



Protection Against Misuse – On POCSO Act and Adolescent Sex

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was enacted to shield minors from sexual exploitation. However, a growing body of legal experts and rights activists have pointed out the misuse of the law in cases involving consensual sexual relationships between adolescents, especially those aged 16 to 18. These cases often result in criminal prosecution despite the absence of exploitation.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appointed amicus curiae in a Supreme Court case, has urged the court to exempt such consensual relationships from the ambit of criminalisation. She emphasized that sex between consenting adolescents aged 16–18 should not be classified as abuse, and sought for such an exception to be read into the POCSO Act and the BharatiyaNyayaSanhita (BNS). The objective is to protect the law's spirit while avoiding undue persecution of teenage couples.

Contrarily, the Law Commission (2023) recommended retaining the current age of consent at 18, while advising judicial discretion during sentencing in consensual adolescent cases.

Courts like the Madras High Court (2021) in Vijayalakshmi vs State Rep. have called for additional safeguards, such as ensuring the age gap is not more than five years, to prevent predatory behavior by significantly older individuals.

The criminalising natural adolescent behavior undermines the Act's purpose and calls for legal clarity, judicial sensitivity, and legal education among adolescents—essential steps to prevent misuse and uphold the integrity of child protection laws.

Editorial

Made in India Nissan Magnite

The New Nissan Magnite, manufactured in Chennai and exported to over 65 countries, has secured a 5-star overall safety rating from the Global New Car Assessment Program (GNCAP). Tested for both India and South Africa markets, the RHD-spec Magnite earned 5 stars in adult safety and 3 stars in child safety. Mr.SaurabhVatsa, MD of Nissan Motor India, said this achievement reflects Nissan's dedication to safety under its 'One Car, One World' strategy. The SUV features 55+ safety elements, including six airbags, ABS, ESC, and traction control, making it a leading choice in the compact SUV segment.

Sojatia Jewellery Fest: Budget-Friendly Jewellery Attracts Massive Crowd

Udaipur: The 11-day Sojatia Jewellery Fest at Sojatia Jewellers has witnessed a tremendous response from customers, drawn by the attractive offer of receiving free silver equivalent to the weight of gold purchased. The crowd surged at the showroom as customers enthusiastically availed themselves of this unique deal. With increasing popularity, the fest has now been extended for four more days.

Prof. Ranjit Singh Sojatia shared that Sojatia Jewellers is offering jewellery at very low making charges, and even light-weight jewellery pieces are available in a variety of elegant designs. The fest not only aims to provide quality ornaments but also to promote traditional craftsmanship to the masses. Collections like Antique, Kundan, Meena, and Kalkati have received overwhelming appreciation from customers.



Dr. MahendraSojatia mentioned that the fest features an exclusive collection of JadauPolki, attracting advance bookings from discerning buyers. He highlighted that with every gold jewellery purchase, a pure silver coin equal in weight to the gold is being given absolutely free, making this a not-to-miss opportunity for jewellery lovers.

Mining Services to Go Online

Udaipur: In a review meeting at Udaipur Minerals Office, Principal Secretary T. Ravikant announced that all services of the Mines and Geology Department will go online in phases. He emphasized expanding major mineral auctions beyond limestone and leveraging Rajasthan's rich reserves. Digitization of mining plans and no-dues certificates has improved transparency and efficiency. Director Deepak Tanwar reported 117 no-dues certificates and 99 mining plans processed online. Officials were directed to avoid blocks with clearance issues and utilize NMET funds effectively. Ravikant also led a tree plantation drive at KhanijBhawan, aligning with the Chief Minister's Hariyalo Rajasthan green initiative.

ESG Training Workshop Empowers Industries



A workshop on "ESG Compliance and Sustainability Reporting for Industrial Development" was held at UCCI Bhawan, organized by UCCI and UIW&MRC Trust. Experts AbhishekGarg and YogeshNatu from Mumbai-based A.A. Garg&Company led the sessions, providing insights into ESG frameworks, compliance, and industrial case studies. UCCI President Manish Galundia emphasized the importance of ESG for sustainable and globally compliant business practices. Komal Kothari and C.S.R. Mehta welcomed and introduced the speakers. Attended by over 50 industry professionals, the training focused on responsible development and environmental transparency. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Mehta.

