

## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh is vacant, consequent upon the retirement of Mr Justice Amjad A Sayed. Appointment to that office is required to be made.

Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on 29 June 2012. On the bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh he opted for Telangana as his parent High Court. He is functioning on transfer as a judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana since 12 October 2021. He is the senior-most among puisne judges originating from the High Court for the State of Telangana. The State of Telangana has no representation among Chief Justices of the High Courts. Justice M S Ramachandra Rao has acquired experience of dispensing justice in two High Courts. Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that he is suitable in all respects for being appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, consultation has been held with the consultee-Judge/s with a view to ascertain the suitability of Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao for appointment as Chief Justice of the

High Court of Himachal Pradesh. The consultee-Judge/s have concurred with the proposed appointment.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao be appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J.

( K.M. Joseph ), J.

19 April 2023.

