

INDIAN LAW REPORTS(KERALA SERIES)

FULL COURT REFERENCE HELD IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA ON 12TH JANUARY 2026, ON THE OCCASION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SOUMEN SEN AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE KERALA HIGH COURT.

Speech by Sri. K. Gopalakrishna Kurup, Advocate General

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala, Mr. Justice Soumen Sen; 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, Federation of Women Lawyers, Kerala High Court Unit; Law Officers of the State of Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep; Deputy Solicitor General, Senior Central Standing Counsel (Taxes) and other Law Officers of the Central Government; Senior Advocates; Esteemed Fellow Members of the Bar; Registrar General, Registrars and Staff of the High Court of Kerala; Sri. Sailen Sen, father of Justice Soumen Sen; Smt. Sharmila Sen, wife of Justice Soumen Sen; Advocate Samriddha Sen, son of Justice Soumen Sen; Other family members of Justice Soumen Sen Staff of the Advocate General's Office; Advocate Clerks; Ladies and Gentlemen and all other dignitaries joining online.

Kerala and Bengal, though separated by quite a long distance, are remarkably similar in many respects. Both are blessed with long coastlines, a deep passion for football, realistic cinema and literature, and a shared love for rice and marine cuisine. The connectivity between the two States transcends geography and traverses through the realm of culture, literature, art, politics, and collective memory. The school students of Kerala were introduced to the treasures of classical Bengali literature through Malayalam translations of Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Durgesa Nandini, which formed part of their academic curriculum. Malayalees are equally familiar with Satyajit Ray's world of Apu, and no new-wave or circuit film festival in Kerala was ever complete without the screening of the masterpieces of Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Rithwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen. It is not uncommon to find Malayalees named Hrithwik, Banerjee, Shonkar or Chakravarthy — linguistically and culturally Malayalees in every sense — yet bearing such Bengali names inspired by their parents' admiration for Bengali literature, cinema, or revolutionary leaders.

Justice Manjula Chellur, former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court subsequently became the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan, who was a Judge of this Hon'ble High Court, later went on to serve as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

Despite such intrinsic connections between Kerala and Bengal and despite former Judges of Kerala High Court being there at the helm of affairs of the Calcutta High Court, it took nearly seven decades since the inception of the High Court of Kerala and four decades since the initiation of the system of appointing Chief Justices from other High Courts, for a former Judge of the Calcutta High Court to assume charge as its Chief Justice.

Today, we have gathered here to honour Hon'ble Justice Soumen Sen, former Judge of the Calcutta High Court and former Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya, who was sworn in last Saturday as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

My Lord Justice Soumen Sen — we warmly welcome you from Meghalaya, the Scotland of the East, to the paradise named Kerala, the God's Own Country.

My Lord was born on 27th of July, 1965 in Kolkata to Sri. Sailen Sen and Smt. Susnigdha Sen. You hail from an aristocratic family, whose ancestral roots trace back to Naiyar village in the Comilla District of the erstwhile pre-Partition Bengal. The family has a proud legacy of participation in the freedom movement, and your paternal grandmother, Smt. Labanya Prabha Sen, was herself actively involved in the struggle as a student leader, particularly in the Quit India Struggle of 1942, imbibing in the family a deep sense of patriotism and public service. Your paternal grandfather Shri. Khitish Chandra Sen was a distinguished Civil Lawyer who initially practised at the Courts in Chandpur (Comilla) in present day Bangladesh and later shifted his practice to the Courts at Alipore, Kolkatta. Your father Shri. Sailen Sen has a distinguished legal career. His contribution to law was not limited to Court room litigations, but extended to legislative exercise also. He had a pivotal role in bringing about various amendments to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Central Excise Act and Salt Act. Shri. Sen later became Corporate Legal Advisor and Retainer of the Andrew Yule and its Group of Companies. He specialised in Civil Law, Labour Law, Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property Law and was the Legal Advisor to the Indian Express Group of Newspapers, Kolkatta. The rich lineage continued on the maternal side as well. Your maternal grandfather Shri. Pulin Behari Bandopadhyaya was a much sought after Criminal Lawyer in Barishalin present day Bangladesh. Your maternal grandmother was Smt. Lakshimoni Devi.

