

FULL COURT REFERENCE HELD IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025, ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT RAWAL.

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 Amit Rawal; 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 HighCourt 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 this Bar; Esteemed Lawyers of Punjab and Haryana High Court; Registrar General, Registrars and Staff of the High Court; Staff of the Advocate General's Office; Advocate Clerks; Family Members of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amit Rawal; All other dignitaries joining online;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We all have assembled here today to bid a respectful and solemn farewell to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amit Rawal, a scholarly jurist par excellence, who is hanging his robes as

a Judge of this Honourable Court on 21st day of September, 2025, upon attaining the age of superannuation.

My Lord was born on 21st September, 1963, at Chandigarh, to Dr. Om Prakash Rawal and (Late) Smt. Tripta Rawal. After completing schooling at Government Senior Model School, Chandigarh and graduating from DAV College, Chandigarh, you pursued law at Panjab University, successfully completing the degree in law in 1986.

On 7th September, 1986, My Lord enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana. In the course of practice, you handled a wide spectrum of cases ranging from civil disputes and matrimonial causes to company law issues as well as constitutional matters. This diversity of work contributed immensely to your depth of knowledge and versatility in law. Your clientele included the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana. You served with distinction as Additional Advocate General, Punjab.

In recognition of your professional eminence, My Lord was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in May, 2012. The Chandigarh Tribune, while commenting on the then list of senior designations, made a special mention of you, indicating your distinct journey as one who chartered an independent path in law, though hailing from a family of doctors. So said Chandigarh Tribune dated 10th of May, 2012 about you: *“Amit Rawal is the only black coat among whites. Belonging to the family of doctors, he did his law from Panjab University in 1986 and has been dealing with civil, rent and corporate matters.”*

On 25th September, 2014, My Lord was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and was appointed as a Permanent Judge on 23rd May, 2016. During your tenure as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, you displayed remarkable industry, disposing of nearly 17,965 cases as a Single Judge and contributing to the disposal of 1,658 matters in Division Benches. You rendered notable judgments in multifarious cases arising out of diverse subjects like Constitutional Law, Land Laws, Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, Companies Act, 2013, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1998, Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Civil Procedure Code, 1908, SARFAESI Act, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 etc, deciding hundreds of hitherto undecided legal principles. Your tenure at Punjab and Haryana High Court also saw you rendering valuable service as a member of important Committees therein, including the Rules Committee under the Code of Civil Procedure, the Protocol Committee, the Arbitration Committee under the Chandigarh Arbitration Centre Rules, the Service Appeal Committee, and the Building Committee.

Upon transfer to the High Court of Kerala, My Lord was sworn in on 12th November, 2019. You were the fourth Judge from Punjab and Haryana High Court to adorn the Bench of this Hon'ble Court, the earlier three being Justice Jawaharlal Gupta, Justice Navdeep Kumar Sodhi and Justice Vinod Kumar Bali, all of whom were Chief Justices of this Hon'ble Court.

In this Hon'ble Court also, your hallmark of diligence continued unabated, with disposal of nearly 12,500 cases. You thus stand as a shining example of efficiency, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the dispensation of justice.

I have had opportunities to appear before My Lord in this Court in very many matters. These were occasions wherein I could witness first-hand your flashes of brilliants and the panache with which you handled basic legal principles and tenets of constitution law.

My Lord's judicial life has been guided not only by your love for law, but also by a sense of higher duty to society. An illustration of this is your inspiring address on the International Day for the Girl Child in 2015, wherein it was emphasised that empowerment of young girls was central to the progress of the nation. You concluded quoting the following words of Napoleon Bonaparte: "*Give me good mothers, and I shall give you a great nation.*" Such reflections demonstrate a vision that transcends the law, rooted in social justice and equality.

My Lord's interests beyond the law are equally noteworthy. Fond of cricket, you have taken the field in several friendly matches among Judges and in veteran tournaments. Equally keen on golf, you have actively participated in league and alumni tournaments at Chandigarh, and even presided over the conduct of an All India Golf Tournament at Kochi in 2024. You are also a gifted singer. These pursuits reflect a wholesome personality that blends the rigour of judicial duty with the grace of sportsmanship and artistic talent.

