Problem statement

I. AI-POWERED SEXUAL OFFENCE INVESTIGATION GUIDE

Objective:

Develop an Al-driven assistant to support Investigating Officers in conducting faster, smarter, and SOP-compliant investigations specifically for sexual offence cases.

The tool should:

- 1. Provide case-specific investigation steps by referring to SOPs, legal provisions (BNS, POCSO, IT Act), model charge sheets, and predefined checklists relevant to sexual offences.
- 2. Analyze relevant court judgments (session courts, high court and Supreme Court) with an upload feature on the tool to highlight admissibility of evidence, investigation pitfalls, and judicial expectations in sexual offence trials.
- 3. Auto-generate case diaries, charge sheets, and final reports in standardized formats tailored to the sexual offence case.
- 4. Assist in legal compliance by flagging missing investigation steps (e.g.,medical examination, victim statement under Section 183 BNSS, digital evidence collection) and suggesting corrective actions.

Expected Outcome:

A specialized digital investigation assistant that strengthens a reported sexual offence investigations by ensuring compliance with legal protocols, integrating judicial guidance, and improving conviction rates

Datasets required

- SOP of sexual offence investigation (BPRD and CBI)
- Compilation of all sections applicable under BNS and BNSS and POCSO
- Model chargesheet
- Judgements- case laws
- Judgements related to Evidentiary value of evidences under BSA
- Model case diary/ content format
- All IIF forms/ models
- Timelines set as per new laws and pocso
- Victim rights detailsapplying for compensation and rehabilitation facilities
- Model statements like victims 183 BNSS, witness statements etc
- Mandatory procedures (Overall process flow to be explained)
- FIR of a dummy case
- NHRC, CWC and NCW guidelines
- Evidence chain of custody formats
- Sample medical reports, forensic reports

(Or a complete file of a model case)

DATASETS REQUIRED

• SOP OF SEXUAL OFFENCE INVESTIGATION (BPRD AND CBI)



SOP for Investigation and Prosecution of Rape against Women -Final submitted (Revised) to JS WS MHA.pdf

• <u>COMPILATION OF ALL SECTIONS APPLICABLE UNDER BNS</u> AND BNSS AND POCSO

- a. Section 63 of BNS 2023, definition of Rape
- b. Section 64 of BNS 2023, Punishment for Rape
- c. **Section 65 (1) of BNS 2023**, Rape on a woman under sixteen years of age
- d. **Section 65(2) of BNS, 2023**, Rape on a woman under twelve years of age.
- e. Section 70(1) of BNS 2023, Gang rape.
- f. Section 70(2) of BNS 2023, Punishment for gang rape on woman under sixteen years of age.
- g. **Section 70(2) of BNS 2023**, Punishment for gang rape on woman under twelve years of age.
- h. **Section 74 of BNS 2023**, Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty.
- i. Section 75 of BNS 2023, Sexual harassment and punishment of sexual harassment
- j. **Section 77 of BNS 2023,** Voyeurism (Whoever is added in this section(whoever means male, female or transgender)
- k. **Section 78 (2) of BNS 2023, Stalking**
- 1. **Section 79 of BNS 2023**, uttering any word or making any gesture to insult the modesty of a woman etc.

POCSO Act:-

Section 2:- Definition

- 1. **Section 3 (Penetrative Sexual Assault):** Punishes acts that involve penetration of a child's sexual organ.
- 2. **Section 4 (Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault):** Covers aggravated forms of penetrative sexual assault.
- 3. **Section 5 (Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault):** The most severe form, which can even include the death penalty.
- 4. **Section 7** (**Sexual Assault**): Defines and prohibits sexual assault against a child.
- 5. **Section 11 (Sexual Harassment):** Deals with acts like unsolicited and unwanted sexual advances or requests.
- 6. **Section 13 (Using Child for Pornographic Purposes):** Prohibits the use of a child in any form of pornographic material or acts, including representation of sexual organs or simulated sexual acts.

KEY PUNISHMENT SECTIONS

7. Section 14:

a. Specifies punishments for using a child for pornographic purposes, including imprisonment and fines.

8. **Section 15:**

a. Outlines penalties for possessing, storing, or distributing pornographic material involving a child.

9. **Section 23:**

a. Punishes media outlets or individuals who disclose the identity of a child victim without court permission.

