



Asian Age, Delhi

Monday, 18th March 2019; Page: 1

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Ex-SC judge P.C. Ghose is likely to be first Lokpal

**AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, MARCH 17**

Former Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose is likely to be appointed as India's first Lokpal, an anti-corruption ombudsman. Justice Ghose, 66, retired as a Supreme Court judge in May 2017. He is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 29, 2017.



Ghosh

Sources said his name was understood to have been in active consideration by the Lokpal selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There was no official announcement of his appointment by the government. His appointment, if made, may trigger a political storm as Congress leader Mallikarjun

Kharge had boycotted the panel's meet on Friday.

The law envisaging the appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against some categories of public servants was passed on 2013. The development comes a week after the Supreme Court asked attorney-general K.K. Venugopal to inform it within 10 days of a possible date for the meeting

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Ghose to be 1st Lokpal

■ Continued from Page 1
of the selection panel. A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna was on March 7 told by Mr Venugopal that the Lokpal search committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai had recommended three panels of names to the selection committee for appointment of the chairperson, judicial and non-judicial members in the anti-graft body. The attorney-general had told the bench that he would ask the secretary of the department of personnel and training to ensure that the meeting of the selection committee was convened as early as possible. The top court refused to pass directions to disclose the names in the three panels. Following the court proceedings, a meeting of the selection panel was held on Friday.

The SC on January 17 set up a February-end deadline for the Lokpal search committee to send a panel of names who could be considered for the appointment as chairman and members. A person who is or has been Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court is eligible for appointment as Lokpal.



Justice Pinaki Ghose set to be country's first Lokpal

Retired as an SC judge in 2017, is a member of NHRC

NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is said to be in active consideration for appointment as the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman.

Justice Ghose, 66, retired as a Supreme Court judge in May 2017. He is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 29, 2017.

His name for the post is understood to have been in active consideration by the Lokpal selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials said.

There was no official announcement, which, if made, may trigger a political storm as Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge had boycotted the panel's meet.

The law, which envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed in 2013.

The development comes a week after the Supreme Court asked Attorney General KK Venugopal to inform it within 10 days about a possible date for a meeting of the selection committee.



Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose

ELIGIBILITY NORMS

- A person who is or has been Chief Justice of India or SC judge is eligible for appointment as Lokpal
- There is provision for a chairperson and a maximum of 8 members in the Lokpal panel. Of these, four need to be judicial members
- Chairperson and members shall hold office for five years or till they attain 70 years of age
- Salary and allowances of the chairman will be same as that of the CJI

The Lokpal selection committee is headed by the PM and has as its members the Lok Sabha Speaker, Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House, the Chief Justice of

India or a judge of the apex court nominated by him, and an eminent jurist who could be nominated by the President or any other member.

President Ram Nath Kovind had nominated former AG Mukul Rohatgi as "eminent jurist" as the member of the panel against the vacancy arising following the death of senior advocate PP Rao.

Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge had been invited in the past meetings of the selection panel, but as a "special invitee". However, he had been refusing to attend the meeting since February last year arguing that there was no provision for a special invitee to attend such a meet.

There is no Leader of Opposition in the current Lok Sabha. A party should have at least 55 seats or 10 per cent of the strength of the Lok Sabha for its leader to get the LoP status. The Congress does not have the requisite number to qualify for it.

Meanwhile, social activist Anna Hazare said the people's movement for Lokpal, going on for 48 years now, had finally won. He has led several agitations and hunger protests. — PTI



Business Line, Delhi

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Former SC judge Ghose tipped to be India's first Lokpal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 17

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is being considered for appointment as the country's first Lokpal (anti-corruption ombudsman), officials said on Sunday.

Justice Ghose, who retired from the Supreme Court in May 2017, is a member of the National Human Rights Commission. His name is understood to be under active consideration by the Lokpal selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the officials said.

There was, however, no official announcement on his appointment by the government.

His appointment, if made by the government, may trigger a controversy as Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge had boycotted the selection panel's meet on Friday.

जस्टिस पीसी घोष हो सकते हैं देश के पहले लोकपाल

चयन समिति ने लोकपाल अध्यक्ष और सदस्यों के नाम किए फाइनल

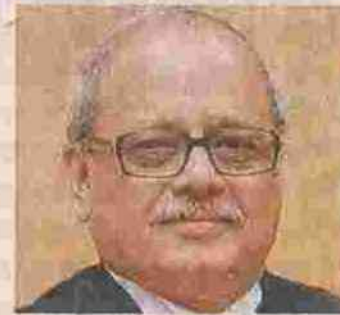
माला दीक्षित • नई दिल्ली

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश पीनाकी चंद्र घोष देश के पहले लोकपाल हो सकते हैं। लोकपाल की चयन समिति ने लोकपाल अध्यक्ष और आठ सदस्यों के नाम तय कर लिए हैं। माना जा रहा है कि समिति ने लोकपाल अध्यक्ष के लिए जस्टिस घोष का चयन किया है। जल्द ही सरकार औपचारिक घोषणा कर सकती है। जस्टिस घोष फिलहाल राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं।

लोकपाल कानून के तहत इसकी जांच के दायरे में प्रधानमंत्री भी आएंगे। लोकपाल सीबीआई समेत सभी जांच एजेंसियों को निर्देश दे सकता है। केंद्र में लोकपाल और राज्यों में लोकायुक्त सरकारी कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ भ्रष्टाचार के मामलों की जांच कर सकेंगे। पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली पांच सदस्यों की चयन समिति की बैठक 15 मार्च को हुई थी, जिसमें लोकपाल और उसके चार न्यायिक व चार गैर न्यायिक कुल आठ सदस्य चुने गए। पीएम समेत इस चयन समिति के सदस्य लोकसभा अध्यक्ष सुमित्रा महाजन, भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश रंजन गोगोई, नेता विपक्ष व कानूनविद मुकुल रोहतगी हैं। चूंकि अभी नेता विपक्ष के पद पर कोई नहीं है, इसलिए सरकार लोकसभा में कांग्रेस संसदीय दल के नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे को विशेष आमंत्रित के तौर पर बुलाती है। हालांकि, शुक्रवार को हुई चयन समिति की बैठक में खड़गे ने भाग नहीं लिया।

जस्टिस घोष का परिचय

1952 में जन्मे जस्टिस पीसी घोष (पीनाकी चंद्र घोष) पूर्व जस्टिस शंभू चंद्र घोष के बेटे हैं। 1997 में वे कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट में जज बने। दिसंबर 2012 में आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बने। 8 मार्च 2013 में वह सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश प्रोन्नत हुए और 27 मई 2017 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट न्यायाधीश पद से सेवानिवृत्त हुए।



सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश पीसी घोष

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के इन फैसलों में थे जस्टिस घोष शामिल

- अयोध्या में विवादित ढांचा ढहाने की साजिश में भाजपा, बिहिप नेताओं पर मुकदमा चलाने का आदेश
- कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट के सिटिंग जज सीएस कर्न को अवमानना नोटिस और बाद में जमानती वारंट
- पड़ोसी राज्यों से जल बंटवारा
- समझौता रद्द करने वाले पंजाब के कानून को असंवैधानिक ठहराना
- बिहार के बाहुबली मुहम्मद शाहबुद्दीन की जमानत रद्द कर जेल भेजना
- सरकारी विज्ञापनों में नेताओं के फोटो छापने पर रोक का आदेश
- तमिलनाडु में जल्लिकट्टु पर प्रतिबंध

खड़गे को नेता विपक्ष के बजाए स्पेशल इनवाइटी के तौर पर आमंत्रित किए जाने पर एतराज था। सूत्र बताते हैं कि 66 वर्षीय घोष को सर्वसम्मति से चुना गया है। लोकपाल अधिनियम को 16 जनवरी, 2014 को अधिसूचित किए जाने के पांच साल बाद जस्टिस घोष देश के पहले लोकपाल बनेंगे। लोकपाल के वेतन-भत्ते देश के मुख्य न्यायाधीश के वेतन-भत्ते जितने और सदस्यों का वेतन सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जज के वेतन जितने होते हैं। लोकपाल में अध्यक्ष व सदस्यों का पांच वर्ष या 70 वर्ष की आयु होने तक कार्यकाल होगा। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सात मार्च

को अटार्नी जनरल केके वेणुगोपाल से कहा था कि 10 दिन में बताएं कि लोकपाल की नियुक्ति के लिए चयन समिति की बैठक कब होगी।

किसी भी पूर्व चीफ जस्टिस ने नहीं किया था आवेदन : लोकपाल अध्यक्ष पद के लिए मुख्य न्यायाधीश या पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश अथवा सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जज या पूर्व जज का ही चयन हो सकता है। कोई प्रसिद्ध शख्सियत भी लोकपाल नियुक्त हो सकती है, अगर 25 वर्ष तक एंटी करप्शन पॉलिसी या पब्लिक एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन या सतर्कता या वित्त बीमा बैंकिंग कानून अथवा प्रबंधन का

अन्ना हजारे आंदोलन से उठी थी मांग

केंद्र के फैसले का अन्ना हजारे ने स्वागत किया है और इसे 48 साल की जनता की लड़ाई का नतीजा बताया है। राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर लोकपाल और राज्यों में लोकायुक्त की नियुक्ति की मांग को लेकर अन्ना ने कई आंदोलन और भूख हड़ताल की थीं। वह लोकपाल की नियुक्ति न किए जाने से नाराज होकर अहमदनगर स्थित अपने गांव रालेगढ़सिद्धि में इसी फरवरी-मार्च में भूख हड़ताल कर चुके हैं। 2013 में इस संबंध में कानून बनाने को लेकर दिल्ली में बड़ा आंदोलन किया था। तब तत्कालीन संप्रग सरकार ने संयुक्त सत्र बुलाकर भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ इस कानून को पारित किया था।

अनुभव हो। किसी पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने अध्यक्ष पद के लिए आवेदन नहीं किया। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मात्र दो पूर्व जजों जस्टिस प्रफुल्ल चंद्र पंत (पीसी पंत) और जस्टिस पीसी घोष ने आवेदन किया था। हाई कोर्ट के चार सेवानिवृत्त मुख्य न्यायाधीशों का चयन न्यायिक सदस्य के तौर पर किया। चार गैर न्यायिक सदस्यों में वर्तमान व सेवानिवृत्त आईपीएस, आईएएस, आईआरएस अफसर हैं। सूत्रों की मानें तो आईपीएस अर्चना रामास्वामी व महाराष्ट्र के वर्तमान मुख्य सचिव का नाम इसमें है।

लोकपाल का गठन >> संपादकीय



पूर्व न्यायाधीश घोष हो सकते हैं पहले लोकपाल

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। देश के पहले लोकपाल की नियुक्ति के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय के पूर्व न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति पिनाकी चंद्र घोष के नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार किये जाने की जानकारी मिली है। अधिकारियों ने रविवार को यह जानकारी दी।

मई 2017 में उच्चतम न्यायालय से सेवानिवृत्त हुए न्यायमूर्ति घोष राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के सदस्य हैं। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि समझा जाता है कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली लोकपाल चयन समिति द्वारा इस पद के लिए उनके नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार किया जा रहा है। सरकार द्वारा उनकी नियुक्ति की कोई आधिकारिक घोषणा नहीं की गई है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी, चीफ जस्टिस रंजन गोगोई, लोकसभा अध्यक्ष सुमित्रा महाजन, पूर्व अटॉनी जनरल मुकुल रोहतगी की चयन समिति ने उनका नाम तय किया और उसकी सिफारिश की। सरकार द्वारा यदि उनकी नियुक्ति की जाती है तो विवाद उत्पन्न हो सकता है क्योंकि कांग्रेस नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने शुक्रवार को चयन समिति की बैठक का बहिष्कार किया था।

India to get 1st Lokpal in PC Ghosh

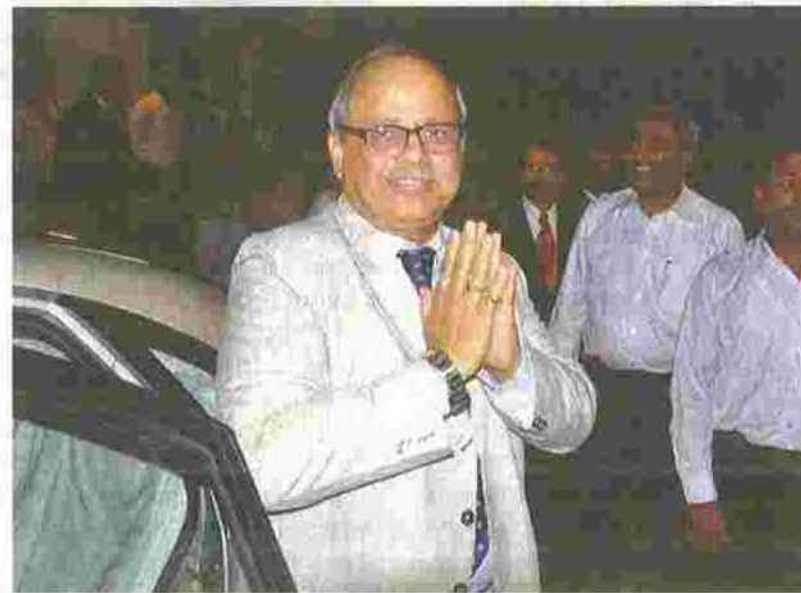
Ex-SC judge picked, Kharge refused to attend selection panel meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, 66, has been recommended to be India's first Lokpal or anti-corruption ombudsman of India. His name was finalised and recommended by the Selection Committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, eminent jurist Mukul Rohatgi. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress member Mallikarjun Kharge, who is part of the Committee, did not attend the meeting.

