

1) India has recently launched a National Database for Sexual Offenders. To what extent such a database would help in curbing crimes against women & children. Discuss

The launch of National Database of Sexual Offenders [NDSO] comes at the time when the Thomas Reuters foundation noted India to be the most unsafe country for women due to sexual violence. At the same time, National Crime Record Bureau recorded a 336% rise in child sexual abuse cases.

NDSO will maintain necessary credentials of sexual offenders for quick tracking of criminal activities. The law agencies shall more vigilant to prevent sexual crimes. Such a database can be used by the employer as a part of police verification. Having an improved statistics database will help in targetted policy decisions.

However, it is absurd to note that more than 50% of sexual violence cases are committed by the offender known to victims. Moreover often, the crimes are not reported due to social stigma, hence no question of justice. This will not be captured in NDSO.

The NDSO provides only infrastructural solution for preventing sexual crimes. It looks on attitudinal change & implementation issues.

NDSO in India is not open for public access, as in the USA. Therefore, the offender is left for self-reform in an unchecked environment. Ultimately, it is the state Police that has to execute necessary action by effectively utilizing the NDSO. It depends on the level of co-ordination between Centre & State ~~agencies~~ agencies.

However, in a society where civil registers list, economic offenders database are maintained, a National Database for Sexual Offenders is an innovative infrastructural solution to prevent or reduce sexual crimes against women & children.