• MODEL CHARGESHEET



model chargesheet PDF 20250907 13.18.53.pdf

• JUDGEMENTS- CASE LAWS



• JUDGEMENTS RELATED TO EVIDENTIARY VALUE OF EVIDENCES UNDER BSA

Judgements under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, like those under the repealed Indian Evidence Act (IEA), focus on relevancy, admissibility, and probative value, distinguishing between them and requiring evidence to relate to facts in issue or relevant facts. Key rulings and concepts address the evidentiary value of electronic evidence through certification (e.g., Arjun Pandit Rao v. Kailash Kushanrao, citing iPleaders Blog), the need for a Test Identification Parade (TIP) for stranger identification (e.g., Jayan v. State of Kerala, citing Drishti Judiciary), and the importance of expert testimony in assessing evidence.

KEY CONCEPTS & PRINCIPLES

Relevancy vs. Admissibility:

Evidence must be relevant to the case to be considered for admission, and then the court decides if it is admissible.

Conclusive Proof:

Under BSA Section 2(b), when one fact is declared by the Adhiniyam to be conclusive proof of another, the court must accept the latter as proven without allowing further evidence to disprove it.

Judicial Discretion:

Judges have the discretion to admit or exclude evidence based on its potential to mislead or prejudice, even if relevant.

SPECIFIC JUDGEMENTS & THEIR IMPACT ON BSA

Test Identification Parade (TIP):

Purpose: A TIP is used to establish the identity of an accused person by a witness.

Evidentiary Value: It is not a substantive piece of evidence itself but serves to corroborate or contradict a witness's testimony given in court.

Judgement: The Supreme Court has emphasized that if a TIP is not

conducted and the accused is a stranger to the witness, court identification is unreliable unless there is sufficient corroboration for the witness's testimony.

Electronic Evidence:

BSA Mandate: The BSA explicitly includes electronic and digital records as a type of evidence.

Evidentiary Value: Under BSA Section 61, electronic evidence is not inadmissible simply because it's in an electronic form. It is considered primary evidence if it meets certification requirements.

Judgement (Pre-BSA, applicable to its interpretation): The Supreme Court, in cases like Anvar P.V. v. P.K. Basheer And Others and Arjun Pandit Rao v. Kailash Kushanrao, has held that electronic records must be accompanied by a certificate under Section 65B of the former Indian Evidence Act (now reflected in BSA) to be admitted. This principle likely continues to influence the interpretation of BSA's provisions on electronic evidence.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FROM THE BSA MODERNIZATION

The BSA replaces archaic language and incorporates modern concepts, particularly the inclusion of digital evidence.

Scope of Relevancy:

Section 5 of the BSA states that evidence can only be given of facts in issue and relevant facts, ensuring the focus of proceedings.

Conclusive Proof Examples:

The BSA includes provisions for conclusive proof in areas like digital records, government-issued certificates, and court judgments, streamlining the evidentiary process for these items.

• MODEL CASE DIARY/ CONTENT FORMAT



ALL IIF FORMS/ MODELS



• TIMELINES SET AS PER NEW LAWS AND POCSO

The POCSO Act's original timelines mandated investigation completion within two months and trial disposal within six months from the charge sheet filing, with the child's evidence recorded within 30 days of cognizance and trial completion ideally within one year. While a new law, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), also introduces timelines for investigation completion within 180 days, with specific timelines for POCSO-related offenses still enforced under the current POCSO Act. Recent Supreme Court directives emphasize strict adherence to these timelines to prevent secondary victimization.

POCSO ACT, 2012 TIMELINES:

- **FIR**: Immediate registration upon the receipt of information.
- **Statement Of Minor/Child by Police:** In India, a child's statement is recorded by police immediately at the child's residence, a trusted place, or a place of their choice, and ideally by a **woman officer not in uniform**. The process involves presence of a trusted person, a shield from the accused, and use of audio-video recording when possible, with special provisions for children with disabilities. This is done to protect the child's identity and ensure their statements are accurate and reliable, as mandated by the POCSO Act and related laws.
- Statement u/s 184 BNSS by Magistrate: The victim's statement under Section 184 BNSS should be recorded expeditiously.
- **Investigation:** to be completed within two months or 60 days.
- Child's/Minor's Evidence: Within 30 days of the Special Court taking cognizance of the offense.

Trial Completion: As far as possible, within one year from the date of taking cognizance.

