CJI summoned to Calcutta High Court

Why in news?

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The Calcutta High Court judge C.S Karnan summoned the Chief Justice of India and six judges of the Supreme Court to his ‘residential court’.

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Why was the order given?

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- He made sweeping allegations, in a letter to the Prime Minister, against several judges.
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- So contempt proceedings were initiated against him by the Supreme Court for denigrating the judicial institution.
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- He had appeared in person before a seven-judge and was given four weeks to respond to the charge of contempt of court.
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- Meanwhile the current order by Karnan is in response to this contempt charge.
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- He summoned the CJI and 6 judges to face punishment under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
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What are the fallouts?

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- The judge has a long history of alleging corruption among other judges, accusing some of caste discrimination against him, and often invoking his caste identity to take complaints against his peers.
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- It is quite apparent that he is only further damaging his own case.

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- It is unacceptable affront to the apex court’s authority.
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- It flouts all norms of judicial conduct and thrown an open challenge to the Supreme Court.
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- In 2016 Justice Karnan’s gave an assurance to the Chief Justice of India that he would foster a “harmonious attitude towards one and all”.
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- At that time, he had expressed regret for passing a suo motu order staying his own transfer from the Madras High Court to the Calcutta High Court.
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- Public criticism, transfer to another High Court, being hauled up for contempt and being denied judicial work — nothing seems to restrain him.
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- Justice Karnan’s case vividly exposes the inadequacies of the collegium system of appointments.
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- This makes a better case for the infusion of greater transparency in the selection of judges.
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Source: The Hindu

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