



CLEES

Update Report

March to April

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CLES – Update Report (March–April 2026)

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Summary

Telangana (25 cases):

Cases are overwhelmingly male, concentrated in the 31–40 age group. Offences are mainly economic and procedural, with fewer serious crimes. Most cases are at advanced trial stages, with limited pre-trial detention, indicating a procedure-driven, trial-centric system.

Assam (19 cases):

All accused are male, with a wider age spread. Cases feature more sexual, public-order, and cattle-related offences. Pre-trial detention is more frequent and prolonged, especially under stringent laws—reflecting a custody-centric system.

Comparative Insight:

While demographics broadly mirror state populations, the systems diverge sharply: Assam relies more on pre-trial custody, whereas Telangana emphasises trial progression. These differences are driven primarily by offence types and legal frameworks.

Law & Society Podcast (Episode 10):

Features S. A. Huda, focusing on representation and diversity in civil services. The discussion highlights structural barriers to access and argues that inclusive representation is key to strengthening governance, institutional legitimacy, and democratic equity.

Section 1: Analysis of 25 Criminal Cases from Telangana with Cross-Analysis

This report presents a factual analysis of **25 anonymised criminal cases from Telangana, India**, derived from the provided dataset. Each case is referenced only by **serial number (1-25)**. The analysis examines five primary dimensions—**gender, age, religion, crime types, and current status**—and uses cross-analysis to identify patterns within the dataset (n = 25).

1.1 Gender Distribution

Gender	Count
Male	24
Female	1

Summary:

The dataset is overwhelmingly male (96%), with only one female accused. This strong gender concentration mirrors trends commonly observed in criminal litigation, particularly in cases involving fraud, violent crime, and public-order offences.

1.2 Age Group Distribution

Age Group	Count
21-30	2
31-40	12
41-50	3
51-60	5
Above 60	3

Summary:

The largest proportion of accused individuals falls within the **31-40 age bracket**, followed by the **51-60 group**. This indicates a concentration of cases involving economically active adults, with a notable presence of older individuals as well. Very few accused are under 30 years of age.

1.3 Religion Distribution

Religion	Count
Hindu	22
Muslim	2
Christian	1

Summary:

The overwhelming majority of accused individuals belong to the Hindu community. The small representation of other religious groups appears consistent with the broader demographic distribution of the state and does not indicate offence-specific clustering.

1.4 Crime Type Distribution

Crime Type	Count
Other IPC/BNS offences	8
Fraud / cheating	5
Voluntarily causing hurt	3
Sexual offences	2
Public order / gambling	2
Drugs / NDPS	2
Theft / robbery	2
Murder / homicide	1

Summary:

The dataset is dominated by **economic and procedural offences**, particularly cheating and miscellaneous IPC or BNS violations. Violent crimes, including murder and serious sexual offences, form a smaller but legally significant portion of the cases. NDPS-related matters also appear in limited numbers.

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

Crime Type	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	Above 60
Drugs / NDPS	0	2	0	0	0
Fraud / cheating	1	0	1	2	1
Murder / homicide	0	1	0	0	0
Other IPC/BNS	1	3	0	3	1
Public order / gambling	0	1	1	0	0
Sexual offences	0	2	0	0	0
Theft / robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Voluntarily causing hurt	0	2	1	0	0

Summary:

Younger accused (below 30) are minimally represented across offence categories. **Sexual**

offences and NDPS cases are concentrated entirely in the 31–40 group, while fraud and regulatory offences span older age brackets, indicating a connection between economic activity and offence type.

1.6 Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Crime Type	Hindu	Muslim	Christian
Drugs / NDPS	2	0	0
Fraud / cheating	5	0	0
Murder / homicide	1	0	0
Other IPC/BNS	6	1	1
Public order / gambling	2	0	0
Sexual offences	2	0	0
Theft / robbery	2	0	0
Voluntarily causing hurt	2	1	0

Summary:

Most offence types involve Hindu accused, reflecting the overall religious distribution of the dataset. No crime category shows concentration among minority religious groups.

