



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