ICSI's National Sustainability Conference 2025 Marks Historic Milestone in Udaipur

Udaipur: The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) organized its National Sustainability Conference 2025 in Udaipur on 26–27 July, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, regulatory experts, and over 2,000 delegates—both in-person and virtual—to deliberate on embedding sustainability as a core principle in India Inc.

The conference was inaugurated in the august presence of Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa, Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, as Chief Guest, and Prof. (Dr.) Gourav Vallabh, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, as Special Guest. They were joined on the second day by Dr. Manna Lal Rawat, Member of Parliament from Udaipur, as the Guest of Honour, making the event even more significant.

In his address, Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa highlighted Rajasthan's contributions to sustainability and lauded ICSI for aligning the corporate world with the nation's green goals. "Company Secretaries' dedication to ethical business and sustainable practices inspires confidence in India's future," he said.

Prof. (Dr.) Gourav Vallabh emphasized sustainability as India's moral imperative, rooted in the Indian ethos of Dharma.

"As ESG change agents, Company Secretaries play a pivotal role in integrating sustainability with India's developmental objectives," he remarked.

MP Dr. Manna Lal Rawat, speaking on the second day, underscored that sustainability is no longer a choice but a national necessity. He applauded

ICSI's decision to host the event in culturally and ecologically rich Udaipur, calling it a reflection of sustainability in action.

"Today's era of climate change and social disparities demands that sustainability evolve from a corporate strategy to a national policy and societal culture," he noted.

Organized on the theme "Fostering Sustainability Towards a Resilient Future," the conference featured key sessions on:

- ESG: Redefining Role of Professionals
- Climate Governance: SDGs, Challenges & Solutions
- ESG: AI and Technology Integration
- Stewardship Governance for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

These sessions offered practical frameworks and pol-



icy-level suggestions for embedding ESG principles, promoting stewardship governance, and leveraging AI and analytics to boost transparency and accountability in corporate decision-making.

ICSI President CS Dhananjay Shukla reiterated the crucial role of Company Secretaries in this transition:

"Sustainability is no longer peripheral—it is central to business strategy. Company Secretaries are leading the way

in balancing profitability with purpose.

This conference affirms ICSI's commitment to equipping professionals to lead in this evolving governance landscape."

Conference Highlights:

- Launch of the Souvenir of the ICSI National Sustainability Conference
- Release of "Decoding ESG: FAQs on ESG and Sustainability" – an ICSI Publication

• Unveiling of ICSI Board Mentorship Programme brochures and flyers

• Announcement of the upcoming ICSI National Convention of Company Secretaries

• The conference concluded with a strong message: Sustainability must transcend policy and become an intrinsic part of corporate culture, driven by innovation, ethical governance, and collective responsibility.

Hindustan Zinc Benchmarks Future Learning with High-Tech STEM Labs in Government Schools



Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc (NSE: HINDZINC), India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, is transforming science education in Rajasthan by establishing immersive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Labs in government schools. In partnership with the Society for All Round Development (SARD), these advanced learning spaces are designed to make science more engaging, accessible, and technology-driven.

Recently, 33 senior education officials

from 25 districts — including DEOs and DIET principals from Jaipur, Udaipur, Ajmer, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Rajsamand, and Banswara — visited STEM Labs in Bichhadi and Debari (Udaipur) to experience this transformation firsthand. The visit reinforced Hindustan Zinc's pivotal role in shaping Rajasthan's educational landscape.

Commenting on the experience, MridulaVyas, Principal, DIET (Mount Abu, Sirohi) said, "It felt like a fairytale of learning with so much equipment and creative teaching possibilities." Dr. Arun Sharma, Professor, RSCERT, added, "Inside these walls, the whole world fits in. We can tour virtually, learn, and grow thanks to this immersive initiative."

