

Update Report May to June 2026

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Summary

This report presents key updates from the Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) for the period May–June 2026, highlighting ongoing work on criminal justice research and public engagement initiatives.

The report analyses 40 anonymised criminal cases drawn from two locations, namely Hyderabad, Telangana (20 cases) and Assam (20 cases), to identify patterns relating to gender, age, religion, crime categories, and procedural status. Using cross-analysis, the report examines how demographic factors intersect with different offence types and stages of criminal proceedings.

The Hyderabad dataset is characterised primarily by routine criminal litigation involving assault, public-order violations, excise offences, property disputes, and traffic-related matters. The analysis finds that most accused persons are male and belong to younger and middle-aged age groups, while the majority of cases remain at ordinary procedural stages without indications of prolonged custodial detention.

In contrast, the Assam dataset contains a higher proportion of serious criminal allegations, such as sexual offences, homicide, narcotics-related offences, and cattle-related crimes. The cases demonstrate greater engagement with custody, bail, and anticipatory bail proceedings, reflecting the more serious nature of the offences involved. The analysis also highlights distinct demographic and offence-related patterns within the sample while noting the limitations of drawing broader conclusions from a relatively small dataset.

In addition to its research activities, the report features an episode from the CDPP–CLES Podcast: Law and Society Series with Dr. Sanu Rani Paul, faculty member at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatnam. The episode explores the criminalisation of tribal and other vulnerable communities under environmental laws and examines how legal systems can balance conservation objectives with social justice, community rights, and sustainable livelihoods.

Together, these activities reflect CLES's commitment to advancing evidence-based legal research, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, and promoting informed discussions on law, justice, governance, and public policy in India.

Section 1: Analysis of 20 Criminal Cases from Hyderabad, Telangana with Cross-Analysis

This report presents a factual analysis of 20 anonymised criminal cases from Hyderabad, Telangana, India, derived from the provided dataset. Each case is referenced only through anonymised records. The analysis examines five primary dimensions; gender, age, religion, crime type, and procedural status, and uses cross-analysis to identify patterns within the dataset (n = 20).

1.1 Gender Distribution

Gender	Count
Male	16
Female	4
Total	20

Summary

The dataset is predominantly male, with 16 of the 20 accused individuals (80%) being men. Female accused persons account for four cases (20%). The higher representation of male accused persons is consistent with broader criminal justice trends, particularly in cases involving assault, theft, public-order offences, and property-related crimes.

1.2 Age Group Distribution

Age Group	Count
Below 21	1
21-30	7
31-40	4
41-50	5
51-60	3
Above 60	0
Total	20

Summary

The largest concentration of accused persons falls within the 21-30 age group, representing more than one-third of the dataset. Individuals aged 31-50 also account for a substantial share of cases. The findings indicate that criminal proceedings primarily involve younger and middle-aged adults, with very limited representation among adolescents and older persons.

1.3 Religion Distribution

Religion	Count
Hindu	14
Muslim	6
Total	20

Summary

Hindu accused persons constitute the majority of the dataset, followed by Muslim accused persons. The distribution broadly reflects the demographic composition of Hyderabad and Telangana. The available data does not indicate any concentration of specific offences within a particular religious community.

1.4 Crime Type Distribution

Crime Type	Count
Violent offences (hurt, assault, grievous hurt)	7
Fraud / property offences	3
Public order / excise / traffic offences	3
Theft-related offences	2
Regulatory / public safety offences	2
Other IPC/BNS offences	2
Trespass offences	1
Total	20

Summary

Violent offences constitute the largest category in the dataset, including voluntarily causing hurt, grievous hurt, and assault-related allegations. Fraud and property-related offences, public-order matters, and theft-related offences also appear frequently. The dataset contains several regulatory and traffic-related offences, including rash driving and railway safety violations. Overall, the criminal cases are dominated by routine criminal litigation rather than serious offences such as homicide or sexual crimes.

