



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