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Ball set rolling for Ramana to take over as next CJI

In-house panel of Supreme Court dismisses AP CM Jagan's charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

WITH just a month left for his retirement, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde has recommended the name of Justice N V Ramana as his successor.

Parallely, an in-house inquiry against Justice Ramana following a complaint by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy on allegedly manipulating the Andhra Pradesh High Court's roster to lean towards the Telugu Desam Party and its supremo N Chandrababu Naidu, was dismissed, paving the way for his appointment as the new CJI.

A bland statement issued by the Supreme Court said: "A complaint dated 6th October, 2020 sent by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Supreme Court was dealt with under the In-House Procedure

and the same, on due consideration, stands dismissed. It must be noted that all the matters dealt with under the In-House Procedure being strictly confidential in nature, are not liable to be made public."

Among other allegations in Jagan's letter to CJI Bobde was the influencing of the Andhra High Court to stay a probe into an FIR filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau against former Ad-

vocate General Dammalapati Srinivas and 12 others, including his (Justice Ramana's) two daughters, in the Amaravati land scam.

With CJI Bobde sending the recommendation letter, Justice Ramana is now in line to

be appointed as the 48th CJI. He is expected to take over as topmost judge of the land on April 24 and will retire on August 26, 2022. Only twice so far, the set procedure was not followed — first when Justice A N Ray was appointed the CJI on April 25, 1973 superseding three senior-most judges and next when Justice M H Beg was appointed the CJI on January 29, 1977 superseding Justice H R Khanna.

Justice Ramana was appointed permanent judge of the Andhra High Court on June 27, 2000 and functioned as Acting Chief Justice of Andhra High Court from March 10, 2013 to May 20, 2013. Appointed as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on September 2, 2013, Justice Ramana was elevated as a judge of the SC on February 17, 2014.

The call of convention

As per convention, the CJI recommends the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court as his successor. The law minister puts it before the Prime Minister who advises the President on such appointments



Justice N V Ramana