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

Crime Type	Below 21	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Violent offences	1	1	3	1	1
Fraud / property offences	0	1	0	2	0
Public order / excise / traffic	0	0	0	1	2
Theft-related offences	0	2	0	0	0
Regulatory / public safety offences	0	2	0	0	0
Other IPC/BNS offences	0	0	1	1	0
Trespass offences	0	1	0	0	0

Summary

The 21–30 age group is strongly represented in theft-related, trespass, and regulatory offences. Violent offences are distributed across all age groups but are particularly concentrated among individuals aged 31–40. Fraud and property-related offences appear more frequently among middle-aged accused persons, while public-order and excise-related offences are concentrated among those aged 41–60. The data suggests differing offence profiles across age categories, with younger adults appearing more frequently in mobility-related and property offences.

1.6 Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Crime Type	Hindu	Muslim
Violent offences	4	3
Fraud / property offences	1	2
Public order / excise / traffic	3	0
Theft-related offences	1	1
Regulatory / public safety offences	2	0
Other IPC/BNS offences	2	0
Trespass offences	1	0

Summary

Most offence categories involve Hindu accused persons, reflecting their larger representation within the dataset. Violent offences are distributed across both Hindu and Muslim accused persons. Fraud and property-related offences show relatively greater representation among Muslim accused persons, though the overall numbers remain small. Theft-related offences are evenly distributed between the two religious groups. The dataset does not reveal any significant offence clustering based on religion.

1.7 Gender vs. Crime Type (Cross-Analysis)

Crime Type	Male	Female
Violent offences	7	0
Public order / excise offences	1	2
Fraud / property offences	1	1
Traffic / regulatory offences	3	0
Theft-related offences	1	0
Trespass offences	0	1
Other IPC/BNS offences	3	0

Summary

Male accused persons account for 16 of the 20 cases and are represented across nearly all offence categories. Violent offences, traffic-related offences, theft, and miscellaneous IPC/BNS offences are represented exclusively by male accused persons.

Female accused persons appear in four cases and are concentrated in excise-related, property-related, and trespass-related offences. Two female accused persons are involved in offences relating to the manufacture of illicit liquor under the Telangana Excise Act, while the remaining female accused persons are involved in dishonest misappropriation of property and criminal trespass allegations.

The data suggests that female representation within the Hyderabad dataset is limited and concentrated in non-violent offences, whereas violent and traffic-related offences are entirely associated with male accused persons.

1.8 Custody Duration vs. Offence Type

An examination of the procedural stages across the 20 Hyderabad cases indicates that most matters remain within routine stages of criminal adjudication, including summons, examination, appearance, investigation, and issue of warrants.

Violent offences frequently appear in investigation and summons stages, suggesting ongoing trial proceedings. Excise-related matters and traffic violations are generally found at examination and summons stages, reflecting routine handling before magistrate courts. Property offences and trespass-related cases also remain at intermediate procedural stages without indications of prolonged custodial detention.

Unlike datasets dominated by serious offences such as murder, rape, or organised crime, the Hyderabad sample primarily reflects ordinary criminal litigation involving assault, excise violations, property disputes, and traffic-related offences. Most accused persons appear to be participating in regular criminal proceedings rather than experiencing extended periods of incarceration.

Concluding Observations

Across these 20 anonymised Hyderabad cases:

- The dataset is predominantly male, with men constituting 80% of accused persons.
- Individuals aged 21–50 account for the overwhelming majority of cases, indicating a concentration among economically active adults.
- Violent offences, including voluntarily causing hurt, grievous hurt, assault, and criminal force, form the largest category of criminal allegations.
- Public-order and excise-related offences, particularly cases involving illicit liquor manufacture, constitute a significant share of the caseload.
- Fraud/property offences, traffic violations, theft, and trespass-related offences account for the remaining cases.
- Female accused persons account for four cases and are primarily represented in excise-related, property-related, and trespass offences, while violent, theft-related, traffic, and miscellaneous regulatory offences are represented exclusively by male accused persons.
- Most matters remain at routine procedural stages such as summons, examination, investigation, appearance, or warrant proceedings, suggesting limited prolonged custodial detention.

