



THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

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HCKL/2658/2023-REC4

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NOTIFICATION

KERALA STATE HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION – 2023

Online applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment as District and Sessions Judge in the Kerala State Higher Judicial Service by direct recruitment from the Bar against the Regular vacancies as detailed below. Scale of Pay of the post is ₹ 144840 – 194660. Online applications can be submitted from 17.04.2023 onwards. No other means/modes of application will be accepted.

2. **Recruitment Number** : 5 / 2023
Number of vacancies : 5 Nos.
3. **Qualifications** : A candidate for appointment as District and Sessions Judge from the Bar shall satisfy the following general conditions:
 - a. He shall be a citizen of Indian Union.
 - b. He shall have attained 35 years of age and shall not have completed 45 years of age on the first day of January, 2023.
 - c. He shall be of good character.
 - d. He shall be of sound health and active habits and free from any bodily defect or infirmity which renders him unfit for such appointment.
 - e. He shall not have more than one spouse living unless exempted by the Government on special grounds.
 - f. He **shall be a practising Advocate** having a standing of not less than 7 (seven) years of practice, as on the first day of January, 2023.
 - g. He shall be an Advocate continuing in practice at the time of appointment (*As per Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 19.02.2020 in Dheeraj Mor v. High Court of Delhi*).
 - h. He shall not be a person already in the service of the Union or of any State in India.

Note: For relaxation of age limit, provisions in sub rule (c) of Rule 10 of Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 raising the

upper age limit in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, adult members of Scheduled Castes and their children when such adult members are converted to other religions, Scheduled Tribes and Other backward Classes shall be applicable.

4. **Mode of Selection:** The selection shall be after holding competitive examinations at two successive stages. The first stage is the Kerala State Higher Judicial Service (Preliminary) Examination. The second stage is the Kerala State Higher Judicial Service (Main) Examination, consisting of a written examination and a viva-voce. The preliminary examination will consist of one paper of objective type screening test containing 75 multiple choice questions (30 from civil laws, 30 from criminal laws and 15 from the Constitution of India, English language, General knowledge and Legal aptitude). These shall also include questions having multiple correct answers and in such questions all the correct answers are to be marked/indicated. If the candidate darkens any of the wrong answer options or darkens only a part of the correct answer options, it will be treated as incorrect answer. Two marks will be awarded for correct answers and one mark will be deducted for incorrect answers. Duration of the examination shall be Two hours. Marks obtained in the preliminary examination will not be counted for determining the final order of merit. The syllabus of the preliminary examination shall not be confined to that of the main examination. Questions from other statutes/topics which have application to the proceedings before the District & Sessions Courts, the Constitution of India, English language, General knowledge and legal aptitude will also be included. The ratio of notified vacancies to the number of successful candidates in the preliminary examination shall be 1:10. If more than one candidate obtains the same mark as that of the last candidate in the descending order of merit, all such candidates securing identical mark shall be treated as qualified for the main (written) examination. The date of Preliminary examination will be announced later.

The total marks for the Main (Written) examination is 300 and it shall consist of two papers each carrying a maximum of 150 marks based on the syllabus given below. The duration of each paper shall be three hours. The number of candidates for the viva voce shall not ordinarily exceed three times the number of notified vacancies. If more than one candidate obtains the same mark as that of the last candidate in the descending order of marks, all such candidates securing identical mark shall be treated as qualified for the viva voce. Maximum marks for viva voce shall be 50. The general and OBC candidates should secure a minimum of 40% marks and SC/ST candidates should secure a minimum of 35% marks for passing the viva voce. The merit list of successful candidates will be prepared on the basis of the aggregate marks secured in the main (written) examination and viva voce. While preparing the merit list if there are more than one candidate securing identical marks, the candidate who is older in age shall be preferred. If the age of the candidates is also identical, the one with longer period of practice shall be preferred. If the length of practice is also identical, the Committee shall decide who among the candidates, who have secured equal number of marks, should be ranked higher taking into consideration all relevant factors.