My Lord is blessed with a devoted family. Your wife, Smt. Meenakshy Rawal, is a practising psychological counsellor. The family is further adorned by a son, Shri. Tushan Rawal, Advocate at Delhi, and a daughter, Ms. Tanvi Rawal, Creative Director and Stylist at Delhi, both of whom excelling in their respective spheres.

My Lord, the true measure of a judge's career is the dignity with which they depart the bench. You have done so, leaving behind a legacy that will endure. Your judicial journey has been a masterclass in erudition and tireless devotion to duty.

It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad, and I'd much rather say hello; hello to a new venture. My Lord, your undying passion for the law is well known and true to this commitment, even after demitting judicial office, you intend to remain associated with the law by resuming practice before the Supreme Court of India. As you lay down the robes of judicial office and resumes practice, I, on behalf of the entire Bar of Kerala, extend heartfelt felicitations and warmest wishes. On behalf of all present, I convey our profound gratitude for My Lord's distinguished service to the cause of justice. May your future be blessed with good health, happiness, and continued accomplishments.

Jai Hind

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

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nitin Jamdar, Chief Justice, Hon'ble

Mr. Justice Amit Rawal, 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 and Family members of Justice Amit Rawal, Advocates Clerks and my Colleagues at the Bar, my brothers and sisters.

Today as we gather to bid farewell to Justice Amit Rawal on his retirement from the Kerala High Court, we acknowledge his distinguished career and invaluable contributions to the Indian judiciary. We reflect on a journey marked by dedication, judicial courage, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Born on September 21, 1963, he graduated from DAV College, Chandigarh, in 1983. He obtained his law degree from Punjab University, Chandigarh and enrolled as a member of the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana in 1986.

Justice Rawal began his professional journey representing the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana in the High Court and other institutions, quickly establishing himself as a formidable legal mind. His legal scholarship spans diverse areas of law, demonstrating remarkable versatility and deep understanding of complex legal principles. His expertise and dedication to law were

formally recognized when he was designated as Senior Advocate on May 8, 2012 - a testament to his exceptional skills and contributions to the legal profession. Justice Rawal was appointed as an additional Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 25-09-2014 and served there until his transfer to the Kerala High Court in November, 2019. This transfer brought fresh perspectives and enriched the judicial discourse in Kerala.

Justice Rawal's judicial tenure has been marked by several significant judgments that have contributed meaningfully to Indian jurisprudence. The defining element of Justice Rawal's tenure was the Judicial courage he demonstrated consistently.

One of Justice Rawal's most impactful contributions lies in the area of motor vehicle accident compensation. He delivered a landmark judgment that fundamentally changed how medical expenses are assessed under Section 163A of the Motor Vehicles Act. Justice Rawal courageously deviated from the statutory formula and eloquently stated: "Judiciary cannot be a partner in slumber of the legislature," establishing a precedent that courts must ensure just compensation despite legislative inaction.

During his tenure at the Kerala High Court, Justice Rawal has presided over numerous cases with wisdom, fairness, and judicial temperance. His approach to justice has been characterized by meticulous attention to detail, deep legal scholarship, and a commitment to upholding the rule of law. Justice Rawal's tenure at the Kerala High Court has been equally distinguished, marked by several landmark judgments that have addressed contemporary

legal challenges with wisdom and judicial courage.

Justice Rawal, heading a Division Bench, handled one of the most sensitive and tragic cases involving the death of student Sidharthan due to alleged ragging. The Division Bench upheld the university's decision to expel and debar the students involved, finding it proper and proportionate to the gravity of the offence. Justice Rawal's approach balanced the need for justice for the deceased student's family while ensuring procedural fairness for the accused.

Justice Rawal with his boldness and Judicial courage granted relief to hundreds of innocent depositors who invested their life savings in Cooperative Societies operating rampantly in Kerala as 'banks'. He ensured many of the victims got at least a part of the monies invested and brought the perpetrators to Justice. Justice Rawal delivered a comprehensive judgment on the constitutional validity of term restrictions for cooperative society committee members. His judgment demonstrated deep constitutional analysis, holding that "the right to contest an election is a statutory right and not a common law right" and that such restrictions serve public interest by preventing vested interests and misappropriation in societies handling public deposits. He also addressed surcharge orders under the Kerala Local Fund Audit Act, establishing important precedents for financial accountability in local governance. His cooperative society judgment reflects deep concern for institutional integrity and public trust, recognizing that financial institutions handling public deposits require higher standards of governance.