Justice Ghose was one of the leading names shortlisted earlier by the Lokpal Search Committee.

Sources said the notification for the appointment of the Lokpal, as well as selection of eight others as members of the national anti-corruption ombudsman, is expected to be issued early next week. Sources said it could be made public before the next date of hearing on the matter in Supreme Court, which is slated to be



held later this month.

The appointment of Justice Ghose, however, if made, may trigger a political storm as Congress leader Kharge had boycotted the selection panel's meet on Friday. Kharge was called in as a special invitee to the selection committee meeting but he refused to attend. Kharge pointed that a special invitee would not have any rights to vote and that the Opposition was being made "voiceless" in a critical matter.

Justice Ghose retired from

the Supreme Court in May 2017. He has been serving as a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 2017. He was also the former Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and a former judge of the Calcutta High Court. As the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, he had convicted Sasikala, the live-in companion of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, in a corruption case.

The appointment has come through five years after the Lokpal Act was notified for effecting a panel of ombudsmen to look into cases of corruption and maladministration by public servants. What makes the Lokpal powerful is the authority under the law to investigate complaints against current and former Prime Ministers, Union Ministers, members of Parliament, Government employees and employees of public sector undertakings, and key employees of Non-Governmental Organisations receiving more than ₹10 lakh a year in foreign contributions, among others.

The Lokpal is expected to work along with the Central Vigilance Commission and can order any investigating agency, including CBI, to probe allegations of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SA Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna was on March 7 informed by Venugopal that the Lokpal search committee headed by former apex court judge

Ranjana Prakash Desai has recommended three panels of names to the selection committee for appointment of chairperson, judicial and non-judicial members in the anti-graft body.

The Attorney General had told the Bench that he will ask the secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training to ensure that the meeting of the selection committee is convened as early as possible. The top court had refused to pass directions to disclose names in the three panels. Following the court's proceedings, a meeting of selection panel was held on Friday.

Though the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act were notified in early 2014, but no one was appointed as the Lokpal till now. Supreme Court in January had pulled up the Centre for repeatedly delaying the appointment of the Lokpal. On March 7, a Supreme Court Bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi had asked the Narendra Modi Government to inform the court within a fortnight by when it would finalise the names.



• ये जिम्मेदारियां निभा चुके हैं जस्टिस घोष...

- 27 मई 2017 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट से रिटायर हुए पीसी घोष वर्तमान में राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट से पहले वे कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट के जज और आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस रह चुके हैं।
- 1952 में पैदा हुए जस्टिस पीसी घोष पूर्व जस्टिस शंभू चंद्र घोष के बेटे हैं। 1997 में वे कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट के जज बने थे। दिसंबर 2012 में आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बने थे। 8 मार्च 2013 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश बने और 27 मई 2017 को न्यायाधीश पद से रिटायर हुए।
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाल ही में रिटायर्ड जज डीके जैन को भारतीय क्रिकेट कंट्रोल बोर्ड (बीसीसीआई) का पहला लोकपाल नियुक्त किया है। सीओए ने पिछले साल सुप्रीम कोर्ट में 10वीं स्टेटस रिपोर्ट में लोकपाल की मांग की थी।
- उधर, कांग्रेस चयन समिति की बैठक में हिस्सा न लेने वाले मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे का कहना था कि 'विशेष आमंत्रित सदस्य' के लोकपाल चयन समिति का हिस्सा होने या इसकी बैठक में शामिल होने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।



PC Ghose: A judge who handled key cases

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA: Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, a former Supreme Court judge, is all set to become the first Lokpal of India, an anti-corruption ombudsman.

According to officials with knowledge of the matter, a selection committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed on his name.

Justice Ghose, who is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), was a judge in the top court for four years from March 2013 to May 2017.

During this period, he adjudicated on wide variety of cases.

A division bench of Justice Ghose and Justice Amitava Roy convicted former Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalithaa's aide, Sasikala, and others in a graft case in a significant verdict. In this case, Jayalithaa too was an accused, but proceedings against her were dropped because she died during the pendency of the case.

Justice Ghose was also a part of the two-judge bench that declared the centuries-old tradition of Jallikattu, or bull fighting, will be banned.

Another important matter handled by Justice Ghose as a Supreme Court judge was the Babri Masjid case, in which the top court directed a trial court in April 2017 to proceed against political leaders LK Advani, MM Joshi, Uma Bharti and others for alleged criminal conspiracy.

After his retirement in 2017, Justice Ghose was appointed to the National Human Rights Commission as a judicial member. Born on May 28, 1952, Justice Ghose comes from a family of lawyers. His father, late Justice Shambhu Chandra Ghose, is a former Chief Justice of Calcutta high court.

HT EXPLAINER

ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY

The authority and significance of Lokpal

WHAT IS LOKPAL?

A national anti-corruption ombudsman to look into complaints against public servants as defined under the Lokpal Act, 2013.

The office of Lokpal comprises a chairperson and up to eight members. The chairperson can be current or former judges of the SC or chief justices of HCs. Members should have least 25 years of experience in matters related to anti-corruption policy, vigilance, public administration, finance, law and management

POWERS OF LOKPAL

The Lokpal can initiate a preliminary investigation after it receives a complaint under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. If the complaint is found to be true, the Lokpal can ask the government to take disciplinary action against the public servant and also file a case in a special court to be set up by the Centre

WHO ALL CAN LOKPAL INVESTIGATE?

According to the Lokpal Act, 2013, the ombudsman can investigate persons in seven categories — a prime minister after s/he demits office; current and former ministers; current and former MPs; all Group A officers of the central government; all Group A-equivalent officers of PSUs and other government bodies; directors and officers of NGOs which receive government funds; directors and officers of NGOs which receive funds from the public and have an annual income above ₹10 lakh from a foreign contributor and ₹1 crore from the government



PC Ghose, a retired SC judge, is set to be the first Lokpal. TWITTER

THE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL PROCESS

A preliminary inquiry should be completed within 30 days of receiving a complaint. The period can be extended to a further three months. A full inquiry has to be completed within six months, extendable by another six months. Trial should be completed within a year of filing the case; the time period can be extended to a maximum of two years. Lokpal does not need prior sanction from the government to investigate a complaint

WHO SELECTS LOKPAL?