My Lord completed schooling at St. Lawrence High School, Kolkata, and thereafter pursued legal education at the University of Calcutta. In the year 1990, you passed the five-year LL.B. examination, securing the highest marks in the University and standing first, an academic distinction of rare excellence. During your

student years, you actively participated in debates and moot court competitions and was adjudged first in order of merit for individual performance at the XII All-India Moot Court Competition, 1989, held at Pondicherry, in connection with the selection for the International Division of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. These early accomplishments were truly reflective of the scholarly depth, advocacy skill and competitive brilliance that would later define your illustrious legal career.

My Lord was enrolled as an Advocate in January, 1991 with the Bar Council of West Bengal. You commenced legal practice in the chambers of Shri. Hiralal Kumar Mitter, an eminent Senior Advocate of Kolkata and the son of the legendary Justice G. K. Mitter, Judge of the Supreme Court of India — a beginning that placed you in a rich tradition of legal excellence.

For over two decades, My Lord practised before the Calcutta High Court, on both the Original and Appellate sides, as well as before various Tribunals. Your practice encompassed a wide spectrum of legal disciplines, including civil, constitutional, banking and arbitration matters. You appeared for statutory authorities such as the Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, and Small Industries Development Bank of India. You were the Senior Central Government Counsel at the Calcutta High Court and successfully defended the Union Government in several matters of administrative and constitutional importance.

My Lord is a proud member of the prestigious Bar Library Club of the Calcutta High Court, whose membership was originally reserved for barristers and is now confined to advocates of the Original Side Bar — a distinction reflecting professional standing and recognition.

Lawyers of Calcutta High Court Bar remember you as a lawyer with industry, clarity of argument, unwavering integrity, and refined court craft. The members of the Bar Library Club recall you as a pillar of sincerity, enterprise and a role model for young practitioners to emulate.

On 13th of April 2011, My Lord was elevated as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. During your long and distinguished tenure on the Bench, you became widely known for scholarly judgments, precision in legal reasoning and balanced judicial temperament.

On 15th of September, 2025, My Lord was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. Shortly thereafter, My Lord was appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya, and assumed office on 8th of October, 2025. Though your tenure in Meghalaya was brief, it proved to be re-

markably impactful. Within a short span of three months, you disposed of nearly 60 cases and delivered close to 300 orders, reflecting exceptional judicial efficiency combined with depth of analysis.

At the Full Court Reference held at Meghalaya High Court, in honour of My Lord, on the occasion of your transfer to Kerala, the Advocate General of Meghalaya, Senior Advocate Amit Kumar, observed that the State of Meghalaya was greatly enriched by your experience, wisdom and incisive approach. He emphasised that it was not only the unprecedented high volume of judgments rendered by you in Meghalaya that mattered, but also the clarity, decisiveness and sense of finality with which justice was administered by you. He noted that litigants and counsel were assured of focused hearings in your court— one of the most valuable assurances a constitutional court can provide. He particularly praised your unique ability to cut through peripheral facts and swiftly identify the core issue in every case. The Deputy Solicitor General, Dr N. Mozika, described appearances before My Lord as experiences marked by your constitutional fidelity and described your court management as discipline without rigidity and firmness without severity. The Bar of Meghalaya fondly remembers you for your simplicity, humility, human touch, courtesy and quiet dignity: qualities that endeared you to all sections of the legal fraternity.

My Lord's personal life reflects strong family values, which have remained a constant source of strength throughout your distinguished professional journey. Your wife, Smt. Sharmila Sen, is a devoted homemaker, and your son, Shri. Samridha Sen, has followed the family legacy into the legal profession.

