

FULL COURT REFERENCE HELD IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA ON 16TH JULY 2025, ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRANSFER OF HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR SINGH TO THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA.

Speech by Sri. K. Gopalakrishna Kurup, Advocate General

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala, Mr. Justice Nitin Jamdar; The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh; The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Kerala; The President of the Kerala High Court Advocates Association; The Chairman of the Bar Council of Kerala; The President, Kerala High Court Senior Advocates' Association; The President, Kerala Federation of Women Lawyers, Kerala High Court Unit; Law Officers of the State; Deputy Solicitor General, Senior Central Standing Counsel (Taxes) and other Law Officers of the Central Government; Law Officers of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep; Learned Senior Advocates; Esteemed Fellow Members of the Bar; Registrar General, Registrars and Staff of the High Court; Friends and family members of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh; Staff of the Advocate General's Office; Advocate Clerks; All other dignitaries joining online; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today, I rise with a tinge of bittersweet emotion as we bid farewell to a distinguished luminary of our judicial fraternity—Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh—who now proceeds to assume office as a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka, following his transfer from this Honourable Court. Though

My Lord's sojourn at the High Court of Kerala was relatively brief, you will certainly be leaving an ineffaceable impression on both the Bar and the Bench.

Born on the 18th of August, 1966 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to Shri Guru Prasad and Smt. Phool Kunwar, My Lord began an academic journey marked by excellence and perseverance—from Sri Vidya Mandir Inter College, Hamirpur to Bipin Behari Degree College, Jhansi; from the hallowed halls of the University of Allahabad from where you secured a degree in law to a postgraduate degree in law from Delhi University.

Enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1993, My Lord began practicing at the Allahabad High Court, before shifting to the Supreme Court of India in 1998. During your practice at the Bar, you remained indifferent to materialistic pursuits and other extraneous considerations. You approached every case entrusted to you with utmost honesty, integrity, and diligence. You firmly believed that in the legal profession, true success lies not in shortcuts but in capability, sincerity, and an unwavering commitment to ethical practice—and your journey stands as a testament to that conviction. The following words of yours, spoken to while addressing a fraternal meeting of legal professionals, stand as a towering testimony to this very philosophy—a reflection of your unwavering belief that integrity and competence, not material gain, are the true markers of success in the legal profession: *“Being a lawyer is a very big thing, shops keep on running, they keep on closing. Don't worry if someone purchases a very big car... When I was practising in the Supreme Court, Lawyers used to come there in big cars, I never saw who used to come in which car... these external things make no difference. In this profession, if one is capable enough*

and is honest in his endeavours, they can achieve greater heights”

Your practice covered a rich and complex array of legal disciplines—constitutional, administrative, civil, taxation, arbitration, and criminal. Your appointments as Additional Advocate General for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, and as Senior Panel Counsel for the Union of India, demonstrate the trust reposed in your legal acumen by the Union and multiple State Governments alike.

On 22nd September, 2017, My Lord was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court and was made a Permanent Judge on 6th September, 2019. The clarity of thought, decisiveness, and innate sense of fairness that distinguished My Lord’s practice at the Bar continued to define your judicial tenure with equal distinction. My Lord’s stint at the High Court of Allahabad was, in fact, a relentless crusade against organised crime, marked by an unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law. You reportedly recalled thus about your judicial spell at the Allahabad High Court: *“My endeavour is to do justice without fear and error, without partiality and with courage. If we do not have the required courage, then we cannot stop hooliganism. Only a courageous person can stop hooliganism.”*

My Lord was transferred to the High Court of Kerala with effect from 21st July, 2023 and has ever since remained an intrinsic and admirable part of our State’s judicial tradition. One of the most striking qualities that we observed in My Lord as a Judge was your swift and effortless grasp of complex legal issues, often cutting straight to the heart of the matter with remarkable clarity, and responding with

dispassionate precision. You consistently engaged with members of the Bar during arguments, revealing the contours of your judicial thought process, which in turn enabled the counsel to effectively and satisfactorily present their contentions. Reserved judgments were never left lingering—delivered promptly, uploaded without delay, and marked always by analytical rigor and ethical reflection. The Bar deeply appreciated this diligence.

