



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 Bombay:

1. Shri Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri,
2. Shri Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak, and
3. Shri Neeraj Pradeep Dhote.

On 27 June 2023, the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended that the above judicial officers be appointed as judges of that High Court. The Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States of Maharashtra and Goa have concurred with the recommendation.

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 High Court of Bombay.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of the above judicial officers 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.

1. Shri Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri

The consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs of Government placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. It appears from the opinion of one of the consultee-judges that the officer was previously overlooked for appointment as a judge of the High Court. However, bearing in mind the fact that the High Court Collegium and consultee-judges have found him fit and suitable as also the assessment of the Government of India on the file, the Collegium recommends that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay.

2. Shri Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak

The consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. It appears from the opinion of one of the consultee-judges that the officer was previously overlooked for appointment as a judge of the High



Court. However, bearing in mind the fact that the High Court Collegium and the consultee-judges have found him fit and suitable as also the assessment of the Government of India on the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay.

3. Shri Neeraj Pradeep Dhote

The consultee-judges have opined that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court. The inputs placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to the integrity or reputation of the officer. Bearing in mind the assessment of the Government of India on the file, and the above circumstances, the Collegium is of the considered view that the officer is suitable for appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay.

We are conscious of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of senior judicial officers. We have gone through the Minutes of the High Court Collegium and are in agreement with the justification given by the High Court Collegium for not recommending their names.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that (1) Shri Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri, (2) Shri Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak, and (3) Shri Neeraj Pradeep Dhote, judicial officers, be appointed as judges of the High Court of Bombay. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

10 October 2023