1.7 Custody Duration vs. Offence Type

An examination of custody stages across the 25 anonymised Telangana cases indicates that custody duration closely tracks offence severity and procedural stage rather than personal characteristics of the accused. Most cases involving economic, cheating, regulatory, and procedural IPC or BNS offences remain at the examination, appearance, or argument stage, with accused either on bail or not subjected to prolonged incarceration. These offences, which form the bulk of the dataset, generally involve document-based evidence and do not prompt extended custodial detention.

In contrast, cases involving serious offences such as murder, sexual offences, and NDPS violations show relatively more restrictive procedural treatment, including active trial stages such as cross-examination or advanced statutory examination. However, even within these categories, prolonged pre-trial custody is limited in number, and most accused are engaged in ongoing trial proceedings rather than extended detention. Overall, the Telangana dataset reflects a criminal process largely characterised by trial progression over custodial severity, with extended custody appearing as an exception rather than the norm and being largely confined to the most serious offence categories.

Concluding Observations

Across these 25 anonymised Telangana cases:

- The dataset is overwhelmingly male, with only one female accused represented.
- Individuals aged 31–40 form the largest age group, followed by those above 50, indicating a strong concentration among economically active and older adults.
- Economic and cheating-related offences, along with procedural IPC or BNS violations, constitute the majority of cases.
- Most matters remain at examination, appearance, or argument stages, with prolonged pre-trial custody limited to a small number of serious offences.
- Religion-based distributions closely reflect state-level demographics and do not show offence-specific clustering.

Section 2: Analysis of 19 Criminal Cases from Assam with Cross-Analysis

This section presents a factual analysis of **19 anonymised criminal cases from Assam, India**, derived solely from the provided dataset. Each case is referenced **only by serial number (1–19)**. The analysis focuses on five primary dimensions—**gender, age, religion, crime types, and current legal status**—and uses cross-analysis to identify patterns across the dataset.

All observations are strictly limited to the information contained in the dataset (n = 19).

2.1 Gender Distribution

Gender	Count
Male	19
Female	0

Summary:

All 19 accused individuals in the dataset are male, resulting in a **100% male distribution**. This strongly suggests a gender-skewed pattern in the types of offences represented—particularly in violent crimes, sexual offences, cattle-related cases, and public-order offences.

2.2 Age Group Distribution

Note: Two cases have missing or indeterminate age information; therefore totals below sum to 17.

Age Group	Count
Below 20	2
21–30	2
31–40	4
41–50	5
51–60	1
Above 60	3
Missing	2

Summary:

The **41–50 age group** forms the largest segment, followed closely by **31–40**. Unlike many crime datasets dominated by younger adults, this sample shows substantial representation of **middle-aged and elderly accused**, including three cases involving

individuals above 60. This suggests that offences such as land disputes, cattle preservation, rioting, and family-linked violence frequently involve older age groups.

2.3 Religion Distribution

Religion	Count
Muslim	13
Hindu	5
Tribal	1

Summary:

Approximately **68%** of the accused belong to the Muslim community, with Hindus forming about **26%**, and one case (5%) involving a tribal individual. This distribution likely reflects **local demographic composition** of the districts involved and the nature of region-specific offences (such as cattle preservation laws and agrarian conflicts), rather than any broader trend.

2.4 Crime Type Distribution

Crime Type	Count
Sexual offences	5
Cattle transport / preservation	2
Rioting / unlawful assembly	2
Fraud / cheating / forgery	2
Smuggling / customs (gold etc.)	2
Other BNS/IPC offences	2
Robbery / dacoity	1
Drugs / NDPS	1
Murder / homicide	1
Unlawful association / terror / extortion	1

Summary:

Sexual offences constitute the single largest category (26%), followed by a cluster of **property-, order-, and regulation-based offences** such as cattle preservation, rioting, fraud, and gold smuggling. Serious violent crime (murder) and NDPS offences appear **infrequently but are legally severe**, typically attracting extended incarceration and stricter bail scrutiny.