Whether dealing with student safety versus educational rights, or institutional autonomy versus

regulatory oversight, Justice Rawal has demonstrated remarkable ability to balance competing legitimate interests while upholding the rule of law. Justice Rawal believed that law must evolve to meet contemporary social needs and has consistently chosen substance over form, justice over technicality. Throughout his career, Justice Rawal has shown that law must serve human dignity and welfare.

Justice Rawal's judgments consistently reflect three key characteristics: meticulous legal research, compassionate understanding of human circumstances, and unwavering commitment to justice over rigid procedural compliance.

Justice Rawal's career spans decades of dedicated service, first as a practicing advocate and later as a distinguished member of the judiciary. His journey from a young law graduate in Chandigarh to a respected High Court Judge represents not just personal achievement, but also embodies the ideals of hard work, continuous learning, and steadfast commitment to justice.

On behalf of the entire legal community, the Kerala High Court Advocates Association extend our heartfelt gratitude to Justice Rawal for his years of dedicated service. As you embark on this new chapter in your life, we wish you good health, happiness, and fulfilment.

The gratitude of the Bar will be incomplete if we forget to thank Mrs. Meenakshi

Rawal who have been with you throughout your Journey. Thank you mam for your sacrifices that enabled him and empowered him to discharge his duties.

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

Brother Justice Amit Rawal, My Esteemed Sister and Brother Judges, Former Judges of this Court, The Advocate General law officers of the State, Union of India and the 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. Meenakshy Rawal and family members of Justice Rawal, Members of the Advocates' Clerks' Association,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we have assembled here to bid Farewell to one of our colleagues on the Bench - Justice Amit Rawal. After more than five years in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana and almost six years in this Court, Justice Rawal will be demitting office on attaining the age of superannuation.

Justice Rawal was born on 21st September 1963 at Chandigarh. He received his schooling from Government Senior Model School, Chandigarh and completed his graduation from DAV College, Chandigarh in the year 1983. He obtained his degree in Law from the Punjab University in 1986. Thereafter, he enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana on 7th September, 1986.

Justice Rawal was the first in his family to enter the legal profession and with hard work established himself as a distinguished legal professional. Over the course of his career, as an Advocate he appeared in cases in various fields including

civil law, property law, matrimonial law, company law, rent control and various other jurisdictions involving intricate questions of law.

As an Advocate, Justice Rawal represented the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, as well as several other esteemed institutions in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. Justice Rawal was designated as a Senior Advocate on 8 May, 2012.

Justice Rawal also served as the Additional Advocate General for the State of Punjab.

In recognition of his legal acumen and dedication to the profession, Justice Rawal was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 25th September 2014.

He was later confirmed as a Permanent Judge on 23rd May 2016.

Justice Rawal assumed charge as a Judge of the Kerala High Court on 12 November 2019.

In this Court, Justice Rawal dealt with cases in various jurisdictions, including Writ petitions, Writ appeals, Land acquisition appeals, Matrimonial appeals etc.

His Judgements are progressive and had a far reaching impact, such as the one deciding the constitutional validity of term limitation of credit Societies and the interpretation of High Tide Line and the Coastal Regulation Zones in Kerala.

On the Administrative side of the High Court, Justice Rawal contributed as the Chairman and member of several committees.

More particularly the Administrative Committee, Library Committee and Committee to periodically oversee the progress of the cases under special Acts. Justice Rawal was also on the Board of Governors, of the Kerala State Mediation and Conciliation Centre.

Justice Rawal is a keen sportsman with a passion for Golf and Cricket. Justice Rawal's contribution to this court on the judicial as well as administrative side will always be valued.

It must be mentioned that his contribution to this Institution was possible with the steadfast support of his family. Acknowledgements and gratitude are due to his wife, Mrs. Meenakshy Rawal, daughter Tanwi Rawal and son Tushan Rawal for their valuable support in enabling Justice Rawal to discharge his duties as a Judge of this Court.

Brother Justice Rawal is now set to embark on the next stage of his journey. On behalf of my sister and brother Judges and on my behalf, I wish him good luck for his future endeavours and the very best in life.

Thank you.

- - - -

Reply speech by the Honourable the Mr. Justice Amit Rawal.