I am told that My Lord is deeply passionate about Indian classical music. Kerala, with its rich heritage of Carnatic traditions and indigenous musical forms, offers a cultural landscape where you will undoubtedly feel intellectually and emotionally at home. Indeed, My Lord will find in Kerala not merely a place of office, but a land that resonates with your tastes, values, and sensibilities.

My Lord, in your reply speech in your farewell Full Court Reference at Meghalaya High Court, quoted the phrase "*Charaiveti charaiveti*" meaning "keep moving keep moving" from the Aitareya Brahmana, a Vedic Prose Text, to describe your judicial phase from assuming office as the Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court to being appointed as the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court and to further being transferred to Kerala High Court. I wish that My Lord moves on to the highest of the judicial echelon in our Country.

As My Lord now assumes charge of the High Court of Kerala, we are confident that your leadership will further strengthen this great institution's unwavering commitment to constitutional justice, human dignity, and the rule of law.

May your scholarly judgments, precision in legal reasoning, balanced judicial temperament, wisdom, incisive approach and constitutional fidelity as well as your clarity, decisiveness and sense of finality with which justice is administered enrich the legal heritage of this land. We wish My Lord a fulfilling tenure in Kerala.

Jai Hind, Thank You

Speech by Sri. Peeyus A. Kottam, President, Kerala High Court Advocates' Association.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen, Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala; Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Jayashankaran Nambiar; Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Kerala; Former Judges of the High Court of Kerala; Learned Advocate General Sri. Gopalakrishna Kurup; Learned Additional Advocate General Sri. K.P. Jayachandran; Learned Deputy Solicitor General of India, Smt. Shalina; Director General of Prosecution, Sri. T.A. Shaji; Additional Director General of Prosecution, Sri. Gracious Kuriakose; State Attorney, Sri. M. Manoj Kumar; President, Senior Advocates' Association, Sri. Nandha Kumara Menon; Chairman, Bar Council of Kerala, Sri. Ajith T.S.; Secretary, Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, Smt. Nima Jacob; Members of the Executive Committee of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association: Smt. Kartika, President, Kerala Federation of Women Lawyers; Legal Retainer and Senior Central Government Counsel for Lakshadweep Administration, Sri. R.V. Sreejith; Respected Senior Members of the Bar; Registrar General and Registrars of this Hon'ble Court; Coordinator, High Court Mediation Centre; Court Officers and Advocate Clerks; Esteemed family members of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen; My esteemed colleagues at the Bar; My dear brothers and sisters; and all other dignitaries joining us online—Warm greetings and a very good morning to one and all.

I stand before this august gathering to welcome Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen on his assumption of office as the 40th Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala. On behalf of each and every member of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, I extend to Your Lordship a warm welcome to this prestigious and esteemed institution.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen is a distinguished jurist shaped by the rich legal traditions of the Calcutta High Court. A law graduate of the University of Calcutta, where he stood first in merit, His Lordship practised for nearly two decades at the Calcutta High Court, handling complex civil, constitutional, banking, and arbitration matters, and was designated as a Senior Advocate.

Elevated to the Bench of the Calcutta High Court in April 2011, His Lordship subsequently served as its Acting Chief Justice. In October 2025, he assumed office as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, before being appointed as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court in January 2026. His Lordship's judicial journey reflects profound legal scholarship, rich institutional experience, and an unwavering commitment to constitutional values, justice, and the rule of law.

His Lordship also distinguished himself early in life by securing individual honours at the XII All-India Moot Court Competition in 1989, and has continued to contribute to legal education as a moderator, speaker, and adjudicator in national moot court competitions and academic programmes—demonstrating a sustained engagement with the next generation of the legal profession.

We look forward to the inspiring impact of Your Lordship's leadership in addressing the concerns of the Bar and the legal fraternity. We are confident that Your Lordship's legal acumen, guided by empathy and human sensitivity, will further strengthen the justice delivery system in Kerala and ensure that all seekers of justice are served with fairness, efficiency, and grace.

