

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:

- 1. Shri Harinath Nunepally,
- 2. Smt. Kiranmayee Mandava @ Kiranmayee Kanaparthy,
- 3. Smt. Sumathi Jagadam, and
- 4. Shri Nyapathy Vijay.

On 22 February 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above Advocates as judges of that High Court. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Andhra Pradesh have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named advocates for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.



For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above-named 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 as well as the complaint(s) received against the candidates.

1. Shri Harinath Nunepally

All the consultee-judges have unanimously opined that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

2. Smt. Kiranmayee Mandava @ Kiranmayee Kanaparthy

The consultee-judges have unanimously opined that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The assessment made by the Government of India in the file does not indicate anything adverse to the integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view



that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

3. Smt. Sumathi Jagadam

All the five consultee-judges have concurred in opining that the candidate is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. Though there are certain adverse inputs placed on the file, the Collegium has duly borne in mind the assessment of the Government of India.

The candidate is a woman belonging to Scheduled Caste category. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstance, the Collegium finds the candidate suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

4. <u>Shri Nyapathy Vijay</u>

While four of the consultee-judges unanimously opined that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court, another consultee-judge, Mr Justice J K Maheshwari has not given any views on his suitability. The assessment made by the Government in the file does not indicate any observation adverse to the integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate 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 (1) Shri Harinath Nunepally, (2) Smt. Kiranmayee Mandava @ Kiranmayee Kanaparthy, (3) Smt. Sumathi Jagadam, and (4) Shri Nyapathy Vijay, 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

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023