



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Re: Appointment of Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan, Judge, Madras High Court as the Chief Justice of High Court of Meghalaya.

A vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya has arisen consequent upon the retirement of Mr Justice Sanjib Banerjee on 1 November 2023. Therefore, an appointment to that office is required to be made.

Para 3 of the Memorandum of Procedure relating to the appointment of the Chief Justice of a High Court provides as under:

“A fair representation shall be given to various High Courts for selection of Chief Justices. For purposes of such selection, inter-se seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Court. The consideration for appointment of Chief Justices shall be based on the criterion of seniority subject to merit and integrity.”

It is proposed to appoint Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya. Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan was appointed as a Judge of the Madras High Court on 25 October 2013. Before his elevation as a Judge of the High Court, he got enrolled at the Bar in 1986 and practised at the Madras High Court and various Tribunals. His area of practice was labour, service, criminal and company matters. As regards his contribution to the judiciary by way of disposal of cases, during his tenure of 10 years as a judge of the High Court, he authored 1219 reported judgments, of



which 692 were delivered during last 5 years. He has acquired considerable experience in dispensing justice in one of the largest High Courts in the country. He is the seniormost puisne Judge in his parent High Court. He is a competent judge with humility, judicial temperament and unimpeachable integrity. While recommending his name, the Collegium has also taken into consideration the fact that the Madras High Court which is one of the largest High Courts in the country, is presently represented by only one Chief Justice among the Chief Justices of the High Courts.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan be appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

02 November 2023.



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Re: Appointment of Ms Justice Ritu Bahri, Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand.

A vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand has arisen consequent upon retirement of Mr Justice Vipin Sanghi on 26 October 2023. Therefore, an appointment to that office is required to be made.

Para 3 of the Memorandum of Procedure relating to appointment of the Chief Justice of a High Court provides as under:

“A fair representation shall be given to various High Courts for selection of Chief Justices. For purposes of such selection, inter-se seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Court. The consideration for appointment of Chief Justices shall be based on the criterion of seniority subject to merit and integrity.”

It is proposed to appoint Ms Justice Ritu Bahri as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand. She was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana on 16 August 2010 and is the senior-most puisne Judge in her parent High Court. Before her elevation as a Judge of the High Court, after enrolment at the Bar in 1986 she practised at the High Court of



Punjab and Haryana. Her area of practice was civil, constitutional, taxation, labour and service matters. She specialized in service and tax matters. During her practice of 24 years she also served as Assistant Advocate General, Deputy Advocate General and as senior Deputy Advocate General for the State of Haryana. As regards her contribution to the judiciary by way of disposal of cases, during her tenure of 13 years as a Judge of High Court, she authored 843 reported judgments of which 247 were delivered during last 5 years. She has acquired extensive experience in dispensing justice in one of the largest High Courts in the country. She is a competent judge endowed with high level of integrity, conduct and character. While recommending the name of Ms Justice Ritu Bahri as the Chief Justice, the Collegium has also taken into consideration the fact that the High Court of Punjab and Haryana has jurisdiction over two large States and at present there is only one Chief Justice to represent the High Court of Punjab and Haryana from among the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Besides, at present there is only one woman Chief Justice and her elevation would enhance representation of women among the Chief Justices of the High Courts.

Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that Ms Justice Ritu Bahri is fit and suitable in all respects for being appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Ms Justice Ritu Bahri be appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

02 November 2023.



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Re: Appointment of Mr Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Judge, High Court of Judicature at Patna, as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa.

A vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa has arisen consequent upon the retirement of Mr Justice Subhasis Talapatra on 3 October 2023. Therefore, an appointment to that office is required to be made.

Para 3 of the Memorandum of Procedure relating to the appointment of the Chief Justice of a High Court provides as under:

“A fair representation shall be given to various High Courts for selection of Chief Justices. For purposes of such selection, inter-se seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Court. The consideration for appointment of Chief Justices shall be based on the criterion of seniority subject to merit and integrity.”

It is proposed to appoint Mr Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa. Mr Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna on 5 April 2012 and has been functioning there as the senior-most puisne Judge. Before his elevation as a Judge of the High Court, he was enrolled at the Bar in 1990 and practised at the High Court of Judicature at Patna. His area of practice was constitutional, service, criminal and arbitration matters. During his practice of 22 years he also served as Additional Advocate General for the State of Bihar since December 2010 till his elevation as a Judge of High



Court. As regards his contribution to the judiciary by way of disposal of cases, during his tenure of more than 11 years as a Judge of High Court, he authored 1246 reported judgments, of which 562 were delivered during last 5 years. He has maintained high standard of professional ethics at the Bar and Bench and enjoys good reputation for conduct and integrity. While recommending the name of Mr Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, the Collegium has also taken into consideration the fact that at present the High Court of Judicature at Patna has no representation among the Chief Justices of High Courts.

Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that Mr Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh is fit and suitable in all respects for being appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa.

The Collegium, therefore, resolves to recommend the appointment of Mr Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

02 November 2023.