



CLEES

CENTRE FOR LAW, ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY

Mid-year Report 2026

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About CLES

The Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) is a CDPP initiative that researches the legal landscape in India. Research areas include the challenges people face in accessing legal justice and identifying areas of improvement to provide quality legal aid services.

Access to justice means that individuals can have their legal rights and grievances addressed through the legal system. However, in India, access to justice faces many barriers, including the high cost of legal services, lack of legal representation in certain areas of the country, and many pending cases that discourage people from seeking legal remedies. Access to justice can be particularly challenging for marginalised groups such as Muslims, Dalits, indigenous communities, and women, who often face discrimination and social barriers that limit their ability to access legal remedies.

The Constitution of India provides for legal aid services to ensure that everyone has access to justice regardless of their financial circumstances. However, legal service institutions frequently face challenges relating to infrastructure, uneven distribution of human resources, and inefficient utilisation of funds. Through research, CLES seeks to identify gaps in legal processes and generate evidence-based recommendations to strengthen access to justice, particularly for marginalised communities.

Our research combines both secondary and primary methods. Secondary research involves the analysis of publicly available data sets and reports, particularly those published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), including Prison Statistics India and the Crime in India reports across multiple years. These data sets help identify broader trends and systemic issues relating to criminal justice and legal aid.

Primary research consists of selected state-level case analyses and qualitative assessments undertaken in collaboration with groups of lawyers and civil society organisations in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana. These partnerships provide ground-level insights into legal aid delivery, barriers to accessing justice, and the lived experiences of individuals navigating the legal system.

CLES Advisory Board

- M. N. Rao, Former Chief Justice, of Himachal High Court and Former Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court
- Faizan Mustafa, Former Vice Chancellor, NALSAR
- Shafeeq Mahajir, Senior Counsel
- Sanjay Chadha, Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of India
- Aman Wadud, Lawyer, Guwahati High Court
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- Mohammed Mujahid Farooqui, Businessman

Executive Summary

This mid-year report provides an overview of research, analysis, and public engagement activities undertaken by the Centre for Law, Economics, and Society (CLES) under the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) during the reporting period of March 2026–July 2026. It combines macro-level analysis of undertrial justice with primary case-level research and stakeholder engagement activities.

The secondary data analysis highlights the continuing significance of undertrial detention within India's criminal justice system, where undertrials constitute a substantial proportion of the prison population. The analysis identifies important variations across states in demographic composition, offence categories, detention duration, and prison administration indicators, providing context for the primary research findings.

The primary research component analyses 185 anonymised criminal cases from Telangana and Assam collected between March 2026–July 2026. This follows the analysis of 230 criminal cases undertaken during 2025, reflecting CLES's continuing effort to build empirical evidence on criminal justice processes. The Telangana data set (85 cases) reveals a relatively balanced distribution of crime categories and procedural stages, while the Assam data set (100 cases) is characterised by a strong concentration of bail proceedings, violence and harassment-related allegations, and cases involving specialised statutes. The comparative analysis demonstrates significant differences in procedural patterns and legal complexity across the two samples, particularly in relation to the prevalence of multiple legal sections.

The report also documents a range of public engagement initiatives undertaken by CLES under CDPP, including discussions on access to justice, electoral verification and welfare, environmental justice, juvenile justice institutions, and legal scholarship. These activities brought together academics, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and civil society representatives to facilitate informed dialogue on contemporary legal and policy challenges.

Looking ahead, the report highlights the Annual Conference 2027: Law, Economics, Trade and Justice, jointly organised by CDPP and the Economic Policy Centre, Mahindra University, to be held on 5–6 February 2027. The conference will examine the intersections of legal institutions, economic governance, trade, and access to justice, and is accompanied by a call for academic, policy, empirical, and comparative research papers. The initiative reflects CLES's continued focus on fostering interdisciplinary research and strengthening evidence-based policy engagement.

GALLERY



Section 1

Secondary Data Analysis

Understanding Undertrial Justice in India

1.1 Introduction

Understanding the experiences of undertrial prisoners requires examining both the scale and characteristics of undertrial detention and the broader institutional conditions within which it occurs. Before turning to the experiences reported by lawyers in Assam and Telangana, this section establishes a national and state-level context using secondary data from the National Crime Records Bureau's "Prison Statistics India 2024" (PSI 2024) and the India Justice Report (IJR) 2025.

The analysis compares Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Telangana, alongside the national average. Karnataka is included as the highest-performing large/mid-sized state in IJR 2025, while Uttar Pradesh is included as the second lowest-performing state. West Bengal ranked lowest, but its prison data for 2024 were not updated; therefore, Uttar Pradesh is used as the lowest-performing state with comparable 2024 prison data. Assam and Telangana are included as the two states that form the primary geographic focus of this study.

The secondary-data analysis examines:

1. The national scale of undertrial imprisonment;
2. Prison occupancy and overcrowding;
3. The demographic characteristics of undertrials;
4. The offences and laws under which they are detained;
5. The duration of undertrial detention;
6. Prison budget allocations and expenditure; and
7. Patterns that distinguish Assam and Telangana from the national and comparative state contexts.

1.1.1 Why Are These Data Important?

The PSI 2024 data provide a system-level picture of undertrial justice. They show who is in prison, the legal categories under which they are detained, how long they remain there, and the resources available to prison administration. However, these data cannot explain how undertrial justice is experienced in practice. They do not, for example, fully capture difficulties in obtaining bail, delays in producing prisoners before courts, access to legal representation, communication between lawyers and clients, family-level consequences, or the practical reasons why an undertrial may remain in custody. The secondary data therefore provide the structural context against which the primary findings from lawyers can subsequently be examined.

1.2 National Overview of Undertrial Prisoners

As of 31 December 2024, India had 371,440 undertrial prisoners, out of a total prison population of 511,542. Undertrials therefore constituted 72.6% of India's prison population.

Prisoner Category	Number	Share of Total Prison Population
Undertrials	371,440	72.6%
Convicts	136,138	26.6%
Detenues	3,048	0.6%
Other Prisoners	916	0.2%
Total	5,11,542	100%

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Although the number of undertrial prisoners declined from 389,910 in 2023 to 371,440 in 2024, undertrials continue to constitute nearly three-quarters of the country's prison population.

Findings

The national picture establishes the central importance of undertrial detention to India's prison system. Most people in prison have not been convicted. This makes the functioning of bail, investigation, legal aid, and trial processes particularly important to understanding India's criminal justice system.

1.3 Occupancy and Overcrowding

The national prison system also continues to operate above its official capacity.

Table 1.2

Prison Capacity, Prison Population, and Occupancy Rate in India, 2022–2024

Year	Actual Prison Capacity	Prison Population	Occupancy Rate
2022	436,266	573,220	131.4%
2023	439,119	530,333	120.8%
2024	453,769	511,542	112.7%

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

The occupancy rate declined from 131.4% in 2022 to 112.7% in 2024. This represents an improvement, but prisons nationally continued to house substantially more people than their stated capacity.

1.3.1 Undertrial Population in the Comparison States

Table 1.3

Undertrial Prison Population in the Four Comparison States and India, 2024

Indicator	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Undertrial Prisoners	10,908	59,194	8,144	5,002	3,71,440

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Uttar Pradesh has by far the largest undertrial population among the four states, while Telangana has the smallest.