It is also heartening to note the strong family values cherished by His Lordship. The gracious presence of His Lordship's 96-year-old father Sri Sailen Sen, in this solemn occasion, witnessing his son assume charge as the Chief Justice of this Hon'ble Court, is a moment of pride not only for the family but also for this institution. I also extend a heartfelt and warm welcome to Mrs. Sharmila Sen and the esteemed members of the family who are present on this solemn occasion. We, the members of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, the Clerks' Association, the staff, and the entire legal fraternity, wholeheartedly and warmly welcome, with great hope and expectation, our 40th Chief Justice. We look forward to thoughtful reforms and forward-looking initiatives, supported by appropriate technological innovation, under Your Lordship's leadership—endeavors that will strengthen our institutions.

With these words, I once again extend our heartfelt welcome to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Soumen Sen and assure Your Lordship of the Bar's fullest cooperation. We look forward to a constructive and enriching association in the pursuit of justice.

Apnader uposthitir jonyo dhanyabaad.

(Thank you all for your presence.)

Speech by the Honourable Mr. Justice A.K. Jayasankaran Nambiar.

The Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Brother and Sister Judges of this Court, the learned Advocate General Sri.Gopalakrishna Kurup K., Sri. Peeyus A Kottam, President of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association, Former Judges of this Court present here, Mr. Sailen Sen, father of the Chief Justice, Mrs. Sharmila Sen, the wife and other family members of the Chief Justice, Officials of the Meghalaya High Court, Registrars and staff of this Court, the Law Officers of the Union and State Government, Advocate Clerks, esteemed members of the bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are gathered here today to accord a warm welcome to Justice Soumen Sen who was sworn in as the 40th Chief Justice of this Court on 10.01.2026. Justice Sen comes to this august institution with a distinguished judicial legacy, shaped by years of exemplary service in the venerable judicial tradition of Kolkata, a city renowned not only as a cradle of constitutional thought but also as a beacon of legal scholarship and judicial independence in our country. He is an accomplished jurist known for his expertise in constitutional law, civil and commercial disputes. In the past year, he also had the good fortune to function as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Kolkata and the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya, a State whose natural beauty is comparable to that of ours. The rich experience, intellectual depth and unwavering commitment to justice that he brings are a source of great pride and reassurance to all of us. On a personal note, I feel privileged to welcome an old and dear friend to our midst. Borrowing a line from Shakespeare's "*Antony and Cleopatra*", I often say in jest that "age has not withered him". To us friends he was old, withered and wise even in his younger days.

Justice Sen, the High Court of Kerala has earned strong public trust by consistently upholding constitutional values, protecting fundamental rights and ensuring transparent and accessible justice. Through timely interventions on issues of public interest, proactive *suo motu* cases and the effective use of technology to improve court access and efficiency, this Court has strengthened citizens' confidence in the rule of law. Its commitment to judicial independence, accountability and sensitivity to social and environmental concerns has reinforced its role as a vital democratic institution that serves the people with fairness and integrity. Similar has been the trajectory of the District Judiciary in the State that is noted for the significant presence of women judges holding key administrative and presiding roles.

The Bar of the Kerala High Court is renowned for its rich traditions, intellectual rigor, and unwavering commitment to the rule of law. The advocates are known for their legal scholarship, ethical standards and powerful advocacy. They have played a pivotal role in shaping constitutional and administrative jurisprudence in the State.

The strong culture of mentorship, collegiality, and public service at the Bar has not only produced eminent jurists and judges, but has also upheld the highest ideals of the legal profession, contributing significantly to the prestige and effectiveness of this Court.

This institution now has the privilege of being guided by your leadership at a time when the role of the judiciary is more vital than ever in upholding the rule of law, protecting fundamental rights and strengthening public confidence in the justice delivery system. On behalf of my brother and sister judges, the bar and all stakeholders of the legal fraternity in Kerala, I extend a heartfelt welcome to you. We look forward to an era of judicial excellence, administrative wisdom and continued commitment to the highest ideals of justice under your stewardship.

Thank you. Jai Hind.

Reply speech by the Honourable the Chief Justice Mr. Justice Soumen Sen.

