

# CESS *Prime Time*

(Planning Dept., Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR-Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)



## *From the Director's Desk...*



**Prof. E. Revathi**

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) experienced a productive and intellectually vibrant quarter from January to March 2026, marked by a rich blend of academic engagements, research activities, and cultural celebrations.

The quarter featured a stimulating Book Discussion on “Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India”, that brought into discussion the earlier concept of ‘brain drain’ and the recent phenomenon of ‘wealth drain’ symbolising emigration of high-net-worth individuals. This was followed by a Seminar on “GST Reforms: Socio-Economic Implications”, where scholars and practitioners engaged in critical discussions on the evolving GST framework and its implications for equity, federalism, and economic efficiency.

CESS also organised a Round Table Discussion on the Union Budget 2026–27, offering a platform for in-depth analysis of various aspects of the union budget, fiscal priorities and development strategies. Further strengthening its role in

policy discourse, the institute hosted a One-Day Conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Report, bringing together eminent academicians and policymakers to deliberate on issues of fiscal federalism, resource allocation, and fiscal sustainability.

Research and academic training remained central to the institute’s activities during the quarter. Several core chapter and pre-submission seminars by doctoral scholars registered with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, along with pre-submission seminars by regular scholars, were conducted, providing a forum for rigorous academic feedback and scholarly exchange. The period also witnessed the submission of two Ph.D. theses, marking significant academic milestones.

CESS faculty and scholars continued to contribute actively to research and public discourse. A total of nine research projects were ongoing during the quarter, with two successfully completed. Scholarly output included nine research papers, including a book review, alongside articles published in leading newspapers by faculty members and doctoral scholars, reflecting engagement with both academic and wider public audiences.

The quarter also saw the celebration of FESTIVISTA 2026: A Celebration of Joy and Togetherness, marking the Cultural Day with enthusiasm and participation from faculty, researchers, and staff. The event provided an opportunity to foster a sense of community and celebrate the diverse cultural expressions within the institute.

Overall, the activities of the quarter underscore CESS’s continued commitment to advancing research, nurturing academic scholarship, and contributing meaningfully to policy debates, while also strengthening institutional cohesion through collective cultural engagement.

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## Publications

### Books

YV Reddy, GR Reddy and Pinaki Chakraborty: *Indian Fiscal Federalism*, Oxford University Press, Second Edition (2026)

### Journals

Chakradhar, J., Choudhary, P. K., & Bairwa, A. K. (2026). The Role of Liberal Democracy and Policy Uncertainty in Shaping Economic Growth: An Empirical Analysis. *Journal of Public Affairs*, 26(2), e70125. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pa.70125>

Chakradhar, J., Ganguly, A., Choudhury, R. N., & Jadhav, P. (2026). Trade policy uncertainty and agricultural exports: The mitigating roles of RTA and liberal democracies. *Transnational Corporations Review*, 17(4). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tncr.2025.200160>

Revathi Ellanki co-authored with Thomas Steare, Kelly Clarke, Mesele Arya, Prareeta Patalay et.al, “Adolescents’ Relationship with their parent and peers as Mediators Between Economic Circumstances and Emotional Symptoms : A Multi-country Longitudinal Analysis”, January 2026, *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, DOI: 10.1016/j.jaac.2026.01.010

Sagar, M., & Sreenivasulu, Y. (2026). Intra-state Migration Patterns Across Agro-climatic Zones in Telangana: An Analysis Using NSSO Unit-level Data. *Journal of Development Policy and Practice*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1177/24551333261416175>

Sreenivasulu, Y., & Poola, D. (2026). Caste in Transit: Experiences of Dalit Women Domestic Migrants from Andhra Pradesh to Gulf Countries. *Social Change*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00490857251413420>

Sreenivasulu, Y., & Sagar, M. (2026). Three Decades of Occupational Transformation: A Case of Socio-economic Discrimination Against Dalit Landless Agricultural Labourers in Kondaiahgaripalli Village. *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, 1-20, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X261417511>

Srinivas, J. (co-author) (2026). A Cognitive-Network Framework for Democratic Resilience, *Chinese Political*

*Science Review*, SCOPUS (Q1); <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41111-025-00331-0>

Srinivasa Reddy, M. (2026). Working and Living Conditions of Sewerage Workers: A Study of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation in Andhra Pradesh, *Man & Development*, 44(4), pp. 43-64 (Article Accepted in 2022 and Printed in March 2026).

Venkatanarayana, M. (2026): “Disguised Unemployment: Impact of the Increase in Labour and Work Participation Rate in India” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 61(10), March 2026.

### Book Review

Revathi E (2026) *Foreign capital and Economic Growth in India: Time Series Estimation* authored by Mahendra Pal, March 2026, *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, 24(1), DOI: 10.1007/s40953-026-00504-x

### Research Report

Revathi Ellanki, Y.Sreenivasulu, M.Bharath Bhushan, “International Returnee Migrants in Telangana: A Survey”, February 2026; DOI: 10.131 40/ RG.2.2.14670.93763 Report Number: PUB 2024/066/R

### Articles in Newspapers

Amar Yumnam (5 January 2026). Failure to become Great from Goodness: Manipur Case, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/failure-to-become-great-from-goodness-manipur-case/>

Amar Yumnam (12 January 2026). Social Policy Needed, Mischievous Social Behaviour Performed: Tragic Manipur, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/social-policy-needed-mischievous-social-behaviour-performed-tragic-manipur/>

Amar Yumnam (20 January 2026). Imbroglia In Manipur: Politics Only For Politicking, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/imbroglia-in-manipur-politics-only-for-politicking/>