We are told, perhaps with some irony, that Kerala was not among My Lord's initial preferences for transfer, despite having visited this State two or three times earlier until then and having admittedly found this to be a beautiful place. But as fate would have it, you came to this land we call "God's Own Country". I trust you depart with not only pleasant memories of our land, but also of a legal fraternity that is deeply committed, fiercely independent, and profoundly respectful of the Bench.

On a personal note, I take this occasion to fondly recall the warmth of My Lord's hospitality, which I had the privilege of experiencing when I attended your son's wedding in Lucknow.

My Lord, as you prepare to don the mantle of a Judge of the High Court of Karnataka, we are confident that the State of Karnataka will benefit immensely from your wisdom, your lucidity, and your steadfast loyalty to the Constitution.

While speaking at the farewell event organised by the Office of the Advocate General, Uttar Pradesh, on the occasion of My Lord's transfer to this Honourable Court, you graciously assured the legal community there that you would always be just a call away. We, too, earnestly hope—

and believe—that you will extend the same warmth and accessibility to the members of the Bar in this State.

On behalf of the Bar of Kerala, I extend our deepest respect and warmest wishes to My Lord, to your wife Smt. Archana Singh, your son Advocate Santhanu, and your daughter Adhya, a law student. May this new chapter bring continued excellence, profound satisfaction, and enduring success. With gratitude, and with great reverence, we bid My Lord farewell.

Speech by Sri.Yeshwanth Shenoy, President, Kerala High Court Advocates' Association.

Hon'ble Mr.Justice Nitin Jamdar, Chief Justice, Hon'ble Mr.Justice D.K.Singh, Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Former Judges of this Hon'ble Court, Advocate General, Director General of Prosecution, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Chairman of the Bar Council of Kerala, State Attorney, Secretary and the executive committee members of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, Coordinator, High Court Mediation Centre, respected Senior Advocates, the Registrar General, Registrars and Staff of this Court, law officers of the State and Central Government, Friends & Family members of Justice D.K.Singh, Advocates Clerks and my Colleagues at the Bar, my brothers and sisters.

It is with a profound sense of respect and gratitude that we gather today to bid farewell to Hon'ble Mr.

Justice D.K.Singh, a jurist of remarkable intellect and unwavering commitment, as he embarks on a new chapter in his illustrious career at the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Singh's journey in the legal profession is a testament to dedication, scholarship, and service to justice. Born in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Justice Singh's academic foundation was built on a Bachelor's degree in Law from Allahabad University and an LL.M. from Delhi University. His legal practice, spanning the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court of India, showcased his expertise in Constitutional, Administrative, Commercial, Civil, Taxation, Arbitration, and Criminal Laws. His roles as Additional Advocate General for Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, and Senior Panel Counsel for the Union of India, further underscored his stature as a legal luminary. Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Allahabad High Court in 2017 and later as a Permanent Judge in 2019, Justice Singh brought his vast experience to the Kerala High Court in July 2023.

Justice D.K.Singh's tenure at the Kerala High Court, though brief, has left an indelible mark on our institution. Your integrity, independence, boldness and the speed of delivery of Judgments was highly appreciated by the Bar. Your judgments reflected your deep commitment to justice and fairness. Your ability to navigate complex legal questions with clarity and compassion has earned you the respect of advocates and litigants alike.

As we bid farewell, we acknowledge that transitions are an integral part of judicial service, aimed at fostering a robust and dynamic judiciary across our nation. The Karnataka High Court is fortunate to welcome a judge of

Justice Singh's calibre, and we are confident that you will continue to uphold the highest standards of justice, integrity, and impartiality in your new role. With this transfer, Justice D.K.Singh will be the 5th Seniormost Judge in the Karnataka High Court and by that scale, this transfer is also a promotion.

On behalf of the Kerala High Court, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to Justice D.K.Singh for his invaluable contributions. We wish him strength, wisdom, and success as he takes on his new responsibilities at the Karnataka High Court. May your journey continue to inspire and illuminate the path of justice for all.

The KHCAA expresses our gratitude to Mrs.Archana Singh for her continuing support to Justice D.K.Singh in discharging his duties as a Judge.

Thank You.

