



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of three Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the Madras High Court in the following terms:

- (i) Ms R Poornima,
- (ii) Shri M Jothiraman, and
- (iii) Dr (Smt) Augustine Devadoss Maria Clete.

On 23 April 2024, the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above-named Judicial Officers.

We have duly taken note of the views of the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Tamil Nadu.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted a Judge of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the Madras High Court.



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.

(i) **Ms R Poornima** [Sl No (i) above]

Our consultee-colleague has found the candidate suitable to be elevated as a Judge of the Madras High Court, observing that Ms R Poornima is known for her integrity. 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 her integrity. The candidate joined the Judicial Service as a District Judge in February 2011 and served in various capacities in the State. Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judge, 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 Ms R Poornima is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the Madras High Court.

(ii) **Shri M Jothiraman** [Sl No (ii) above]

Our consultee-colleague has found the candidate, who is presently working as Registrar General of the Madras High Court, suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court, as he is an honest, upright and balanced judge. 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. The candidate joined the Judicial Service as a District Judge in February 2011. Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judge, 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 M Jothiraman is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the Madras High Court.

(iii) **Dr (Smt) Augustine Devadoss Maria Clete** [Sl No (iii) above]

Our consultee-colleague is of the opinion that the candidate has sufficient experience and knowledge and she is suitable to be elevated as a Judge of the High Court. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the professional competence of the candidate is viewed to be good and that nothing adverse has come to notice against her integrity. The candidate joined the Judicial Service as a Civil Judge (Junior Division) in 1995 and was promoted as a District Judge in 2013. Her elevation would enhance the representation of minorities on the Bench of the Madras High Court. Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judge, 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 Dr (Smt) Augustine Devadoss Maria Clete is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the Madras High Court.



While considering the above proposal, we have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of some senior judicial officers. Cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names. We are, therefore, in agreement with the High Court Collegium for overlooking them.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that (i) Ms R Poornima, (ii) Shri M Jothiraman, and (iii) Dr (Smt) Augustine Devadoss Maria Clete, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the Madras High Court.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

10 September 2024