- Religion-based distributions broadly reflect the composition of the sample and do not demonstrate clear offence-specific concentration.
- Overall, the Hyderabad dataset reflects routine criminal litigation involving assault, excise violations, property disputes, traffic offences, and public-order matters rather than exceptionally serious criminal allegations.

Section 2: 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. Each case is referenced only by serial number (1–20). The analysis examines five primary dimensions—gender, age, religion, crime types, and procedural status—and uses cross-analysis to identify patterns within the dataset (n = 20).

2.1 Gender Distribution

Gender	Count
Male	20
Female	0

Summary

The dataset consists entirely of male accused persons. No female accused individuals appear within the sample. This reflects the nature of the offences represented, which include homicide, sexual offences, narcotics offences, cattle-theft cases, and violent crimes, categories that traditionally show a higher proportion of male accused persons.

2.2 Age Group Distribution

Age Group	Count
Below 21	1
21–30	6
31–40	8
41–50	4
51–60	0
Above 60	1

Summary

The largest proportion of accused persons falls within the 31–40 age bracket, followed by the 21–30 group. Together, individuals aged 21–40 constitute 70% of all accused persons in the dataset. Representation declines among older age groups, with only one accused person above 60 years of age.

2.3 Religion Distribution

(Case No. 2 has been classified as "Unknown" because the Police Final Report mentions the accused as Muslim, but the available record does not provide conclusive information.)

Religion	Count
Muslim	12
Hindu	6
Sikh	1
Unknown	1

Summary

Muslim accused persons constitute the largest share of the dataset, followed by Hindu accused persons. One accused person belongs to the Sikh community, while one case remains categorised as unknown due to ambiguity in the available records. The distribution reflects the specific composition of the selected cases rather than any broader demographic trend.

2.4 Crime Type Distribution

Crime Type	Count
Sexual offences	7
Murder / homicide	4
NDPS / narcotics offences	3
Theft / cattle-related offences	3
Violent offences (hurt, grievous hurt, intimidation)	2
Other IPC/BNS offences	1

Summary

Sexual offences form the largest category within the dataset, accounting for more than one-third of all cases. These include allegations under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape. Murder and homicide-related offences constitute the second-largest category. NDPS-related narcotics cases and cattle-theft/cattle-transport offences also appear frequently. Compared with many state-level criminal datasets, the Assam sample contains a relatively high proportion of serious offences.

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

Crime Type	Below 21	21-30	31-40	41-50	Above 60
Sexual offences	1	2	3	1	0
Murder / homicide	0	1	0	2	1
NDPS / narcotics offences	0	1	2	0	0
Theft / cattle-related offences	0	1	1	1	0
Violent offences	0	1	1	0	0
Other IPC/BNS offences	0	0	1	0	0

Summary

Sexual offences are distributed across nearly all age groups but are particularly concentrated among accused persons aged 21–40. Murder and homicide allegations are more common among older accused persons, especially those aged 41–50. NDPS offences are concentrated entirely among younger and middle-aged adults aged 21–40. Theft and cattle-related offences are spread across multiple age categories, suggesting broader participation across age groups.

2.6 Crime Type vs. Religion (Cross-Analysis)

Crime Type	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Unknown
Sexual offences	1	6	0	0
Murder / homicide	3	1	0	0
NDPS / narcotics offences	1	1	1	0
Theft / cattle-related offences	0	3	0	0
Violent offences	1	1	0	0
Other IPC/BNS offences	0	0	0	1

Summary

Sexual offence allegations predominantly involve Muslim accused persons within this dataset, while homicide-related offences are more frequently represented among Hindu accused persons. NDPS offences are distributed across Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh accused persons. Theft and cattle-related offences appear exclusively among Muslim accused persons in the sample. However, given the limited sample size of only 20 cases, these distributions should not be interpreted as broader community-level patterns.

