

Schedule for
A Decade of POCSO:
Re-Thinking Progress & Possibilities
A Review Consultation on the Protection of Children
from Sexual Offences Act 2012

SAMVAD

(Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances And Distress),

A National Initiative & Integrated Resource for Child Protection, Mental Health, & Psychosocial Care

Established by Ministry of Women & Child Development,

Government of India

Located in Dept. of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore

In Collaboration with
National Judicial Academy, Bhopal

11th – 12th February 2023

Day 1: Saturday, 11th February 2023

9:45 am – 10:00 am	Introductory Remarks	SAMVAD Team
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Key Note Speech	Hon'ble Justice B.V. Nagarathana Judge & Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Welcome Address	Hon'ble Justice A. P. Sahi Director, National Judicial Academy
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Tea Break	
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	<p>Theme 1 Looking Back on 10 Years of POCSO: Progress & Achievements</p> <p>1.1. What do the Numbers tell us about POCSO Cases?</p>	<p>Chairpersons: Hon'ble Justice B.V. Nagarathana Judge, Supreme Court of India</p> <p><u>Speaker 1:</u> Ms. Apoorva Research Fellow (Justice, Access and Lowering Delays in India) (JALDI), Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy</p>

	<p>1.2. New Legislative Developments & Case Law on Child Sexual Abuse and POCSO</p> <p>1.3. Prosecutorial Delays & High Pendency in POCSO Cases</p>	<p><u>Speaker 2:</u> Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Gauhati</p> <p><u>Speaker 3:</u> Hon'ble Justice Anand Pathak, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Madhya Pradesh</p>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch	
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Theme 2: How Far has POCSO Bridged the Gap in Children's Access to Justice?</p> <p>2.1. Dilemmas in POCSO's Mandatory Reporting Provisions</p>	<p>Chairpersons: Hon'ble Justice (Dr) Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi (Former) Judge, Bombay High Court & Dr K. John Vijay Sagar Professor & Head, Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS</p> <p><u>Speaker 1:</u> Saurabh Shashi Ashok, Project Officer (Policy and Law), SAMVAD-NIMHANS</p>

	<p>2.2. The ‘Notoriously Dangerous Child Witness’: Evaluating Child Witness Competencies</p> <p>2.3. The Abuse-Consent Conundrum: Adolescent Sexual Consent and the POCSO Act</p>	<p><u>Speaker 2:</u> Dr Shekhar Seshadri Advisor, SAMVAD-NIMHANS, (Former) Senior Professor, Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS & (Former) Director, NIMHANS</p> <p><u>Speaker 3:</u> Hon’ble Justice N. Anand Venkatesh, Judge, High Court of Madras</p>
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Tea Break	
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm	<p>Theme 3: The Imperative to Strengthen Investigative & Prosecutorial Processes in POCSO Cases</p> <p>3.1. Gaps & Challenges in Child Sexual Abuse Investigative Processes: Areas for Capacitating Stakeholders</p>	<p>Chairperson: Hon’ble Justice S. Vimala (Former) Judge, Madras High Court</p> <p><u>Speaker 1:</u> Shikha Goel, Addl. Director General of Police, Women Safety Wing, Telangana State Police</p>

	3.3. The Role of the Prosecutor in POCSO Cases	<u>Speaker 2:</u> Tara Narula, Partner, Narula and Associates & External Counsel, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights
--	---	--

Day 2: Sunday, 12th February 2023		
9:30 am – 1:00 pm	<p>Theme 4: Legal Implications of Child Psychosocial & Mental Health Issues: From Intent to Action</p> <p>4.1. Re-imagining the Courtroom: India's First Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex</p>	<p>Chairpersons: Hon'ble Justice Madan B. Lokur (Former) Judge & Chairperson Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India & Dr Shekhar Seshadri Advisor, SAMVAD-NIMHANS, (Former) Senior Professor, Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS & (Former) Director, NIMHANS</p> <p><u>Speaker 1:</u> Hon'ble Justice Gita Mittal, Chairperson, Vulnerable Witness Committee (Constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court) &</p>

	<p>4.2. Integrating Mental Health and Law: Practice Methods in Pre-Trial and Trial Assistance to Vulnerable Child Witnesses</p> <p>4.3. Re-thinking Appreciation of Evidence in Child Sexual Abuse Cases</p>	<p>(Former) Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh</p> <p><u>Speaker 2:</u> Sheila Ramaswamy Technical & Operational Lead, SAMVAD-NIMHANS</p> <p><u>Speaker 3:</u> Dr Mrinal Satish Professor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore (Former Member, Research Team, Justice Verma Committee)</p>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch	
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<p>Theme 5: Trial Procedure in Child Sexual Abuse Cases: Are there Imperatives for a Paradigm Shift?</p>	<p>Chairperson: Dr Mrinal Satish Professor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore (Former Member, Research Team, Justice Verma Committee)</p> <p><u>Speaker 1:</u> Hon'ble Justice S. Vimala, (Former) Judge, Madras High Court</p>

		<p><u>Speaker 2</u>: Hon'ble Justice Aniruddha Bose, Judge, Supreme Court of India</p> <p><u>Speaker 3</u>: Hon'ble Justice Madan B. Lokur, (Former) Judge & Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India</p>
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Closing Remarks	<p>Hon'ble Justice Madan B. Lokur, (Former) Judge & Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India</p> <p>Dr Shekhar Seshadri Advisor, SAMVAD-NIMHANS, (Former) Senior Professor, Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS & (Former) Director, NIMHANS</p>
5:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Vote of Thanks	<p>Hon'ble Justice A. P. Sahi Director, National Judicial Academy</p>