Findings

The issue of overcrowding is important because the consequences of undertrial detention are not limited to the fact of incarceration. When large numbers of prisoners are held in facilities beyond capacity, it can affect living conditions, access to services, healthcare, legal meetings, and prison administration. However, occupancy alone does not explain the causes of undertrial detention or its duration. These require examination of the characteristics of the undertrial population and the legal processes involved.

1.4 Who Are the Undertrials?

1.4.1 Age

Table 1.4

Age Distribution of Undertrial Prisoners

Age Group	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
18–30 Years	55.0%	46.5%	43.4%	49.8%	48.1%
30–50 Years	38.9%	40.4%	41.9%	40.1%	40.9%
50 Years & Above	6.1%	13.1%	14.6%	10.0%	11.0%

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

Undertrial detention is concentrated among younger and working-age adults. Nationally, almost 9 out of 10 undertrials are between 18 and 50 years of age. Karnataka has the highest proportion of younger undertrials, with 55% aged 18–30. Telangana follows at 49.8%. This is relevant because detention during these years can have implications for employment, household income, caregiving responsibilities and family life.

1.4.2 Religion

Table 1.5

Religious Composition of Undertrial Prisoners

Religion	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Hindu	72.9%	70.8%	41.4%	75.6%	70.7%
Muslim	22.1%	27.8%	50.3%	20.7%	20.6%
Sikh	0.0%	0.6%	0.9%	0.8%	5.3%
Christian	2.8%	0.2%	5.2%	2.0%	2.6%
Others	2.2%	0.6%	2.1%	0.9%	0.9%

*India percentages are calculated among undertrials for whom religion data were reported.

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

The religious composition varies considerably across states. Assam is particularly distinctive: Muslims constitute 50.3% of its reported undertrial population, compared with 20.6% nationally. Uttar Pradesh also has a higher Muslim representation than the national figure, at 27.8%, while Karnataka and Telangana are closer to the national pattern. These figures describe the composition of the undertrial population. They do not, by themselves, establish differential criminalisation or discrimination, which would require additional population and criminal justice process data.

1.4.3 Social Groups

Table 1.6
Social Group Composition of Undertrial Prisoners

Social Group Category	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
SC	NR	25%	10.6%	20.7%	20.2%
ST	NR	8.5%	11.1%	11.8%	11.1%
OBC	NR	34.8%	31.1%	51%	36%
Others	NR	31.7%	47.2%	16.5%	32.7%

*India percentages are calculated among undertrials for whom caste data were reported. #NR = Not Reported.

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

Telangana has the highest OBC representation among the comparison states, with 51.0% of undertrials categorised as OBC. The absence of caste-wise data for Karnataka is an important limitation of PSI 2024 and prevents a complete five-way comparison for this indicator.

1.5 Under What Laws Are Undertrials Detained?

The next question is the legal basis of detention. PSI 2024 distinguishes between offences recorded under the BNS/IPC framework and offences under Special and Local Laws (SLL).

1.5.1 BNS/IPC Offences

Table 1.7
Undertrial Prisoners by Major BNS/IPC Offence Category

BNS/IPC Offence Category	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Offences against women	697	13,006	671	556	47,390
Offences affecting the human body	4,633	20,750	1,867	968	124,045
Currency/stamp-related offences	43	606	10	31	1,087
Offences against public tranquillity	469	311	6	16	2,581
Offences against property	1,607	12,280	1,536	1,573	74,589
Other BNS/IPC crimes	390	568	183	115	10,599

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

Offences affecting the human body constitute the largest recorded BNS/IPC category nationally. Property offences form another substantial category. Telangana records a relatively notable number of undertrials under property offences, while Karnataka has a much larger number under offences affecting the human body. The figures describe the offences associated with undertrial cases and should not be interpreted as convictions.

1.5.2 Special and Local Laws

Table 1.8

Undertrial Prisoners Detained under Major Special and Local Laws

SLL Category	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Total SLL undertrials	3,538	11,673	3,877	1,743	111,085
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)/crimes against children	1,704	2,609	846	407	16,397
Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe-related laws	352	1,092	0	85	4,198
Arms/Explosives-related laws	318	1,969	127	198	13,680
Liquor & narcotics-related laws	869	3,629	2,512	766	62,176
Other SLL crimes	98	514	103	24	4,731

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

Special and Local Laws account for a substantial component of undertrial detention. Nationally, liquor and narcotics-related laws constitute the largest SLL category. The state-level profiles differ considerably. Assam's SLL undertrial population is particularly concentrated in liquor and narcotics-related laws, while Karnataka has a large number of undertrials under *Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act* (POCSO) related provisions. This suggests that the legal pathways into undertrial detention are not uniform across states.

1.6 How Long Do Undertrials Remain in Custody?

Duration is perhaps the most direct indicator of the extent to which undertrial imprisonment becomes prolonged.

Table 1.9

Duration of Undertrial Detention

Duration	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Up to 3 months	33.2%	27.7%	49.2%	75.2%	33.9%
3–6 months	17.4%	20%	18.7%	13.9%	19.5%
6–12 months	15.5%	17.3%	14.9%	7.4%	16.5%
Up to 1 year	66.1%	65%	82.8%	96.5%	69.9%
1–2 years	15.9%	14.7%	11.2%	2.2%	13.9%
2–3 years	9.2%	9.2%	3.2%	0.8%	8.1%
3–5 years	6.4%	7.6%	1.8%	0.3%	5.6%
More than 5 years	2.3%	3.4%	1%	0.2%	2.4%
More than 1 year	33.9%	34.9%	17.2%	3.5%	30%

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

There is substantial variation in the duration of undertrial detention. Telangana is a clear outlier: 96.5% of its undertrials had been detained for less than one year and only 3.5% for more than one year. At the other end, Uttar Pradesh has 34.9% of undertrials detained for more than one year, followed closely by Karnataka at 33.9%. Nationally, 30% of undertrials had been in custody for more than one year. This makes duration an important indicator for understanding the undertrial justice system beyond simply counting the number of prisoners.

1.7 How Do Undertrials Exit Custody?

Table 1.10

Undertrial Prisoners Released or Transferred during 2024

Outcome	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Released on bail	41,186	237,544	34,695	45,789	1,514,614
Acquitted by lower courts	1,049	2,175	1,191	2,623	44,239
Released on appeal	0	3,948	883	0	16,059
Transferred to other states	33	694	2	509	4,310
Other releases	36	346	15	104	13,999
Total released/transferred	42,304	244,707	36,786	49,025	1,593,234

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

Bail is overwhelmingly the most common route out of undertrial custody. It accounted for 95.1% of recorded undertrial releases/transfers nationally during 2024. The proportion was similarly high across the four states.

Table 1.11

Bail as a Proportion of Undertrial Releases/Transfers during 2024

Bail as Share of Undertrial Releases	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Assam	Telangana	India
Bail	97.4%	97.1%	94.3%	93.4%	95.1%

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

This reinforces the importance of bail within the undertrial justice process. However, annual release data represent flows during the year, while the number of undertrials at the end of 2024 represents a stock at one point in time. The two should therefore not be directly combined to calculate a release rate.

1.8 Budget Allocations for Prisons

The final indicator in this secondary-data analysis is the financial allocation to prison administration. Budget data are important because prison capacity, staffing, infrastructure, and services depend on the resources available to prison departments. However, budget allocation is not itself a measure of justice-system performance. It provides context on the resources committed to prison administration.

