

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of following eight Advocates as Judges of the Orissa High Court:

- 1 Shri Gautam Mukherji,
- 2 Shri Samir Kumar Mishra,
- 3 Shri Prasanna Kumar Parhi,
- 4 Ms. Savitri Ratho,
- 5 Shri Prafulla Kumar Rath,
- 6 Shri Durga Prasad Nanda,
- 7 Shri Pravat Kumar Muduli, and
- 8 Shri Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi.

The above recommendation made by the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court on 7th May, 2019, has the concurrence of the State of Odisha. We have duly taken note of the views expressed by each one of the Members of the High Court Collegium.

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

With a view to assess merit and suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have carefully scrutinized the material placed on record. The Collegium has taken note of the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file as well as complaints received against the above-named recommendees. Apart from this, we considered it appropriate to invite all the recommendees for interaction with the Collegium. On the basis of interaction and having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that Shri Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Advocate (mentioned at Sl. No. 8 above) is suitable for being appointed as Judge of the Orissa High Court.

As regards Ms. Savitri Ratho, (mentioned at Sl. No. 4 above), consideration of the proposal for her elevation is deferred for the present.

As regards S/Shri (1) Gautam Mukherji, (2) Samir Kumar Mishra, (3) Prasanna Kumar Parhi, (4) Prafulla Kumar Rath, (5) Durga Prasad Nanda, and (6) Pravat Kumar Muduli, Advocates, having regard to the material on record and all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the considered view that their cases deserve to be remitted to the High Court. The Collegium resolves to recommend accordingly.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Shri Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Advocate, be appointed as Judge of the Orissa High Court.

(Ranjan Gogoi), C.J.I.

(S.A. Bobde), J.

(N.V.Ramana), J.

October 03, 2019.

