



CLEES

Update Report

February

to

March 2026



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About CLES

The Centre for Law, Economics and Society is a CDPP initiative that seeks to research on the legal landscape in India. Research areas will include the challenges people face to access legal justice and identify 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 like the high cost of legal services, lack of legal representation in certain areas of the country, and a high number of pending cases discouraging people from seeking legal justice. Additionally, it is recognised that access to justice can be particularly challenging for marginalised groups in India, such as Muslims, Dalits, indigenous people, and women. These groups may face discrimination and social barriers that make it harder for them to access legal remedies and justice.

The Constitution of India has provisions for legal aid services to ensure that everyone has access to justice regardless of their financial circumstances. However, legal service institutions are not able to provide quality services due to a lack of infrastructure, uneven human distribution, and inefficient utilisation of funds. Through research, we aim to provide insights into the lacunae in the legal process with a focus on the marginalised sections of the society.

March Update Summary

Section 1: Analysis of 20 Criminal Cases from Assam

This section presents an analysis of 20 anonymised criminal cases from Assam across gender, age, religion, and crime type. All accused individuals in the dataset are male, with the majority falling within the 21–40 age group, particularly between 31–40 years. In terms of religious distribution, 75% of the accused are Muslim and 25% are Hindu, likely reflecting the demographic composition of the districts from which these cases originate. Cattle-related offences are the most frequent, followed by drug-related (NDPS) offences and murder/homicide cases. Cross-analysis indicates that narcotics-related offences and robbery are concentrated among younger accused (21–30), while fraud and certain violent offences are more prevalent among individuals aged 31–50. The dataset reflects a diversity of charges and highlights observable demographic and offence-based patterns at the case level.

Section 2: Observation Note – Visit to Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre

A visit was conducted on 18 February 2026 to the Boys' Home at the Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre, facilitated by All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum in collaboration with Centre for Law, Economics. This visit provided insight into the functioning of an Observation Home. Interactions with 20 boys below 18 years revealed that most were admitted as runaways, children found begging, or those rescued under child labour laws. The Home provides temporary care during the pendency of inquiry, with procedures involving police intake, family notification in runaway cases, and court-directed release in child labour cases. The centre maintains a structured routine including education, nutrition, and recreational activities to support children during their stay.

Section 1: Analysis of 20 Criminal Cases from Assam with Cross-Analysis

This report presents a factual analysis of 20 anonymised criminal cases from Assam, India, derived from the provided dataset. The analysis focuses on five primary dimensions—gender, age, religion, crime types, and current status—using cross-analysis to identify patterns within the data. These findings are restricted to the provided categories to provide a clear overview of the case-level data (n = 20).

1. Gender Distribution

Gender	Count
Male	20
Female	0

Summary: All 20 accused individuals in this dataset are male. This 100% male distribution is an important finding that may suggest gendered patterns in the types of offences recorded, particularly concerning violent crimes, drug trafficking, and cattle-related offences.

2. Age Group Distribution

Note: One case has a missing age; the total here sums to 19.

Age Group	Count
Below 20	0
21–30	6
31–40	8
41–50	5
51–60	0
Above 60	0

Summary: The majority of the accused fall within the 31–40 age bracket (42%), closely followed by the 21–30 group. There is no representation of individuals under 20 or over 50 in this specific dataset. The concentration in the 21–40 range suggests that individuals in their prime working years are most frequently implicated in these legal proceedings.

3. Religion Distribution

Religion	Count
Muslim	15
Hindu	5

Summary: A significant majority of the accused (75%) belong to the Muslim community, while Hindus constitute 25%. As these cases originate from specific districts in Assam, this distribution likely reflects the demographic composition of those localized areas rather than a broader predisposition.

4. Crime Type Distribution

Crime Type	Count
Cattle transport / preservation	4
Drugs / NDPS	3
Murder / Homicide	3
Fraud / Cheating / Forgery	2
Sexual offences	1
Theft of railway/essential commodities	1
Unlawful association / terror / extortion	1
Other BNS/IPC	1
Rioting / Unlawful assembly / Obstruction	1
Smuggling / Customs (gold etc.)	1
Traffic homicide / negligence	1
Robbery / Dacoity	1

Summary: Cattle-related offences are the most frequent in this set, followed by drug-related crimes (NDPS) and violent crimes like murder. The diversity of the remaining cases—ranging from white-collar fraud to terror-related charges—indicates a wide spectrum of legal issues within the sample.