5. **Syllabus for the Main (Written) Examination:**

PAPER - I	Limitation Act, Specific Relief Act, Transfer of Property Act, Indian Easements Act, Family Courts Act, Motor Vehicles Act (Chapters X, XI and XII), Laws relating to Intellectual Property Rights, Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, Indian Contract Act, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Indian Succession Act (Probate, Letters of Administration, Wills, etc.), Personal Laws - Hindu, Muslim & Christian, Guardian and Wards Act, Code of Civil Procedure, Civil Rules of Practice, Kerala Court Fees and Suit Valuation Act and Judgment writing (Civil)
PAPER - II	Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, Code of Criminal Procedure with special emphasis on framing of charges, Sessions trial, Bail, etc., Criminal Rules of Practice and Judgment writing (Criminal)

6. **Reservation of Appointment:**

- a. The rules relating to reservation and appointments for Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Economically Weaker Sections contained in Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 (Rules 14 to 17) shall apply to appointment by direct recruitment.
- b. Four percent of vacancies shall be reserved for persons with disabilities provided that the Medical Board constituted for assessment certifies that the candidate will be able to perform the duties of a Judicial Officer with the aid of Assistive Technologies and the candidate qualifies in the selection in terms of the Kerala State Higher Judicial Service Rules, 1961.

7. **Probation:** Every person appointed as District and Sessions Judge by direct recruitment shall be on probation for a period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years from the date on which he/she joins duty.

8. **How to Apply:**

- a. The online application process has two parts - **Step-I** and **Step-II**. 'Step-I /New Applicant' is the first part for registration of the applicants. 'Step-II/Registered Applicant' is the second part of the process for those applicants who had completed Step-I. A candidate's online application is complete only if he/she completes both the steps which includes the submission of application by clicking the **'FINAL SUBMISSION'** option available in Step -II process and **payment of application fee**.
- b. Eligible candidates are required to apply only **'ONLINE'** through the website www.hckrecruitment.nic.in. To start the process, the candidates should click the link **'Step-I/ New Applicant'** in the web page or the **'Apply**

Online' button available against the notification link. This will take the candidate to the next page where the options of 'POSTS' are displayed. The candidates can access the **RECRUITMENT OF DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE main page** (hereafter called the main page) by clicking the option '**DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE**' available there. Before proceeding further, the candidate should read the detailed notification in the home page and How to Apply, Guidelines for Photograph & Signature, FAQ and Sample Application Form provided in the main page. He/She should also be ready with his/her scanned Photograph & Signature as specified in clause (h) below or in Guidelines for Photograph & Signature (in a pen drive or CD) and the details to be filled in the online application.

- c. In Step-I (Registration for New Applicants), the candidate has to fill in basic information about him/her. The information provided during Step-I (New Applicants) process cannot be modified after submission with key number.
- d. In Step-II (Registered Applicant), the candidate has to upload his/her scanned photograph and signature and detailed information about him/her. The details furnished by the candidates during Step-II process can be modified till the **Final Submission** of online applications. **However, the photograph and signature once uploaded cannot be changed.**
- e. Candidates are advised to have a **valid Mobile Number / valid personal e-mail ID**. It should be kept active for the duration of the recruitment. No request for change of Mobile Number/e-mail ID will be entertained. High Court will send various intimations relating to the recruitment as **SMS/e-mail** to this Mobile Number/e-mail ID.
- f. In case a candidate does not have a valid personal e-mail ID, he/she may create an e-mail ID before applying online.
- g. If the candidate does not mention his/her Mobile Number/e-mail ID, no intimation relating to the recruitment will be sent to the candidate. Such candidates will have to visit the website frequently for getting information about the recruitment.
- h. Before applying online, a candidate will be required to have a **scanned (digital) image of his photograph and signature** as per the following specifications;

Sl. No.	Image	File size	Dimensions (should be the exact size)	
			Height	Width
1	Photograph	20 KB to 40 KB	200 pixels	150 pixels
2	Signature	10 KB to 20 KB	100 pixels	150 pixels

- i. For further details the candidates are advised to visit the link "**Guidelines for Photograph & Signature**" available on the main page. Candidates should take care to upload good quality photographs. Otherwise it would be difficult to identify the candidate from the photograph on the Admission Ticket. **If the candidate cannot be identified from the photograph printed on the Admission Ticket, he/she will not be allowed to attend the examination.**