A five-member selection panel comprising the Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, the Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India, and an eminent jurist nominated by the President

HOW CAN LOKPAL BE REMOVED?

The President can make a reference to the Supreme Court either on his own or if 100 MPs sign a petition seeking the

removal of the chairperson or any of the members. If the SC, after an inquiry, finds the charges to be true, s/he should be removed by President

HOW WAS LOKPAL LAW ENACTED?

In January 2011, the government formed a Group of Ministers to suggest measures to tackle corruption, including the examination of the proposal of a Lokpal Bill following a protest in Delhi by Anna Hazare. In July 2011, the Union cabinet approved the bill, and both Houses of the country passed it in December 2013

HISTORY OF LOKPAL

According to Professional Referral Source (PRS) legislative research, the Lokpal bill has been introduced eight times in the Lok Sabha (1968, 1971, 1977, 1985, 1989, 1996, 1998 and 2001). Each time the Lok Sabha was dissolved before the bill could be passed, except in 1985, when it was withdrawn. Several commissions including the First Administrative Reforms Commission of 1966, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution of 2002 and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission of 2007 recommended constitution of Lokpal.

ANTI-CORRUPTION OFFICES SIMILAR TO LOKPAL IN OTHER COUNTRIES

According to PRS Legislative Research, an Indian non-profit organisation, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, Burkina Faso and the United Kingdom are some of the countries which have the office of an ombudsman.

Justice Ghose, who graduated in law from the Calcutta University, joined the Bar Council of West Bengal in 1976 as an advocate. He became a judge at the Calcutta high court in July 1997.

In December 2012, he was made the chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh high court. After three months, in March 2013, he was elevated to the Supreme Court. Former advo-

cate general of Tripura and eminent lawyer Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said the most noticeable part of Justice Ghose's character is his calmness and friendly approach.

"He used to hear cases and pass orders very fast. As a judge, he astounded us with his sharp memory. In simple words, he was an outstanding judge," said Bhattacharya.



Mint, Delhi

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Justice P.C. Ghose tipped to be country's first Lokpal



Manohar Parrikar: BJP's crisis man in Goa

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PTI

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is said to be in active consideration for appointment as the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, officials with knowledge of the matter said on Sunday.

Justice Ghose, 66, retired as Supreme Court judge in May 2017. He is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since 29 June 2017.

While there was no official announce-

ment of his appointment by the government, his name for the post is understood to have been in active consideration by the Lokpal selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials mentioned above said.

Justice Ghose's appointment, if made, is likely to trigger a political storm as leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Khargem had boycotted the selection panel's meet on 15 March.

The law, which envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed in 2013.



Pinaki Chandra Ghose set to be India's first Lokpal

PM-led selection panel clears the former SC judge's name

MAHESH LANGA

AHMEDABAD

Former Supreme Court judge and current member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Pinaki Chandra Ghose, is likely to be India's first anti-corruption ombudsman, or Lokpal, after his name was cleared and recommended by the high-level selection committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"His name has been finalised," said a top official involved in the selection process. Sources in the government said the names of other Lokpal members had also been decided.

Other members of the committee are Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Ma-



Pinaki Chandra Ghose

hajan and eminent jurist Mukul Rohatgi.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who is part of the committee, did not attend the meeting after he was invited as "special invitee." Mr. Kharge had refused to attend earlier meetings too, protesting against his being

invited as a "special invitee."

The government was prompted to make the selection after the Supreme Court set the February-end deadline.

The Lokpal Act, which was passed in 2013 after a nationwide anti-corruption movement, provides for setting up of Lokpal at the centre and Lokayuktas in the States to probe corruption complaints against top functionaries and public servants, including the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers.

Mr. Ghose was appointed as judge of the Calcutta High Court in 1997 and went on to become Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh before his elevation to the Supreme Court in 2013.

जस्टिस पिनाकी घोष होंगे देश के पहले लोकपाल

खरगे की अनुपस्थिति में चयन समिति ने लगाई मुहर, नाम का एलान आज संभव

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं जस्टिस घोष

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सेवानिवृत्त जज जस्टिस पिनाकी चंद्र घोष देश के पहले लोकपाल होंगे। शुक्रवार को हुई लोकपाल चयन समिति की बैठक में जस्टिस घोष के नाम पर मुहर लगाई गई थी। यह फाइल राष्ट्रपति को भेज दी गई है। इसका आधिकारिक एलान सोमवार को किए जाने की संभावना है। उनका कार्यकाल पांच साल का होगा।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि बीते 7 मार्च को सुप्रीम कोर्ट की फटकार के बाद सरकार इस दिशा में सक्रिय हुई। शुक्रवार को लोकपाल चयन समिति की बैठक बुलाई गई थी। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अगुवाई में हुई बैठक में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश जस्टिस रंजन गोगोई, लोकसभा अध्यक्ष सुमित्रा महाजन, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता मुकुल रोहतगी शामिल हुए। इस बैठक में हालांकि लोकसभा में मुख्य विपक्षी पार्टी कांग्रेस के नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे को भी बुलाया गया था, मगर वह शामिल नहीं हुए। करीब तीन घंटे की



1952 में जन्मे जस्टिस घोष जस्टिस शंभु चंद्र घोष के बेटे हैं। 1997 में वह कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट में जज बने। दिसंबर 2012 में वह आंध्र हाईकोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बने। 8 मार्च 2013 में वह सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश प्रोन्नत हुए और 27 मई 2017 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट न्यायाधीश पद से सेवानिवृत्त हुए। अभी राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं। तमिलनाडु की पूर्व सीएम जयललिता की करीबी शशिकला को आय से अधिक संपत्ति मामले में सजा सुना कर देश भर में चर्चा में आए।

मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे की नाराजगी की वजह

लोकसभा में नेता विपक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे ने मोदी सरकार को सातवीं बार लिखकर लोकपाल की चयन समिति में विशेष आमंत्रित सदस्य के तौर पर शामिल होने का प्रस्ताव ठुकरा दिया। खरगे ने पीएम को लिखे पत्र में कहा कि लोकपाल अधिनियम-2013 की धारा चार में 'विशेष आमंत्रित सदस्य' के लोकपाल चयन समिति का हिस्सा होने या इसकी बैठक में शामिल होने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। इसलिए वह यह प्रस्ताव स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि 2014 में सत्ता में आने के बाद सरकार ने लोकपाल कानून में ऐसा संशोधन करने का कोई प्रयास नहीं किया, जिससे विपक्ष की सबसे बड़ी पार्टी का नेता समिति के सदस्य के तौर पर बैठक में शामिल हो सके।

बैठक के बाद जस्टिस घोष के नाम पर मुहर लगाई गई। इस लोकपाल में न्यायपालिका से हाईकोर्ट के 4 पूर्व न्यायाधीश, चार आईएएस और आईपीएस व अन्य सेवाओं के

रिटायर अधिकारी शामिल होंगे। चूंकि इन नामों पर विमर्श की प्रक्रिया जारी है, इसलिए जस्टिस घोष के नाम का एलान नहीं किया गया।

>> विपक्ष से छीना बड़ा मुद्दा : पेज 11

Justice Ghose set to be country's first Lokpal

Rajeev Jayaswal

■ rajeev.jayaswal@htlive.com

NEWDELHI: Retired Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose is likely to be appointed the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, after a Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led selection committee on Sunday agreed on his name, two officials with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Parliament passed the Lokpal Act in 2013, when the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government was in power. The law provides for a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to investigate cases of corruption against public servants.

