



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the name of Smt. Chaitali Chatterjee (Das), Judicial Officer, for appointment as Judge of the High Court at Calcutta in the following terms:

On 26 September 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court at Calcutta made the above recommendation in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues.

The Chief Minister and the Governor for the State of West Bengal have not conveyed their views on the above recommendation. The Department of Justice has forwarded the above recommendation by invoking para 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure which provides that if the comments of the constitutional authorities in the State are not received within the prescribed time-frame, it should be presumed by the Minister of Law and Justice that the Governor and the Chief Minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.

In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, the Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court at Calcutta were consulted to ascertain the fitness and suitability of the candidate.

For the purpose of assessing the merit and suitability of Smt Chaitali Chatterjee (Das) for elevation to the High Court, we have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record.



All the three consultee Judges have unanimously and emphatically opined that the candidate is suitable for being appointed as a High Court Judge.

We have duly considered the inputs provided by the Government. The professional competence of the officer is reported to be good.

The candidate joined judicial service in 2009. Prior to that, after enrolment at the Bar in 1993 she practiced at the High Court and City Civil Court for about 16 years and thus has extensive experience at the Bar and the Bench. She has held various positions as judicial officer at sensitive postings in the State and is presently posted as Registrar General of the High Court at Calcutta. The Judgment Evaluation Committee constituted by the Chief Justice of the High Court has rated the quality of judgments authored by her as very good by awarding 70 marks.

While considering the above proposal, we have also taken note of the fact that the above proposal involves non-recommendation of a senior judicial officer. Cogent reasons have been recorded by the Collegium of the High Court for not recommending her name. We are, therefore, in agreement with the High Court Collegium for overlooking that officer.

Having regard to the positive opinion of the consultee-judges and on an overall assessment of the proposal, the Collegium is of the considered view that Ms. Chaitali Chatterjee (Das) is suitable for being appointed as Judge of the High Court at Calcutta.



In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Ms Chaitali Chatterjee (Das), Judicial Officer, be appointed as judge of the High Court at Calcutta.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

4 January 2024