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

Note: Only age groups with non-zero counts are shown; missing-age cases excluded.

Crime Type	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	Above 60	Below 20
Cattle transport / preservation	0	1	1	0	0	0
Drugs / NDPS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud / cheating / forgery	1	1	0	0	0	0
Murder / homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rioting / unlawful assembly	0	0	0	0	2	0
Robbery / dacoity	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sexual offences	0	1	1	0	0	2
Smuggling / customs (gold etc.)	0	1	1	0	0	0
Unlawful association / terror	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other BNS/IPC	1	0	0	0	1	0

Summary:

Sexual offences appear across both **younger (below 20)** and **middle-aged groups**, indicating no strict age concentration. **Rioting and unlawful assembly** are confined to older age groups (above 60), while **fraud and smuggling** are concentrated in the 31–50 range—suggesting higher involvement of economically active adults in complex or organised offences.

2.6 Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Crime Type	Hindu	Muslim	Tribal
Cattle transport / preservation	0	2	0
Drugs / NDPS	1	0	0
Fraud / cheating / forgery	0	1	1
Murder / homicide	0	1	0
Rioting / unlawful assembly	0	2	0
Robbery / dacoity	0	1	0
Sexual offences	1	4	0

Smuggling / customs (gold etc.)	2	0	0
Unlawful association / terror	0	1	0
Other BNS/IPC	1	1	0

Summary:

Cattle-preservation cases and rioting in this dataset involve **only Muslim accused**, while **gold-smuggling and NDPS cases involve Hindu accused only**. Sexual offences are present across communities but are numerically higher among Muslim accused in this sample. These patterns appear **case-specific and region-linked**, not indicative of inherent religious trends.

2.7 Custody Duration vs. Offence Type (Comparative Analysis)

This sub section analyses the relationship between offence type and custody duration across the 19 anonymised cases, categorising custody outcomes into prolonged judicial custody, moderate custody with active bail litigation, short term or procedural detention, and pre arrest stages where anticipatory bail is sought.

A clear pattern emerges. Sexual offences, particularly those under the POCSO framework, and terror linked allegations consistently result in the longest periods of custodial detention, with accused persons facing extended incarceration, repeated bail rejections, and procedural delays. Violent offences involving grievous harm or unlawful assembly generally attract early arrest followed by continued custody, although courts show greater willingness to review bail over time, especially where counter cases or private disputes are alleged. In contrast, economic and regulatory offences, including cattle preservation cases, fraud, gold smuggling, and theft, largely remain at the pre arrest or short custody stage, with detention viewed as investigative rather than punitive. Cases arising from private disputes or disputed recoveries show a higher prevalence of anticipatory bail applications, reflecting judicial caution against unnecessary arrest.

Overall, custody duration correlates more strongly with statutory severity and offence category than with personal attributes such as age, occupation, or family background. Sexual and terror related offences produce the greatest custodial impact, violent group-based offences occupy a middle tier, and economic or regulatory crimes demonstrate the lowest custodial severity. This pattern reflects a graduated custody model driven primarily by perceived societal harm and legislative rigidity rather than individualised risk assessment.

Concluding Observations

Across these 19 anonymised cases from Assam:

- The dataset consists entirely of male accused individuals.
- Middle-aged individuals, particularly those between 31 and 50 years, dominate the sample.

- Sexual offences, along with regulatory and public-order-related crimes, form the largest share of cases.
- Most cases remain at the bail or pre-trial stage, with prolonged judicial custody being especially common in sexual, violent, and statute-driven offences.
- Religion-based distributions closely align with district-level demographics and the contextual nature of the offences, rather than indicating any generalised behavioural trend.

