



**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Advocates for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh:

- (i) Shri Vinay Saraf,
- (ii) Shri Vivek Jain,
- (iii) Shri Ashish Shroti, and
- (iv) Shri Amit Seth.

On 11 November 2022, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh made the above recommendation in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues.

We have duly taken note of the views of the Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Madhya Pradesh placed in the file about the suitability or otherwise of the above candidates.

In order to ascertain the suitability of the above Advocates for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleague conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record. We have also perused the



observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints received against some of the candidates.

**(i) Shri Vinay Saraf**

Our sole consultee-colleague has positively opined on his suitability for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The input provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicates that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. The Chief Minister and Governor of the State of Madhya Pradesh have concurred with the recommendation of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

**(ii) Shri Vivek Jain**

Our sole consultee-colleague has positively opined on his suitability for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. The Chief Minister and Governor of the State of Madhya Pradesh have concurred with the recommendation of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.



**(iii) Shri Ashish Shroti**

Our sole consultee-colleague has opined positively on the suitability of the candidate. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file do not indicate anything against his integrity. However, certain general observations touching upon his legal acumen in criminal law have been made by the Department of Justice in the file. These observations should not come in the way of the recommendation of the candidate. In this regard, the Collegium is of the view that it is for the judiciary to assess the same and that the same cannot be adjudged on the basis of unconfirmed/unsubstantiated information. Besides, there is nothing adverse against the integrity of the candidate. Having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances and on an overall consideration of the matter, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Ashish Shroti is suitable for elevation to the High Court.

**(iv) Shri Amit Seth**

Our sole consultee-colleague has positively opined on the suitability of the candidate. According to him he has a reasonably good practice at the Bar and carries a good reputation regarding character and integrity. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. It is also indicated that the candidate has not come to notice for any overt political leanings.



The Chief Minister and Governor of the State of Madhya Pradesh have concurred with the recommendation of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is suitable for elevation to the High Court.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Vinay Saraf, (ii) Vivek Jain, (iii) Ashish Shroti, and (iv) Amit Seth, Advocates be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

17 October 2023



**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh:

- (i) Shri Rajendra Kumar Vani,
- (ii) Shri Pramod Kumar Agrawal,
- (iii) Shri Binod Kumar Dwivedi,
- (iv) Shri Devnarayan Mishra, and
- (v) Shri Gajendra Singh.

On 11 May 2023 and 9 August 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues made the above recommendation. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Madhya Pradesh have concurred with the recommendations.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleague conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the



Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints received against the candidates.

**(i) Shri Rajendra Kumar Vani**

Our sole consultee-colleague has positively opined on his suitability for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. According to him, the performance of the candidate on the judicial side is found to be good and there is nothing adverse regarding his integrity. The inputs received from the Department of Justice in the file indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. He has been rated as an excellent/outstanding/very good officer in his ACRs. The Judgment Evaluation Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court has graded quality of judgments authored by him as 'very good'. Having regard to the above and in the facts and circumstances of the case, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Rajendra Kumar Vani is suitable for being appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

**(ii) Shri Pramod Kumar Agrawal**

Our sole consultee-colleague has opined that his work, performance and conduct is good and that his integrity is above board. The inputs received from the Department of Justice indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his



integrity. He has been graded as a very good/excellent officer in his ACRs. The Judgment Evaluation Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court has rated quality of judgments authored by him as 'very good/good/very good'. Having regard to the above, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Pramod Kumar Agrawal is suitable for being appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

**(iii) Shri Binod Kumar Dwivedi**

Our sole consultee-colleague has positively opined on his suitability for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The inputs received from the Department of Justice are also positive. He has been rated as a very good/excellent officer in his ACRs. The High Court Collegium has recommended his name after duly taking note of the fact that the candidate has crossed the age of 58½ years on the date of vacancy against which his name is recommended as he is considered to be an exceptionally fit and suitable officer who would be an asset to the institution. Having regard to the above, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Binod Kumar Dwivedi is suitable and deserves to be appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

**(iv) Shri Devnarayan Mishra**

Our sole consultee-colleague has opined that his work, performance and conduct is good and that his integrity is above board. The inputs received



from the Department of Justice indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. He has been graded as a very good/excellent officer in his ACRs. The Judgment Evaluation Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court has rated quality of the judgments authored by him as 'very good/good/excellent'. Having regard to the above, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Devnarayan Mishra is suitable for being appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

(v) **Shri Gajendra Singh**

Our sole consultee-colleague has opined that his work, performance and conduct is good and that his integrity is above board. The inputs received from the Department of Justice indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. He has been graded as a very good/excellent officer in his ACRs. The Judgment Evaluation Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court has graded judgments authored by him as very good/good/excellent. Having regard to the above, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Gajendra Singh is suitable for being appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

While considering the above proposal, we have taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of some senior judicial



officers. We have also perused the representations made by some of these senior officers wherein they have raised the issue of their names having been overlooked by the High Court Collegium. We find that good reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names. We are, therefore, in agreement with the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Rajendra Kumar Vani, (ii) Pramod Kumar Agrawal, (iii) Binod Kumar Dwivedi, (iv) Devnarayan Mishra and (v) Gajendra Singh, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

17 October 2023



**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Advocates for appointment as Judges of the Gauhati High Court:

- (i) Shri N Unni Krishnan Nair, and
- (ii) Shri Kaushik Goswami.

On 29 May 2023, the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above Advocates as Judges of that High Court.

We have duly taken note of the views received from the constitutional authorities of the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above-named persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the Gauhati High Court.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints, received against some of the candidates.



