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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 14/11/2019

# Judge selection norms must be made public, says SC judge

**'RTI Should Not Be Used For Surveillance'**

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**New Delhi:** As part of a five-judge Constitution bench led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi which ruled that the CJI's office is amenable to RTI Act, Justice D Y Chandrachud made a remarkable suggestion - frame the quantifiable norms for selection of persons for appointment as judges of the HCs and SC and make them public.

Justice NV Ramana, also part of the bench, sounded



**Frame the quantifiable norms for selection of persons for appointment as judges of the HCs and SC and make them public, suggested Justice D Y Chandrachud**

caution by observing that in the name of transparency in the functioning of judges and judiciary, "right to information should not be allowed to be used as a tool of surveillance".

Justice Chandrachud addressed a long pending grievance from most quarters that the collegium of SC judges headed by the CJI, which recommends to the Centre names for appointment of judges to the constitutional

courts, functions in a translucent manner to invite a tag of arbitrariness to its decisions. This was reflected in the October 2015 judgement of another five-judge SC bench, which had struck down National Judicial Appointments Commission as an intrusion into judicial independence.

Justice Chandrachud said the basis for selection and appointment of judges to higher judiciary must be defined and placed in the

public realm. "Due publicity to the norms which have been formulated and are applied would foster a degree of transparency and promote accountability in decision-making at all levels within the judiciary and government," he said.

"There is a vital public interest in disclosing the basis on which those with judicial experience are evaluated for elevation to higher judicial office, particularly having regard to merit, integrity and judicial performance. Placing the criteria followed in making judicial appointments in the public domain would fulfil the purpose and mandate of Section 4 of the RTI Act," he said.