So far, four STEM Labs have been set up — three in Udaipur and one in Pantnagar (Uttarakhand). Each lab is equipped with:

- AI-powered Interactive Panels offering 5,000+ digital modules.
- Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) tools for concept-based learning.
- Refurbished classrooms, thematic learning corners, and hands-on models using BaLa concepts.

These labs go beyond infrastructure by training teachers in experiential methods and organizing science fairs, workshops, and hackathons for students.

With a presence across 2,300+ villages, Hindustan Zinc continues to drive inclusive growth, positively impacting over 2.3 million lives through education, healthcare, women empowerment, environment preservation, and livelihood programs. Through its STEM initiative, the company is preparing the next generation for a digitally driven, science-forward future.

Hindustan Zinc Leads in Mining, Social Development and Green Initiatives: MP Mannalal Rawat

In a powerful endorsement of Hindustan Zinc's holistic approach to sustainability, Udaipur MP Mannalal Rawat praised the company for its exemplary contribution not only to India's mining sector but also to social upliftment and environmental conservation. Speaking during a massive plantation drive in Ranwa village under the company's 'Green Zavar' initiative, Rawat highlighted Hindustan Zinc's role in transforming lives and landscapes across its operational areas.

Rawat noted that Hindustan Zinc's presence in Rajasthan has gone beyond industrial development, making a lasting impact on nearby communities. He particularly lauded the company's women empowerment initiative 'Sakhi' and the early childhood development project 'NandGhar,' calling them vital pillars in the progress of surrounding panchayats. Emphasizing the importance of environmental responsibility, Rawat encouraged community members to actively support tree plantation and leave behind a greener legacy for future generations.



The event marked the beginning of a large-scale plantation campaign under the 'Green Zavar' initiative, which aims to plant over 50,000 saplings across villages near Zavar Mines within a month. With more than 8,000 saplings already planted, the project is focused on restoring biodiversity, enhancing green cover, and involving the community in sustainable practices.

The launch ceremony in Ranwa village witnessed participation from several dignitaries including Rajasthan Revenue Minister Hemant Meena, Udaipur Rural MLAPhool Singh Meena, Salumber MLA Shanta Devi, and Hindustan Zinc leadership including CHRO Munish Vasudeva, COO Kishore S., Zavar Mines IBU CEO Anshul Khandelwal, and Zavar Mines Workers' Union General Secretary Laluram Meena. Local leaders, senior government officials, and villagers joined hands in this collective effort, followed by a formal event at the Zavar Community Center.

Minister Hemant Meena appreciated the initiative, linking it to state-led campaigns like "Hariyalo Rajasthan" and "EkPedMaaKeNaam". He stressed the importance of selecting native and resilient species and applauded Hindustan Zinc's assurance to nurture each sapling till maturity.

The plantation drive includes medicinal, fruit-bearing, and native species, ensuring both ecological and socio-economic benefits. Saplings were also distributed to Sakhi women and the Jawarmata Agro Farmer Producer Company, whose over 1,750 farmer-shareholders are supported by Hindustan Zinc to enhance income through sustainable farming.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from employees, farmers, community groups, and trainees of Zinc Football Academy, reflecting a shared commitment to environmental protection. Hindustan Zinc's plantation campaign stands as a testament to its integrated vision of sustainability, community engagement, and ecological resilience.

Parchhaiyan Rekindles Sahir's Timeless Protest



At Rajasthan India International Centre, Jaipur, the dance-drama Parchhaiyan (AeShareefInsano) paid a moving tribute to SahirLudhianvi's anti-war masterpiece. Directed by Dr. Prem Bhandari and Dr. Laiq Hussain, the 90-minute performance blended poetry, music, and dance to depict the horrors of war and plea for peace. Based on Ludhianvi's haunting nazm, the production featured over 30 performers, soulful vocals, and evocative choreography. Dignitaries like Nihal Chand Goel and K.C. Maloo honored the creative team. With gripping visuals and poetic resonance, Parchhaiyan emerged as a bold artistic expression of memory, trauma, and the enduring human hope for peace.