Jai Hind

*Speech by the Honourable Chief Justice
Mr. Justice Nitin Jamdar,*

Brother Justice D. K. Singh, Esteemed Sister and Brother Judges, The Advocate General law officers of the State, Union of India and Union Territory Chairman, Bar Council of Kerala, President Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, President, Senior Advocates' Association, President Kerala Federation of Women Lawyers, Senior Advocates, Members of the Bar, Mrs. Archana Singh, Members of the Advocates' Clerks' Association, Ladies and

Gentlemen,

Today we have assembled to bid farewell to a distinguished Judge of this Court, Justice D.K. Singh, as he takes on his new role at the High Court of Karnataka, marking yet another milestone in his illustrious career.

Justice D. K. Singh was born on 18th August, 1966 to late Guru Prasad Singh and Mrs. Phool Kunwar at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. After graduating from Bipin Behari Degree College, Jhansi, Justice D. K. Singh acquired Degree in Law from Allahabad University and LL.M. from Delhi University.

Justice D. K. Singh enrolled as an Advocate in the Bar council of Delhi in the year 1993 and started legal practice in the Allahabad High Court. He practiced at the Allahabad High Court till the year 1997.

Thereafter, Justice D. K. Singh shifted his practice to the Supreme Court of India.

Justice D.K. Singh was a senior panel counsel for Union of India. He was also Additional Advocate General for the State of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

In recognition of his hard work and dedication, Justice D. K. Singh was elevated to the Bench of the Allahabad High Court as an Additional Judge on 22nd September, 2017. He was appointed as the permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court on 6th September, 2019 and was in office as such till 20th July, 2023.

Justice D. K. Singh assumed office of the Judge of the High Court of Kerala on 21st July, 2023. After rendering nearly two years of service in this High Court, Justice D. K. Singh will now continue his work at the High Court of Karnataka.

Throughout his tenure in the Kerala High Court, Justice D. K. Singh has presided over numerous cases with fairness, impartiality, and courage. Justice D. K. Singh has dealt with cases in varied jurisdictions, more particularly in the writ jurisdiction. Justice Singh has authored judgments with deep understanding of the law and a commitment to justice.

Rulings rendered by Justice Singh reflect a balanced approach, based on legal principles and with the broader implications for society in mind.

To cite a few, he ruled that a person residing in a state can register his vehicle with any registering authority within the State, irrespective of his place of residence or business within the State.

He also held that while Government may set up vehicle scrapping facility centre under PPP model with the KSRTC, private individuals or legal entities are not barred, if they fulfill the conditions and their applications are in accordance with law.

He also declared the law that the Maintenance Tribunal does not have power to issue an injunction order. And there are many more such decisions.

On the administrative side, Justice D. K. Singh served as the Chairperson of the Committee for Juvenile Justice and to monitor progress of trials under the PoCSO

Act, President of the Board of Governors of Arbitration Centre, High Court, President of the Board of Governors of Kerala Judicial Academy, and member of Committee for maintenance and up-keep of High Court Guest House and Lyceum, and Committee for monitoring the completion of projects of Infrastructure of the District Judiciary. Besides, he was also the Judge in-charge for the district.

Justice D.K. Singh has a passion for justice, a commitment to uphold the rule of law, with sound knowledge of core legal principles. He possesses the characteristics that are foundational to the legal system.

We, on this occasion, extend our best wishes and congratulations to Mrs. Archana Singh, for the strength and support extended to him in the discharge of his duties as a judge of this Court.

On behalf of all the members of the legal fraternity, I convey our deep appreciation for the invaluable contribution of Justice D. K. Singh to the judiciary of this State and wish him all the success and fulfilment in his future endeavors.

Thank you.

Reply speech by the Honourable the Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh.

Honourable the Chief Justice Nithin Jamdar, Esteemed brother and sister Judges, Distinguished former Judges of this Court, Mr. Gopakumar G, Registrar General, Mr. Nixon M Joseph, Registrar (District Judiciary), Mrs. Mini S Das, Registrar (Vigilance),

Mr Prabhathu Kumar B, Registrar (Judicial) Mr Joseph Rajesh K A, Registrar (Computerisation) Mr A V Pradeepkumar, Registrar (Administration) Mr P Devendrakumar, Registrar (Recruitment) Mr V S Jyothilal Prasad, Additional Registrar (General Administration) Mrs Jubiya, Director of Arbitration Centre Mr Gopalakrishna Kurup K, Advocate General The Law Officers of the State and Union of India Mr K.N. Anil Kumar, Chairman, Bar Council of Kerala Mr. Yaswanth Shenoy, President of Kerala Advocates Bar Association Mrs P.K. Santhamma, President of the Kerala Federation of Women Lawyers. Senior Advocates, Members of the Bar, Members of the Advocates' Clerks Association, Staff of the High Court, Ladies and Gentlemen, A very warm Good Evening to all.

