' lives.

Karmayogi Sankalpa and officer accountability

- A district officer can use **Anganwadi visits** in the three weakest blocks before monthly nutrition reviews to detect **stock-outs** through conversations with mothers and workers before formal reports flag them.

- The Cabinet Secretary launched **Karmayogi Sankalpa** on 17 November at NITI Aayog's leadership workshop, asking each officer to make one change in leadership practice **within their existing authority**.
- Officers record the situation, leadership attribute, action, deadline and expected citizen outcome on **iGOT**. Karmayogi Bharat follows up at **30, 60 and 90 days**, and over one lakh civil servants took the pledge through its platform.

Service-oriented leadership and capacity building

- The first of five workshops marking 25 years of the Prime Minister's public leadership examined Kutch's post-2001 reconstruction, the COVID response, Lakhpati Didi and the opening of the space economy to study **stakeholder participation** and **communication with implementers**.
- The **pradhan sevak** ideal places **seva bhaav** at the centre of public office, reflected in deep listening, equanimity, compassion, integrity and courage in difficult decisions.
- **Mission Karmayogi**, launched in 2020 to shift the civil service from a rule-based to a **role-based orientation**, offers learning in behavioural, functional and domain competencies, with success judged by changes citizens experience.
- Officers, students, scholars and community partners tackled **live administrative challenges** from officers' postings, specifying an action, an **accountable officer**, a review schedule and a measure of impact.

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Sustaining reforms beyond individual postings

- **Standard operating procedures**: Indore's six-category waste segregation system illustrates how clear routines for households

and collection teams can embed a reform in daily municipal operations.

- **Local ownership**: Under Jal Jeevan Mission, village water and sanitation committees are tasked with operating and maintaining village water systems, giving a standing local body responsibility for service continuity.
- **Administrative handovers**: NIC's eOffice records file movements and decisions from receipt to disposal. A successor can use that record to trace pending approvals and follow up on earlier decisions.
- **Maintenance financing**: Jal Jeevan Mission's Village Action Plans provide for operation and maintenance arrangements and household contributions, illustrating how recurring costs can be planned from the outset.
- **Citizen feedback**: The CPGRAMS feedback call centre checks whether grievances were resolved and helps dissatisfied complainants pursue an appeal, giving successors a way to identify where service delivery is slipping.
- **Routine performance review**: The Aspirational Districts Programme tracks progress through the Champions of Change portal, giving incoming district officers a record of performance and a basis for setting priorities.
- **Replication across districts**: The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration explicitly encourage replication, giving departments a reason to document what a local reform achieved and what another district would need to adapt it.