Table 1.12

2024–25 Budget and Actual Expenditure

State/India	Total Annual Budget	Actual Expenditure	Utilisation
Karnataka	INR 500.4 crore (USD 59.1 million)	INR 457.3 crore (USD 54.1 million)	91.4%
Uttar Pradesh	INR 2,753.0 crore (USD 325.4 million)	INR 1,763.4 crore (USD 208.4 million)	64.1%
Assam	INR 164.1 crore (USD 19.4 million)	INR 121.0 crore (USD 14.3 million)	73.7%
Telangana	INR 198.7 crore (USD 23.5 million)	INR 199.6 crore (USD 23.6 million)	100.5%
India	INR 11,442.0 crore (USD 1.35 billion)	INR 9,437.6 crore (USD 1.12 billion)	82.5%

The underlying INR figures are from Table 12.3 of the PSI 2024 document.

Note: USD equivalents are calculated using an exchange rate of **USD 1=INR 84.6**, applied consistently to the financial figures for the period April 2024 to March 2025. USD amounts are rounded to one decimal place for millions and two decimal places for billions.

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Prison Statistics India 2024.

Findings

Uttar Pradesh has the largest prison budget allocation among the four states, at INR 2,753.0 crore (INR 27.53 billion; USD 325.4 million), followed by Karnataka at INR 500.4 crore (INR 5.00 billion; USD 59.1 million), Telangana at INR 198.7 crore (INR 1.99 billion; USD 23.5 million) and Assam at INR 164.1 crore (INR 1.64 billion; USD 19.4 million).

In terms of budget utilisation, Telangana recorded the highest utilisation at 100.5%, followed by Karnataka at 91.4%, Assam at 73.7%, and Uttar Pradesh at 64.1%.

Nationally, INR 11,442 crore (INR 114.42 billion; USD 1.35 billion) was allocated to prisons in 2024–25, of which INR 9,437.6 crore (INR 94.38 billion; USD 1.12 billion) was actually spent, representing 82.5% utilisation.

1.9 What Does the Secondary Data Tell Us?

Taken together, the secondary data establish several important features of undertrial justice in India.

- ***Undertrials are the dominant prison population:*** Undertrials constitute 72.6% of India's prisoners, making pre-conviction detention a central feature of the prison system.
- ***Overcrowding remains a structural concern:*** Although national occupancy has improved, prisons continued to operate at 112.7% of capacity in 2024.
- ***Undertrial detention disproportionately concerns younger adults:*** Almost half of India's undertrials are aged 18–30, while around 9 in 10 are below 50.
- ***The social composition of undertrials differs considerably between states:*** Assam's religious profile is particularly distinctive, while Telangana has a particularly high OBC representation among undertrials for whom caste data are available.
- ***The legal basis of detention varies:*** BNS/IPC offences affecting the human body and property offences constitute major categories, while Special and Local Laws account for a substantial additional share of undertrial cases.
- ***Prolonged detention is unevenly distributed:*** Nationally, 30% of undertrials have been detained for more than one year. This rises to 34.9% in Uttar Pradesh and 33.9% in Karnataka, while it is only 3.5% in Telangana.
- ***Bail is central to undertrial release:*** More than 95% of undertrial releases/transfers nationally occurred through bail during 2024.
- ***Prison resources differ substantially:*** The four states have considerably different prison budget allocations and expenditure levels. However, these figures should be understood as indicators of resources available to prison administration rather than direct measures of justice-system performance.

1.10 What the Secondary Data Establish?

The secondary data provide a macro-level picture of undertrial justice. They show that undertrial detention in India is characterised by a very large pre-conviction prison population, continuing overcrowding, substantial variation in the social composition of prisoners, differences in the laws under which they are detained, and significant differences in the duration of custody across states. The comparison also demonstrates why a single national or state-level indicator is insufficient. Karnataka's strong overall IJR performance does not eliminate prolonged undertrial detention, while Telangana's relatively short detention profile distinguishes it from the national pattern. Assam presents a distinct religious and SLL profile, while Uttar Pradesh combines a very large undertrial population with a comparatively high proportion of prolonged detention.

At the same time, PSI data have important limitations. They provide aggregated administrative data and cannot adequately explain the processes that produce these outcomes. In particular, they cannot tell us how lawyers experience bail proceedings, what practical barriers undertrials encounter, how frequently hearings are delayed, how legal representation operates in practice, or why some individuals remain in custody for extended periods. The secondary data should therefore be understood as establishing the context and measurable patterns, rather than providing a complete account of undertrial justice.

1.11 Moving from Secondary to Primary Evidence

The next section turns to primary data collected from lawyers working with undertrial cases in Assam and Telangana. This shift is important because the lawyers' responses provide a different level of understanding: rather than examining the prison system from administrative statistics, they provide an on-the-ground perspective on how the undertrial process operates in practice. The primary data will therefore examine issues such as the nature of cases handled by lawyers, the characteristics of undertrial clients, bail processes, delays, legal representation, access to legal aid, procedural barriers and lawyers' perceptions of the factors contributing to prolonged detention.

The purpose is not to assume that the lawyer data will reproduce the PSI findings. The two data sets capture different dimensions of the justice system. Where the findings converge, the primary data can provide qualitative or practitioner-level insight into patterns visible in the administrative data. Where they diverge, the differences may reveal aspects of undertrial justice that are not visible in aggregate prison statistics. The next section therefore moves from "What does the administrative data tell us about undertrial prisoners?" to "What do lawyers working with undertrial cases tell us about how the system operates in practice?"



Section 2

Primary Data Analysis of Criminal Case Data Sets

This section analyses anonymised criminal case data sets from Telangana and Assam to examine patterns in the demographic characteristics of accused persons, crime types, procedural status, and legal complexity. The analysis is organised into three parts. Section 2A examines 85 criminal cases from Telangana, Section 2B analyses 100 criminal cases from Assam, and Section 2C provides a comparative assessment of the two data sets. Together, these sections identify similarities and differences in crime profiles, procedural characteristics, and the use of multiple legal provisions across the sampled cases. The findings describe only the selected case samples provided for this study and should not be interpreted as representative of criminal justice patterns in Telangana or Assam as a whole.

Access Anonymised Case Details from Assam and Telangana



Scan the QR code below to access and review the complete set of anonymised case details from Assam and Telangana. The QR code provides convenient access to the compiled case information while maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all individuals represented in the cases.

Section 2A

Analysis of 85 Criminal Cases from Telangana with Cross-Analysis

This 2A section presents an analysis of 85 anonymised criminal cases from Telangana received from March 2026 to July 2026. Each case is referenced only by serial number. The analysis examines gender, age, religion, crime type, procedural status, and the presence of multiple legal sections. Cross-analysis is used to identify patterns within the data set.

For analytical purposes, individual offences have been grouped into broader crime categories based on the case description and legal charges with explanation fields. The findings describe the composition of this particular sample provided by a group of lawyers and should not be interpreted as representative of crime patterns across Telangana as a whole.

2A.1 Gender Distribution

Table 2A.1

Gender Distribution of Accused Persons in the Telangana

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	77	90.6%
Female	8	9.4%
Total	85	100%

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

The data set is overwhelmingly male, with 77 male accused persons (90.6%) and 8 female accused persons (9.4%). Male accused persons constitute the majority across all four broad crime categories. Female accused persons are represented in violent and harassment-related offences, economic/cheating/forgery offences, regulatory and public safety offences, and property-related offences.

