



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the names of S/Shri (i) Deepak Khot and (ii) Pavan Kumar Dwivedi@ Pavan Dwivedi, Advocates, for appointment as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh in the following terms:

The recommendation for appointment of the above two candidates as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh was made by the Collegium of the High Court on 11 November 2022.

On 17 October 2023, the Supreme Court Collegium scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record. Further consideration of the recommendation was deferred with a view to seek a report from the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh in consultation with members of the High Court Collegium on the suitability of the candidates in light of the inputs placed by the Department of Justice in the file.

The Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh has by a letter dated 30 December 2023 forwarded the report of the High Court Collegium dated 28 December 2023 along with the response of the above two Advocates to the inputs provided by the Government while questioning the suitability of the above-mentioned candidates.



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

The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of Madhya Pradesh have conveyed their concurrence to the above recommendation.

While recommending the names of the above advocates the Collegium of the High Court had duly considered their professional competence and after finding them professionally competent, recommended their names. As regards the integrity of the two Advocates, the inputs provided by Government are unconfirmed based on discreet enquiries and without giving specific material or information.

(i) Shri Deepak Khot

We have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record, including the opinion of the consultee-Judges on the suitability of the candidate and the report of the Collegium of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh together with the response submitted by Shri Deepak Khot. The views of the consultee-Judges reveal that Shri Deepak Khot is a competent advocate suitable for elevation to the High Court. The Collegium, therefore, is of the considered view that Shri Deepak Khot



is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) Shri Pavan Kumar Dwivedi @ Pavan Dwivedi

We have scrutinized and evaluated the material placed on record, including the opinion of the consultee-Judges on the suitability of the candidate and the report of the Collegium of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh together with the response submitted by Shri Pavan Kumar Dwivedi. The views of the consultee-Judges reveal that Shri Pavan Kumar Dwivedi is a competent advocate suitable for elevation to the High Court. The Collegium, therefore, is of the considered view that Shri Pavan Kumar Dwivedi is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (i) Deepak Khot and (ii) Pavan Kumar Dwivedi @ Pavan Dwivedi, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

The Collegium has noted that the proposal for appointment of two Advocates namely S/Shri (i) Ashish Shroti and (ii) Amit Seth, whose names have been approved by this Collegium earlier in point of time i.e. on 17 October 2023, has been pending with the government. Therefore,



the Collegium further resolves to recommend that the inter se seniority of the above Advocates vis-à-vis Shri Deepak Khot and Shri Pavan Kumar Dwivedi@ Pavan Dwivedi be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

9 January 2024