

## **SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of eight Advocates, whose names are mentioned below, as Judges of the Punjab & Haryana High Court:

1. Shri Jasgurpreet Singh Puri,
2. Shri Suvir Sehgal,
3. Shri Girish Agnihotri,
4. Mrs. Alka Sarin,
5. Shri Inder Pal Singh Doabia,
6. Shri Kamal Sehgal,
7. Shri Puneet Bali and
8. Shri Vikas Bahl.

The above recommendation made by the Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues, has the concurrence of the Chief Ministers and the Governors for the States of Punjab & Haryana.

In order to ascertain suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues who are conversant with the affairs of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. Copies of letters of opinion of our consultee-colleagues received in this regard are placed below.

For purpose of assessing merit and suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have carefully scrutinized the material placed on record. We have also perused the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as complaints received against the above-named recommendees. We do not find any substance therein. Apart from this, we considered it appropriate to interact with all the recommendees. On the basis of interaction, material on record and having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that S/Shri (1) Jasgurpreet Singh Puri, (2) Suvir

Sehgal, (3) Girish Agnihotri, (4) Mrs. Alka Sarin, and (5) Kamal Sehgal (mentioned at Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 above) are suitable for being appointed as Judges of the Punjab & Haryana High Court.

As regards S/Shri (1) Puneet Bali and (2) Vikas Bahl (mentioned at Sl. Nos.7 and 8 above), the Collegium is of the considered view that consideration of the proposal for their elevation deserves to be deferred. The Collegium resolves to recommend accordingly. The proposals would be taken up for consideration on receipt of certain additional information from the Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court.

As regards Shri Inder Pal Singh Doabia (mentioned at Sl. No.5 above) having regard to the material on record and all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that his name deserves to be remitted to the High Court. The Collegium resolves to recommend accordingly.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Jasgurpreet Singh Puri, (2) Suvir Sehgal, (3) Girish Agnihotri, (4) Mrs. Alka Sarin, and (5) Kamal Sehgal, Advocates be appointed as Judges of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Ranjan Gogoi ), C.J.I.

( S.A. Bobde ), J.

( N.V. Ramana ), J.

July 25, 2019.