“Namaskaram”

Brother Justice Nambiar, My Esteemed Brother and Sister Judges, Former Judges of this Court, Sri. K. Gopalakrishna Kurup, the learned Advocate General, Smt. O.M. Salina, the learned Deputy Solicitor General of India, Sri. Ajith T.S., Chairman, Bar Council of Kerala, Sri. Peeyus A. Kottam, President, Kerala High Court Advocates’ Association, President, Senior Advocates’ Association, President, Kerala Federation of Women Lawyers, Senior and Junior Members of the Bars, Registrar General and Members of the Registry, Members of the Advocates’ Clerks’ Association, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Ellavarkkum Sukamanennu Karuthunnu”

2. I do not have words to express my gratitude for the kind words spoken about me by Brother Justice Jayasankaran Nambiar, the learned Advocate General, and the President of the Kerala High Court Advocates’ Association.

3. I started my journey from the Gangetic West Bengal, Cauldron of culture, to Meghalaya, the abode of clouds, and now I am in the “God’s Own Country”.

4. It has been a long journey for me, and I have enjoyed every moment of my life wherever I travelled in the discharge of my judicial functions.

5. The life is a journey in which one has to pass through various phases. The life is a continuous flux of motion, however, the life must move on. With a deep sense of gratitude to the Collegium and the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, it is with deep humility and profound sense of responsibility that I stand before

you today, having been entrusted with the honour of serving as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala. I am conscious that this Court, with its rich legacy of jurisprudence and its unwavering commitment to justice, has long been a beacon of constitutional values in our nation.

6. Kerala is a land renowned for its culture, literacy, and social progress. The High Court here has consistently reflected those values in its judgments—upholding the rights of the marginalized, safeguarding liberties, and ensuring that the majesty of law remains a shield for the people. To join this institution is to join a tradition of excellence, integrity, and service.

7. I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of my predecessors, whose wisdom and dedication have strengthened this Court. Their work inspires me to carry forward the mission of justice with fairness, compassion, and efficiency.

8. While the halls of justice are often seen as rigid and tradition-bound, the Kerala High Court has proven itself to be a vibrant laboratory of judicial innovation.

9. The Bench and the Bar of Kerala High Court enjoy an unrivalled reputation for deep legal knowledge, impeccable integrity—sound without flamboyance, ‘neat but not gaudy’, to borrow Lord Denning’s phrase.

10. Great Judges have adorned the Bench. Outstanding lawyers have stood and argued here. Their contribution to the development of law has been magnificent. They were known for their “unselfish reading”, that is reading for its own sake, in the pursuit of knowledge and keeping the silver lamp of learning trim and bright.

11. The State of Kerala functioned as a “jurisprudential laboratory”, where the collision of radical land reforms with fundamental rights necessitated the birth of the Basic Structure Doctrine. Furthermore, the unique “Kerala Legal Tradition”—characterised by the dominance of equity over form—produced jurists like Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice K.K. Mathew, who redefined the relationship between the State and the citizen.

12. The trajectory of Indian constitutionalism, from the rigid formalism of Shankari Prasad to the dynamic “Basic Structure” of Kesavananda Bharati, and finally to the “poverty jurisprudence” of the PIL era, represents a triumph of judicial statesmanship. The Kerala Legal Tradition, with its unique blend of social reformist history and high literacy, acted as a catalyst for this national transformation.

13. Judges hailing from Kerala or serving in the Kerala High Court have left an indelible mark on Indian Constitutional Law. Their contributions centering on social justice, human rights, and expanding the scope of the Constitution to protect the common citizen.

14. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, widely regarded as the “People’s Judge”, took the law out of leather-bound books and brought it to the streets. He gave us the philosophy of “Bail, not Jail.” He taught us that even a prisoner has a right to human dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. He turned the courtroom into a place where the poor and the marginalized finally had a voice. Justice Iyer revolutionized Indian law by interpreting the Constitution as a “living document” aimed at advancing social justice and human dignity.

