



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Re: Appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Meghalaya.

There are existing vacancies in the office of Chief Justices in the High Courts of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Kerala and vacancies which are likely to arise in the office of Chief Justices of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and Meghalaya.

Having considered the names of Judges from different High Courts bearing in mind their seniority, performance and the need, as far as possible, to provide representation to the different High Courts among the Chief Justices, the Collegium recommends the following names for appointment as Chief Justices of the High Courts:

(i) Mr Justice Manmohan is the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi. He was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 13 March 2008 and is due to retire on 16 December 2024. Mr Justice Manmohan ranks at Sl No 3 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges.



Bearing in mind the Memorandum of Procedure, Mr Justice Manmohan can be appointed as the Chief Justice of his parent High Court, at this stage. The Collegium, therefore, recommends that Mr Justice Manmohan be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi.

(ii) On the transfer of Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao, Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand, consequent upon the retirement of Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi on 19 July 2024, there would be a vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of that High Court.

Mr Justice Rajiv Shakti was appointed as a Judge of the High Court on 11 April 2008 and ranks at SI No 4 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges. He is one of the seniormost Judges in the country.

The Collegium, therefore, recommends that Mr Justice Rajiv Shakti be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr Justice M S Ramachandra Rao to the High Court of Jharkhand, consequent upon the retirement of Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi.



(iii) By a separate resolution passed today, the Collegium has recommended the appointment of Mr Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as Judge of the Supreme Court. On his appointment, there would be a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait is a senior Judge of the High Court of Delhi, who was appointed on 5 September 2008. He belongs to the Scheduled Caste category. Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait ranks at Sl No 5 in the All India Seniority list of High Court Judges, including Chief Justices. He is due to retire on 23 May 2025. The Judges of the High Court of Delhi who are senior to Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait are due to retire in the near future.

Bearing in mind the position of Mr Justice Suresh Kumar Kait in the All India Seniority list, the Collegium is of the view that he should be recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.



(iv) Mr Justice G S Sandhwalia is the seniormost puisne Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. He was appointed as a Judge of that High Court on 30 September 2011.

The High Court for the States of Punjab and Haryana is one of the largest High Courts in the country. Hence, it would be appropriate to appoint the seniormost puisne Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court as a Chief Justice.

The Collegium accordingly recommends that Mr Justice G S Sandhwalia be appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

(v) There is a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala, consequent upon the retirement of Mr Justice Ashish J Desai on 4 July 2024.

Mr Nitin Madhukar Jamdar is the seniormost puisne Judge of the High Court of Bombay. He was appointed as a Judge of the High Court on 23 January 2012.



Bearing in mind that Mr Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar is the seniormost puisne Judge of the High Court of Bombay with experience on the judicial and administrative side, the Collegium recommends his appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

(vi) Mr Justice Tashi Rabstan is the seniormost puisne Judge of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. He was appointed as a Judge on 8 March 2013 and is due to retire on 9 April 2025. He hails from Ladakh.

Mr Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, who is presently serving as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, was appointed as a Judge of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Bearing in mind that Mr Justice Tashi Rabstan would be the first Chief Justice from the region of Ladakh which has otherwise little or no representation among the Judges of the High Court and no representation at all so far in the office of Chief Justice, the Collegium recommends his appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya on the retirement of Mr Justice S Vaidyanathan, Chief Justice of that High Court, who is due to retire on 16 August 2024.



(vii) There is a vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madras consequent upon the retirement of Mr Justice Sanjay V Gangapurwala on 23 May 2024. Mr Justice K R Shriram is the second seniormost puisne Judge of the High Court of Bombay. He was appointed on 21 June 2013.

Bearing in mind that Mr Justice K R Shriram is a senior Judge of the High Court of Bombay with experience on the judicial and administrative side, the Collegium recommends his appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Madras.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), CJI

(Sanjiv Khanna), J

(B R Gavai), J

11 July 2024.