2.7 Custody Duration vs. Offence Type

An examination of procedural stages across the 20 Assam cases indicates a significant presence of serious criminal offences involving murder, sexual crimes under the POCSO Act, narcotics offences under the NDPS Act, and cattle-related offences under the Assam Cattle Preservation Act.

Many accused persons are either in custody, apprehending arrest, seeking anticipatory bail, or pursuing regular bail before the Gauhati High Court. Compared with datasets dominated by routine public-order offences, the Assam cases demonstrate a greater frequency of active custody-related proceedings and higher judicial scrutiny.

NDPS offences and homicide cases show a particularly strong association with continued custody or contested bail proceedings. Sexual offence cases, especially those involving children under the POCSO Act, frequently involve anticipatory bail applications, regular bail petitions, or ongoing trial proceedings. Consequently, the dataset reflects a higher level of procedural seriousness and custodial involvement than would ordinarily be observed in routine criminal litigation.

Concluding Observations

Across these 20 anonymised Assam cases:

- The dataset is entirely male, with no female accused persons represented.
- Individuals aged 21–40 constitute the majority of accused persons, indicating a strong concentration among younger and economically active adults.
- Sexual offences form the single largest offence category, followed by murder/homicide cases.
- NDPS-related narcotics offences and cattle-related offences account for a substantial share of the caseload.
- Several matters involve active custody, anticipatory bail, regular bail proceedings, or serious criminal allegations requiring heightened judicial scrutiny.
- The dataset contains a significantly higher proportion of serious offences than datasets dominated by public-order or minor property crimes.
- Religion-based distributions reflect the composition of the selected sample and should not be interpreted as indicating broader offence trends within the state.
- Overall, the Assam dataset is characterised by serious criminal litigation involving sexual offences, homicide, narcotics offences, and cattle-related crimes, with many cases still progressing through substantive stages of the criminal justice process.

Excel Workbook of all 40 anonymised cases

Link: https://cdpp736-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/moumita_cdpp_co_in/IQBtQYe-nAH7QJBAA2xbYIJfAQG1YrLbtLhc11TfWy2pjP4?e=yesluA

Section 4: Podcast Feature – Dr. Sanu Rani Paul



As part of the CDPP–CLES Podcast: Law and Society Series, the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) are pleased to feature Dr. Sanu Rani Paul in an upcoming episode exploring the intersection of environmental governance, criminal law, and social justice. The episode examines the criminalisation of tribal and other vulnerable communities under environmental laws and reflects on how legal systems can balance conservation objectives with the rights, dignity, and livelihoods of affected populations.

Dr. Sanu Rani Paul is a faculty member at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Visakhapatnam, and formerly served as an Assistant Professor at Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Mysore and an LL.M. from Mangalore University, where she was a rank holder. With over thirteen years of academic experience, her research focuses on environmental jurisprudence, particularly the rights of nature, ecocentrism, and ecological justice. She has published extensively in leading academic journals and received several international best paper awards.

In this episode, Dr. Paul discusses the tensions between environmental protection and social justice, highlighting the experiences of tribal and other marginalised communities that often bear the burden of conservation-oriented legal frameworks. The conversation critically examines how environmental laws can sometimes contribute to the criminalisation of vulnerable communities and explores pathways for balancing conservation imperatives with constitutional rights, community livelihoods, and principles of ecological justice. By bringing together legal doctrine, lived realities, and policy perspectives, the episode offers a nuanced reflection on the relationship between environmental protection and social inclusion in contemporary India.

Watch the episode here: <https://youtu.be/6hsXLnbKluE?si=n3VFDL7yMUR52FN->