

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

The Collegium of the Supreme Court has reiterated its earlier recommendation dated 25 July 2022 for appointment of Shri Harpreet Singh Brar, Senior Advocate as a Judge in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana in the following terms:

On 10 March 2022, the Collegium of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana recommended, inter alia, the elevation of Shri Harpreet Singh Brar, Advocate, as a Judge of the High Court. The recommendation was approved by the Collegium of the Supreme Court on 25 July 2022.

The Department of Justice flagged certain issues and referred back the recommendation on 25 November 2022 for reconsideration by this Collegium. Taking note of the issues flagged by the Department of Justice in the file, this Collegium by its resolution dated 15 February 2023 resolved to seek the views of the Collegium of the High Court. On 16 February 2023, the Chief Justice of India addressed a communication to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana seeking the inputs of the High Court Collegium on the issues flagged by the Department of Justice in the file.

By a communication dated 24 February 2023, the Chief Justice of the High Court stated that he had sought the comments of the candidate. The High

Court Collegium held a meeting on 23 February 2023 to reconsider the recommendation for the appointment of Shri Harpreet Singh Brar, bearing in mind the observation of the Department of Justice. Upon careful evaluation of the matters which have been noted by the Department of Justice, the High Court Collegium which has been constituted afresh with a new member has arrived at the unanimous view that there was no reason to take a view different from the one taken earlier and has reiterated the recommendation for the elevation of Shri Harpreet Singh Brar.

This Collegium has considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Collegium of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana dated 23 February 2023. The Collegium of the High Court has elaborately dealt with each of the issues flagged by the Department of Justice before resolving to reiterate the recommendation.

At an earlier stage while recommending the name of Shri Brar, the Collegium of the Supreme Court took into consideration the opinion of its consultee-judges. The Collegium has now obtained the opinion of two more consultee-judges who have been appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court recently. In view of the opinion of the consultee-judges of this Court and the report submitted by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana along with Minutes of the Collegium and papers enclosed with it, and after examining all aspects of the matter, the Collegium is of the view that Shri Harpreet Singh Brar is fit and suitable for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. The Collegium has also taken note of the fact

that, besides being a senior advocate, the candidate has a wide-ranging experience of practice before the High Court.

In this backdrop, the Collegium resolves to reiterate its recommendation dated 25 July 2022 for the appointment of Shri Harpreet Singh Brar, Advocate, as a Judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. The proposal should be processed at the earliest.

(Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud), C.J.I.

(Sanjay Kishan Kaul), J.

(K.M. Joseph), J.

21 March 2023