Amar Yumnam (25 January 2026). Inhumanity at its extreme: Killing of Rishikanta, *Imphal Times*, [https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/inhumanity-at-its-extreme-killing-of-rishikanta/#google\\_vignette](https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/inhumanity-at-its-extreme-killing-of-rishikanta/#google_vignette)

- Venkatanarayana, M., Geetha, G., & Aparna, P. (28 January 2026). Age-Appropriate Education Remains a Challenge in Telangana, *Opinion, Telangana Today*. <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-age-appropriate-education-remains-a-challenge-in-telangana>
- Venkatanarayana, M., & Revathi, E. (30 January 2026). Too Many Colleges in Telangana Deny it Economies of Scale, *Opinion, Hans India*. <https://epaper.thehansindia.com/Home/ArticleView?eid=1&edate=30/01/2026&pgid=231281>
- Amar Yumnam (2 February 2026). COCOMI Rally in Manipur: Absolutely Significant, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/cocomi-rally-in-manipur-absolutely-significant/>
- Amar Yumnam (9 February 2026). Big Challenges and Short Time: The New CM's Situation, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/big-challenges-and-short-time-the-new-cms-situation/>
- Chakradhar, J. (14 February 2026). India–EU FTA: Carbon rules, value chains, and export competitiveness. *Policy Circle*. <https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/iindia-eu-fta-cbam/>
- Amar Yumnam (23 February 2026). Democracy, Diversity and Decision-Making: What Manipur Needs, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/democracy-diversity-and-decision-making-what-manipur-needs/>
- Anjaneyulu, P. (February 2026). “తెలంగాణ జిల్లాల పునర్వ్యవస్థీకరణ” (Reorganisation of Districts in Telangana), *Veekshanam*, 24(2), ISSN 2231-6892, <https://veekshanam.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/veekshanam-february-2026-issue.pdf>
- Choudhary, P. K., & Chakradhar, J. (1 March 2026). Growth lifts millions, but inequality deepens in India. *The Hans India*. <https://www.thehansindia.com/business/growth-lifts-millions-but-inequality-deepens-in-india-1052716>
- Amar Yumnam (2 March 2026). Predicament of People: Character of Government, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/predicament-of-people-character-of-government/>
- Venkatanarayana, M., & Revathi, E. (9 March 2026). Allocate More for Education, *Opinion, Telangana Today*. <https://epaper.telanganatoday.com/Hyderabad?eid=1&edate=09/03/2026&pgid=77576&device=desktop&view=3>
- Amar Yumnam (9 March 2026). Man Made Beer, God Made Weed: Interesting Book, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/man-made-beer-god-made-weed-interesting-book/>
- Amar Yumnam (10 March 2026). Budget of 2026-27: Does Manipur Really Have One, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/budget-of-2026-27-does-manipur-really-have-one/>
- Amar Yumnam (16 March 2026). “Manimohan”, House of the People and Governance: Anything Goes in Manipur, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/manimohan-house-of-the-people-and-governance-anything-goes-in-manipur/>
- Amar Yumnam (23 March 2026). Life, Rationality, Morality and Justice: Supreme Court Judgement on Death, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/life-rationality-morality-and-justice-supreme-court-judgement-on-death/>
- Chakradhar, J. (27 March 2026). In a fractured world, WTO matters more than ever. *Deccan Herald*. <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/in-a-fractured-world-wto-matters-more-than-ever-3947089>
- Amar Yumnam (30 March 2026). Thinking, Leadership and Society: Manipur's Missing Factors, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/thinking-leadership-and-society-manipurs-missing-factors/>

## Paper Presentations

### Seminars and Conferences

Arifa Sultana, presented a paper on ‘Value Chain Financing for Sustainability of FPOs’ at International Conference at D Y Patil Institute of Management Studies, Pune, 6-7 March 2026.

Harinath, S, presented a paper on “*Social Science Research in India: Trends Emerging from Empirical Evidence*”, at a 2-day workshop on “Doing Public Policy: Praxis and Challenges”. Department of Political Science, Hyderabad Central University, 16-17 January 2026.

Krishna Rao, C, presented a paper on *Artificial Intelligence and Inclusive Development: A Sociological Analysis of India's Vision for Viksit Bharat 2047* at Two-Day National Seminar on “Viksit Bharat@ 2047: The Strategies and Challenges” Organised by the Faculty of Social Science, Nagarjuna Government College (Autonomous), Nalgonda, 8-9 January 2026.

Krishna Rao, C, presented a paper on *Skill Development and Vocational Education in India: A Sociological Analysis* at Two-Day National Seminar on Skill Development for Inclusive Growth: Policies and Strategies, organised by the Centre for Study of Social Inclusion in collaboration with the Department of Studies in Economics & Cooperation, University of Mysore, Mysore, 26-27 February 2026.

Revathi, E. & Chakradhar, J., (2026). paper presented on “*Persisting Inequalities: Digital Skills and Female Employment & Wages in India*” at the National Seminar on “Women and the Future of Work in the Age of Digital and Climate Transitions”, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, 5-6 March 2026.

Sreenivasulu, Y, presented a paper on “Farmers’ Satisfaction with Paddy Procurement in Yasangi 2023-24 in Telangana: An Empirical Analysis”. at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Telangana Economic Association (TEA), Dr. Zakir Hussain Lecture Hall, University of Hyderabad, 14-15 March, 2026.

