

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This relates to the proposal for appointment of the following seven Advocates as Judges of the Calcutta High Court:

1. Shri Biswajit Basu,
2. Smt. Amrita Sinha,
3. Dr. Sutanu Kumar Patra,
4. Shri Abhijit Gangopadhyay,
5. Shri Tirthankar Ghosh,
6. Shri Jay Sengupta, and
7. Shri Hiranmay Bhattacharyya.

The above recommendation has been unanimously made by the then Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court on 4th May, 2017 in consultation with her two senior-most colleagues.

In order to ascertain suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our sole consultee-colleague conversant with the affairs of the Calcutta High Court. A copy of letter of opinion of our consultee-colleague received in this regard is placed below.

For purpose of assessing merit and suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have carefully scrutinized the material placed in the file which includes the views of the Chief Minister as forwarded by the Governor for the State of West Bengal, report/s of the Intelligence Bureau, the age, income, reported/unreported judgments in respect of all the recommendees as well as the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file. Apart from this, we invited all the recommendees with a view to have an interaction with them. On the basis of interaction and having regard to all relevant factors the Collegium is of the considered view that S/Shri (1) Biswajit Basu, (2) Smt. Amrita Sinha, (3) Dr. Sutanu Kumar Patra, (4) Abhijit Gangopadhyay, and (5) Jay Sengupta,

Advocates, are suitable for being appointed as Judges of the Calcutta High Court.

As regards Shri Tirthankar Ghosh (mentioned at Sl. No.5 above), the Collegium needs further information to assess his suitability. The Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court may be requested accordingly.

As regards Shri Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, the proposal for his elevation is deferred for the present.

While considering the above recommendations we have taken due note of the fact that net professional income of some of the recommendees is less than the prescribed income limit. In this regard, we consider it necessary to mention that the revised income criterion was made known to the High Courts including the Calcutta High Court, subsequent to the date of these recommendations.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Biswajit Basu, (2) Smt. Amrita Sinha, (3) Dr. Sutanu Kumar Patra, (4) Abhijit Gangopadhyay, and (5) Jay Sengupta, Advocates, be appointed as Judges of the Calcutta High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

(Dipak Misra) C.J.I.

(J. Chelameswar), J.

(Ranjan Gogoi), J.

March 26, 2018.