- j. The candidate should also keep the particulars of educational qualifications, enrolment details, history of practice during the last five years, experience details and other personal details ready before applying as these details are required to be entered in the online Application Form. The detailed requirements are given in the link **"Sample Application Form"** available in the main page.
- k. Candidates should fill in the required details including uploading of his/her photograph and Signature during the course of applying online. Care should be taken by the applicant while filling in information in the Online Application Form.
- l. Towards the end of Step-I process, the candidate will be asked to generate a **Key Number**. The Key Number should be **eight digit** long and it should contain at least one upper case letter (A, B, C,....), one lower case letter (a, b, c,....), one numerical digit (0, 1, 2, 3,....) and one of the special characters (! @ # \$ % ^ * () _ + { } ; : < . >). The candidate is advised to **note down the Key Number and to keep it** securely till the selection process is over since it is required to be entered each time he/she logs into the system. Under no circumstances, he/she should share/mention Key Number with/to any other person.
- m. On completion of Step-I, the candidate will be assigned an **Application Number** which will be displayed on the screen and intimated to the candidates through SMS/e-mail. Candidate can continue with the application filing process by clicking on the 'Proceed' button available in the above screen and complete the application filing process in one go, if he/she so desires, or exit the page.
- n. If he/she opts to exit the page, he/she has to log into the system by clicking on the link "Step-II / Registered Applicant". For this, the Application Number and Key Number of the candidate are required. Then the candidate will have access to the profile of the candidate.
- o. In the **profile** of the candidate, the link 'Upload Photograph and Signature' will be available. Only after completion of uploading of photograph and signature, the link – '**Application**' will be visible. The candidate should fill all the required information in this link. **Final Submission** link will be available only if all the required details are furnished in the link 'Application' and its other dynamic sub links (Employment details, Service Particulars, Civil/Criminal cases etc...).
- p. On satisfying that the information furnished is correct and complete, the candidate must finally submit the Application by clicking the link '**Final Submission**', after furnishing the details required therein. The process of online filing of application will be complete only on successful **Final Submission** of application as stated above. Once an online application is finally submitted, no further change can be made in Step-II. Therefore, the candidates are instructed to ensure the accuracy and correctness of details furnished before clicking the '**Final Submission**' button. Candidates may take note that the **application process will be complete only on payment of application fee, in applicable cases, after the 'Final Submission'**.
- q. **Payment of application fees is the last stage of the application process.** After making '**Final Submission**' as indicated in clause (p) above, the candidate, if applicable, shall make the payment of application fees within

the stipulated time. The 'Fee Payment' link will become inactive on successful payment of application fee. Online applications which are not followed by payment of application fees, in applicable cases, will be incomplete. **Candidates who made online payments are, therefore, requested to ensure that the fee payment link has become inactive in order to confirm the payment, even if, they have received message from their bank regarding successful payment of amount.**

- r. Candidates are required to submit the application fees, as stated below:

Category of Applicant	Amount of Fees
SC/ST/Unemployed Persons with Disability	Nil
All Others	₹ 1500/-

- s. **The application fee can be paid through online mode (Debit Card/Credit Card/Net Banking, etc.) or offline mode (Cash payment at the branches of the State Bank of India using the system generated fee payment chalan).** Payment of fee by Demand Draft/Cheque/Money Orders/Postal Orders etc. will not be accepted. Fee once paid will not be refunded on any account nor can it be held in reserve for any other examination. The candidates are instructed to refer the Terms & Conditions and policies with respect to payment, available in the payment page of the website. Fee payment by either mode can be made only after the final submission of application as stated in clause (p) above. The candidates should ensure that the web browser used by them is compatible with the same of Bank to make hassle free payment of application fee.