2A.2 Age Group Distribution

Table 2A.2

Age Group Distribution of Accused Persons

Age Group	Count	Percentage
Below 21	2	2.4%
21–30	22	25.9%
31–40	28	32.9%
41–50	20	23.5%
51–60	10	11.8%
Above 60	3	3.5%
Total	85	100%

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

The 31–40 age group is the largest, comprising 28 cases (32.9%), followed by those aged 21–30, with 22 cases (25.9%), and those aged 41–50, with 20 cases (23.5%). Overall, 70 of the 85 accused persons (82.4%) are between 21 and 50 years of age. Only two accused persons are below 21, while three are above 60. The data set therefore predominantly consists of adults between 21 and 50 years of age.

2A.3 Religion Distribution

Table 2A.3

Religious Distribution of Accused Persons

Religion	Count	Percentage
Likely Hindu	67	78.8%
Likely Muslim	15	17.6%
Likely Christian	3	3.5%
Total	85	100%

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Hindu accused persons constitute the substantial majority of the data set, accounting for 67 cases (78.8%). Muslim accused persons account for 15 cases (17.6%), while Christian accused persons account for three cases (3.5%). Hindu accused persons form the largest group across each of the four broad crime categories. These figures reflect the composition of the selected cases and should not be interpreted as evidence of differences in criminality between religious communities.

2A.4 Crime Type Distribution

Table 2A.4

Distribution of Cases by Broad Crime Type

For analytical purposes, offences have been grouped into four broader categories.

Crime Type	Count	Percentage
Violence & Harassment Offences	31	36.5%
Property/Trespass/Theft Offences	23	27.1%
Regulatory & Public Safety Offences	17	20%
Economic/Cheating/Forgery Offences	14	16.5%
Total	85	100%

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Violence and harassment-related offences form the largest category, accounting for 31 cases (36.5%). These include allegations involving murder, rape, assault, hurt, harassment, offences against women, wrongful confinement, affray and related conduct.

Property, trespass, and theft-related offences constitute the second-largest category, with 23 cases (27.1%). These include theft, house trespass, criminal trespass, snatching, railway property matters, and attempted property offences. Regulatory and public safety offences account for 17 cases (20.0%). These include *Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act* (NDPS) related offences, excise offences, gaming, negligent or drunk driving, public nuisance, animal protection, and railway-related matters. Economic, cheating and forgery-related offences account for 14 cases (16.5%), including cheating, criminal breach of trust, forgery, misappropriation, impersonation and related economic offences.

2A.5 Crime Type vs. Age Group (Cross-Analysis)

Table 2A.5

Classification of Individual Cases by Broad Crime Type

Crime Type	Below 21	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	Above 60
Property/Trespass/Theft	0	7	7	6	2	1
Violence & Harassment	1	7	15	6	1	1
Economic/Cheating/Forgery	0	3	0	4	6	1
Regulatory & Public Safety	1	5	6	4	1	0

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Violence and harassment-related offences show the strongest concentration among accused persons aged 31–40, with 15 of the 31 cases in this category falling within this age group. Property, trespass, and theft-related offences are distributed primarily across the 21–50 age groups, with seven cases each among those aged 21–30 and 31–40 and six cases among those aged 41–50. Economic, cheating, and forgery-related offences have a comparatively older age profile. In this category, 10 of the 14 cases (71.4%) involve accused persons aged 41 or above, including six cases involving persons aged 51–60. Regulatory and public safety cases are concentrated mainly among younger and middle-aged adults, with 11 of 17 cases involving persons aged 21–40.

2A.6 Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Table 2A.6

Multiple Penal Sections Recorded in the Telangana Cases

Crime Type	Hindu	Muslim	Christian
Property/Trespass/Theft	17	5	1
Violence & Harassment	24	7	0
Economic/Cheating/Forgery	12	2	0
Regulatory & Public Safety	14	1	2

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Hindu accused persons form the largest group within every crime category, corresponding with their overall representation in the data set. Among the 31 violence and harassment-related cases, 24 involve Hindu accused persons and 7 involve Muslim accused persons. Property, trespass, and theft-related cases include 17 Hindu, 5 Muslim and 1 Christian accused person. Economic, cheating, and forgery-related cases include 12 Hindu and 2 Muslim accused persons. Regulatory and public safety cases include 14 Hindu, 1 Muslim and 2 Christian accused persons. These figures describe the composition of the selected sample and should not be used to infer community-level crime patterns.

2A.7 Crime Type vs. Gender (Cross-Analysis)

Table 2A.7

Crime Type vs. Gender of Telangana Cases

Crime Type	Male	Female
Property/Trespass/Theft	22	1
Violence & Harassment	28	3
Economic/Cheating/Forgery	12	2
Regulatory & Public Safety	15	2

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Male accused persons constitute the majority in every crime category. The largest representation of female accused persons is within the violence and harassment category, with three cases, followed by two cases each in economic/cheating/forgery and regulatory/public safety offences, and one property-related case. The overall distribution remains strongly male-dominated, with men accounting for 90.6% of the full sample.

2A.8 Procedural Status Analysis

The Telangana data set reflects cases at a wide range of procedural stages, including investigation, appearance, examination, trial, arguments, evidence, judgement and warrant-related proceedings.

Table 2A.8

Current Status Distribution of Telangana Cases

Status	Count
Examination	15
Appearance	14
Trial	11
Summons	10
Arguments	9
Investigation	6
Judgement	2
Copies	2
Cross Examination	2
Summons to Witness	2
313 Examination	1
Engage with Advocate	1
Notice	1
Disposed	1
Await	1
Filing for Charge Sheet	1
Hearing	1
Issue Bailable Warrant	1
Non-Bailable Warrant Pending	1
Evidence	1
Proclamation	1
NBW Pending	1
Total	85

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

According to the data, examination is the most frequently recorded procedural status, accounting for 15 cases, followed by appearance with 14 cases, trial with 11 cases and summons with 10 cases. A further nine cases are at the arguments stage, while two cases are recorded at the judgement stage. This indicates that a substantial proportion of the sample has moved beyond the initial investigation stage and into substantive stages of criminal proceedings.

The data set also contains cases involving warrants. One case records an issue bailable warrant, while two cases are recorded under non-bailable warrant-related statuses. One case is recorded as proclamation, and one case as filing for charge sheet. Overall, the data set covers a broad range of procedural stages rather than being concentrated at a single stage of the criminal process.

2A.9 Analysis of Multiple Legal Sections

An additional analysis was undertaken to identify cases in which more than one legal section is recorded beyond the main/primary section.

Table 2A.9

Analysis of Multiple Legal Sections of Telangana Cases

Section Pattern	Count	Percentage
Single legal section	49	57.6%
Multiple legal sections	36	42.4%
Total	85	100%

Source: CDP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Cases with Multiple Legal Sections

The following 36 cases clearly contain multiple legal sections:
 Cases 7, 8, 10, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 37, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 74, 77, 80, 81, 82, and 83.

Examples include:

- Case 8: Sections 376 and 420 IPC.
- Case 10: Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
- Case 31: Sections 419, 420, 466 and 468 IPC.
- Case 46: Sections 318(4), 336(3) and 345(3) BNS.
- Case 63: Sections 74, 76, 115(2), 351(2), 352 and 324(4) BNS, with Section 3(5) recorded as a linked provision.
- Case 64: Sections 329(4), 115(2), 74, 79 and 324(4) BNS, with Section 3(5) recorded as a linked provision.
- Case 81: Sections 447, 427, 323 and 504 IPC.
- Case 83: Sections 494, 498-A and 323 IPC.