"The competent authority will soon take a final decision on the name of justice Ghose for the chairperson, Lokpal, as recommended by the selection committee, and then the appointment will be formally announced," an official said on the condition of anonymity. Justice Ghose, currently a member of the National Human Rights Commission

ABOUT THE OMBUDSMAN

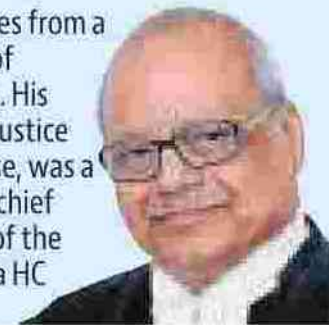
Currently a member of the National Human Rights Commission, justice PC Ghose was an SC judge from March 2013 to May 2017

- A law graduate from Calcutta University, Ghose practised at the Calcutta high court bar as an advocate dealing with arbitration, constitutional and company matters
- He was elevated to the position of a judge at the Calcutta high court in 1997
- In December 2012, he was made the chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh high court
- In March 2013, he was elevated to the Supreme Court of India
- At the top court, he adjudicated on several remarkable cases,

including the Babri Masjid demolition case, in which the SC directed the trial court to proceed against LK Advani, MM Joshi, Uma Bharti and others for criminal conspiracy

- After his retirement in 2017, justice Ghose was appointed to NHRC as a judicial member

■ He comes from a family of lawyers. His father, justice SC Ghose, was a former chief justice of the Calcutta HC



(NHRC), retired as a Supreme Court judge in May 2017.

The PM, Lok Sabha Speaker, Chief Justice of India or his nominee, Leader of the Opposition, and an eminent jurist are the members of the Lokpal selection committee. As there is no design-

nated Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha currently, the government had invited Kharge, the leader of the Congress legislature party in the House, to the meetings of the selection panel as a "special invitee".

CONTINUED ON P 6



Lokpal

Kharge repeatedly turned down the government's invite to attend the panel's meetings, saying he could not accept the Opposition being made voiceless on a critical matter.

A second official said the selection committee's decision on justice Ghose's name for the post was in line with the Supreme Court's March 7 directive to attorney general KK Venugopal to submit within 10 days the date of meeting of the PM-led selection committee on the Lokpal's appointment. Other members in the selection panel are Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan

and senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi. The selection committee's decision was based on the recommendation of an eight-member search panel, chaired by justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, the two officials said. The search committee was constituted in September last year to recommend names for the positions of the chairperson and the members of the Lokpal. Other names recommended for the ombudsman were not immediately known.

Lawyer and civil rights activist Prashant Bhushan criticised the selection process as opaque. "No honest person would oppose transparency in the matter of appointment of persons to such critical positions. This shows that they wanted to appoint improper persons," he said. "It is unfortunate that the selection committee does not include the Leader of the Opposition. The Supreme Court did not accept our plea that the leader of the single largest party in the Opposition should be made a member of the committee in place of the Leader of the Opposition," Bhushan said.

A government official, however, refuted the charge. "Technically, there is no Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Despite that, the selection committee did invite the leader of the single largest party in the Opposition [Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge] in the meetings. But,

he declined," said the official, requesting anonymity.

On March 14, Kharge declined the selection committee's invitation the seventh time since February 2018 for being invited as a "special invitee". "A 'special invitee' would not have any rights of participation in the process of selection of the Lokpal and I cannot accept the Opposition being made voiceless in a critical matter," Kharge wrote to the PM while declining to be a part of the selection committee's meeting.

On Sunday, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi tweeted: "Exceedingly happy to see the announcement of LOKPAL. It shall strengthen all anti corruption systems in the country..."

In a tweet, Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi said: "#Modi #Shah #BjP deserve congrats 4 appointing #Lokpal when their departure time has come after wasting 5yrs since 2014, despite hypocritically shouting lokpal during their opp years! modiji also acted true 2form having obstructed/stalled #Lokayukta 4whole 12yr term as #CM #Gujarat".

Born on May 28, 1952, justice Ghose is a law graduate from the University of Calcutta. According to the National Human Rights Commission's website, he has been associated with many activities of the Ramakrishna Mission.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट से रिटायर हुए थे, अभी मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं

देश के पहले लोकपाल हो सकते हैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व जस्टिस पीसी घोष

■ मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे भी समिति में हैं, लेकिन वह मीटिंग में शामिल नहीं हुए

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

लोकसभा चुनावों से पहले मोदी सरकार ने देश के पहले लोकपाल के नाम को मंजूरी दे दी है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट



के पूर्व जज जस्टिस पिनाकी चंद्र घोष पहले लोकपाल होंगे। सरकार ने उनके नाम को राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी

के लिए भेज दिया है। जस्टिस घोष (66) मई 2017 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट से रिटायर हुए थे और फिलहाल राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं। वह आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस भी रहे हैं। शेष/पेज 07 पर

• ये जिम्मेदारियां निभा चुके हैं जस्टिस घोष...