Sreenivasulu, Y, presented a paper on “Youth Participation in Agriculture: Challenges, Aspirations, and Livelihood Transitions - A Longitudinal Village Study from South India” at the Two-Day International Conference on Agricultural Development Experience and Pathways to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (ICAD 2026), Department of Economics, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (Deemed to be University), Chennai, India, 26-27 February 2026.

Srinivas, J, presented a research paper on ‘BRICS Enlargement and the Future of Global Power Dynamics’ at

the International and Interdisciplinary Conference on the rise of Asia in a global History and Perspective, University of Le Harve, Paris, France, February 18-20, 2026 (Online).

### **Lectures Delivered and Invited Talks**

Arifa Sultana, resource person at 1-idea ICAR NAARM for training the CEOs of Tamil Nadu state on the module ‘*Accounting for Managing the FPOs*’, 5-6 January 2026.

Arifa Sultana, resource person at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, on the modules ‘*Value Chain Financing and Preparation of Business Development Plan and Financial Statement*’, 20 January 2026.

Jadhav Chakradhar, delivered a Special Lecture on “*Trade Policy Uncertainty in a Changing Global Order: Implications for India*” at the Two-Day National Seminar on “Changing Tariffs - Implications for the World Trade System: Challenges and Opportunities for India and Asian Countries”, organized by A.V. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Hyderabad, in association with the Institute of Asian Studies, 27 January 2026, Hyderabad.

Jadhav Chakradhar, Invited Resource Person: Delivered lectures on “*Correlation and Regression Analysis*” and “*Regression Diagnostics Analysis*” at the Ten-Day Research Methodology Course (RMC) for PhD/PDF Scholars in Social Sciences, sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi, organised by the Department of Economic Studies and Planning, Central University of Karnataka (CUK), Kalaburagi, 20 March 2026.

Laxman Rao, S., delivered a lecture on “*Public Policy in Transition: Current Landscape, Trends, and Skill Requirements*” at a 2-day workshop on “Doing Public Policy: Praxis and Challenges”. Department of Political Science, Hyderabad Central University, 16-17 January, 2026.

Murty C S & Srinivasa Reddy, M., *Direct Benefit Transfers: Why Should only the Poor be Distanced from Receiving the Largesse from the Government?* Silver Jubilee Lecture, XLII Annual Conference, *Andhra Pradesh Economic Association*, School of Economics, Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam, 7 March 2026.

Revathi E, Panel Speaker in the *State Level Workshop on Child Labour under the Child Labour Platform Programme*, 26 March 2026 organised by Labour Dept. GoT and ILO, New Delhi at MCRHRD, Hyderabad

Srinivas, J., delivered a lecture on "*BRICS 2026 Summit in India: A Critical Analysis*", Department of Political Science, Birangana Sati Sadhani Rajyik Vishwavidyalaya (BSSRV), Assam, 27 February 2026. (Online)

Srinivasa Reddy, M., Discussant for the Technical Session on *Dynamics of Population* and as Chair for the Technical Session on *Urban Development* at the XLII Annual Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Association, held at the School of Economics, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, 7 March 2026.

## Completed Studies

### 1. Fertiliser Consumption, Costs, and Returns in Andhra Pradesh Agriculture (2023–2025) (Sponsor: Rythu Sadhikara Samithi, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Project Team: E. Revathi, B. Suresh Reddy, J. Chakradhar, C. Ravi, and P. Prudhvikar Reddy)

The study evaluates the impact of Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS), a key component of Andhra Pradesh's natural farming initiatives by comparing farmers adopting PMDS practices with those relying on conventional chemical-intensive agriculture. Using a large and representative sample of 6,660 farmers across 148 Gram Panchayats and six agro-climatic zones, the analysis covers both Kharif and Rabi seasons for 2023–24 and 2024–25. The findings reveal a substantial reduction in fertiliser consumption among PMDS farmers. In 2024–25, PMDS farmers used 251 kg of fertiliser per hectare, compared to 328 kg by non-PMDS (control) farmers, resulting in savings of 77 kg per hectare. The reduction is even more pronounced in key crops such as paddy and maize. Importantly, fertiliser use declines further with increased experience in PMDS, highlighting its long-term sustainability benefits. Lower fertiliser use translates into significant cost savings. PMDS farmers incurred Rs. 6,503 less per hectare in cultivation costs compared to control farmers. This cost advantage is consistent across most crops and regions. Moreover, reduced fertiliser application leads to notable fiscal savings for the government, particularly due

to lower urea subsidy requirements. The study estimates that PMDS practices generated approximately Rs. 261 crores in savings to the public exchequer during 2024–25. Despite reduced input use, PMDS farmers maintain comparable yields. While yields are marginally lower in some cases, the differences are statistically insignificant. Crucially, net incomes are higher for PMDS farmers due to lower costs. On average, PMDS farmers earned Rs. 17,015 more per hectare than control farmers, with significant gains observed across major crops such as paddy, maize, pulses, and chillies. This study demonstrates that PMDS is an economically viable and environmentally sustainable farming practice. By reducing input dependency, lowering costs, and maintaining yields, PMDS contributes to improved farm incomes and soil health while also reducing the fiscal burden on the government. These findings strengthen the case for scaling up natural farming initiatives and aligning them with national programmes aimed at promoting balanced nutrient management and sustainable agriculture.

### 2. Breaking Glass Ceilings at Workplace: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in the MSMEs Sector of South India (Sponsor: Special call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047, ICSSR, New Delhi; Project Team: Y. Kesava Reddy, Brajaraja Mishra, Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra, M. Srinivasa Reddy and Neeraj Kumar)

This project examines the challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs in the food processing and textile MSME sectors in South India, within the framework of Viksit Bharat 2047. These sectors are crucial for employment generation, rural development, and value addition, yet women's participation remains constrained by multiple structural barriers.