The analysis counts a case as a multiple-section case where two or more distinct legal sections are clearly identifiable in the source field. Provisions such as "r/w 3(5)" have been treated as linked provisions rather than as an additional substantive offence for the purpose of the main count.

Findings

Out of 85 cases, 36 (42.4%) contain multiple legal sections. Thus, more than two in every five cases in the data set involve more than one legal provision. The multiple-section cases include both relatively simple combinations of two sections and considerably more complex cases involving three or more sections. For example, Case 8 contains Sections 376 and 420 IPC, while Case 31 contains four IPC sections. Several BNS cases also contain multiple substantive provisions alongside linked provisions. The presence of multiple sections is particularly relevant when assessing the legal character of a case because the primary offence description may not fully capture the range of allegations or legal provisions applied to the same matter.

2A.10 Multiple Legal Sections vs. Crime Type

Table 2A.10
Multiple Legal Sections vs. Crime Type of Telangana Cases

Crime Type	Single Section	Multiple Sections	Total
Property/Trespass/Theft	16	7	23
Violence & Harassment	15	16	31
Economic/Cheating/Forgery	9	5	14
Regulatory & Public Safety	9	8	17
Total	49	36	85

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 85 anonymised criminal cases in the Telangana case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Multiple-section cases are most prominent within the violence and harassment category, where 16 of 31 cases (51.6%) contain multiple legal sections. Regulatory and public safety offences have the second-highest proportion, with 8 of 17 cases (47.1%) involving multiple sections. This is followed by economic/cheating/forgery offences, with 5 of 14 cases (35.7%), and property/trespass/theft offences, with 7 of 23 cases (30.4%). The pattern suggests that cases involving violence, interpersonal conflict, or several elements of an alleged incident are more frequently associated with multiple legal provisions than cases involving a single, clearly defined regulatory or property offence.

Concluding Observations

Across the 85 anonymised Telangana cases analysed:

- The data set is overwhelmingly male, with 77 male accused persons (90.6%) and eight female accused persons (9.4%).
- The 31–40 age group is the largest, accounting for 28 cases (32.9%).
- 70 of the 85 accused persons (82.4%) are aged between 21 and 50 years.
- Hindu accused persons form the largest religious group, with 67 cases (78.8%), followed by 15 Muslim and three Christian accused persons.
- Violence and harassment-related offences form the largest crime category, accounting for 31 cases (36.5%).
- Property, trespass, and theft-related offences account for 23 cases (27.1%), followed by regulatory and public safety offences with 17 cases (20.0%) and economic/cheating/forgery offences with 14 cases (16.5%).
- Violence and harassment-related offences are particularly concentrated among accused persons aged 31–40, with 15 cases.
- Economic, cheating, and forgery-related cases have a comparatively older age profile, with 10 of 14 cases involving persons aged 41 or above.
- The largest procedural categories are Examination (15), Appearance (14), Trial (11), Summons (10), and Arguments (9).
- The data set contains cases ranging from investigation and charge-sheet filing to trial, evidence, arguments, judgement, warrants, and proclamation proceedings.
- 36 of 85 cases (42.4%) contain multiple legal sections, while 49 cases (57.6%) contain one clearly identifiable section.
- Case 8 is included among the multiple-section cases, with Sections 376 and 420 IPC.
- Multiple legal sections are particularly common among violence and harassment-related cases, where 16 of 31 cases (51.6%) contain multiple sections.
- The multiple-section analysis demonstrates that the primary offence description alone does not capture the full legal complexity of a substantial proportion of cases.

Overall, the Telangana sample is characterised by a substantial presence of violence and harassment-related cases, followed by property/trespass/theft matters, regulatory and public safety offences, and economic offences. The cases span a wide range of procedural stages. Importantly, 42.4% of the cases involve multiple legal sections, indicating that a significant share of the matters contains more than one legal provision and therefore cannot be fully understood through the primary offence description alone.

Section 2B

Analysis of 100 Criminal Cases from Assam with Cross-Analysis

This section presents an analysis of 100 anonymised criminal cases from Assam. The cases largely consist of bail-related proceedings before the Gauhati High Court and subordinate courts. The findings describe only this selected sample and should not be interpreted as representative of crime patterns across Assam as a whole.

2B.1 Gender Distribution

Table 2B.1

Gender Distribution of Accused Persons in Assam

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	99	99%
Female	1	1%
Total	100	100%

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Findings

The data set is overwhelmingly male. Of the 100 accused persons, 99 are male and only 1 is female. The sole female accused appears in a dowry-death related case. Male accused persons are represented across all crime categories.

2B.2 Age Group Distribution

Table 2B.2

Age Group Distribution of Assam Cases

Age Group	Count	Percentage of Known Ages
Below 21	4	4.5%
21-30	30	33.7%
31-40	31	34.8%
41-50	16	18.0%
51-60	5	5.6%
Above 60	3	3.4%
Total Known Ages	89	100%

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Findings

The largest age group is 31–40 years, accounting for 31 cases (34.8%), followed closely by the 21–30 age group with 30 cases (33.7%). Together, these two categories account for nearly 69% of all cases where age information is available. The data set is therefore concentrated among young and middle-aged adults.

2B.3 Religion Distribution

Table 2B.3
Religion Distribution from Assam Cases

Religion	Count	Percentage
Likely Muslim	70	70%
Likely Hindu	18	18%
Likely ST/Tribal	3	3%
Likely Sikh	2	2%
Not Mention	7	7%
Total	100	100%

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Persons recorded as "Likely Muslim" form the largest group within the data set, accounting for 70% of all cases. Persons recorded as "Likely Hindu" account for 18%, while a small number of cases involve persons identified as ST, Sikh, or where religion is not mentioned. These figures simply reflect the composition of this selected sample and should not be interpreted as evidence of differences in criminality among communities.

2B.4 Crime Type Distribution

For analytical purposes, offences have been grouped into four broad categories.

Table 2B.4
Crime Type Distribution

Crime Type	Count	Percentage
Violence & Harassment Offences	63	63.0%
Regulatory & Public Safety Offences	27	27.0%
Economic/Cheating/Forgery Offences	6	6.0%
Property/Trespass/Theft Offences	4	4.0%
Total	100	100%

Findings

Violence and harassment-related offences dominate the Assam sample, accounting for almost two-thirds of all cases. These include murder, sexual offences, POCSO matters, assault, intimidation, abetment of suicide, offences against women, and related allegations. Regulatory and public safety offences form the second-largest category. These include NDPS matters, Arms Act cases, UAPA allegations, Customs Act matters, cattle preservation cases, and other public-order related offences. Economic and forgery-related matters represent a comparatively small share of the sample, while purely property and theft-related offences are relatively limited.

2B.5 Procedural Status Analysis

Table 2B.5

Current Status Distribution

Status Category	Count
Anticipatory Bail/Pre-Arrest Proceedings	57
Regular Bail/Custody Matters	35
Trial Pending/Trial Stage	2
Other Stages	6
Total	100

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Unlike the Telangana data set, which contained cases across many procedural stages, the Assam sample is dominated by bail proceedings.