- 27 मई 2017 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट से रिटायर हुए पीसी घोष वर्तमान में राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट से पहले वे कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट के जज और आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस रह चुके हैं।
- 1952 में पैदा हुए जस्टिस पीसी घोष पूर्व जस्टिस शंभू चंद्र घोष के बेटे हैं। 1997 में वे कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट के जज बने थे। दिसंबर 2012 में आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बने थे। 8 मार्च 2013 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश बने और 27 मई 2017

को न्यायाधीश पद से रिटायर हुए।

- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाल ही में रिटायर्ड जज डीके जैन को भारतीय क्रिकेट कंट्रोल बोर्ड (बीसीसीआई) का पहला लोकपाल नियुक्त किया है। सीओए ने पिछले साल सुप्रीम कोर्ट में 10वीं स्टेटस रिपोर्ट में लोकपाल की मांग की थी।
- उधर, कांग्रेस चयन समिति की बैठक में हिस्सा न लेने वाले मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे का कहना था कि 'विशेष आमंत्रित सदस्य' के लोकपाल चयन समिति का हिस्सा होने या इसकी बैठक में शामिल होने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

• अन्ना बोले- 48 साल के आंदोलन की जीत हुई



लोकपाल की नियुक्ति के फैसले को लेकर सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता और लोकपाल की लड़ाई लड़ने वाले अण्णा हजारे ने खुशी जताई। उन्होंने कहा, 'मैं देश के पहले लोकपाल को नियुक्त करने के फैसले का स्वागत करता हूं। इसके लिए देशवासी पिछले 48 साल से आंदोलन कर रहे हैं, आखिरकार उनकी जीत हुई।'



देश के पहले लोकपाल हो सकते हैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व जस्टिस पीसी घोष

उन्हें मानवाधिकार कानूनों पर बेहतरीन समझ और विशेषज्ञता के लिए जाना जाता है। लोकपाल आंदोलन की अगुवाई करने वाले समाज सेवी अन्ना हजारे ने लोकपाल का नाम तय होने का स्वागत किया है और इसे 48 साल की जनता की लड़ाई का नतीजा करार दिया है। भ्रष्टाचार की सही तरीके से जांच के लिए लोकपाल बनाने के अन्ना हजारे के आंदोलन के बाद 2013 में केंद्र में लोकपाल और राज्यों में लोकायुक्त की नियुक्ति को लेकर कानून बना था। कानून बनने के पांच साल बाद यह नियुक्ति होने जा रही है।



Ex-SC judge P C Ghose tipped to be first Lokpal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 17 MARCH

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is said to be in active consideration for appointment as the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, officials said here.

Justice Ghose, 66, retired as a Supreme Court judge in May 2017. He has been a member of the National Human Rights Commission since June 29, 2017.

His name for the post is understood to have been in active consideration by the Lokpal selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials said, without citing further details. There was no official announcement of his appointment by the government.

His appointment, if made, may trigger a political storm as Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge had boycotted the selection panel's meet on Friday.

The law, which envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed on 2013.

The development comes a week after the Supreme Court asked Attorney General K K Venugopal to inform it within 10 days about a possible date for meeting of the selection committee.

A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna was on March 7 informed by Venugopal that the Lokpal search committee headed by former apex court



judge Ranjana Prakash Desai has recommended three panels of names to the selection committee for appointment of chairperson, judicial and non-judicial members in the anti-graft body.

The attorney general had told the bench that he will ask the secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training to ensure that the meeting of the selection committee is convened as early as possible.

The top court had refused to pass directions to disclose names in the three panels. Following the court's proceedings, a meeting of selection panel was held on Friday.

The Supreme Court had on January 17 set up a February-end deadline for the Lokpal search committee to send a panel of names who could be considered for the appointment as its chairman and members.

A person who is or has been the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge is eligible for appointment as Lokpal. According to rules, there is provision for a chairperson and a maximum of eight members in the Lokpal panel. Of these, four need to be judicial members.

देश के पहले लोकपाल के लिए पूर्व न्यायाधीश पिनाकी चंद्र घोष के नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार



नयी दिल्ली, (भाषा) देश के पहले लोकपाल के तौर पर नियुक्ति के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय के सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति पिनाकी चंद्र घोष के नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार किये जाने की जानकारी मिली है। अधिकारियों ने रविवार को यह जानकारी दी।

न्यायमूर्ति घोष (66) मई 2017 में उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश से सेवानिवृत्त हुए थे। वह 29 जून 2017 से राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के सदस्य हैं। अधिकारियों ने कोई विस्तृत जानकारी दिये बिना कहा कि समझा जाता है कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली लोकपाल चयन समिति द्वारा इस पद के लिए उनके नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार किया जा रहा है। सरकार द्वारा उनकी नियुक्ति की कोई आधिकारिक घोषणा नहीं की गई है। यदि उनकी नियुक्ति की जाती है तो इससे राजनीतिक विवाद उत्पन्न हो सकता है क्योंकि कांग्रेस नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने शुक्रवार को चयन समिति की बैठक का बहिष्कार किया था। लोकपाल कानून 2013 (शेष पेज दो पर)



देश के... (पेज एक का शेष) में पारित किया गया था जो कुछ श्रेणियों के लोकसेवकों के खिलाफ भ्रष्टाचार की जांच के लिए केंद्र में लोकपाल और राज्यों में लोकायुक्तों की नियुक्ति का प्रावधान करता है। यह घटनाक्रम उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा अटॉर्नी जनरल के के वेणुगोपाल से 10 दिन में चयन समिति की बैठक की संभावित तिथि के बारे में सूचित करने के लिए कहने के एक सप्ताह बाद हुआ है। वेणुगोपाल ने गत सात मार्च को प्रधान न्यायाधीश रंजन गोगोई, न्यायमूर्ति एस ए नजीर और न्यायमूर्ति संजीव खन्ना की पीठ को सूचित किया था कि शीर्ष अदालत के पूर्व न्यायाधीश रंजना प्रकाश देसाई के नेतृत्व वाली लोकपाल सर्च कमेटी ने भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी निकाय में चेयरपर्सन, न्यायिक और गैर-न्यायिक सदस्यों की नियुक्ति के लिए चयन समिति को नामों के तीन पैनल की सिफारिश की है। अटॉर्नी जनरल ने पीठ से कहा था कि वह कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग के सचिव से यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहेंगे कि चयन समिति की बैठक जल्द से जल्द बुलाई जाए।

पिनाकी घोष हो सकते हैं पहले लोकपाल

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च।

देश के पहले लोकपाल की नियुक्ति के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति पिनाकी चंद्र घोष के नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार किए जाने की जानकारी मिली है। मई, 2017 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट से सेवानिवृत्त हुए न्यायमूर्ति घोष राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) के सदस्य हैं।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली लोकपाल चयन समिति द्वारा इस पद के लिए उनके नाम पर सक्रियता से विचार किया जा रहा है। हालांकि सरकार द्वारा उनकी नियुक्ति की कोई आधिकारिक घोषणा नहीं की गई है। इस बारे में जल्द ही

- इस बारे में जल्द जारी हो सकती है अधिसूचना
- न्यायमूर्ति पिनाकी घोष सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व जज रह चुके हैं
- वे आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के भी मुख्य न्यायाधीश रहे हैं

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, चयन समिति ने लोकपाल और आठ सदस्यों का चयन कर लिया है। लोकपाल के लिए न्यायमूर्ति घोष के नाम पर सर्वसम्मति बन गई है



