



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.