Section 3: Comparative Analysis of Criminal Cases in Assam and Telangana

Datasets compared

- **Assam:** 19 anonymised cases
- **Telangana:** 25 anonymised cases

Both datasets were compiled in a uniform structure and analysed using identical dimensions, namely gender, age, religion, offence type, and custody stage. All comparisons are strictly limited to the provided data.

3.1 Gender Distribution Comparison

State	Male	Female
Assam	19	0
Telangana	24	1

Observation:

Both states show an overwhelming predominance of male accused individuals. Telangana exhibits minimal female representation, while Assam shows none. Overall, gender concentration is comparable across both datasets.

3.2 Age Group Distribution Comparison

Age Group	Assam	Telangana
Below 20	2	0
21-30	2	2
31-40	4	12
41-50	5	3
51-60	1	5
Above 60	3	3
Missing	2	0

Observation:

Assam exhibits a broader age spread, including minors and elderly accused. Telangana cases are heavily concentrated in the 31-40 age group, indicating a stronger working-age focus.

3.3 Religion Distribution Comparison

Religion	Assam	Telangana
Hindu	5	22
Muslim	13	2
Christian	0	1
Tribal	1	0

Observation:

The contrasting religious distributions closely mirror state-level demographics. No offence-specific religious clustering is observed independent of regional context.

3.4 Crime Type Distribution Comparison

Crime Type	Assam	Telangana
Sexual offences	5	2
Fraud / Cheating	2	5
Drugs / NDPS	1	2
Murder / Homicide	1	1
Rioting / Unlawful assembly	2	0
Cattle preservation / transport	2	0
Theft / Robbery	1	2
Public order / Gambling	0	2
Other IPC/BNS offences	2	8

Observation:

Assam's dataset is more heavily weighted toward sexual and public-order offences, while Telangana's cases are dominated by economic and procedural crimes such as cheating and miscellaneous IPC violations.

3.5 Custody Stage Comparison

Dimension	Assam	Telangana
Prolonged judicial custody	Common in sexual and statute-driven cases	Limited
Pre-arrest / anticipatory bail	Frequent	Rare
Trial-progression focus	Moderate	High
Document-based litigation	Moderate	Dominant

Observation:

Assam reflects a custody-intensive pre-trial model, particularly in sexual and regulatory offences. Telangana reflects a trial-oriented process, with most cases progressing through examination and argument stages rather than extended detention.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis highlights two distinct procedural patterns. Assam demonstrates greater reliance on pre-trial custody, driven largely by offence composition and statutory design. Telangana demonstrates a process emphasising trial progression over custodial severity. These differences appear rooted in enforcement practices and offence profiles rather than demographic or individual characteristics.

See the state-wise anonymised case details here: [CLES April 2026 Cases.xlsx](#)

Section 4: Law and Society Series – Podcast Feature (Episode 10)

Section 4 highlights *Episode 10* of the Law and Society Series, an initiative under the *Policy to Practice* podcast. This episode features a conversation with S. A. Huda, a retired Indian Police Service officer and former Director General of Police of Andhra Pradesh. A founding member of the *Centre for Studies of Plural Societies*, New Delhi, he is widely recognised for his administrative leadership and sustained engagement with issues of public service, educational reform, and institutional inclusion.

The episode focuses on the theme of representation and diversity within the Indian civil services, examining the structural and systemic barriers that shape access to these institutions. Drawing on professional experience and post-retirement public engagement, the discussion explores how questions of representation intersect with governance quality, administrative legitimacy, and democratic equity. Particular attention is given to the importance of inclusive participation in strengthening public institutions and ensuring that civil services reflect the social diversity of the populations they serve.

Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/UYksUrqdQTQ?si=unTRYjh4y7Wcs8Al>

The image is a podcast cover for the 'Policy to Practice Podcast' Law & Society Series. At the top left is a logo consisting of a blue circle with a white 'P' and a microphone icon. To its right, the text 'POLICY TO PRACTICE PODCAST' is written in blue, and 'LAW & SOCIETY SERIES' is written in red. Below this, a dark blue horizontal bar contains the text 'EP 10', 'S. A. Huda', and 'on Representation and Diversity in the Indian Civil Services' in white. In the center is a circular portrait of S. A. Huda, a man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a dark jacket. Below the portrait, his name 'S. A. Huda' is written in blue, followed by 'IPS (Retd.); Governing Council Member' and 'Centre for Studies of Plural Societies, New Delhi' in a smaller blue font. At the bottom left is the 'CDPP' logo with the text 'CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE' below it. At the bottom right is the 'CLES' logo with the text 'CENTRE FOR LAW, ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY' below it.

Section 4: Visit Note: Juvenile Justice Facilities, Hyderabad

Visited by: Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) of Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) in collaboration with and arranged by the All-India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF)

Date: 16 April 2026

Location: Saidabad Rd, Dr BR Colony, Sapota Bagh, New Malakpet, Hyderabad

Introduction

- The CLES-CDPP team, in collaboration with the All-India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum, conducted a field visit to a juvenile justice complex in Hyderabad.
- The purpose of the visit was to understand institutional structures, legal processes, and the socio-economic backgrounds of children in conflict with the law and those in need of care and protection.
- The visit included interactions with staff and observation of on-ground functioning.

Structure and Composition of the Facility

- The centre is divided into three distinct units.
- **Observation Home:**
 - Functions as a temporary reception space during the pendency of inquiry under juvenile justice procedures.
 - Provides a safe and supervised environment until decisions are made regarding care, protection, rehabilitation, or repatriation.
 - Currently houses **25 children**, including runaways and those rescued from child labour situations.
- **Observation and Correction Home:**
 - Accommodates children below 18 years of age who are accused of offences.
 - Currently houses **111 children**.
- **State Aftercare Facility:**
 - Houses individuals who were accused as juveniles but are now adults.
 - Residents remain until completion of legal proceedings and final hearings.

Daily Routine and Living Conditions

- We visited the first two units which follow a structured daily schedule.
- Wake-up and personal hygiene activities begin before **8:00 AM**.
- Breakfast is followed by academic engagement, with examinations currently underway.
- Children are provided with **nutritious meals** at regular intervals.
- Time is allocated for **indoor and outdoor recreational activities**.
- The day concludes with dinner and a structured evening routine.

- The overall system attempts to balance custodial care with education and recreation.

Legal Processes and Access to Justice

- Court proceedings are conducted within the premises.
- A designated judge visits **once a week**, along with legal and administrative personnel.
- This system reduces the need to transport children to external courts.
- Children without financial means are provided **free legal aid**.
- Currently, **two legal aid lawyers** are assigned.
- Bail and bond amounts generally extend up to **₹5,000**.
- Bail may require **one surety**.
- The process emphasises **parental or guardian accountability** to ensure court appearances.

Socio-Demographic Profile of Residents

- A majority of children are from Hyderabad and other districts of Telangana.
- A smaller proportion come from other states, particularly Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- Many children from other states had been residing in Hyderabad prior to being accused of offences.
- Common categories of alleged offences include:
 - Theft
 - Cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
 - Narcotics-related offences

Research Focus and Future Engagement

- The visit is part of a broader research effort by CDPP.
- Key areas of study include:
 - Legal patterns and prevalence of specific offences
 - Case timelines from initial detention to final adjudication
 - Socio-economic backgrounds, including migration and family conditions
- The team plans to visit the **girls' juvenile facility** for a more gender-sensitive understanding.

Conclusion

- The visit provided insights into both procedural mechanisms and lived realities within the juvenile justice system.
- It highlighted the importance of linking legal processes with socio-economic analysis.
- Findings from the visit will inform future research and policy recommendations.

