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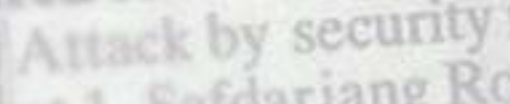
# Express View on criminalisation of romantic relationships: Love & punishment

This is burdening a clogged justice system. Parliament must weigh in on age of consent debate.

By: Editorial July 18, 2023 07:10 IST



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The law prescribes that the minimum age for sexual consent is 18 years, but the reality is that sexual activity among adolescents begins earlier.

The Bombay High Court recently said that the "criminalisation of romantic relationships has overburdened the criminal justice system by consuming significant time of the judiciary, police and the child protection system".

The law prescribes that the minimum age for sexual consent is 18 years, but the reality is that sexual activity among adolescents begins earlier. In India, the legal regime on age of sexual consent began in 1860 with the Indian Penal Code...

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A 2019 study by Partners for Law and Development on "why girls run away to marry" highlights that the special "zero tolerance laws" largely clash with "self-arranged" relationships as opposed to those sanctioned by family.

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