



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Re: Appointment of Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan, Judge, Madras High Court as the Chief Justice of High Court of Meghalaya.

A vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya has arisen consequent upon the retirement of Mr Justice Sanjib Banerjee on 1 November 2023. Therefore, an appointment to that office is required to be made.

Para 3 of the Memorandum of Procedure relating to the appointment of the Chief Justice of a High Court provides as under:

“A fair representation shall be given to various High Courts for selection of Chief Justices. For purposes of such selection, inter-se seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Court. The consideration for appointment of Chief Justices shall be based on the criterion of seniority subject to merit and integrity.”

It is proposed to appoint Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya. Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan was appointed as a Judge of the Madras High Court on 25 October 2013. Before his elevation as a Judge of the High Court, he got enrolled at the Bar in 1986 and practised at the Madras High Court and various Tribunals. His area of practice was labour, service, criminal and company matters. As regards his contribution to the judiciary by way of disposal of cases, during his tenure of 10 years as a judge of the High Court, he authored 1219 reported judgments, of



which 692 were delivered during last 5 years. He has acquired considerable experience in dispensing justice in one of the largest High Courts in the country. He is the seniormost puisne Judge in his parent High Court. He is a competent judge with humility, judicial temperament and unimpeachable integrity. While recommending his name, the Collegium has also taken into consideration the fact that the Madras High Court which is one of the largest High Courts in the country, is presently represented by only one Chief Justice among the Chief Justices of the High Courts.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan be appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

02 November 2023.