

SPEECH OF HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.P. LAVANDE.

Addressing to the distinguished dignitaries on the dais, Honourable Mr. Justice A.P. Lavande highlighted the subject of the session "Children Friendly Court Room Interface under POCSOA" and stated that the circumstances which led to the passing of the Act, is such that although there are several Acts in our Country, it was found that the provisions of those Acts were not sufficient to protect the rights of the children from sexual abuses and keeping in mind the constitutional provisions and also the decisions taken at United Nation's Convention of the Rights of Children, the Parliament thought it fit to pass this Act, so as to protect the rights of the children, basically that aims to ensure healthy, physical, emotional and intellectual development of the child and to achieve this object several provisions were made in the Act which contains some drastic provisions which are not to be found in the normal Acts dealing with criminal justice system. He stated Goa was the first State and the only State to pass the Goa Children Act in 2003, dealing with some aspects of child abuse and sexual assault on the children. The Children Act does not contain elaborate provisions

dealing with child abuse but there are some provisions dealing with same and therefore, one has to see the implementation of both these Acts in the State of Goa.