

11/12  
Do you think PoCSO act 2012, should stay in tune with dynamics of society? Comment.

The National Crime Records Bureau data says that 36% of the crimes against children were under the Protection of Children from sexual offences Act (PoCSO act). The PoCSO act must stay in line with the changing dynamics of the society.

#### Conflicting scenes before the act

① Question of aggravated assault vs the Sonia Kushwaha case, the Allahabad high court said that penetration assault or 10 year old boy doesn't amount to aggravated assault and ordered the prison term from 10 years to 7 years.

② Skin to skin contact was cited for aggravated w<sup>n</sup> the Satish Rayal vs State of Maharashtra case. Later in the Jagat Singh case the skin to skin contact was rejected.

③ Age consent - the adolescent partner of minor girl is victimised under POCSO. as the consensual intercourse age stands at 18. The Vijayalakshmi Vs State Rep case the court held that punishing the adolescent boy under the laws of the POCSO act. is not compatible with the dynamics of society.

- ① The gross encroachment on the constitution of women as an object, and constitution of fast track courts can reduce the litigations and support women education.
- ② Operators magh chabda by CBI to stop child sex material can greatly reduce POCSO arrests.
- ③ The only relief is by high court to quash the case under section 438 of Criminal Procedure code which can be democratised. suitable amendments to the POCSO act by taking recommendations of Verma committee to reduce age consent to 16 years can give broader space.