15. Justice Iyer’s tenure in the Hon’ble Supreme Court fundamentally reshaped Indian environmental law by championing “environmental justice” through the pillars of distributive and procedural equity. His most transformative contribution, the **Ratlam Municipal Council v. Shri Vardhichand’s** case, established that the “polluter pays” principle is central to Indian law, asserting that industries cannot profit at the expense of public health. In this landmark ruling, he famously held that a Government body’s “financial problems” or “poverty” provide no legal excuse for failing to perform public duties like sanitation and drainage.

16. While Justice Iyer provided the activist spirit, Justice K.K. Mathew provided the intellectual scaffolding for the modern administrative state. He is acclaimed as the Cardozo of India. His minority judgment in *Kesavananda Bharati’s case* is considered a classic. Similarly his dissents in this Court in **Narayanan Nambiar v E.M.S Namboodiripad**, 1968 K.L.T. 299 (324) re: contempt and in **V. Punnan Thomas v State of Kerala**, A.I.R. 1969 Ker. 81 (86) re: distribution of largesse are considered to be masterpieces.

17. Although he dissented in *Kesavananda Bharati* regarding the extent of amending power—arguing for “generational sovereignty” and warning against binding future generations to the views of the past—his contributions to administrative law were foundational.

18. Justice Mathew is the architect of the “instrumentality or agency” test developed in **Sukhdev Singh v. Bhagat Ram (1975)**. He expanded the definition of “State” under Article 12 to include public sector corporations that perform public functions or are under deep state control. In his separate concurring opinion, he introduced a key test: that significant financial support and an unusual degree of state control over an entity could render it “State” for constitutional purposes.

19. The contributions of the Kerala High Court extend beyond individual luminaries to a consistent institutional ethos that balances religious freedom with secular equality and adapts constitutional rights to the digital age. It has been a pioneer in dismantling the barriers of the past. It gave us Justice Anna Chandy, the first woman High Court Judge in India in 1959, proving early on that the scales of

justice must be held by diverse hands.

20. This land has also given the first woman Judge of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Justice M. Fathima Beevi, proving that the highest halls of justice belong to everyone. She was the first woman Judge appointed to the Kerala High Court in 1983 and later became the first woman Judge of the Supreme Court of India in 1989. Her career was defined by an unwavering commitment to the rule of law and her pioneering role in breaking gender barriers within the legal system.

21. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, who belonged to a backward community, was the first Judge from Kerala to become the Chief Justice of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. His tenure, lasting more than three years, was one of the longest in the Supreme Court. He championed the right to education, ensuring that the light of knowledge reaches every child.

22. The role of media in democracy has been lucidly explained by the Full Bench of this Court in **Dejo Kappan v. Deccan Herald (2024 S.C.C. OnLine Ker 6494)**. This Court has emphasised that while a free press is essential in democracy and plays a critical role in informing the public, it has a constitutional duty to report accurately and responsibly and must refrain from declaring guilt or innocence before judicial determination thereby reminding the media that their conduct must align with the constitutional values and cannot infringe on others' rights.

23. As the Chief Justice, my foremost duty will be to uphold the independence of the judiciary and to ensure that justice is accessible, timely, and meaningful. We must continue to embrace technology, strengthen judicial infrastructure, and promote transparency in our processes. Equally important is the need to nurture harmony between the Bench and the Bar, for together we form the pillars upon which justice rests.

24. I am mindful of the challenges before us—docket explosion, the need for greater outreach, and the imperative of balancing tradition with innovation. Yet I am confident that with the collective wisdom of this Court, the dedication of our judicial officers, and the cooperation of the Bar, we shall meet these challenges efficiently and effectively.

25. Let us reaffirm today our shared commitment: that justice shall not only be done but shall be seen to be done, in every courtroom, for every citizen, without fear or favour.

26. I look forward to working with each of you in strengthening this great institution and in serving the people of Kerala with dignity and fairness.

Thank you. Namaste. Jai Hind.
