

Women in the judiciary do not require reservations; Justice CS Sudha was promoted purely on the basis of merit:

Speaking at a goodbye reference for Justice CS Sudha, who was recently transferred to the Delhi High Court, was KHCAA President Yeshwanth Shenoy.

The Kerala High Court Advocates Association (KHCAA) President **Yeshwanth** Shenoy questioned calls for women's reservation in the judiciary during a Full Court Reference held at the Kerala High Court in honor of Justice Chandrasekharan Sudha, whose transfer to the Delhi High Court was recently announced.

Among those who spoke to the crowd at the occasion on Wednesday at the Chief Justice's Court Hall were Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar, Advocate General Gopalakrishnan Kurup, and KHCAA President Yeshwanth Shenoy.

In her reflections on Justice CS Sudha's career, KHCAA President Shenoy characterized her judicial path as an example of commitment, intellectual rigor, and public service.

He continued by saying that her rulings constantly respected the values of justice while continuing to be considerate of marginalized people, women, and children.

Shenoy emphasized that Justice Sudha's accomplishments were the consequence of hard effort and merit. He believed that calls to reserve positions in the judiciary for women were insulting and that it was critical to acknowledge the contributions made by women to the field.

"A discussion about women in the court and the necessity of women's reservation is always sparked by the retirement or promotion transfer of a female judge. In my opinion, it is degrading because it diminishes the accomplishments of women who have worked hard to

succeed. He stated that Justice Sudha did not require any reservations and that her perseverance and hard work were the only reasons she got to this point.

Advocate General Kurup outlined Justice Sudha's remarkable career in his speech, commended her for upholding a sensitive attitude in her rulings, and emphasized her judicial philosophy, which struck a balance between empathy and exact legal reasoning.

Along with wishing Justice Sudha well in her new role, Chief Justice Jamdar also recognized her significant contributions to the administration of justice.

During her statement, Justice Sudha thanked everyone and quoted Robert Frost to end her remarks.

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep."

Born on October 9, 1964, Justice Sudha entered the judiciary in 1995 after earning the top spot in the Kerala Judicial Service test.

Prior to receiving her LLB from Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram, she had earned her BA in Economics from Mar Ivanios College.

The Judge began practicing law at the Thiruvananthapuram District Court after enrolling as an advocate in 1989.

On October 20, 2021, she was sworn in as an Additional Judge of the Kerala High Court, and on September 5, 2023, she was promoted to Permanent Judge.

Justice Sudha held a number of judicial and administrative positions during her thirty-year career, including Registrar of the Cyber Appellate Tribunal, Assistant Controller of Investigation with the Ministry of Communication and IT, and Registrar of the Competition Appellate Tribunal and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal in New Delhi.