

## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

**Re: Filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court.**

Against the sanctioned strength of 31 Judges, the Supreme Court of India is presently functioning with 25 Judges, leaving six clear vacancies. The Collegium met today to consider filling up of these vacancies and after extensive discussion and deliberations unanimously resolves to fill up, for the present, two of these vacancies.

The Collegium discussed names of Chief Justices and senior puisne High Court Judges eligible for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Collegium considers that at present Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph, who hails from Kerala High Court and is currently functioning as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court, is more deserving and suitable in all respects than other Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of High Courts for being appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court of India.

While recommending the name of Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph, the Collegium has taken into consideration combined seniority on all-India basis of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of High Courts, apart from their merit and integrity.

Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph was appointed as a Judge of the Kerala High Court on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 and was elevated as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2014 and since

then has been functioning there. He stands at Sl. No.45 in the combined seniority of High Court Judges on all-India basis.

We have also considered the names of eminent members of the Bar. In our considered opinion, at present, Ms. Indu Malhotra, Senior Advocate, is eminently suitable for being appointed as a Judge in the Supreme Court.

We, therefore, recommend that Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph, Chief Justice, Uttarakhand High Court and Ms. Indu Malhotra, Senior Advocate, be appointed as Judges in the Supreme Court of India.

In view of the foregoing, the Collegium resolves to recommend that appointments be made in the following order:

1. Mr. Justice K.M. Joseph,
2. Ms. Indu Malhotra, Senior Advocate

( Dipak Misra ), C.J.I.

( J. Chelameswar ), J.

( Ranjan Gogoi ), J.

( Madan B. Lokur ), J.

( Kurian Joseph ), J.

New Delhi,  
January 10, 2018.