Honourable the Chief Justice Nithin Jamdar, Esteemed brother and sister Judges, Distinguished former Judges of this Court, Mr Gopalakrishna Kurup K, Advocate General, Mr Gopakumar G, Registrar General, Other Registrars of the Registry, Mrs Jubiya, Director of Arbitration Centre, The Law Officers of the State and Union of India, Mr

T.S.Ajith, Chairman, Bar Council of Kerala, Mr. Yaswanth Shenoy, President of Kerala Advocates Bar Association Mrs S. Karthika, President of the Kerala Federation of Women Lawyers. Senior Advocates, Members of the Bar, Members of the Advocates' Clerks Association, Staffs of the High Court, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very warm Good Evening to all.

I am deeply grateful to all the esteemed orators for their generous words. Your presence here today is a testament to the bonds we have forged over the years, and it fills me with immense warmth and gratitude.

As I begin my address, I would be remiss if I do not first acknowledge the land that has been my home for the past 5 years—God's Own Country, Kerala. I owe a debt of gratitude that words can scarcely express.

As I stand here today, on the threshold of retirement, I am filled with a deep sense of humility, gratitude, and reflection. The robe I wear today carries not just the weight of the law, but the memories, duties, and emotions of over a decade spent in service to justice.

It seems like just yesterday that I took my oath at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, where I had the privilege of beginning my judicial journey. The Punjab and Haryana High Court — my parent High Court — will always remain the cradle of my judicial journey. The values, mentorship, and memories I gathered within those court rooms laid the foundation for everything that followed in my judicial journey. Those formative five years in Chandigarh were marked by rigorous learning, spirited

advocacy, and the ever-present responsibility to uphold the majesty of the Constitution. It was there that I first understood that being a judge is not simply about interpreting the law, but about delivering justice with compassion, integrity, and a conscience that never sleeps. Though I retire today from the Kerala High Court, with deep gratitude for this chapter, my heart bows in reverence to the court where it all began. Punjab and Haryana High Court will forever be the beating heart of my judicial journey — my first calling, my foundation, my forever home.

In 2019, when I was transferred to the Kerala High Court, I stepped into unfamiliar linguistic, cultural, and judicial terrain. But what I found here was not foreign — it was a warm embrace. The Kerala Bar, the Bench, and the entire judicial fraternity welcomed me not as an outsider, but as one of their own. As a judge from another state, one of my most cherished experiences in Kerala was participating in Onam, the festival of this land that brings everyone together. I enjoyed the rich culture of Onam and the vibrant celebrations. *ANGANE NJANUM MALAYALI AAYI. ONAM KOODI. MAVELIYE KANDU. SADHYA UND.* (malayalam). I am deeply indebted to this land for that generosity of spirit.

Serving in the Kerala High Court for the past six years has been nothing short of a privilege. Each courtroom session, each judgment written, and each interaction with the Bar has enriched me both professionally and personally. The intellectual rigor of this Bench and the erudition of the Kerala Bar have continuously challenged me to grow — and for that, I am profoundly grateful.

Kerala will always hold a very special place in my heart — not only as a significant chapter in my professional journey but also as a treasured part of my personal life.

Beyond my judicial duties, this Court has enriched me with valuable experience on the administrative side . Over the past years as a Judge, I had the privilege to hold the position as Member of Board of Governors of Kerala State Mediation and Conciliation Centre and administrative charge of the districts of Kasargod, Palakkad, Alappuzha and Ernakulam, which provided me with a valuable opportunity to assist in the efficient management of the Court.

As a guardian of justice, I am reminded that ‘Justice is not a mere abstract concept, but a living, breathing reality that must be accessible to all, without distinction or discrimination.’ I hope that every judgment i delivered reflected the unwavering commitment to equality, as enshrined in our Constitution. Ultimately, the true measure of a judiciary lies in the confidence it inspires among the people it serves. While I cannot say if I have fully succeeded in this endeavour—that is not for me to judge—I have found deep fulfillment in doing my utmost to serve justice faithfully and conscientiously. If, at any point while discharging the justice, my decisions or actions have caused unintended hardship or distress, I humbly ask for your understanding and forgiveness. My guiding principle has always been a sincere dedication to justice and an honest conscience.

To my family — words will never suffice. I hold with profound gratitude the unwavering and relentless support and love of my family, without whom this journey

would not have been possible.

