



## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the name of Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah, Additional Judge, High Court of Karnataka for appointment as a Permanent Judge of that High Court in the following terms:

On 06 August 2024, the Collegium of the High Court of Karnataka unanimously recommended the name of Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah, Additional Judge, High Court of Karnataka for appointment as a Permanent Judge of that High Court.

As the views of the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Karnataka have not been received, the Department of Justice has forwarded the above recommendation by invoking para 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure which provides that if the comments of the State Constitutional authorities are not received within the prescribed time-frame, it should be presumed by the Minister of Law and Justice that the Governor and the Chief Minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, we have consulted Judges of the Supreme Court who are conversant with the affairs of the High



Court of Karnataka with a view to ascertain the fitness and suitability of Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah for being appointed as a Permanent Judge.

A Committee of two Judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India in terms of the Resolution dated 26 October 2017 of the Supreme Court Collegium has assessed the judgments of Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah.

With a view to assess the merit and suitability of Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah, Additional Judge for appointment as a Permanent Judge, the Collegium has scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record, including the opinion of the consultee-Judges and the reports of the Judgment Assessment Committee.

Bearing in mind all aspects of the above proposal, the Collegium is of the considered view that Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah is suitable for appointment as a Permanent Judge of the High Court of Karnataka.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah be appointed as a Permanent Judge of the High Court of Karnataka against the existing vacancy.



The above recommendation may be processed expeditiously as the term of Mr Justice Siddaiah Rachaiah as an Additional Judge is going to expire on 7 November 2024.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

( B R Gavai ), J

15 October 2024



## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following judicial officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Kerala in the following terms:

- (i) Shri K V Jayakumar,
- (ii) Shri Muralee Krishna S,
- (iii) Shri Jobin Sebastian, and
- (iv) Shri P V Balakrishnan.

On 30 May 2024, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala made the above recommendation in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Kerala concurred with the recommendation.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the consultee-Judges in the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Kerala were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the candidates.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record, including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.



(i) **Shri K V Jayakumar** [SI No (i) above]

Two out of the three consultee-Judges have found the candidate suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The third consultee-Judge has not offered his comments upon the suitability of the candidate since the candidate is personally not known to him. However, the consultee-Judge has stated that he does not have any negative information about the candidate.

The candidate joined the Judicial Service on 1 December 2012 and he has been working as Registrar (Vigilance) in the High Court since 12 January 2022. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity.

Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judges, the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri K V Jayakumar is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.



(ii) **Shri Muralee Krishna S** [Sl No (ii) above]

Two out of the three consultee-Judges have found the candidate suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The third consultee-Judge has not offered his comments upon the suitability of the candidate since the candidate is personally not known to him. However, the consultee-Judge has stated that he does not have any negative information about the candidate.

The candidate joined the Judicial Service on 10 March 2014 and served as Judicial officer in various capacities in the State. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity.

Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judges, the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Muralee Krishna S is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(iii) **Shri Jobin Sebastian** [Sl No (iii) above]

Two out of the three consultee-Judges have found the candidate suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The third consultee-Judge



has not offered his comments upon the suitability of the candidate since the candidate is personally not known to him. However, the consultee-Judge has stated that he does not have any negative information about the candidate.

The candidate joined the Judicial Service on 10 March 2014 and he has been working as Registrar (District Judiciary) in the High Court since 4 April 2024. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. Besides, the candidate belongs to a minority community.

Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judges, the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Jobin Sebastian is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(iv) **Shri P V Balakrishnan** [Sl No (iv) above]

Two out of the three consultee-Judges have found the candidate suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The third consultee-Judge has not offered his comments upon the suitability of the candidate since the candidate is personally not known to him. However, the consultee-



Judge has stated that he does not have any negative information about the candidate.

The candidate joined the Judicial Service on 10 March 2014 and served as Judicial Officer in various capacities in the State. The Collegium has also had due regard to the track record of the officer. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity.

Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judges, the report of the Judgment Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri P V Balakrishnan is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) K V Jayakumar, (ii) Muralee Krishna S, (iii) Jobin Sebastian, and (iv) P V Balakrishnan, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Kerala.

By recommendation dated 10 October 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended names of five Judicial Officers including the name of Shri P Krishna Kumar for elevation as Judges of the High Court of Kerala. Out of these, four Judicial Officers have been appointed.





However, nothing has been intimated by the Government to the Collegium with regard to the status of Shri P Krishna Kumar. The Collegium, therefore, resolves that the four Judicial Officers whose names are recommended above shall rank, in the appointment order, below Shri P Krishna Kumar and their *inter se* seniority shall be fixed in that order.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

15 October 2024



## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Advocates for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in the following terms:

- (i) Shri Maheswara Rao Kuncham @ Kuncham,
- (ii) Shri Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar @ T C D Sekhar, and
- (iii) Shri Challa Gunaranjan.

On 15 May 2024, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the names of the above advocates for appointment as Judges of that High Court.

As the views of the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Andhra Pradesh have not been received, the Department of Justice has forwarded the above recommendation by invoking para 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure which provides that if the comments of the State Constitutional authorities are not received within the prescribed time-frame, it should be presumed by the Minister of Law and Justice that the Governor and the Chief Minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.



In order to ascertain the suitability of the above advocates for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. One of the consultee-Judges has not given his views on the suitability or otherwise regarding the candidates.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record, including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.

(i) **Shri Maheswara Rao Kuncheam @ Kuncham**

All the four consultee-Judges have given a positive opinion on the suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The candidate has a good practice at the Bar. The inputs in the file indicate that his professional competence is viewed to be good and that nothing adverse has come to notice with regard to his integrity. He has appeared/argued a number of cases which is reflected by his appearance in 136 reported judgments delivered by the High Court.

Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Maheswara Rao Kuncheam @ Kuncham is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.



**(ii) Shri Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar @ T C D Sekhar**

One of the consultee-Judges has opined that the candidate did not particularly stand out, in terms of his performance and is mediocre, at best. Three other consultee-Judges have given a positive opinion on the suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court as follows:

“An advocate having good practice, appointed Government Pleader (Commercial Tax) in 2019. He enjoys good professional image and nothing adverse has come to my notice about his integrity. In my view, he may be favourably considered for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.”

“Based on my assessment and the information available with me, in my considered opinion he can be favourably considered for such appointment.”

“Shri Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar @ T C D Sekhar has good standing and reputation at the Bar, he is a suitable candidate.”

The candidate has a practice of more than 25 years in the High Court in civil, criminal, Constitutional and taxation with specialization in taxation, revenue laws, land acquisition and civil law. He has been working as a Government Pleader (for Commercial Taxes) in the High



Court of Andhra Pradesh since 2019. The inputs provided in the file also indicate that his professional competence is viewed to be good and that nothing adverse has come to notice with regard to his integrity. Besides, he belongs to a Backward Class.

Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar @ T C D Sekhar is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

**(iii) Shri Challa Gunaranjan**

All the four consultee-Judges have given a positive opinion on the suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The candidate has an extensive practice which is reflected in his professional income of Rs. 71.74 lacs per annum and 129 reported judgments delivered in the cases in which he appeared/argued. The inputs provided in the file also indicate that his professional competence is viewed to be good and that nothing adverse has come to notice with regard to his integrity.

Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Challa Gunaranjan is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Maheswara Rao Kuncham @ Kuncham, (ii) Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar @ T C D Sekhar, and (iii) Challa Gunaranjan, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

15 October 2024