'Saiyara' Surprises with Box Office

Yash Raj Films' romantic musical Saiyara, directed by Mohit Suri, has become a surprise blockbuster. Released on 18th July, the film has crossed ₹100 crore at the box office, despite a modest ₹60 crore budget, no A-list cast, and limited promotion. Marking the Bollywood debut of Ahaan Pandey, the film stars Anit Padda, Rajesh Kumar, Varun Badola, and Alam Khan in key roles. Ahaan's performance has earned critical and audience acclaim. With a heart-touching storyline and soulful music, Saiyara has outperformed big-budget 2025 films and cemented its place as one of the year's most unexpected and emotional cinematic hits.



Hindustan Zinc Awarded 5-Star Rating by Indian Bureau of Mines for Sustainable Operations

Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, has once again demonstrated its leadership in responsible and sustainable mining. The company's Kayad, Sindesar Khurd, and Rampura Agucha Mines have been awarded the prestigious 5-Star Rating for FY 2023–24 by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the highest recognition from the Government of India for excellence in scientific, safe, and sustainable mining.

Kayad Mine in Ajmer earned the rating for the 9th time, Sindesar Khurd in Rajsamand for the 3rd consecutive year (4th overall), and Rampura Agucha in Bhilwara for the 2nd consecutive year (4th overall). The awards were presented in New Delhi by Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Mines and IBM.

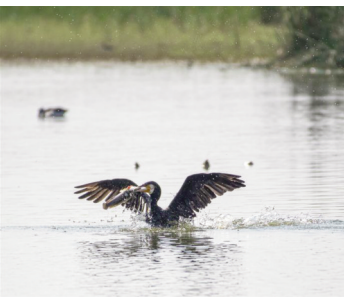
Arun Misra, CEO of Hindustan Zinc, stated, "This recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community engagement. Our digital-first approach and environmental responsibility set new benchmarks for the mining industry."



The 5-Star Rating evaluates performance across environmental management, mine closure planning, community engagement, and transparent reporting. Hindustan Zinc's Rampura Agucha is the world's largest underground zinc mine, featuring remote operations and real-time monitoring. Sindesar Khurd ranks among the top 5 global silver producers with advanced automation, while Kayad Mine showcases smart, energy-efficient operations. Beyond mining, the company has taken major steps in ecosystem restoration, including Miyawaki plantations, wetland revival, and a MoU to develop India's first Crocodile Conservation Reserve in Udaipur. It has also launched EcoZen, Asia's first low-carbon green zinc brand.

Hindustan Zinc is a certified 3.32 times Water-Positive company and is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. With a presence in over 40 countries and a 77% share of India's primary zinc market, it has also transformed 2.3 million lives through impactful CSR, earning a spot among India's Top 10 CSR companies.

Hindustan Zinc Reclaims 13 Hectares with TERI



On World Nature Conservation Day, Hindustan Zinc Limited marked a major milestone in sustainability by completing 13 hectares of ecological restoration at its Chanderiya Lead Zinc Smelter in Rajasthan, in collaboration with

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). This includes 7 hectares under Phase 2 of the Jarofix yard restoration project launched in August 2024, and 6 hectares under Phase 1. Leveraging Mycorrhiza technology, which enhances plant-fungi symbiosis, the company has successfully grown native vegetation on industrial wasteland laden with Jarofix, a challenging metal-extraction residue.

The greenbelt now hosts over 26,000 saplings across both phases. Complementing this, hydrosedimentation with native tree, shrub, and grass species has been undertaken across multiple operational locations. Additionally, the Miyawaki afforestation method has been implemented across 2.4 hectares, including a new forest at Kayad mine, planting over 32,500 saplings.

The company's broader efforts include Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) developed with IUCN, a new INR 5 crore MoU with the Forest Department to rejuvenate Baghdarrah Crocodile Reserve, and becoming the first in the Indian mining sector to publish a TNFD report. Hindustan Zinc has also pledged to plant 1.5 lakh saplings in 2025, underscoring its nature-positive ESG commitment.