- 57 cases involve anticipatory bail or pre-arrest protection.
- 35 cases involve regular bail applications while the accused is in judicial custody.
- Only a small number are clearly identified as trial-stage matters.
- Several cases mention charge-sheet filing, cognizance, or related procedural developments.

The data set therefore primarily reflects litigation at the bail stage rather than the full criminal justice process.

2B.6 Prominent Crime Themes

Sexual and POCSO-Related Cases

A substantial proportion of the data set involves allegations of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, offences against minors, or allegations involving promises of marriage. *POCSO* provisions appear repeatedly throughout the sample.

NDPS Cases

NDPS-related prosecutions represent one of the most common regulatory categories. These involve the usage of heroin, cannabis, codeine-based cough syrup, opium, hydroponic cannabis and other narcotic substances.

Cattle Preservation and Cattle Transport Cases

A notable feature of the Assam data set is the presence of multiple prosecutions under the *Assam Cattle Preservation Act*, often combined with allegations of theft, illegal transport, or animal cruelty.

Violent Assault and Murder Cases

The data set includes allegations involving murder, attempted murder, grievous hurt, rioting, land-dispute violence, mob violence and intimidation.

Economic and Forgery Cases

Several cases involve cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust, document fabrication, cyber-fraud allegations and business-related disputes.

2B.7 Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Table 2B.7
Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Crime Type	Muslim	Hindu	ST	Sikh	Not Mentioned
Violent & Harassment	48	10	1	0	4
Regulatory & Public Safety	16	6	2	2	1
Economic/Cheating/Forgery	4	2	0	0	0
Property/Trespass/Theft	2	0	0	0	2
Total	70	18	3	2	7

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Persons identified as Muslim constitute the largest group within every crime category, reflecting their overall representation within the sample. Violence and harassment-related offences contain the highest number of Muslim accused persons, accounting for 48 cases. Hindu accused persons appear most frequently within violence and harassment cases and regulatory/public safety matters. ST and Sikh accused persons appear primarily within regulatory/public safety offences, particularly NDPS and security-related cases. These figures describe only the composition of the selected sample and should not be interpreted as evidence of community-level crime patterns.

2B.8 Analysis of Multiple Legal Sections

An additional analysis was undertaken to identify cases in which more than one legal section is recorded beyond the primary offence.

Table 2B.8
Multiple Legal Sections Analysis

Section Pattern	Count	Percentage
Single legal section	21	21%
Multiple legal sections	79	79%
Total	100	100%

Source: CDPP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Cases with Multiple Legal Sections

The Assam data set contains a very high proportion of multi-section cases. Examples include:

- Case 1: Sec. 325 BNS with Sec. 13(1) *Assam Cattle Preservation Act*.
- Case 2: Sections 61(2), 117(4), 109, 3(5), and 103(2) BNS.
- Case 22: Sections 61(2), 318(4), 309(6), 109, 118(2), and 127(2) *BNS*.
- Case 28: Several *BNS* provisions together with multiple *UAPA* provisions.
- Case 37: Nine separate *BNS* provisions relating to rioting, trespass, hurt, intimidation and common intention.
- Case 83: Multiple *BNS* provisions relating to hurt, intimidation, attempt to murder, rioting and obstruction of police.

Findings

Seventy-nine of the 100 cases (79.0%) contain multiple legal sections. Unlike the Telangana sample, where 42.4% involved multiple provisions, the Assam data set demonstrates a substantially higher degree of legal complexity. Many cases involve combinations of substantive offences, conspiracy/common-intention provisions, special statutes such as the *NDPS Act*, *POCSO Act*, *UAPA*, *Customs Act*, *Arms Act*, or *Assam Cattle Preservation Act*.

2B.9 Multiple Legal Sections vs. Crime Type

Table 2B.9

Multiple Legal Sections vs. Crime Type

Crime Type	Single Section	Multiple Sections	Total
Violent & Harassment	11	52	63
Regulatory & Public Safety	4	23	27
Economic/Cheating/Forgery	2	4	6
Property/Trespass/Theft	4	0	4
Total	21	79	100

Source: CDDP's analysis of the 100 anonymised criminal cases in the Assam case data set provided for this study.

Findings

Multiple-section cases are particularly dominant within violence and harassment-related offences, where approximately 52 of 63 cases (82.5%) involve more than one legal provision. Regulatory and public safety offences also show a very high degree of complexity, with 23 of 27 cases (85.2%) involving multiple sections or a combination of statutes.

Economic, cheating and forgery-related matters frequently involve combinations of cheating, forgery, conspiracy, and criminal breach of trust charges. Property-related cases are comparatively simpler and more likely to involve a single principal offence.

Additional Overall Observations

Across the 100 anonymised Assam cases:

- The data set is overwhelmingly male, with 99 male accused persons and only one female accused person.
- The 21-40 age range accounts for 61 of the 89 cases where age information is available (68.5%).
- Violence and harassment-related offences represent the dominant category, accounting for 63% of the sample.
- *NDPS*, cattle preservation, customs, arms and security-related matters form a substantial secondary category, accounting for 27% of cases.
- Sexual offences and *POCSO*-related allegations appear throughout the data set and constitute one of the most prominent recurring themes.
- Anticipatory bail proceedings dominate the sample, indicating that the data set largely captures litigation at the pre-arrest stage.
- Approximately four out of every five cases (79%) contain multiple legal sections, demonstrating considerably greater legal complexity than the Telangana sample.
- Many Assam cases involve combinations of BNS provisions with special statutes such as the *NDPS Act*, *POCSO Act*, *UAPA*, *Arms Act*, *Customs Act*, *Railway Property Act*, *Petroleum Act* and the *Assam Cattle Preservation Act*.
- The prevalence of multiple-section prosecutions indicates that the primary offence description often understates the full legal scope of allegations being pursued in a case.

Overall, the Assam sample is characterised by a heavy concentration of bail litigation, a large number of violence and sexual-offence allegations, extensive use of special criminal statutes, and a notably high prevalence of multiple legal sections within individual cases.

Section 2C

Comparative Analysis of the Telangana and Assam Data Sets

This section compares the Telangana data set (85 cases) and the Assam data set (100 cases) to identify similarities and differences in demographic composition, crime profiles, procedural stages, and legal complexity. The comparison relates only to the analysed samples and should not be interpreted as representative of overall crime patterns within either state.

2C.1 Comparative Snapshot of Telangana and Assam

Table 2C.1
Comparative Snapshot

Indicator	Telangana	Assam
Total Cases Analysed	85	100
Male Accused	90.6%	99%
Female Accused	9.4%	1%
Largest Age Group	31–40 years (32.9%)	31–40 years (34.8%)
Dominant Crime Category	Violence & Harassment (36.5%)	Violence & Harassment (63%)
Second Largest Crime Category	Property/Trespass/Theft (27.1%)	Regulatory & Public Safety (27%)
Multiple-Section Cases	42.4%	79%
Dominant Procedural Status	Examination, Appearance, Trial	Anticipatory and Regular Bail Proceedings

Sources: CDDP's Telangana and Assam case data sets.

Findings

The data set is overwhelmingly male. Of the 100 accused persons, 99 are male and only 1 is female. The sole female accused appears in a dowry-death related case. Male accused persons are represented across all crime categories.

2C.2 Key Comparative Findings

Gender Profile

Both data sets are overwhelmingly male. However, the Assam sample is almost entirely male, with only one female accused person among 100 cases, whereas the Telangana data set includes eight female accused persons (9.4%).