अधिसूचना जारी हो सकती है।

लोकपाल नियुक्ति को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश और विपक्ष के विरोध के बीच सरकार ने यह फैसला लिया बताते हैं। लोकपाल नियुक्ति कमेटी में प्रधानमंत्री, प्रधान न्यायाधीश या उनके द्वारा नामित जज, विपक्ष

के नेता, लोकसभा अध्यक्ष और एक कानून विशेषज्ञ होते हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सरकार ने कहा था कि विपक्ष का नेता नहीं होने की स्थिति में विपक्षी दल कांग्रेस के नेता को विशेष आमंत्रित सदस्य के तौर पर शामिल किया गया था। प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता वाली पांच

सदस्यों की चयन समिति की बैठक शुक्रवार हुई थी, जिसमें लोकपाल और उसके चार न्यायिक व चार-गैर न्यायिक कुल आठ सदस्यों का चयन किया गया।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, चयन समिति ने लोकपाल और आठ सदस्यों का चयन कर लिया है। लोकपाल के लिए न्यायमूर्ति घोष के नाम पर सर्वसम्मति बन गई। कांग्रेस नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे ने लोकपाल कमेटी की बैठक में हिस्सा लेने से इनकार करते हुए सरकार पर मनमानी का आरोप लगाया था। लोकपाल कानून 2013 में पारित किया गया था, जो कुछ श्रेणियों के लोकसेवकों के खिलाफ भ्रष्टाचार की जांच के लिए केंद्र में लोकपाल और राज्यों में लोकायुक्तों की नियुक्ति का बाकी पेज 8 पर



पिनाकी घोष हो सकते हैं पहले लोकपाल

पेज 1 का बाकी

प्रावधान करता है। न्यायमूर्ति घोष सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व जज रह चुके हैं। वह आंध्र प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के भी प्रधान न्यायाधीश रहे हैं। न्यायमूर्ति घोष अभी मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य भी हैं। वह अपने फैसलों में मानवाधिकारों की रक्षा की बात बार-बार करते रहे हैं। उन्हें मानवाधिकार कानूनों पर उनकी बेहतरीन समझ और विशेषज्ञता के लिए जाना जाता है।

1997 में वे कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट में जज बने। दिसंबर 2012 में वह आंध्र प्रदेश हाईकोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बने। आठ मार्च 2013 में वह सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश प्रोन्नत हुए और 27 मई 2017 को वे सुप्रीम कोर्ट

न्यायाधीश पद से सेवानिवृत्त हुए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अटॉर्नी जनरल केके वेणुगोपाल से 10 दिन में चयन समिति की बैठक की संभावित तिथि के बारे में सूचित करने को कहा था।

वेणुगोपाल ने इसी महीने सात मार्च को प्रधान न्यायाधीश रंजन गोगोई, न्यायमूर्ति एसए नजीर और न्यायमूर्ति संजीव खन्ना की पीठ को सूचित किया था कि शीर्ष अदालत के पूर्व न्यायाधीश रंजना प्रकाश देसाई के नेतृत्व वाली लोकपाल सर्च कमेटी ने भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी निकाय में चेयरपर्सन, न्यायिक और गैर-न्यायिक सदस्यों की नियुक्ति के लिए चयन समिति को नामों के तीन पैनल की सिफारिश की है।

अटॉर्नी जनरल ने जजों से कहा था कि वह कार्मिक व प्रशिक्षण विभाग के सचिव से यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहेंगे कि चयन समिति की बैठक जल्द से जल्द बुलाई जाए। शीर्ष अदालत ने तीन पैनलों में नामों का खुलासा करने के लिए निर्देश पारित करने से इनकार कर दिया था।

अदालती कार्यवाही के बाद शुक्रवार को चयन समिति की बैठक हुई। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 17 जनवरी को केंद्र सरकार को लोकपाल सर्च कमेटी के लिए उन नामों के पैनल भेजने के लिए फरवरी के अंत की समयसीमा तय की थी, जिन्हें इसका चेयरमैन और सदस्य के रूप में नियुक्त करने पर विचार किया जा सके।

Ex-SC judge Justice P C Ghose to be first Lokpal

His name was recommended by the Selection panel headed by PM

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Retired Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose is likely to be the country's first Lokpal or the anti-corruption ombudsman, sources said Sunday.

His name was finalised and recommended by the Selection Committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and eminent jurist Mukul Rohatgi.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who is part of the committee, did not attend the meeting.

Justice Ghose, 67, who is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 2017, retired from the Supreme Court on May 27, 2017. He had assumed charge as Supreme Court judge on March 8, 2013. His was among the top 10 names shortlisted by the Lokpal Search Committee.

In July 2015, a Supreme Court bench of Justice Ghose issued a notice to the late former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa on a petition by the Karnataka government challenging the high court verdict acquitting her and three others in a disproportionate assets case.

He is a former judge of



the Calcutta High Court and former Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Born in Kolkata, Justice Ghose is the son of Late Justice Sambhu Chandra Ghose, former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

Justice Ghose's appointment has come nearly five years after the Lokpal Act was notified on January 16, 2014.

The law provides for a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to probe cases of corruption against public servants.

The Supreme Court, hearing a PIL filed by NGO Common Cause, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, has been pushing the government to make the appointments. In its hearing on January 4, the apex court had asked the government to appoint a Lokpal at the earliest, saying "much time has elapsed, something needs to be done".



JUSTICE P C GHOSE SET TO HEAD LOKPAL

‘Cool temperament, outstanding judge’

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA

KOLKATA, MARCH 17

JUSTICE PINAKI Chandra Ghose was born in a lawyer's family on May 28, 1952. His father, Late Justice Shambhu Chandra Ghose, was a former chief justice of the Calcutta High Court.

After graduating in commerce from St Xavier's College in Kolkata, Justice Ghose obtained a degree in law and attorney-at-law from Calcutta University and then enrolled himself as an advocate with the Bar Council of West Bengal in 1976. His areas of specialisation were civil, company affairs, arbitration and con-

stitution, among others.

He became a judge of the Calcutta High Court in July 1997. He was transferred to Andhra Pradesh High Court in June 2012 and in December of the same year he was elevated as Chief Justice of that court.

In March 2013, he was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of India. He retired in May 2017. Currently he is a member of National Human Rights Commission.

Recalling his memories about Justice Ghose, Calcutta High Court and Supreme Court advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said the most notable point in his nature was an extremely cool tem-

perament and friendly approach towards all lawyers. "He was extremely fast in delivery of judgment and had an extremely good memory. He was an outstanding judge," said Bhattacharya.

One of the verdicts for which Justice Ghose will be remembered was related to the prosecution of former Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa and her friend V K Sasikala. In February 2017, the division bench of Justice Ghose and Justice Amitava Roy found Jayalalithaa and Sasikala guilty of misusing public office to launder ill-gotten wealth for purchasing huge properties in the name of masked fronts.

