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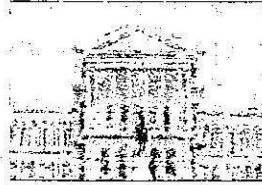
ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Court matter

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 20/5/2020

Krishna Bhat finally appointed as judge of K'taka HC

He will hold office
for two years

NEW DELHI, DHNS



An order has finally been issued on the appointment of judicial officer P Krishna Bhat as an additional judge of the Karnataka High Court, after years of wavering by the Union government.

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice on Monday night issued the notification, appointing him for two years as the additional judge of the high court.

"In exercise of power under Article 224 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Bhat to be an additional judge of the Karnataka High Court, for two years with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," it stated.

The Centre has last week cleared the file on the elevation of judicial officer Bhat.

Born in 1960, he would have a tenure of just two years as a judge of the high court.

The Centre has been sitting over the file on Bhat for quite some time, apparently because of allegations made by a woman judge.

The Supreme Court Collegium had on October 15, 2019, rejected the Centre's second

request for reconsideration, rarely made in case of judges appointment.

The Collegium had then asked the Centre to process "most expeditiously" the recommendation, made twice earlier for the elevation of Bhat as a judge of the Karnataka High Court. The Collegium had first recommended his name way back in August 2016. It was reiterated on April 6, 2017.

However, the Union government still sought reconsideration of the proposal, which was seen as "interference into the appointment of judges".

In a hard-hitting letter to the then CJI and all judges, Justice J Chelameswar (since retired) had in March 2018 questioned the government's act of writing a letter directly to the Karnataka High Court's then chief justice Dinesh Maheshwari, now a Supreme Court judge, who had ordered an enquiry on some "old allegations" against Bhat by the woman judge.

He had asked the CJI to convene a full court to discuss "government's interference" in the appointment of judges to the high courts.