- i. Online payment can be made from the date of commencement of Step I & Step II processes. For making online payment of application fee, the candidate should click the link 'Fee Payment' available in the profile of the candidate and follow the instructions available on the screen.
- ii. Do not register again, in case, the amount has already been debited from your account. Your payment may be in clearing and may take a few days to settle the amount. Once, the payment is successful, the 'Fee Payment' link will become inactive. The amount may be got refunded in some cases. Candidates are requested to check their bank account statement in such cases. In case, the online payment **does not become success towards the last date for the offline payment, candidates have to pay the application fee through Offline mode** by presenting the chalan at any branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) on any day specifically mentioned in the notification for the said purpose. In case, two payments (online & offline payment) are made in respect of a single application, email shall be sent intimating the same upon which the extra payment made will be refunded.
- iii. The chalan for offline mode of fee payment can be downloaded from fee payment page available in the profile of the candidate till the date fixed for closure of Step II process. **After that date, the same will be made available in the 'Application Status' link available in the**

Recruitment Portal. Payment through offline mode can be made only after the date fixed for closure of Step II process.

- t. Candidates who are exempted from fee payment and the candidates who wish to pay the fee through online mode (Debit Card/Credit Card/Net Banking, etc) can complete the application process in one go, if they so desire. In case the candidates do not intend to complete the application process in one go, he/she can login to STEP-II link available in the Home Page by providing Application Number and Key Number and continue the process.
 - u. The successful remittance of application fee marks the end of application filing process. **The candidates shall take note of the fact the application filing process will be complete only on successful remittance of application fee. If the application fee is not remitted within the respective cut off date, the applications will be incomplete.**
 - v. The candidates should take printout of Application and keep it for future reference. **They need not send copy of any document/ certificate/ the print out of the online application.**
9. Online application validation rules are designed based on the Notification/Rules requirement. Candidates are advised to read the Notification/Rules carefully and refer **"How to Apply"** pages on the main page. Application submitted through online form does not imply that candidate has fulfilled all the criteria given in the Notification/Rules and application is subject to subsequent scrutiny and the application can be rejected if found to be not fulfilling the eligibility criteria at any point of time.
10. The candidates should ensure that the details in the system generated printout of Application are that of the candidates themselves. The candidates who make alterations or attempt to write the written test by making alterations in the Admission Tickets downloaded will be disqualified.
11. Candidates are advised to keep the Application Number and Key Number securely as both are required each time they log in to the system.
12. An application once made will not be allowed to be withdrawn.
13. The candidate's copy of the Fee Payment Chalan should be retained by the candidate and produced if called for.
14. Full and correct information shall be furnished in the online application. Furnishing of false or incorrect information/documents or suppression of material information will disqualify the candidate at any stage of selection. **Anything not specifically claimed in the application against the appropriate field will not be considered at a later stage.**
15. Applications which do not comply with the instructions in this notification shall be rejected.
16. A candidate shall submit only one application.

17. Important dates with regard to submission of application:

Date of commencement of Step-I & Step-II processes and remittance of application fee through online mode	17.04.2023
The date of closure of Step-I process	09.05.2023
Date of closure of Step-II process and last date for remittance of application fee through online mode (Candidates who made online payments are requested to ensure that the 'Fee payment' link has become inactive in order to confirm the payment, even if they have received message from their bank regarding successful payment of amount.)	17.05.2023
Date of commencement of remittance of application fee through offline mode	23.05.2023
The last date for remittance of application fee through offline mode	31.05.2023

18. **Admission Tickets:** Admission Tickets for preliminary/ Main written examination **will not be sent by post.** Candidates should login to their profile to download the Admission Tickets from the website www.hckrecruitment.nic.in. The Admission Tickets will be ready for download three weeks prior to the date of the written examination (preliminary/main) and the matter will be informed through press release and through SMS/e-mail. **The candidates are also advised to visit the recruitment portal of the High Court at least once in two weeks to know about the schedule of the examination.**

19. **Call Letter for Viva-voce :** Call Letters for viva-voce **will not be sent by post.** Eligible candidates should login to their profile to download the Call Letters from the website www.hckrecruitment.nic.in. The Call Letters will be ready for download two weeks prior to the date of the viva-voce and the matter will be informed through press release and SMS/e-mail. **The eligible candidates are also advised to visit the recruitment portal of the High Court at least once in a week to know about the schedule of the viva-voce.**

20. For clearing doubts, candidates may call: 0484-2562235 on working days from 10 am to 4.30 pm.

(By Order)



P.J. Vincent
Registrar (District Judiciary)