The study finds that women entrepreneurs face significant challenges in accessing finance, adopting modern technologies, and integrating into larger markets. Many enterprises operate at a small scale, depend on intermediaries, and rely on traditional production methods, which limits growth and competitiveness. Socio-cultural factors such as household responsibilities and mobility constraints further restrict entrepreneurial expansion. In addition, gaps in institutional coordination reduce the effectiveness of existing support systems.

Despite these challenges, women entrepreneurs demonstrate strong resilience and innovation, often sustaining enterprises under resource constraints and contributing to local economies.

The report recommends short-term, medium-term and long-term policy measures to achieve Viksit Bharat vision for empowering women entrepreneurs. In the short term, improving access to credit, training, and awareness of government schemes is essential. Medium-term strategies focus on cluster development, technological upgrading, and market linkages. Long-term efforts emphasize digital transformation, infrastructure development, and socio-cultural change to support sustained entrepreneurial growth.

## Ongoing Studies

- 1. Social Audit of PM POSHAN Scheme in Telangana-Phase III (Sponsor: Department of School Education, Government of Telangana; Project Team: Jadhav Chakradhar, P. Prudhvikar Reddy, C. Ravi, M. Bharath Bhushan)**

The third round of the PM POSHAN Social Audit represents a significant advancement in strengthening monitoring and evaluation of the scheme across Telangana. Building on insights from earlier rounds (I and II), Round III aims to provide a more detailed and evidence-based assessment of implementation, service delivery, and outcomes at the school level. A total of 690 schools have been selected using a structured sampling framework to ensure representation across districts, school categories, and rural–urban settings. The fieldwork for Round III was conducted from 1st February to 17th March 2026, involving extensive primary data collection. The study engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including headmasters, teachers, students, cooks, service providers, and community members. Updated and refined data collection tools were deployed, incorporating learnings from Rounds I and II to enhance both scope and precision. The Round III instruments include structured schedules for school heads, observation checklists, and stakeholder-specific questionnaires. These tools capture key dimensions such as school infrastructure, meal quality and adequacy, hygiene and sanitation practices, monitoring mechanisms, and community participation. For example, observation

formats systematically document kitchen conditions, WASH facilities, and dining arrangements, while interview schedules gather insights into operational challenges and institutional practices. A notable feature of this round is the emphasis on data triangulation, combining administrative records, field observations, and stakeholder feedback to ensure reliability and depth of analysis. The study also focuses on assessing improvements since previous rounds, including better monitoring systems, infrastructure upgrades, and enhanced community engagement. At the same time, Round III seeks to identify persistent challenges such as infrastructure gaps, supply chain issues, and constraints faced by cook-cum-helpers. It also documents innovative practices adopted by schools, including kitchen gardens and participatory monitoring.

- 2. Socio-economic study of the impact of PVNR Open Cast Mining on, Biodiversity, Heritage and Socio-Religious Importance of Ramappa Temple and Lake (Sponsor: The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd, Kothagudem, Telangana; Project Team: E. Revathi (Overall Project Coordinator), Mamidi Bharath Bhushan (Project Coordinator))**

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd, (SCCL) shared feedback on the final report seeking clarifications on some of the observations and recommendations. Communicated and coordinated preparation of the clarifications with inputs of Subject Experts of four sections covering socioeconomic perceptions of the public and religious importance of Ramappa temple; cost benefit analysis; biodiversity (flora and fauna) of the study area; and impact of coal mining on the aesthetics and pilgrim and eco-tourism in the region.

- 3. Socio-Economic History of Telangana: Political Transition from Feudal Autocracy to Freedom and Democracy (1858 to 1948) (Sponsor: Planning Department, Government of Telangana; Project Team: E. Revathi, Mamidi Bharath Bhushan)**

The draft was finalised along with references, end notes, and high-quality photographs and maps obtained from the Salar Jung Museum and other sources. The manuscript was submitted to the publisher – Academic Foundation, New Delhi.

**4. Socio-economic impact of GST-Both its Introduction and Reforms, Consumption Patterns and Influence on Middle Class and Neo-middle Class (Sponsor: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Education, Government of India; Project Team: G.R. Reddy (Supervisor), Gandam Thilothu Rao, and Venna Vijay Kumar)**

The report analysed GST and GST 2.0 reforms impact on various cohorts. The GST 2.0 model is projected to provide significant household tax relief, reducing the effective burden by 1.5% to 4% across all states. In Telangana, the regime remains progressive, ensuring wealthier households contribute a higher expenditure percentage than poorer cohorts. A primary objective of GST 2.0 is enhancing food security, with effective tax rates on food items in Telangana projected to decrease from a high of 7.4% to 3.4%. Sectoral analysis revealed a strategic shift: medical equipment taxes are expected to halve to 4–5%, while the ceiling for private transport and premium apparel may rise. Notably, female-headed households in Telangana currently enjoy the lowest national effective rates, which are projected to fall further to 3.3%–6.1%. Despite these reductions, consumers face significant inflationary headwinds. CPI data from 2022 to 2025 shows aggressive growth in personal care items, education and health, suggesting that service-oriented inflation may offset the benefits of tax cuts. This study focuses exclusively on household consumption, excluding B2B transactions, and reflects findings specific to the 2022–2024 economic window. A report is submitted and is under review.

