Plea to remove the High Court judge

Why in news?

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Over 60 members of the Rajya Sabha have submitted a motion seeking the initiation of impeachment proceedings against Justice C.V. Nagarjuna Reddy of the High Court for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

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What is the reason?

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- Allegations against the judge include
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1. Interfering in the judicial process in several cases,
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2. Caste slurs and
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3. Death threats against Dalit Junior Civil Judge.
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- This is the second attempt e to remove Justice.
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- The first one made by 61 MPs on December 5 last failed after 19 signatories withdrew.
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- When initiated, Justice Nagarjuna Reddy will be only the fifth judge of the higher judiciary to face impeachment.
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What is the procedure to remove a judge of Supreme Court/High Court?

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- Article 124 (4) of the Constitution stipulates that a minimum of 50 Rajya Sabha members or 100 members from the Lok Sabha are required as signatories to initiate impeachment.
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- The next step in the process is for the Vice President to constitute a three-member committee under the 1968 Judges (Inquiry) Act.
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- The committee generally consists of a sitting Supreme Court judge and two High Court Chief Justices.
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- This is done in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
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- The committee will function like a trial court, examining the accusations and will advise in favour or against the judge's removal.
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- The committee's decision will then be placed in both Houses of Parliament for a vote.
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- It would require a two-third majority of MPs present voting in favour of the motion in the same session, or an absolute majority of a joint session, for the judge to be removed.
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Source: The Hindu

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