

## SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

This file relates to the proposal for appointment of following two Judicial Officers as Judges of the Punjab & Haryana High Court:

1. Shri Lalit Batra, and
2. Shri Arun Kumar Tyagi

The above recommendation made by the then Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues, has the concurrence of the Governments of the States of Punjab and Haryana.

In order to ascertain suitability of the above-named recommendees for elevation to the High Court, we have consulted our colleagues conversant with the affairs of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. Copies of letters of opinion of our consultee-colleagues received in this regard are 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 on record, including the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file. Apart from this, we invited both the above-named 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) Lalit Batra and (2) Arun Kumar Tyagi, Judicial Officers are suitable for being appointed as Judges of the Punjab & Haryana High Court.

As per record, the above proposal involves non-recommendation of three senior Judicial Officers. We are informed that the names of two of them were rejected by the Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on 4/6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

As regards the third senior Judicial Officer, on perusal of the Minutes dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 the High Court Collegium has recorded reasons for not recommending her name which, according to us, are fully acceptable.

In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that S/Shri (1) Lalit Batra, and (2) Arun Kumar Tyagi, Judicial Officers, be appointed as Judges of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. Their *inter se* seniority be fixed as per the existing practice.

( Ranjan Gogoi ), C.J.I.

( Madan B. Lokur ), J.

( Kurian Joseph ), J.

October 24, 2018.