Age Profile

The age patterns are highly similar across both states. The largest age group in both data sets is 31–40 years, and the substantial majority of accused persons fall within the economically active adult age range of 21–50 years.

Crime Composition

Violence and harassment-related offences constitute the largest category in both data sets. However, Assam shows a much stronger concentration in this category, accounting for approximately 63% of all cases, compared with 36.5% in Telangana. The Assam sample contains a particularly large number of sexual-offence, POCSO, and assault-related matters.

By contrast, the Telangana sample displays a more balanced distribution across crime categories, including substantial proportions of property, trespass, theft, regulatory, and economic offences.

Regulatory and Special-Statute Cases

The Assam data set contains a significantly larger number of cases involving special criminal statutes, particularly the *NDPS Act*, *POCSO Act*, *Assam Cattle Preservation Act*, *UAPA*, *Arms Act* and *Customs Act*. These offences form a prominent part of the Assam sample and contribute significantly to its legal complexity. While Telangana also contains regulatory and public-safety offences, these matters account for a smaller proportion of the overall sample and are generally concentrated in excise, *NDPS*, traffic and public-order related offences.

2C.3 Distinctive Features of Each Data set

Telangana Data Set

The Telangana data set is characterised by:

- A relatively balanced distribution across crime categories.
- Greater representation of female accused persons.
- A substantial number of property, trespass, and theft-related matters.
- Cases spread across a broad range of procedural stages including investigation, summons, appearance, examination, trial, arguments, and judgement.

Assam Data Set

The Assam data set is characterised by:

- A strong concentration of violence, sexual-offence and *POCSO*-related allegations.
- A substantial presence of *NDPS*, cattle-preservation, and security-related prosecutions.
- Heavy reliance on anticipatory bail and regular bail litigation.
- A much higher proportion of cases involving multiple legal provisions and special statutes.

2C.4 Nature of Litigation

A notable difference between the two samples concerns the procedural stage of the cases.

The Telangana data set contains matters distributed throughout the criminal justice process, including investigation, examination of witnesses, trial, arguments, evidence and judgement proceedings. This provides a broader view of criminal litigation at different stages.

The Assam data set, by contrast, is heavily concentrated in anticipatory bail and regular bail proceedings before the Gauhati High Court. Consequently, the Assam sample primarily reflects pre-trial litigation and applications concerning liberty, arrest, and custody.

This distinction should be kept in mind when interpreting differences between the two data sets.

2C.5 Legal Complexity and Multiple Sections

The Assam sample displays considerably greater legal complexity than the Telangana sample. In Telangana, 36 of 85 cases (42.4%) contain multiple legal sections. In Assam, approximately 79 of 100 cases (79.0%) involve multiple legal provisions. Many Assam cases combine *BNS* provisions with special statutes such as the *NDPS Act*, *POCSO Act*, *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act* (*UAPA*), *Customs Act*, *Arms Act*, and *Assam Cattle Preservation Act*. Consequently, the legal character of these cases often extends well beyond the primary offence listed in the charge description. The Telangana data set also contains a substantial number of multi-section prosecutions, but these are generally less frequent and less likely to involve multiple specialised statutes.

2C.6 Limitations of Comparison

The Telangana and Assam data sets originate from selected collections of lawyer-managed criminal cases and do not constitute random samples of all criminal matters in either state. Differences observed between the two data sets may therefore reflect differences in the types of cases referred to participating lawyers, the procedural stages at which cases were collected, or the legal specialisations reflected within each sample, rather than broader patterns of criminal activity.

2C.7 Comparative Conclusion

The Telangana and Assam data sets share certain demographic similarities, including a strong predominance of male accused persons and a concentration of cases involving adults aged between 21 and 50 years.

However, the data sets differ substantially in their legal composition. Telangana presents a more balanced distribution of crime categories and procedural stages, while the Assam sample is heavily concentrated in violence and harassment-related allegations, bail litigation, and cases involving special criminal statutes. Assam also exhibits a markedly higher prevalence of multi-section prosecutions, indicating greater legal complexity within individual matters.

Overall, the Telangana sample provides a broader cross-section of criminal proceedings, whereas the Assam sample primarily reflects complex bail-related litigation involving serious offences and specialised statutory frameworks.



Section 3

Knowledge Dissemination, Public Engagement, and Outreach Activities (March–July 2026)

Beyond its research activities, the CLES initiative under CDPP, undertook a series of public engagement activities between March and July 2026. These included institutional visits, public policy discussions, academic events, and knowledge dissemination initiatives designed to facilitate dialogue between researchers, policymakers, legal practitioners, civil society organisations, and the wider public. Collectively, these activities sought to promote evidence-based discussion on issues relating to justice, governance, social welfare, environmental law, and legal reform.

3.1 Podcast Series: Criminalisation, Environmental Justice, and Vulnerable Communities

As part of its ongoing public engagement efforts, CLES recorded a podcast featuring Dr. Sanu Rani Paul, Faculty Member at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatnam. Dr. Paul is an environmental law scholar with over thirteen years of academic experience and has published extensively on environmental jurisprudence, rights of nature, and ecocentric legal frameworks.

The podcast explores the criminalisation of tribal and other vulnerable communities under environmental laws and examines how legal systems can balance environmental conservation with the protection of livelihoods, dignity, and social justice. Drawing upon comparative jurisprudence, environmental philosophy, and contemporary policy debates, the discussion seeks to bridge the gap between legal doctrine and the lived experiences of affected communities. The episode contributes to broader discussions on sustainable governance and the relationship between environmental regulation and human rights.



3.2 Institutional Visit: Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre, Hyderabad

On February 18, 2026, representatives of CLES visited the Boys' Home at the Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre, Hyderabad. This visit was facilitated by the All-India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF), an organisation with which CLES maintains a collaborative relationship. The facility functions as an Observation Home for children during the pendency of inquiries under the juvenile justice system.

During the visit, interactions were held with 20 children residing at the centre, as well as with institutional staff, including the officer in charge and teaching personnel. Discussions focused on the children's backgrounds, pathways into the juvenile justice system, and the functioning of the institution. The visit highlighted the role of Observation Homes in providing temporary care, supervision, education, nutrition, and recreational opportunities to children who had been identified as runaways, rescued from child labour situations, or found in other vulnerable circumstances.

The engagement provided valuable insights into the practical functioning of child protection institutions and contributed to CLES's broader work on vulnerable populations, access to justice, and social welfare policy.

3.3 Discussion on Access to Justice

On April 29, 2026, CLES under CDPP organised a discussion on *Access to Justice* at the CDPP Office, Masab Tank, Hyderabad. The session featured Ms. Renu Mishra, Executive Director of the Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives (AALI) Trust and a leading practitioner in the field of women's rights and legal empowerment. Drawing on more than 2 decades of experience working across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand, Ms. Mishra reflected on the practical realities of access to justice among marginalised and vulnerable communities. The discussion examined the institutional, social, and economic barriers that frequently limit access to legal remedies, particularly for women and disadvantaged groups. Particular attention was given to the role of legal aid mechanisms, community-based advocacy, and institutional support systems in facilitating legal empowerment.

The session also explored the broader relationship between access to justice, citizenship, and social inclusion. Participants engaged in discussions on how legal institutions can become more responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations and the importance of strengthening pathways that enable individuals to effectively exercise their legal rights. The conversation highlighted the continuing relevance of grassroots legal advocacy in advancing substantive equality and meaningful access to justice. The event provided an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, and students to engage directly with an experienced rights advocate and contributed to CLES's ongoing efforts to promote informed dialogue on law, justice, and social policy.