I'm thankful to all the orators for the kind words that they have spoken about me, and I'm delighted to see so many of you gathered here. My speech would be incomplete if I didn't begin my oration with the introduction of God's own Country, Kerala.

"NAMASKARAM"

'Kerala', often referred to as God's Own Country, has indeed been a blessed place to serve. It is the land of Adi Guru Sankaracharya, who integrated the country by establishing four matts in the four corners of this great nation, *i.e.*, in the south: Sringeri Sharada Peetham, in the north: JyotirMatt, in the east: Govardhan Matt, Puri and in the west: Dwarka Sharada Peetham. In Kashmir, a revered Hindu shrine is located at the peak of Shankaracharya Hill in Srinagar. Adi

Shankaracharya could convince Mandana Mishra about the Advaita Vedanta philosophy, and his samadhi is in Kedarnath. Sri Narayana Guru integrated the society and uplifted the downtrodden.

The land of lush greenery, serene backwaters, and vibrant culture has left an indelible mark on my heart. I'll always treasure the warmth and hospitality of its people, the beauty of its landscapes, and the richness of its heritage. In this moment of farewell, I'm filled with mixed emotions of gratitude for the privilege of serving this noble institution, nostalgia for the memories we've created together, and a sense of new beginnings that lie ahead. Thus, the High Court of Kerala, with its rich history and noble traditions, has been my second home for around two years. I have been deeply impressed by the erudition of the Bar, the diligence of the Registry, and the unwavering commitment of my brother and sister Judges to uphold the rule of law.

It is with a profound sense of gratitude and a touch of melancholy that I am before you today. The opportunity to serve in the esteemed High Court of Kerala for the past two years has been a privilege that I will forever cherish.

I strongly believe in the Almighty. I would like to quote the last words of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak at his historic trial in 1908, spoken in Tilak Hall Courtroom of the Bombay High Court. *"In spite of the verdict of the jury, I maintain that I am innocent. There are higher powers that rule the destiny of men and nations, and it may be the will of Providence that the cause I represent may prosper more by my suffering than by my remaining free."*

I value deeply the support granted to me by my family. My wife, Archana Singh; my son, Advocate Shantanu; and

my daughter, Adhya Singh, are the most appreciable ones. They stood by me like rocks and pillars of strength at the moment of doubt, whether I should take the oath in Kerala or not, on my transfer. My mother, who is 89 years old, always blessed me. The only regret is that, being present at a far-off place, I could not take care of her the way I wanted to. After I was transferred here, my son got married on 11th March 2024. I am ever grateful to my sister and brother Judges, Advocate General, several Senior Advocates and other members of the Bar, as well as His Excellency, the Governor, for gracing the occasion. My daughter-in-law, Subhi, after completing her Master's from the King's College, is now in the profession with my son, Shantanu. My daughter, Adya, is pursuing law from Jindal Global Law University and is in her fourth year. My wife, though a law graduate, chose to devote her time for me and my family. Her sacrifices are immense, and without her unwavering support, I would not be who I am today.

My speech will be imperfect if I don't say a few words about my career. I enrolled as an Advocate in the year 1993 and practised mainly in Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Commercial Law, Civil Law, Taxation, Arbitration, and Criminal Law. On becoming an Additional Judge on 22.09.2017 and a Permanent Judge on 06.09.2019, I was transferred to this Court as a Judge on 21.07.2023.

In addition to the Judicial work, this Court has enriched me with immense experience on the administrative side. Thus, during my tenure of two years as a Judge, I fortunately got the opportunity to serve on the post of Chairperson of the 'Committee for Juvenile Justice' and to regulate and monitor progress of trials under the POCSO Act, President of the

Arbitration Centre, and as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Judicial Academy. I had the administrative charge of the districts of Palakkad, Thrissur, and Alappuzha.

My tenure here has been a period of immense learning and professional growth. Every case, every argument, and every interaction has added to my understanding of the law and, more importantly, of human nature. I have been fortunate to witness firsthand the resilience of individuals seeking justice and the profound impact that a fair and impartial judiciary can have on their lives.