My beloved parents, Sri. Om Prakash Rawal and Late.Smt.Tripti Rawal, my journey would have been impossible without the unwavering love and support of my parents, who stood by me through every triumph and trial. Though my dear mother is no longer with us, I feel her providence, which inspires me every day. Bringing my father to Kerala in his old age and seeing the pride and joy in his eyes has been one of my greatest blessings — a moment that fills my heart with profound gratitude and love. I am also deeply thankful to my in-laws, whose faith in me and steadfast support have been my anchor in life's most challenging moments. Their belief gave me strength when I needed it most, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

My dear wife, Mrs. Meenakshi Rawal, a psychologist and counsellor by profession, have been my steadfast rock and pillar of strength, especially in moments of uncertainty and transition particularly when I was transferred to Kerala, away from the familiar comforts of home . Your faith in me never wavered, even when the road ahead seemed daunting. You managed to balance your professional and personal life, responsibilities with grace, without ever adding to my pressure, making everything easier for me, by lovingly taking care of my father and children, even during my absence across the miles.

To my beloved children, Tanvi Rawal, working as Creative Director & Stylist and **Adv. Tushan Rawal**, your patience, sacrifices, and understanding have been my greatest comfort. The countless moments you left behind,

the dreams you delayed, and the times you stood silently beside me—all these sacrifices weigh deeply on my heart. You have borne my absences, my silences, and the weight of my responsibilities with grace and unwavering support. Truly, my family's love is the greatest judgment I have ever received—and the most profound blessing I could ever hope for. Whatever I have achieved, I owe it to your sacrifices.

I extend my sincere thanks to the **Hon'ble Chief Justice of this High Court** for the exemplary guidance, consistent support, and confidence in me. Your profound wisdom, effective leadership, and unwavering dedication to the rule of law have served inspiration, greatly enriching my experience on the Bench. It has been a privilege to work under your esteemed stewardship.

At this moment, I gratefully remember all the Hon'ble Chief Justices of this Court under whom I had the privilege to serve during my tenure here. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the former and present Chief Justices of the Punjab and Haryana High Court for their constant support, encouragement, and inspiration throughout my judicial journey. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping my path.

To my brother and sister judges — I am truly grateful for the collaboration, wisdom, and camaraderie we have shared. I have been truly fortunate to share the Bench with partners of extraordinary intellect, humility, and integrity. Our deliberations, our occasional disagreements, and our shared pursuit of justice have deeply enriched me. Together, we have worked tirelessly on countless matters, bound by a shared passion for upholding the rule of law. I

will always cherish the memories of our interactions, both within the solemn walls of the courtroom and beyond.

To the members of the bar comprising esteemed lawyers, I'm grateful for the experience I've had with the Kerala High Court. The bar has been incredibly accommodating and welcoming. Notably, despite the geographical differences between Punjab and Kerala, the judicial system has functioned seamlessly, upholding the principle of equal justice as enshrined in our Constitution. The preamble to our Constitution emphasizes that justice is a fundamental right, unaffected by geographical boundaries. While language presented an initial challenge, the Kerala bar successfully overcame this hurdle, ensuring that justice was delivered without any disparity. I'm humbled to have been able to contribute positively to our collective pursuit of excellence in the legal profession. The knowledge and experiences I shared, drawn from my background in the Punjab Bar, seem to have brought about some pleasant changes and left a lasting impression. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have played a part in your growth as a bar and look forward to seeing the positive impact on the future generations. Your dedication to the legal profession is inspiring, and I have no doubt that the upcoming generation of lawyers will reach new heights, driven by the foundation you've built. This experience reaffirms that justice is indeed equal across India, transcending regional differences.

Specially to the **young budding lawyers**, I want to share a part of my own journey that is very close to my heart. I come from a family of doctors, and naturally, I began on that path. I even joined medical college and performed my first dissection on a frog. But somewhere

deep inside, I realized that my calling lay elsewhere. I left medicine, pursued a degree in Arts, and eventually found my way to law—a decision filled with uncertainty and self-doubt. I was the first in my family to take this path, Where white coats mended wounds, I chose black robes to mend truth. I walked it without a roadmap. But what carried me through was a firm belief in myself and a strong will to work hard. If I could rise above fear and doubt to stand where I am today, so can each one of you. Success is not defined by where you start, but by how consistently and courageously you move forward. Believe in yourself, stay committed, work with sincerity, dream without limits. Manifest your aspirations with hard work,—and one day, you will find yourself exactly where you envisioned.