• VICTIM RIGHTS DETAILS- APPLYING FOR COMPENSATION

AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES

To apply for compensation in a POCSO or sexual offense case, contact the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) or the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in your area for immediate relief and legal assistance. A dedicated advocate will be provided to help you through the judicial process, including filing an application for compensation under Section 33(8) of the POCSO Act, which allows for payment to the child for trauma or rehabilitation. The court, based on the severity of the harm, will recommend compensation, which can be paid by the accused or, if they are unable to pay, from the State's Victim Compensation Fund.

CONTACT THE RIGHT AUTHORITIES

• District Legal Services Authority (DLSA):

This authority provides legal aid and assists in filing compensation applications, even if the case ends in an acquittal or the accused is not found.

Child Welfare Committee (CWC):

For immediate needs and specific relief like food, clothing, and transport, the CWC is responsible for assessing requirements and making recommendations.

SEEK SUPPORT FROM THE PROVIDED ADVOCATE

- A lawyer appointed by the DLSA will provide counselling and legal assistance.
- They will guide you in filing applications for compensation and help with any legal procedure.

UNDERSTAND THE TYPES OF COMPENSATION

- Immediate Compensation/Specific Relief: For immediate needs such as food, clothing, and transport.
- **Interim Compensation:** Provided by the DLSA to meet initial compensation needs.
- **Final Compensation:** Recommended by the court under Section 33(8) of the POCSO Act and Section 357A of the CrPC, taking into account the extent of loss or injury.

THE APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- An application can be filed by or on behalf of the victim.
- The DLSA will verify the compensation needs and the victim's identity.

• The court or DLSA will consider various factors, including the type and gravity of the offense, the physical or mental harm to the child, and loss of educational opportunities.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

- **From the accused:** The Special Court may direct the convicted accused to pay compensation.
- **From the State Fund:** If the accused cannot pay, the State Legal Services Authority, District Child Protection Unit, or the Juvenile Justice Fund can pay compensation from funds allocated for the purpose.
 - MODEL STATEMENTS LIKE VICTIMS 183 BNSS,WITNESS STATEMENTS ETC



statement 183 bnss PDF 20250906 22.01.39.pdf

• MANDATORY PROCEDURES (OVERALL PROCESS FLOW TO BE EXPLAINED)

MANDATORY PROCEDURES IN POCSO AND SEXUAL OFFENSE CASES

Mandatory procedures in POCSO and sexual offense cases in India focus on immediate reporting, victim protection, and child-friendly investigation and trial, with specific obligations for certain individuals and institutions to report offenses. Key steps include recording the child victim's statement at a comfortable location by a female officer, ensuring medical examination by a female doctor (for girls), providing psychological support, and conducting the trial in an in-camera format to protect the child's identity and prevent retraumatization. Failure to report such offenses is a punishable offense, ensuring accountability and a swift response to child sexual abuse.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

Mandatory Reporting:

Any person, including individuals and institutions like hotels, clubs, and media houses, must report any knowledge or apprehension of a POCSO offense to the police or Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU).

• Obligation to Report:

This is a legal obligation, and failure to report is a punishable offense under Section 21 of the POCSO Act.

• Reporting to Relevant Authorities:

Information must be provided to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police.

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES SHALL BE CHILD VICTIM FOCUSED.

• Recording the Statement:

The statement of the child victim should be recorded at their residence or another child friendly preferred location.

• Officer in Charge:

It is to be recorded by a woman police officer, preferably not in uniform, to create a sense of safety.

• Child's Trust:

The recording should happen in the presence of a trusted person, such as a parent.

• Tools for Communication:

Audio-video electronic means and interpreters or translators may be used to ensure the child understands and can effectively communicate.

• No Detainment:

A child must not be detained in a police station at night.

IMMEDIATE PROTECTION MEASURES

• Safety Assessment:

Authorities must assess and address the child's immediate safety needs.

Medical Examination:

The child should be taken to a hospital for a medical examination. If the victim is a girl, the examination must be conducted by a woman doctor.

Care and Protection:

The child is to be provided with immediate care and protection, including placement in a shelter home if necessary.

Notification:

The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the Special Court must be notified within 24 hours of receiving the report.

• FIR OF A DUMMY CASE



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• NHRC, CWC AND NCW GUIDELINES

NHRC GUIDELINES

The NHRC provides guidelines for POCSO and sexual offence cases focusing on speedy investigation and trial, victim protection and confidentiality, child-friendly and in-camera court proceedings, proper evidence collection, and media responsibility.