**(i) Shri N Unni Krishnan Nair**

All the four consultee-Judges have unanimously given a positive opinion on suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that his professional competence is viewed to be good. However, an adverse observation has been made by the Department of Justice in the file. In our considered view, this should not come in the way of the recommendation of the candidate, particularly when the Government in its assessment has fairly put on record a report that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. Bearing in mind that the candidate has extensive practice which is reflected in his substantially high professional income and a large number of reported judgments delivered in cases in which he appeared/argued and other relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

**(ii) Shri Kaushik Goswami**

All the four consultee-Judges have unanimously given positive opinion on suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that his professional competence is viewed to be good and nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the



considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) N Unni Krishnan Nair, and (ii) Kaushik Goswami, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the Gauhati High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

17 October 2023



**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Advocates for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Uttarakhand:

- (i) Shri Siddhartha Sah, and
- (ii) Shri Alok Mahra.

On 12 July 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above Advocates as Judges of that High Court.

We have considered the views of the Chief Minister and the Governor for the State of Uttarakhand on the above recommendation.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleague conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Uttarakhand.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file.



**(i) Shri Siddhartha Sah**

Our sole consultee-colleague has opined that the candidate has a wide range of work and good practice at the Bar and enjoys good standing inside as well as outside the Bar. The observation made by the Government should not come in the way of the recommendation particularly when the inputs placed in the file indicate that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. The candidate has substantial practice at the Bar which is reflected in his professional income and the number of cases in which he appeared / argued. Having regard to all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Siddhartha Sah is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

**(ii) Shri Alok Mahra**

Our sole consultee-colleague has opined that the candidate has a wide range of work and good practice at the Bar and enjoys good standing inside as well as outside the Bar. The inputs placed by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. The candidate has extensive practice at the Bar which is reflected in his professional income and the large number of cases in which he appeared/ argued. As regards the observation made in the file on professional



competence of the candidate, it is for the judiciary to assess the same. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Alok Mahra is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Siddhartha Sah, and (ii) Alok Mahra, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Uttarakhand. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

17 October 2023



**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Advocates for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana:

- (i) Shri Harmeet Singh Grewal,
- (ii) Shri Deepinder Singh Nalwa,
- (iii) Shri Sumeet Goel,
- (iv) Smt Sudeepti Sharma, and
- (v) Ms Kirti Singh.

On 21 April 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above Advocates as Judges of that High Court. The Chief Ministers and the Governors for the States of Punjab and Haryana have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain the suitability of the above Advocates for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record. We have also perused the



observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints received against the candidates.

**(i) Shri Harmeet Singh Grewal**

Two of the three consultee-Judges have unanimously given a positive opinion on the suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The other consultee-Judge has not offered any opinion. There is nothing adverse against integrity of the candidate. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

**(ii) Shri Deepinder Singh Nalwa**

All the three consultee-Judges have unanimously given positive opinion on the suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that his financial integrity is not considered above board. These inputs are vague and the Government in this regard has fairly stated that there is nothing on record to substantiate these adverse inputs. The candidate has extensive practice which is reflected in a substantial number of reported judgments delivered in the cases in which he appeared / argued. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the



candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

**(iii) Shri Sumeet Goel**

Two of the three consultee-Judges have unanimously given a positive opinion on suitability of the candidate for appointment as a Judge of the High Court. The other consultee-Judge has not offered any opinion. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse as to his integrity has come to notice. The candidate has extensive practice which is reflected in his professional income and the substantially large number of reported judgments delivered in the cases in which he appeared / argued. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court.

**(iv) Ms Sudeepti Sharma**

We have considered the opinion of our consultee-colleagues. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal image and that nothing adverse as to her integrity has come to notice. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.



(v) **Ms Kirti Singh**

We have considered the opinion of our consultee-colleagues. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that the candidate enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse as to her integrity has come to notice. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the candidate is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Harmeet Singh Grewal, (ii) Deepinder Singh Nalwa, (iii) Sumeet Goel, (iv) Ms Sudeepti Sharma, and (v) Ms Kirti Singh, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

17 October 2023



**SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of the following Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Patna:

- (i) Shri Rudra Prakash Mishra, and
- (ii) Shri Ramesh Chand Malviya.

On 8 May 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Patna in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above judicial officers as Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Patna. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Bihar have concurred with the recommendation.

In order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the above persons for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted Judges of the Supreme Court who are conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Judicature at Patna.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above candidates for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as the complaints received against the candidates.



(i) **Shri Rudra Prakash Mishra**

We have considered the opinion of our consultee-colleagues on the suitability of the candidate. One of our consultee-colleagues has opined that the candidate is the seniormost in the seniority of the cadre concerned and can be said to be most deserving as he meets all the criteria for elevation. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Rudra Prakash Mishra is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(ii) **Shri Ramesh Chand Malviya**

We have considered the opinion of our consultee-colleagues on the suitability of the candidate. One of our consultee-colleagues has opined that considering the relevant factors, especially the period for which he would be in office, his appointment as a Judge of the Patna High Court can be favourably considered. The inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file indicate that he enjoys a good personal and professional image and that nothing adverse has come to notice against his integrity. His service record shows that he has mostly been rated as a very-good officer. An observation made in the file that his professional competence is average should not come in the way of his recommendation inasmuch as it is for the



judiciary to assess judicial performance of a judicial officer. Bearing in mind all the relevant facts and circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Ramesh Chand Malviya is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Rudra Prakash Mishra, and (ii) Ramesh Chand Malviya, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Patna. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud ), CJI

( Sanjay Kishan Kaul ), J

( Sanjiv Khanna ), J

17 October 2023