



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 Judicature at Patna in the following terms:

- (i) Shri Shashi Bhushan Prasad Singh, and
- (ii) Shri Ashok Kumar Pandey.

On 7 May 2024, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Patna in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the elevation of the above-named Judicial Officers. The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Bihar concurred with the recommendation.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court of Judicature at Patna were consulted in order to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the candidates.

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.



(i) **Shri Shashi Bhushan Prasad Singh**

Both the consultee-Judges have found the candidate suitable for appointment as a High Court Judge. 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 candidate joined the Judicial Service in May 1996 and served as a Judicial Officer in various capacities in the State. Presently, he is working as Registrar (Vigilance) in the High Court. Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judges, the report of the Judgement Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Shashi Bhushan Prasad Singh is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(ii) **Shri Ashok Kumar Pandey**

Both the consultee-Judges have found the candidate suitable for appointment as a High Court Judge. 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 candidate joined the Judicial Service in December 1995 and served as a Judicial Officer in various capacities in the State. Presently, he is working as Director of Bihar Judicial Academy, Patna. Bearing in mind the views of the consultee-Judges, the



report of the Judgement Assessment Committee and the assessment made by the Government of India in the file, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Ashok Kumar Pandey is suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

While considering the above proposal, we have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of some senior judicial officers. Cogent/good reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending their names. We are, therefore, in agreement with the High Court Collegium for overlooking them.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Shashi Bhushan Prasad Singh, and (ii) Ashok Kumar Pandey, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Patna. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

24 September 2024.