Key guidelines include timely submission of evidence for forensic analysis, prioritizing cases with an officer of rank of Lady Police Sub Inspector or above, using video conferencing for victim statements, ensuring confidentiality for victims, and preventing media sensationalism by focusing on prevention and remedies.

FOR INVESTIGATION & TRIAL

Expedited investigation:

The investigation must be completed within 90 days of registration.

• Expert evidence collection:

Collect and send clothes of the victim and accused for forensic analysis within 10 days.

• Forensic analysis:

Forensic labs should prioritize analysis and send their report within a couple of months.

• Victim's statement:

The victim's statement under Section 184 BNSS should be recorded expeditiously.

• Speedy trials:

Cases should be committed to the Sessions court within 15 days of the filling of the charge sheet.

• Child-friendly courts:

Fast-track courts, ideally presided over by a female judge, should hold trials incamera (privately) and create a child-friendly atmosphere.

FOR VICTIM PROTECTION & SUPPORT

• Confidentiality:

The identity of the victim and their family must be kept secret and they should be assured of confidentiality.

• Protection:

Ensure the victim's identity is protected.

Psychological support:

Inform the District Legal Services Authority to provide counselling and support to the child, according to police SOPs.

• Video conferencing:

Use video conferencing for victim statements to avoid close proximity with the accused.

FOR MEDIA COVERAGE

- **Do not sensationalize:** Media should not sensationalize or exaggerate the incident.
- **Protect victim identity:** Do not disclose the identity of the victim and use masking techniques.
- **Focus on prevention and remedies:** Enlighten the public on how to prevent such incidents and provide information on legal remedies.
- **Document actions taken:** Report on actions taken by authorities and the punishment of offenders.

For Reporting & Information

Mandatory reporting:

Any person with knowledge or suspicion of an offense under the POCSO Act should report it to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police.

• Inform victims of rights:

Media should inform the public and victims about their rights and available legal remedies.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (NCW)

The National Commission for Women (NCW) does not issue guidelines for POCSO and sexual offenses, but rather monitors cases and ensures the implementation of existing laws like the POCSO Act by expediting investigations, monitoring police actions, forming inquiry committees, and resolving issues through counselling and mediation. For serious cases, they form inquiry committees to examine aspects of the case. The commission also advocates for the rights of victims by ensuring child-friendly special courts and child-friendly medical examinations with trusted guardians present.

NCW'S ROLE IN POCSO AND SEXUAL OFFENSE CASES

• Complaint Processing:

The NCW scrutinizes complaints, registers mandated ones, and dismisses non-mandated ones.

Monitoring & Intervention:

They monitor the implementation of the POCSO Act and other statutory provisions, focusing on expediting police investigations.

• Dispute Resolution:

The NCW facilitates resolution through mediation and counselling for relevant issues.

• Inquiry Committees:

For serious cases, they form an inquiry committee to further examine the case aspects.

• Advocacy for Victim Support:

The NCW ensures child-friendly environments in courts and supports victims by monitoring proper medical examinations for children.

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE (CWC)

In cases of sexual offences against children, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) functions as a key authority under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, acting as

a child in need of care and protection and ensuring the child's holistic well-being. The CWC's role includes providing mandatory counselling to the victim and their guardian, appointing a support person for the child, ensuring the child's protection and rehabilitation, and making decisions about placement in protective homes if necessary.

KEY ROLES OF THE CWC IN POCSO CASES:

• Immediate Notification:

Police must inform the CWC within 24 hours of receiving a complaint under the POCSO Act.

• Child in Need of Care & Protection:

Under the JJ Act, a child victim of sexual abuse is considered a child in need of care and protection.

• Mandatory Counselling:

The CWC ensures that the victim and their legal guardian receive mandatory counselling from authorized professionals.

• Appointment of a Support Person:

The CWC can appoint a support person, a trained professional, to help manage the child's psychosocial well-being and liaise with other agencies involved in the case.

• Decision on Placement:

The CWC must determine if the child needs to be taken out of the family or shared household and placed in a children's home or shelter home.

• Focus on Child's Best Interest:

All CWC decisions are made with the best interests of the child at the forefront, considering factors like age, maturity, disability, and the capacity of trusted adults to provide care.

• Reporting to the Trial Court:

The CWC communicates its decisions and reports to the trial court to ensure the proper implementation of child protection measures.