3.4 Public Discussion: "SIR in Telangana-Data Cleansing vs. Social Welfare: Lessons from the West Bengal SIR Exercise"

On July 7, 2026, CLES organised a public discussion at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Hyderabad, examining the implications of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls undertaken in West Bengal during 2025–2026. The event brought together researchers, policy practitioners, legal experts, civil society representatives, and members of the public to discuss the relationship between electoral integrity, democratic participation, and access to public welfare.

The discussion featured researchers and practitioners who presented empirical findings derived from the analysis of electoral records and administrative data. Particular attention was given to voter-verification processes, mapping procedures, exclusion mechanisms, and the treatment of vulnerable populations within large-scale electoral verification exercises. Speakers also highlighted the creation of an independent machine-readable electoral database through the processing of millions of electoral records.

The session examined the potential impact of verification exercises on women, minority communities, socially mobile populations, and other vulnerable groups. Participants reflected on the importance of transparency, procedural safeguards, and evidence-based policymaking in electoral administration. The event reinforced the value of independent research in informing public debate and ensuring that administrative reforms are implemented in a manner consistent with constitutional principles of inclusion and fairness.

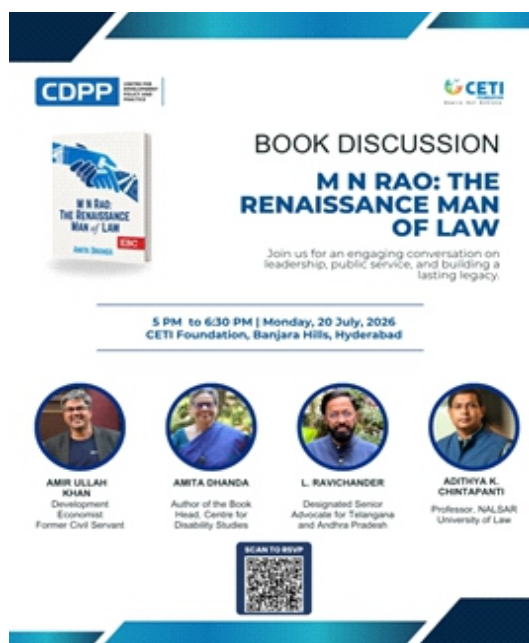


3.5 Book Discussion: *M. N. Rao: The Renaissance Man of Law*

On July 20, 2026, CDPP, in collaboration with the CETI Foundation, organised a discussion on *M. N. Rao: The Renaissance Man of Law* by Amita Dhanda at the CETI Foundation, Hyderabad. The event brought together academics, legal practitioners, researchers, and public policy experts to reflect on the life and legacy of Justice M. N. Rao.

The discussion explored Justice Rao's diverse contributions as a judge, law secretary, senior advocate, public intellectual, and chairperson of the Backward Classes Commission. Drawing on the themes of the book, speakers examined questions of constitutional governance, legal ethics, social justice, institution building, and the role of law in public life.

By engaging with the ideas and legacy of one of India's distinguished legal thinkers, the event contributed to broader conversations on leadership, public service, and the continuing relevance of constitutional values within contemporary legal and policy debates.



3.6 Upcoming Research Activities and Call for Papers: Annual Conference 2027: Law, Economics, Trade and Justice

As part of its continuing commitment to research and academic engagement, CLES under CDP, in collaboration with the Economic Policy Centre, Mahindra University, will organise the “Annual Conference 2027: Law, Economics, Trade and Justice” on February 19 & 20, 2027. The conference will provide a platform for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, trade experts, and early-career researchers to examine the intersections of legal systems, economic governance, international trade, and access to justice. The conference will explore how legal institutions shape economic and trade outcomes, the relationship between law and inequality, barriers to effective legal redress, trade governance, dispute settlement mechanisms, intellectual property regimes, climate-related trade measures, legal aid, and technological transformations within justice systems.



CALL FOR PAPERS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027
Law, Economics, Trade and Justice
19 & 20 February 2027

SUB-THEMES

- Law, Markets and Economic Performance
- Regulation, Labour and Market Governance
- Trade, Global Governance and Economic Law
- Access to Justice and Legal Inequality
- Institutions, Technology and Legal Reform

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

- Abstract: 300 words
- Academic Research Papers: 6,000-8,000 words
- Policy Papers: 3,000-5,000 words
- Empirical and Field Studies: 4,000-6,000 words
- Comparative Legal and Trade Studies: 4,000-6,000 words (or as appropriate)

IMPORTANT DATES

15 SEP 2026 Abstract Submission Deadline	15 OCTOBER 2026 Acceptance Notification	15 NOVEMBER 2026 Full Paper Submission	4-17 JANUARY 2027 Virtual Presentation Round & Workshop	19 & 20 FEBRUARY 2027 Conference Date
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SUBMISSION DETAILS

Submit a 300-word abstract by 15 September 2026 to info@cdpp.co.in with the subject line "Law Conference_Abtract Submission_Your Name" and an email body. Selected authors will be invited to submit full papers.

More Information: www.cdpp.co.in

Call for Papers

A Call for Papers has been issued inviting submissions in the following categories:

- Abstracts (300 words)
- Academic Research Papers (6,000-8,000 words)
- Policy Papers (3,000-5,000 words)
- Empirical and Field Studies (4,000-6,000 words)
- Comparative Legal and Trade Studies (4,000-6,000 words)

Indicative themes

- Access to justice and inequality
- Criminal justice and vulnerable populations
- Economic impact of judicial inefficiencies
- Labour law and economic outcomes
- Competition and regulatory policy
- Trade governance and economic law
- Trade agreements and dispute settlement
- Anti-dumping and trade remedies
- Intellectual property and international trade
- Climate change and trade policy
- Legal aid and representation
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Legal technology and digital justice

Key Dates

Stage	Date
Abstract Submission Deadline	15 September 2026
Selection Confirmation	15 October 2026
Full Paper Submission	15 November 2026
Virtual Presentation Round	4–8 January 2027
Paper Development Workshop	15–17 January 2027
Final Paper Submission	22 January 2027
Conference	19–20 February 2027

Abstracts should be submitted to info@cdpp.co.in with the subject line:
"Law Conference: Abstract Submission (Your Name)."

The conference represents an important component of CLES's future research agenda, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and the development of new scholarship at the intersection of law, economics, trade, and justice.

Way Forward

The activities undertaken by CLES under CDPP during this period reinforced the importance of interdisciplinary research, public dialogue, and evidence-based policy engagement in addressing contemporary legal and governance challenges. Building on these initiatives, CLES will continue to develop research agendas that examine issues such as access to justice, criminal justice administration, child protection, and the rights of marginalised communities.

Future work will focus on generating empirically grounded research, expanding partnerships with academic institutions and subject-matter experts, and creating platforms for deliberation on emerging policy questions. Through seminars, podcasts, publications, and stakeholder consultations, CLES aims to contribute to a stronger evidence base for legal and public policy discussions.

CLES will also seek to strengthen comparative and interdisciplinary approaches to research, enabling a deeper understanding of how law, institutions, and public policy shape social outcomes. By fostering engagement between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, the Centre aims to facilitate informed debate and contribute to the development of knowledge and policy discourse in areas of continuing public importance.

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