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

Note: One case has a missing age. Only age groups with non-zero counts are shown.

Crime Type	21-30	31-40	41-50
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Cattle transport / preservation	1	1	1
Murder / Homicide	0	1	2
Drugs / NDPS	3	0	0
Fraud / Cheating / Forgery	0	2	0
Sexual offences	1	0	0
Theft of railway/essential commodities	0	1	0
Unlawful association / terror / extortion	0	1	0
Other BNS/IPC	0	0	1
Rioting / Unlawful assembly	0	1	0
Smuggling / Customs (gold etc.)	0	1	0
Traffic homicide / negligence	0	0	1
Robbery / Dacoity	1	0	0

Summary: Narcotic offences (NDPS) and robbery are clustered exclusively in the youngest age bracket (21–30). Conversely, more complex crimes like fraud and violent offences like murder tend to involve individuals in the 31–50 age range.

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

Crime Type	Hindu	Muslim
Cattle transport / preservation	0	4
Murder / Homicide	1	2
Drugs / NDPS	0	3
Fraud / Cheating / Forgery	0	2
Sexual offences	0	1
Theft of railway/essential commodities	0	1
Unlawful association / terror / extortion	1	0
Other BNS/IPC	1	0
Rioting / Unlawful assembly	1	0
Smuggling / Customs (gold etc.)	0	1
Traffic homicide / negligence	1	0
Robbery / Dacoity	0	1

Summary: Cattle preservation and drug-related cases in this sample are exclusively associated with Muslim accused individuals. Hindu accused individuals appear more frequently in cases involving rioting, traffic negligence, and unlawful association.

20 Full case details available here (Anonymised): https://cdpp736-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/moumita_cdpp_co_in/IQAIbUC8tPpnQo9NHQ42m_nzAZz43XFhzA8iy1tvf0wKuDk?e=leeUuJ

Section 2: Observation Note of Visit to Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre

- **Location:** Saidabad Road, Dr BR Colony, Sapota Bagh, New Malakpet, Hyderabad
- **Date:** February 18, 2026

On February 18, 2026, a visit was undertaken to the Boys' Home at the Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Centre, Hyderabad. The visit was facilitated by the All-India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF), with whom the Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) maintains a Memorandum of Understanding. CLES functions as an initiative under the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP).

The facility operates as an Observation Home, which serves as a temporary reception space for children during the pendency of inquiry under the relevant juvenile justice procedures. Such homes are intended to provide a safe and supervised environment for children until appropriate determinations are made by the competent authorities regarding their care, protection, rehabilitation, or repatriation.

During the visit, an interaction was held with 20 boys residing at the home. The engagement took place during their classroom session, allowing for observation of the academic environment and institutional routine. Discussions were also conducted with the officer in charge and the class teacher to gain a better understanding of the children's socio-economic backgrounds and the circumstances that led to their admission to the centre.

All children present were below 18 years of age and belonged to varied age groups. The majority were from Hyderabad and other districts within Telangana, while two children were from Madhya Pradesh and one from Maharashtra. As informed by the staff, most of the children had been admitted as runaways, children found begging, or those rescued under child labour laws. In cases involving runaway children and begging, the standard procedure involves their being brought to the Observation Home by the police, following which parents or next of kin are informed with a view to facilitating their safe return. In instances concerning child labour, release and repatriation are undertaken in accordance with directions issued by the competent court authorities.

The daily routine followed at the centre is structured to ensure stability and engagement. The children begin their day with breakfast, followed by personal hygiene and preparation for academic sessions. Classes are conducted until the afternoon, with lunch served at approximately 2:00 PM. Post-lunch, the children participate in outdoor activities in the playground, followed by indoor recreational engagements prior to dinner. The centre provides nutritional meals and imparts instruction in foundational subjects, including English and basic mathematics.

Overall, the visit offered valuable insight into the functioning of the Observation Home and its role in providing interim care and supervision to children in vulnerable circumstances. The emphasis on routine, basic education, nutrition, and supervised

recreational activities reflects an institutional effort to create a supportive and rehabilitative environment during the inquiry process. Continued collaboration between AIPIF and CLES may contribute meaningfully to research, outreach, and policy engagement in the domain of child protection and juvenile justice.