Another verdict for which he will be remembered will be the one relating to Section 498-A (domestic violence) of Indian Penal Code. In July 2014, a division bench of Justice Ghose and Justice Chandramauli Kr Prasad ruled that there should be no automatic arrest in 498-A cases and non-compliance will attract disciplinary and contempt proceedings.

In April 2017, a division bench of Justice R F Nariman and Justice Ghose directed a trial court to frame charges of criminal conspiracy against BJP leaders LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, Kalyan Singh and others involved in the Babri Masjid demolition case.



Deccan Herald, Bengaluru

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Justice P C Ghose tipped to be India's first Lokpal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is likely to be the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, sources said on Sunday.

Justice Ghose (66), who retired as Supreme Court judge in May 2017, is currently a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and is learnt to be in active consideration by the Lokpal selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is no official announcement till now.



If the government goes ahead with the appointment, it could lead to a controversy as Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who is an invitee to the Select Committee, had boycotted the panel's meeting on Friday.

It was six years ago that the Lokpal law was passed, but it could not be realised till now owing to various issues. The law envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states.

A person who is or has been the CJI or a SC judge is eligible for appointment as Lokpal.

As the name was speculated in media, lawyer Prashant Bhushan tweeted, "Justice PC Ghosh rec (recommended) for Lokpal!? Bhattacharya J, former CJ Guj had written a stinker to President about how Ghosh J had recommended appointment of the undeserving sister of former CJI Kabir to Cal HC. After that Ghosh J was appointed to SC superseding Bhattacharya. Why was Lokpal shortlist not disclosed?"



Ex-SC judge Justice PC Ghose tipped to be India's first Lokpal

NEW DELHI, March 17: Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is said to be in active consideration for appointment as the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, officials said on Sunday.

Justice Ghose, 66, retired as Supreme Court judge in May 2017. He is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 29, 2017.

His name for the post is understood to have been in active consideration by the Lokpal selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, officials said, without citing further details.

There was no official announcement of his appointment by the government.

His appointment, if made, may trigger a political storm as Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge had boycotted the selection panel's meet on Friday.

The law, which envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed on 2013.

The development comes a week after the Supreme Court

asked Attorney General KK Venugopal to inform it within 10 days about a possible date for meeting of the selection committee.

A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SA Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna was on March 7 informed by Venugopal that the Lokpal search committee headed by former apex court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai has recommended three panels of names to the selection committee for appointment of chairperson, judicial and non-judicial members in the anti-graft body.

(See page 4)

जस्टिस पिनाकी घोष हो सकते हैं पहले लोकपाल

■ एजेंसियां, नई दिल्ली

लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले देश को पहला लोकपाल मिल सकता है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली लोकपाल चयन समिति ने इस पद के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पूर्व जस्टिस पिनाकी चंद्र घोष का नाम लगभग तय कर लिया है। आठ सदस्यों के नाम भी फाइनल हो गए हैं। जल्द औपचारिक ऐलान होने की उम्मीद है। लोकपाल की जांच के दायरे में प्रधानमंत्री समेत सभी केंद्रीय मंत्री, सांसद और सभी कर्मचारी होंगे। लोकपाल



जस्टिस
पिनाकी

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जज रहते जस्टिस घोष की ही बेंच ने आय से अधिक संपत्ति मामले में तमिलनाडु

की तत्कालीन सीएम जयललिता को नोटिस जारी किया था। अयोध्या केस में उनकी ही बेंच ने निचली अदालत को बीजेपी के वरिष्ठ नेताओं पर आरोप तय करने को कहा था।

सीबीआई समेत किसी भी जांच एजेंसी को जांच के आदेश दे सकेगा। सरकार ने विपक्ष के विरोध के बीच यह कदम उठाया है। जस्टिस घोष फिलहाल राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य हैं।



Former SC judge Justice P C Ghose all set to head India's first Lokpal

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G

NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

FIVE YEARS after the Lokpal Act received the President's nod, former Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is all set to head the country's first Lokpal — the national anti-corruption ombudsman.

A high-level selection committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, the panel's "eminent jurist member", cleared Justice Ghose's name at its meeting Friday, official sources said.

Congress leader and Leader of the largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, did not attend the meeting as a "Special Invitee".

Justice Ghose was appointed judge of the Supreme Court in March 2013 and retired in May 2017. He is currently a member of the National Human Rights Commission. In February 2017,

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Justice
Ghose was
SC judge
from 2013
to 2017

EXPLAINED
E.

What Lokpal can or can't do

ITS jurisdiction extends to sitting and former PMs, sitting and former ministers and MPs, and all public servants. But not if the allegation relates to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy and space. Or in respect of anything said or a vote given in Parliament, or any House committee.



Indian Express, Delhi

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First Lokpal

he was part of a bench along with Justice Amitava Roy that upheld the conviction and sentencing of V K Sasikala — the associate of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa — in a disproportionate assets case.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, which envisaged the setting up of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas for the states, to enquire into allegations of corruption against public functionaries was enacted in 2013 and received Presidential assent on January 1, 2014.

But the appointment was delayed due to various reasons. Subsequently, the matter came before the Supreme Court, which in April 2017 termed the 2013 Act an “eminently workable” piece of legislation.

Though the government had cited the absence of a Leader of Opposition as a technical reason for the delay and said amendments would be carried out to the law, the apex court found no merit in the argument. “There is no justification to keep the enforcement of the Act under suspension till the proposed amendments are carried out,” the court had said.

As per the Act, the Lokpal is to be headed by a chairperson, “who is or has been a Chief Justice of India or is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or an eminent person... of impeccable integrity and outstanding ability having special knowledge and expertise of not less than twenty-five years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management”.

It states that the body will also consist of not more than eight members out of whom 50 per cent shall be judicial members. Its inquiries will have to be considered by a full bench consisting of its chairperson, and all members, and approved by at least two-thirds of its members.

Kharge was a “Special Invitee” in the selection panel. According to norms, the Leader of the Opposition is a member of the committee. However, only the leader of a party, which wins a minimum of 10 percent seats in the Lok Sabha, gets to be designated as Leader of Opposition. The Congress, which emerged as the largest Opposition party in 2014, won only 44 seats.

Senior Advocate P P Rao was the first eminent jurist member in the Lok Sabha Selection panel but he passed away in September 2017 after which the post lay vacant until the panel appointed Rohatgi.

Taking serious note of the delay in the Lokpal appointment, a bench headed by CJI Gogoi had on March 7 asked Attorney General K K Venugopal to appraise it within ten days when it would be possible to convene a meeting of the Selection Committee.