**5. Internal Police Reform in India: Evidence from Telangana (Sponsor: Indian Police Foundation (IPF), New Delhi; Project Team: Jadhav Chakradhar)**

This report, based on a 2025 primary survey in Cyberabad and Sangareddy district, evaluates the efficiency and sensitivity of policing in Telangana across several critical domains. In Chapter II: Complaints and Victims, the report observes that although prompt reporting is common (83.8%), significant barriers, such as fear of retaliation and lack of procedural knowledge, persist, particularly among vulnerable groups. FIR Registration (Chapter III) shows high immediate registration rates (over 60%),

but qualitative feedback highlights concern about biased behaviour, political influence, and a perceived lack of professional follow-up. Investigation and Trial (Chapter IV) reveal systemic gaps, with only a small fraction of respondents (30.3% in Cyberabad) viewing investigations as consistently legal; key weaknesses include perfunctory evidence collection and poor coordination with public prosecutors. The report further examines Custodial Rights and Infrastructure (Chapter V), noting that while most lockups are reported as clean, Sangareddy lags in mandatory medical examinations and basic amenities.

Regarding Women and Children (Chapter VI), findings point to deep-seated patriarchal biases and procedural inaction, with many victims encouraged to "compromise" rather than pursue formal justice. For Missing Persons (Chapter VII), interactions are generally respectful, yet procedural completeness in documentation remains inconsistent. From the Institutional Perspective (Chapter XII), senior officers identify heavy workloads and legal knowledge gaps as primary drivers of non-compliance. In contrast, Civil Society (Chapter XIII) emphasises the police's reluctance to register cases against their own personnel. Finally, Judicial Officers highlight "third-degree" methods and poor documentation as critical failures, recommending mandatory human rights training and independent monitoring to rebuild public trust. Overall, the report underscores a shift toward digital transparency while calling for urgent reforms in behavioural sensitivity and specialised investigative training.

**6. Doing Social Science Research Assessment (DRA) in India. A Global Development Network (GDN) Project (Sponsor: ICSSR, New Delhi; Mentor: Balveer Arora, Chairman, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Former Professor of Political Science & Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Project Team: E. Revathi (Principal Investigator), Sujit Kumar Mishra, C.H. Yaganti, P. Aparna, Arifa Sultana, S. Harinath) December 2024 to April 2026.**

The project aims to assess the state of social science research in India by evaluating its production, diffusion, and uptake through a globally standardised methodology. The project report writing is in progress.



*Project teams from Laos, Cambodia, Fiji, and India, with mentors and officials of the Global Development Network (GDN), during the “Doing Social Science Research Assessment (DRA) in India”*

**7. Extreme Inequality and India’s Economic Growth,** PDF supported by Research Unit for Studies in Inclusive Development, CESS in collaboration with the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics

This project aims to examining the mechanisms through which extreme inequality shapes economic growth in India. It aims to combine a theoretical underpinning with extensive data utilization. By combining long run inequality data with household level consumption surveys and firm level evidence, the study will analyze how skewed income and wealth distributions feed into broader macroeconomic performance. The goal is to contribute to a deeper theoretical and empirical understanding of the growth-inequality relationships in emerging economies, with India providing a particularly salient case.

Team: Suranjana Kundu, Nitin Kumar Bharti and E Revathi

**8. Privatization of Higher Education and Mitigating Inequalities,** PDF supported by RUSID, CESS.

The study analyses the higher education expansion; privatisation of higher education; privatisation and affordability of higher education; challenges of inequalities and rising aspirations and demand for higher education. These issues are studied with a focus on Telangana State and also in comparison with All-India. It studies these from the perspectives of Welfare oriented policies and market-based policies; Social justice perspective and Political economy of education.

Team: Abhishek Pandey

9. A series of papers are under preparation in various stages utilizing the rich, insightful and multi-disciplinary panel data collected for the Young Lives Child Poverty and Young Lives at Work Rounds 1-7 from 2002 to 2024. These papers are titled as: a) Unequal beginnings: A Capability based measure of early life poverty; b) Child deprivation and early educational outcomes: Evidence from Young Lives; c) Childhood deprivation and labour force participation of young adults: Causal evidence from India; d) Does childhood deprivation compress the wage floor: GPS evidence on reservation wages of young Indian workers; e) What jobs do young Indians want and can they get them? Broadly the papers analyse the childhood deprivation and its impact on educational and job market outcomes on education.

Team: E Revathi, P Prudhvikar Reddy, Jadhav Chakradhar and Kaibalyapati Mishra.

## Division for Graduate Studies

### *Ph.D Submitted*

Mekala Sagar, *Trends & Patterns of Internal Migration and Wage Differentials: Empirical Evidence from Telangana*, Ph.D dissertation supervised by Dr. Y. Sreenivasulu, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, February 2026, submitted to Telangana University, Nizamabad.

Poola Devendra, *The Emergence of Political Consultants in Indian Politics: A Study on Political Consultancy Impact on Political Parties*, Ph.D dissertation supervised by Prof. M Gopinath Reddy, CESS and Dr. Satyam Sunkari, CSD, March 2026, submitted to Telangana University, Nizamabad.

### *Core chapter and Pre-submission Seminars by doctoral scholars registered with Dr BR Ambedkar open University and Pre-submission Seminars by regular scholars (January – March 2026)*

During January - March 2026, the CESS–DGS convened Core chapter seminars to review the academic progress of Ph.D. scholars registered with DR BRAOU. A couple of scholars registered with Telangana University gave pre-submission seminars. In this quarter, **12 Pre-Submission Seminars** and **15 Core Chapter Presentations** were

presented. Each seminar was evaluated by a duly constituted Doctoral Committees comprising external subject experts from reputed institutions, internal faculty member, along with the supervisor, Dean, Academic Coordinator, and the Director and faculty members.