The registry, staff members and all those who work behind the scenes deserve special mention. Your work often goes unrecognized, but it is essential. 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. Specially, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Protocol Wing, led by Mr. Asok, Your meticulous coordination, tireless efforts, and steadfast commitment, ensuring everything ran seamlessly. Also, I express my profound gratitude to the PRO, Smt. Kausalya and the former PRO, Sri. Arun and the team for their consistent professionalism, diligent support, and efficient coordination throughout my tenure.

I owe a deep and lasting debt of gratitude to many. I must especially acknowledge my team. Their unwavering support and tireless efforts have been crucial to the

fulfillment of my responsibilities. I am profoundly thankful for their dedication and partnership, which have greatly contributed to the work we accomplished together.

Firstly, I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to my Private Secretary, Mrs Bindu K.K, whose professionalism, efficiency and dedication have played an important role in helping me carry out my responsibilities smoothly and effectively. Your administrative expertise have been invaluable.

At this moment, I also fondly remember my Private Secretaries in Punjab, especially late Shri.Ramesh, Shri.Pankaj, Shri.Yogesh and the Court master, Shri.Vikram Singh, who are present here today, for their sincere efforts, dedication and great assistance in the discharge of my duties.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to Smt. Aarathi M Das and Mr. Sreejith P.M, my Court Officers here, as well as Mr. Arun Mathew, my Listing Officer, for their consistent support and efficiency, which ensured the smooth and orderly functioning of my Court.

To my Personal Assistants, Smt Sabitha A.A, Smt Neethu. A.K, and Smt Vineetha V, who have provided continuous support since the outset and throughout my tenure, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their tireless efforts, unwavering support, and dedication, which have been invaluable to me throughout my tenure.

I extend my gratitude to the Research Assistants, Ms. Anjana Rose Jojo and Ms. Anagha and Pallav, whose research and insightful analysis have been a tremendous help in the performance of my judicial duties.

I also wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Escorts Officers Sri. Majunu P., Sri. Vikram Singh and Sri. Joseph for their alertness and dependable support. I thank my Protection Officers, Sri. Mukesh A.M and Sri. Arunraj P.V for their constant vigilance and dedication.

I am equally grateful to my driver, Sri. Harris, whose punctuality, and safe driving made my daily travel smooth and worry-free.

I would like to thank Smt. Prabha, Smt. Nisha, Smt. Gudiya, Smt. Molgy, Smt. Shiji, Smt. Renuka for taking care of me at my residence; Mr Felix, the caretaker at the guest house; Mr Sareesh, Mr Hari, Mr Sarath and Mr Bibin, Mr. Jerrin, Mr. Athul, Mr. Vinod, my guards. Their roles, often behind the scenes, have been invaluable to my day-to-day functioning.

My friends, relatives, advocates and staffs from Chandigarh are here in this court, today. At this moment, I remember with deep gratitude the love and effort shown by all of you who travelled all the way from Punjab to Kerala to be here for this occasion. Your presence touches me deeply and means more than words can express.

As I prepare to step away from the Bench, I do so with a full heart. There is, of course, a certain melancholy in saying goodbye to the courtroom, to the cause, and to the calling. But I leave not with sadness, but with a profound sense of fulfillment. I have tried to the best of my ability to serve the law with integrity, to uphold the dignity of this institution, and to stay true to the constitutional oath I once took with trembling hands and a resolute heart. As I move into retirement, I carry with me

not just the experience of law, but the warmth of the people, the richness of the courtrooms, and the legacy of two High Courts that gave me the honor of serving them. Justice which is not a destination, but a journey — one that must continue, stronger and more compassionate with each passing generation. To those who remain in service, may you carry forward this torch with courage, conviction, and humility.

After 11 years at the bench and at my 62, I am looking forward to rejoin the profession and start where I left, 11 years ago. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await me in my new role. Let this fresh chapter brings new opportunities and I'm looking forward to reconnecting with fellow of legal profession, sharing insights, and contributing to the growth and evolution of the law.

I bid you all a heartfelt farewell and wish you continued success and prosperity. Thank you — for the trust, for the respect, and for allowing me the privilege to serve justice in this great country.

May the light of justice never dim.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.