Justice has been, and continues to be, a constant endeavour, and while serving on the Bench, I have always tried to ensure that public faith in the judicial system is increased. After all, the real efficacy and credibility of a judicial system are measured by the public faith that it enjoys. I cannot say whether I have succeeded in achieving the same, and honestly, that judgment never lies with the Judge. But I can say with certainty that I have felt a great sense of satisfaction in serving the cause of justice to the best of my ability.

If, in the discharge of my duties, I have inadvertently caused any inconvenience or hurt to anyone, I seek your kind understanding and forgiveness. My intentions have always been guided by the pursuit of justice and the dictates of my conscience. My family has also greatly enjoyed our time in Kochi and Kerala, and we will cherish the warmth and hospitality we have received.

I'm deeply grateful to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Kerala and the entire judiciary for their guidance, support, and trust. Your wisdom, leadership, and commitment to upholding the rule of law have been a constant source of inspiration. I'm thankful for the opportunities you've provided

me to serve this noble institution and the people of Kerala. To my colleagues, I'm indebted to our collaboration and shared passion for justice. We've worked together and deliberated on countless cases, and our collective commitment to justice has remained unwavering. I'll cherish the memories of our interactions, both in and out of the courtroom. The registry, staff members, lawyers, and all those who work behind the scenes deserve special mention. Your tireless efforts, dedication, and expertise are the backbone of our judicial system. You've made my job easier, and I'm grateful for your support. I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the legal fraternity, comprising esteemed lawyers and advocates, who have enriched my understanding of the law through their arguments and insights. Your passion for justice and commitment to the legal profession are truly commendable.

To the young, budding lawyers, all I have to say is: Believe in yourself. Being a lawyer is a great thing, and in this noble profession, if one is honest and sincere in their endeavour, they can succeed and reach great heights. I am confident that both the Bar and the Bench would continue to do their best to ensure the people that the law is duly administered as per the mandates of our constitution.

I have many defused debts to discharge. I'd also like to thank my team, who have been instrumental in my work. To my Private Secretary, Mrs Sindhu C.S., your administrative expertise and professionalism have been invaluable. I would also like to extend thanks to Smt. Sini Balakrishnan, Court officer, Smt Rajalekshmi V, my listing officer, for the smooth functioning of my Court. To my Personal Assistants, Smt Jinsy Jen Joseph, Smt Lekshmi S Nair, Smt Sara Joy, Smt. Anju Paul, and Smt. Sivani, for their tireless efforts and unwavering

support. The Research Assistants, Ms. Pournami P.K. and Ms. Sreelakshmi Sunil, whose research and insightful analysis have been a tremendous help. I'm also thankful to the (Late) Mr. Sajith, Mr. Dhanesh A.S, and Mr. Ebin Yohannan, who are on escort and pilot duty for facilitating my movements with precision and care. My sincere thanks to Mr Siyad, my driver, who has safely transported me to and from the court and other places, ensuring my timely presence. I'm also grateful to the personal Security Officers, Mr. Midhun and Mr. George Nirmal, who have ensured my safety and security with utmost vigilance. I would like to thank Smt Beena and Smt Shanthi for taking care of me at guest house; Mr Rafeeq, Mr Felix, Mr Ashraf the caretakers at the guesthouse; Mr Vishnu, Mr Suresh, Mr Rijo and Mr Sreekuttan, my guards.

As I bid adieu to this chapter of my life, I do so with a sense of gratitude and a heart full of memories. I'll carry the lessons, experiences, and friendships forged here to my new posting. I wish the High Court of Kerala continued success, progress, and excellence in dispensing justice to the people.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await me in my new role at the High Court of Karnataka. I assure that I will carry the lessons learned and the experiences gained here to my future assignment. Thank you all once again for your kindness, cooperation, and support. It has been an honour and a privilege to be a part of this distinguished institution. I bid you all a heartfelt farewell and wish you continued success and prosperity.

And as I reflect on my journey, I'm reminded of the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, "*Karmanyevadhikaraste Ma Phaleshukadachana*" - "You have a right to perform your actions, but for the results, you

have no control.” May we strive to perform our duties with diligence and dedication, leaving the outcome to a higher power.

As it is said, the woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep .’My Journey continues, but a part of my heart will always remain with this court and with all of you.

Jai Hind !
