



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