The scholars presented the theses chapters, followed by rigorous and interactive discussions. The discussants and faculty members provided constructive feedback and scholarly suggestions aimed at strengthening the quality of the chapters.

The research presented during the quarter covered **key themes** such as political consultancy in Indian politics; household food security in semi-arid regions; credit risk management in merged public sector banks; agricultural resource characterisation; agribusiness and agripreneurship development; institutional credit delivery to agriculture; conjunctive irrigation from economic, ecological, and institutional perspectives; rural livelihood and natural resource governance; sustainable livelihood and MGNREGS in forested landscapes; economic viability of dairy sectors; management styles in private sector enterprises; ICT in governance reforms in local self-government institutions; child labour trends and determinants; and gender policies, gender budgeting, and gender development in India.

The Doctoral Committee Meetings provided an effective academic platform for scholarly discussion, interdisciplinary interaction, and strengthening ongoing doctoral research.

## Events

### 1. Book Discussion on “Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India”

The Institute hosted a Book Discussion on 22 January 2026, titled ‘*Secession of the Successful: The Flight Out of New India*’ by Sanjaya Baru. The discussion was chaired by E. Revathi, Director, CESS, who outlined the book’s analysis of the four major phases of emigration from India over the past two centuries—from nineteenth-century indentured labour migration, to migration to the Middle East following the oil boom, the large-scale movement of skilled professionals to advanced economies, and the recent emigration of economically successful and wealthy individuals relinquishing Indian citizenship.

The book notes that nearly 32 million Indians live across 210 countries, encompassing non-resident Indians as well as second-generation migrants, and examines migration through its economic, social, and cultural dimensions.

During the discussion, Sanjaya Baru reflected on India’s role in the global movement of labour, skills, and wealth. He observed that while the post-Independence decades saw the return of many Indians educated abroad who contributed significantly to institution-building, subsequent decades witnessed increasing skilled emigration. Despite ongoing outflows of educated and skilled workers, the idea of *brain drain* has receded from public discourse. He highlighted India’s inability to generate adequate and decent employment for its skilled workforce and characterised the contemporary emigration of high-net-worth individuals as a form of “wealth drain.”

The discussion also touched upon debates on dual citizenship, the evolution of PIO and OCI statuses, and the broader implications of migration and mobility. He urged scholars and researchers to engage more deeply with the emerging social, economic, and global questions raised by these trends.



*Sanjaya Baru during his address at the Book Discussion at CESS, Hyderabad*

### 2. Seminar on “GST Reforms: Socio-Economic Implications”

The Centre organised an ICSSR-sponsored seminar on GST Reforms on 29 January 2026. The event brought together senior officials from the commercial tax department, state tax administrators and practitioners to evaluate the transition to GST 2.0 and its impact on the economy, small businesses and state fiscal health.

### *Key Highlights & Administrative Insights:*

While giving opening remarks, G.R. Reddy, Founder Member of CESS, traced the evolution of Indian fiscal federalism. He noted that while GST has moved India toward a unified market, it remains one of the world's most complex systems, currently balancing social equity through multiple tax slabs rather than a single rate.

M. Raghunandan Rao (IAS), Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Telangana, delivered the lead address, emphasising that GST is a work in progress. He highlighted the Trust-First philosophy of the regime, where 95% of taxpayers operate without intrusive scrutiny. However, he noted that the digital transformation via GSTN (GST Network) is one of the best digital products, and is now the digital highway for the nation's economy, comparable in impact to Aadhaar and the railway reservation system. He also elaborated on the key challenges of GST such as one tax and two administrations and emphasised that further research is required to assess whether the objectives of the GST are met.

K. Ravi (Joint Commissioner, Commercial Taxes) outlined the roadmap for GST 2.0, focusing on: i) Structural Reforms: Correcting the Inverted Duty Structure (where inputs are taxed higher than finished products) in sectors like textiles and fertilizers; ii) Rate Rationalization: Moving

toward a simplified two-slab structure (5% and 18%) while shifting luxury and sin goods to higher brackets; and iii) Process Simplification: Introducing auto-approval for registrations within three days and pre-filled returns to reduce the compliance burden on entrepreneurs.

K. Roopa Sowmya, Joint Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Begumpet division, highlighted several red flags that require urgent policy attention: i) Revenue Leakage and Fake Entities: alarming spike in suspicious registrations. She noted that while the 3-day approval window helps genuine businesses, it is being exploited by fraudulent elements to generate fake invoices; ii) State Revenue Concerns: The shift to a consumption-based tax has benefited consuming states, but the expiration of the compensation cess and the introduction of new central cesses (like the National Security Cess) are seen as potential blows to state finances; iii) The Exemption Trap: Experts discussed how exempting life and health insurance, while a boon for the middle class, might inadvertently trap revenue in producing states (like Maharashtra) as the tax chain breaks before reaching consumption states like Telangana; iv) The Compliance Paradox: V.S. Sudhir (Chartered Accountant) highlighted the practitioner's view, noting that while the law aims for simplicity, the constant need for data reconciliation and the risk of blocked credits still weigh heavily on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).



## CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) sponsored Seminar  
on

**"GST Reforms: Socio-Economic Implications"**



*Dignitaries at the ICSSR-sponsored seminar on "GST Reforms: Socio-Economic Implications"*

The seminar concluded that for GST to truly drive India toward a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 and a \$3 million economy for Telangana, the Trust-First model must be reinforced by stronger backend data analytics to catch black sheep without penalising honest taxpayers.

