

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This relates to the proposal for appointment of the following six Additional Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, as Permanent Judges of that High Court:

- (i) Shri Justice Vikas Bahl,
- (ii) Shri Justice Vikas Suri,
- (iii) Shri Justice Sandeep Moudgil,
- (iv) Shri Justice Vinod Sharma (Bhardwaj)
- (v) Shri Justice Pankaj Jain, and
- (vi) Shri Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi.

On 19 December 2022, the Collegium of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana unanimously recommended the Additional Judges whose names are set out above for appointment as Permanent Judges of that High Court. The above recommendation, which has the concurrence of the Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States of Punjab and Haryana, has been received from the Department of Justice on 13 April, 2023.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, Judges of the Supreme Court who are conversant with the functioning of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana were consulted with a view to ascertain

the suitability of the above Judges for being appointed as Permanent Judges.

The Committee constituted in terms of the Resolution dated 26th October, 2017 of the Supreme Court Collegium to evaluate the Judgments of the above-named Additional Judges, has submitted its report. The Judgment Evaluation Committee consisting of two judges of the Supreme Court has noted the judgments of the candidates as Very good (Serial no. i, v and vi), Good (Serial no. ii & iii) and Outstanding (Serial no. iv).

With a view to assess the merit and suitability of the above Additional Judges for appointment as Permanent Judges, we have scrutinized the material placed on record including the observations made by the Department of Justice and the complaints placed before us. On an overall consideration of the above proposal, the Collegium is of the view that S/Shri Justices (i) Vikas Bahl, (ii) Vikas Suri, (iii) Sandeep Moudgil, (iv) Vinod Sharma (Bhardwaj), (v) Pankaj Jain, and (vi) Jasjit Singh Bedi, Additional Judges, are fit and suitable for being appointed as Permanent Judges.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri Justices (i) Vikas Bahl, (ii) Vikas Suri, (iii) Sandeep

Moudgil, (iv) Vinod Sharma (Bhardwaj), (v) Pankaj Jain, and (vi) Jasjit Singh Bedi, Additional Judges, be appointed as Permanent Judges of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana against the existing vacancies.

Since the current two-year term of one of the Additional Judge is due to expire on 24 May 2023, the above recommendation may be processed expeditiously.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), C.J.I.

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J.

(K.M. Joseph), J.

April 17 2023.