CHILD-FRIENDLY PROCEDURES IN INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL:

- **Child-Centric Reporting:** The child's statement should be recorded at their residence or a place of their choice, preferably by a woman police officer not in uniform.
- Contact with Accused is forbidden: The investigating officer must ensure the child has no contact with the accused at any point.

- No Police Station Detention: A child cannot be kept overnight in a police station.
- Use of Audio-Video Means: The child's statement can be recorded via audio-video electronic means.
- **Support during Trial:** The child should not be repeatedly called to testify, and aggressive questioning is prohibited.
- Counselling and Support: Support persons, counsellors, and interpreters can be provided as per the child's needs.

VICTIM RIGHTS IN SEXUAL OFFENCES

In POCSO and sexual offense cases, victim rights focus on protection, support, and a child-friendly justice process, including the right to legal aid, psychological support, medical care, and compensation. Crucially, POCSO mandates protection of the child victim's identity, the use of support persons, a woman doctor for girl victims, a supportive trial environment with frequent breaks, and the prevention of aggressive cross-examination to prevent victimization.

RIGHTS FOR CHILD VICTIMS (UNDER POCSO)

- **Protection of Identity:** The identity of a child victim must be protected.
- **Legal Assistance:** The family or guardian has the right to a legal counsel of their choice; free legal aid is provided if they cannot afford it.
- **Support Persons:** The State has an obligation to provide support persons to child victims.
- **Psychological Support:** Victims are entitled to counselling and psychological support to help them cope with the trauma.
- **Medical Support:** A woman doctor must conduct the medical examination for a girl victim.
- **Compensation:** Victims can be paid compensation for physical or mental trauma caused.
- Child-Friendly Trial Environment:
- A child should not be subjected to aggressive or character-assassinating questioning.
- Frequent breaks are to be allowed during the trial.
- The child should not be repeatedly called to testify.
- The assistance of translators or special educators can be provided if necessary.

RIGHTS FOR ADULT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL OFFENSES

- **Right to Medical Care:** Victims can report to a doctor or hospital for therapeutic care and evidence collection.
- **Right to Lodge Complaint:** Victims can report to the police and also directly approach the court.
- **Right to Legal Counsel:** Victims have the right to legal counsel to represent them in the criminal justice system.
- **Right to Compensation:** Courts are empowered to award compensation to victims.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- **Support and Rehabilitation:** The goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for the victim.
- **Prevention of Victimization:** The processes are designed to protect the victim from being re-traumatized during the legal proceedings.
- **Victim-Centric Approach:** The entire process emphasizes the victim's rights, welfare, and the prevention of further hardship.

• EVIDENCE CHAIN OF CUSTODY FORMATS

KEY COMPONENTS OF A CHAIN OF CUSTODY FORM:

- Case Information: A unique case number and details about the offense.
- **Evidence Details:** A unique identifier for the evidence, its description, and the date/time/location of collection.
- **Transfer Log:** A detailed table that records each transfer of the evidence.
- Date and Time: When the evidence was transferred.
- o **Released By:** The signature and ID of the person giving the evidence.
- Received By: The signature and ID of the person taking possession of the evidence.
- o **Purpose:** The reason for the transfer (e.g., analysis, storage).
- o **Comments:** Any additional relevant notes about the evidence or the transfer.
- **Signatures:** The official signature of every individual involved in the chain of possession.
- **Contact Information:** The name and contact number of the sample collector and laboratory.

WHY THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY IS ESSENTIAL:

• Authenticity:

It proves the evidence is the original item collected and hasn't been altered.

• Integrity:

It shows that the evidence was not tampered with, contaminated, or planted.

Admissibility:

A properly maintained chain of custody is vital for the evidence to be admissible in court, as it upholds legal principles of justice.

BEST PRACTICES:

- **Document Every Transfer:** Each time the evidence changes hands, a new entry must be made in the log.
- **Use Pen:** Forms should be filled out in pen, not pencil, to prevent easy alteration or tampering.
- Secure Storage: Evidence should be stored in a secure, restricted area.
- Unique Identifiers: Each piece of evidence should have a unique identifier to ensure it is tracked correctly.

• SAMPLE MEDICAL REPORTS, FORENSIC REPORTS (OR A COMPLETE FILE OF A MODEL CASE)



victim report to PDF 20250907 12.57.07.pdf



Accuse medical examination to PDF 20250907 13.02.08.pdf