E. Revathi, Director of CESS, thanked the Commercial Tax Department of Telangana for their cooperation, noting that the findings from this seminar would contribute to a larger research project on GST's impact on the youth and middle class.

### 3. FESTIVISTA 2026: A Celebration of Joy and Togetherness

The CESS-DGS, organised Festivista 2026, the annual cultural and sports festival of CESS, celebrating joy, unity, and active participation among the CESS fraternity.

#### *Inaugural Ceremony*

Festivista 2026 was formally inaugurated by E. Revathi, Director, CESS, on 20 January 2026 at the BPR Vithal Auditorium. To mark the beginning of the celebrations, she released balloons and planted a sapling, symbolising growth, sustainability, and collective progress. A special Festivista 2026 photo booth was also set up on the occasion, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Organised every year by the DGS and research scholars of CESS, Festivista provides a platform for students, faculty, and staff to come together beyond academics and enjoy creativity and fun games. The festival began with a lively singing competition, featuring performances by students, faculty, and staff, setting a cheerful and enthusiastic tone. A variety of indoor and outdoor games were organized, including chess, ludo, carroms, cricket, badminton, table tennis, and tennikoit (singles and doubles). Fun activities such as spoon-and-marble and water-filling further encouraged active participation and enjoyment among all members of the CESS community.

Festivista 2026 successfully fostered a sense of belonging and created joyful memories, reflecting the institution's collective spirit and enthusiasm.



*T. Yadagiri Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Telangana University, as the Chief Guest at the Cultural Day of Festivista 2026 at CESS, Hyderabad*

#### *Cultural Day Celebrations*

The Cultural Day of Festivista 2026 was held on 30 January 2026 at the BPR Vithal Auditorium, CESS. The programme was welcomed by Kasturi Alivelu, Dean, Division for Graduate Studies, she also briefed the Ph.D. Programme at CESS, including the coursework structure and semester-wise academic progression.

The event was graced by T. Yadagiri Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Telangana University, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasised the importance of Festivista in promoting holistic development among research scholars by encouraging participation in sports, cultural, and literary activities such as essay competitions.

In her message, E. Revathi, Director, CESS, reiterated that Festivista is organised every year to celebrate enthusiasm, joy, and togetherness, strengthening bonds within the CESS community and enriching campus life. She also spoke about the research work at CESS, highlighting that Ph.D. scholars actively engage in fieldwork, real-time data collection, and analysis using tools like SPSS and Stata, which helps them develop all the required skills of a research scholar. The celebrations concluded with the prize distribution ceremony.

### 4. CESS-Round Table Discussion on Union Budget 2026-27

CESS-DGS organised a Round Table Discussion on the Union Budget 2026 on 17 February 2026. Kasturi Alivelu inaugurated the session by welcoming the participants and providing a brief overview of the objectives of the discussion.

E. Revathi presented a comprehensive overview of the Union Budget 2026. The Union Budget 2026 outlined the government's macroeconomic vision and long-term policy direction, moving beyond annual numbers to signal structural reforms and development priorities. Overall, the budget reinforces infrastructure-driven growth under the broader vision of Viksit Bharat and Amrit Kaal 2047.

Amar Yumnam highlighted that the Budget's affirmations regarding manufacturing, infrastructure, MSMEs, and initiatives such as Khelo India overlook the specific geographical realities of India's South East Asian region. He noted that the lack of acknowledgement for the region's achievements and potential is distinctly evident.

Vijay Korra noted the 2026–27 Union Budget's shift to Agri-intelligence while expressing concerns over research funding cuts, stagnant PM-KISAN allocation, lack of an MSP law, and insufficient farm debt relief.

Priya Krishnan, PhD scholar spoke on India's 2026 Budget for startups, despite strong policy intent, suffers from poor implementation. Improving processing times and support can create a more inclusive startup ecosystem for national growth.

Mousumi Chatterjee, PhD scholar highlighted the Budget's focus on liquidity support, the Bio-Pharma Shakti initiative, and Semiconductor Manufacturing 2.0, aiming to bolster domestic manufacturing, improve technological self-reliance, and create a resilient ecosystem for startups.

Kasturi Aivelu noted the Budget's boost for fintech and electronics manufacturing with ₹40,000 crore allocated. It emphasises support for clusters and Telangana's Mega Master Plan, including infrastructure improvements and a ₹10,000 crore MSME fund. Key focus areas are e-marketplaces, startups, textiles, AI, and rationalised tax tariffs.

J. Srinivas emphasised that although the Budget allocates more for Employment and Skilling, implementation is inadequate. He stressed the need for increased investment in research and job-oriented education for meaningful outcomes.

G. Geeta, PhD scholar noted a slight increase in education sector allocation to ₹1.39 lakh crore, supporting PM

SHRI schools and university modernisation. She stressed enhancing higher education facilities and linking education to employability. M. Venkatanarayana emphasised public investment in education from KG to PG, deeming current student financing inadequate for human capital development.

Titir Sarkar, PhD scholar spoke on Gender Budgeting and Women's Economic Empowerment, noting that India's 2026–27 Gender Budget stands at ₹5.01 lakh crore (9.37% of total expenditure). She highlighted its focus on livelihoods, care economy, skills, and women-led enterprises, while flagging gaps in implementation and outcome tracking.

Ch. SreeVidya, PhD scholar noted the Budget's focus on five green sectors, but utilisation is only 66%. Insufficient spending on wind energy and attention to women's climate vulnerability reveal the need for improved Climate Action implementation.

V. Vijay Kumar, RBI Fellow reviewed the urban development aspects of the budget and showed that the budget focused on agglomerations. Further, he highlighted that the trend of increasing debt-linked reforms or the debt portion of the CSS would become a burden on the revenue-starved ULBs.

Y Sreenivasulu critiqued the Budget for prioritising corporate growth over caste, class, gender, and climate issues, highlighting rising wealth concentration and advocating for stronger social protection and progressive taxation for inclusive development.

The round table discussion on the Union Budget 2026–27 was marked by constructive deliberations and meaningful insights, with focused discussion on key policy areas.



*Round Table Discussion on the Union Budget 2026–27*

### 5. One-Day Conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Report

A high-level one-day conference on the Sixteenth Finance Commission Report was organised on 25.02.2026 by the Finance Department, *Govt. of Telangana*, in collaboration with the *Centre for Economic and Social Studies* at Taj Deccan, Hyderabad, bringing together leading policymakers, economists and senior government officials to deliberate on India's evolving fiscal federalism and centre–state financial relations.

E. Revathi, Director, CESS, opened the inaugural session by welcoming the dignitaries, academics, policymakers, journalists, and representatives from various government departments. She highlighted the conference's objective: to create a platform for debating the recommendations of the Sixteenth Finance Commission and their implications for states such as Telangana. She underlined that the conference seeks to foster informed discussion among practitioners, scholars and the media on key issues in public finance, including fiscal devolution, state finances and fiscal reforms.

The session was chaired by K. Ramakrishna Rao, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Telangana. In his address, he stressed that the Finance Commission's report has raised important questions about fiscal consolidation, off-budget borrowings, and the growing burden of subsidies at the state level. He drew attention to the innovative proposals regarding loss-making public sector enterprises, the need to curb off-budget borrowings, particularly in states like Telangana and the pressures that indiscriminate subsidy schemes place on capital expenditure and long-term development. Also, noted the significance of the Commission's observations on cesses and surcharges and their impact on the real fiscal space available to states.

Delivering the inaugural address, D. Subba Rao, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, described India's federal structure as a story of remarkable resilience when compared with the experience of other federations facing separatist and ethnic tensions. He made three major points: First, that India's unique union of states model has successfully blended unitary and decentralised features,



*Address by Montek Singh Ahluwalia (Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission), D. Subba Rao (Former RBI Governor), K. Ramakrishna Rao (Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana), and E. Revathi (Director, CESS), along with leading policymakers, researchers, and academicians, at the inaugural session of the One-Day Conference on the Sixteenth Finance Commission Report.*

enabling it to manage deep diversity; Second, that state finances now occupy the centre of gravity in India's macroeconomic management, given that states account for about sixty per cent of public spending and a large share of public borrowing; and Third, the growing cleavage between the Union and the states, manifest in constrained spending autonomy, borrowing limits and resource-raising powers, must be urgently addressed to sustain growth. He also characterised the Sixteenth Finance Commission as a textbook commission that largely adhered to its constitutional mandate while still innovating, notably by incorporating contribution to GDP as a factor in the devolution formula.

The keynote address, delivered by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, situated the current debate in the historical evolution of India's federal and planning architecture. Endorsing many of Subba Rao's concerns, he argued that the Finance Commission institution itself was designed in a very different political and economic era and now needs to be re-examined for fitness of purpose in a market-oriented, globally integrated India. Ahluwalia emphasised the need to confront the unchecked growth of cesses, to revisit the distribution of subjects across the Union, State and Concurrent Lists and to think more boldly about issues such as delimitation, the size of states, and genuine devolution to local governments. He also highlighted the chronic under-utilisation of state-level taxing powers, particularly in property taxation. He argued that weak urban local body finances are a significant constraint on urban infrastructure and investment competitiveness.

Both Subba Rao and Ahluwalia warned against a drift from cooperative and healthy competitive federalism towards combative federalism. They called for a new, broad-based national conversation, grounded in comparative international experience, on recalibrating India's fiscal federal architecture.

#### **Key Takeaways in the Conference:**

- The structure of the economy is changing, but the Terms of Reference of Finance Commissions are not changing.

Similarly, while the taxation system has changed with the GST, the divisible pool formula remains largely unchanged.

- Cesses and Surcharges are not included in the divisible pool. The divisible pool is shrinking due to the Union government's overuse of cesses and surcharges. There is a lack of transparency on the use of cesses and surcharges.
- The conference highlighted the high dependency on GDP metrics, and inadequate consideration of population dynamics, broader fiscal measures and state-specific performance indicators. The economy is modernising, but the data has not improved and expanded to reflect it.
- Revenue deficit must be on the basis of the state's specific needs, and not doing away with it completely.
- There is a chronic underutilisation of the state's taxing powers, especially property taxes. Weak urban finances constrain urban infrastructure and competitiveness.
- There is an urgent need for clear and uniform definitions of subsidies to enable comparable statistics across states.
- There is a need to bring out annual publications of statistics of local bodies, timely conduct of local body elections, and mandatory action within six months where problems are identified.
- There is a need for better expenditure efficiency metrics, fiscal discipline safeguards and addressing structural deficits in vulnerable states.
- Public sector utility pricing is inevitable for a sustainable public sector.
- The conference underscored that India's fiscal federal architecture stands at a pivotal moment, with participants converging on the need for deeper transparency, stronger institutions and renewed Centre-State dialogue to ensure that the Sixteenth Finance Commission's framework supports both national growth and state-level development priorities.



*Dignitaries at the One-Day Conference on the Sixteenth Finance Commission Report*



*Festivista 2026*



*77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations: National Flag Unfurled by Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS*

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