

THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

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Dated – 21/11/2017

REC4-75832/2017

NOTIFICATION

KERALA STATE HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION – 2017

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 NCA and Regular vacancies as detailed below. Scale of Pay of the post is ₹ 51550 – 63070. Online applications can be submitted from 28/11/2017 onwards. No other means/modes of application will be accepted.

NCA Vacancies

2. **Recruitment Number** : **20/2017**
(4th Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to Notification No. B1-82403/2010 dated 04.03.2011.
- Number of vacancy** : **Scheduled Tribe - 1**
(Candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes in the State of Kerala alone are eligible to apply).
3. **Recruitment Number** : **21/2017**
(3rd Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to Notification No. REC4- 56350/2012 dated 20-12-2012.
- Number of vacancy** : **Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity - 1**
(Candidates belonging to the non-creamy layer of Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity community in the State of Kerala alone are eligible to apply).
4. **Recruitment Number** : **22/2017**
(1st Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to Notification No. REC4-63016/2015 dated 30.09.2015)
- Number of vacancies** :
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Scheduled Castes | -2 |
| Hindu Nadars | -1 |
| Muslims | -1 |
| Latin Catholics/Anglo Indians | -1 |
| Viswakarmas | -1 |
| Ezhavas,Thiyyas and Billavas | -1 |
- (Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes in the state of Kerala and candidates belonging to the non-creamy layer of Hindu Nadars, Muslims, Latin Catholics/Anglo Indians, Viswakarmas and Ezhavas, Thiyyas and Billavas communities in the State of Kerala alone are eligible to apply)

Rule 15(a) of Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 shall be applicable for the above NCA recruitments.

Regular Vacancies

5. **Recruitment Number** : 23/2017
Number of vacancies : 4 Nos. (Probable)

6. **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, 2017.
- (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, 2017.

Note: (1) For relaxations 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.

(2) Save as otherwise provided, eligibility shall be determined with reference to the last date fixed for closure of Step II Process.

7. **Mode of Selection**: The selection shall be on the basis of a competitive examination consisting of a written examination and a viva voce. The competitive examination will be common for the candidates who apply in response to Recruitment Nos. 20/2017, 21/2017, 22/2017 and 23/2017 mentioned above. The total marks for the 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 written examination and viva voce.

8. As per the relevant provision in the Special Rules, the High Court can resort to an objective preliminary examination before the main written examination, considering the number of applicants. In such case, the ratio of the number of notified vacancies to the the number of candidates to be shortlisted 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

marks, all such candidates securing identical mark shall be included in the shortlist for the written examination. The marks obtained in the Preliminary examination will be considered only for shortlisting the candidates for the main (written) examination. The schedule of Preliminary examination, if any and written examinations will be announced later.

9. **Syllabus for the Written Examination:**

PAPER - I	Limitation Act, Specific Relief Act, Transfer of Property 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, Code of Criminal Procedure with special emphasis on framing of charges, Sessions trial, Bail, etc., Criminal Rules of Practice and Judgment Writing (Criminal).

10. **Reservation of Appointment:** The rules relating to reservation and appointments for Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes contained in Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 (Rules 14 to 17) shall apply to appointment by direct recruitment.

11. **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.

12. **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 complete Step-I. A candidate's online application is complete only if he/she completes both the steps which includes the submission of applications by clicking the 'FINAL SUBMISSION' option available in 'Step - II' process.
- 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' below the head 'Apply Online' seen in the right side of the web page. 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 (in a pen drive or CD) and the details to be filled in the online application.
- c) In Step-I (Registration for New Applicant), the candidate has to fill in basic information about him/her. The information provided during Step-I (New Applicant) process is of permanent nature and cannot be modified.

- d) In Step-II (For Registered Applicant), the candidate has to upload his/her scanned photograph and signature, fill in fee payment details 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) The online application form is common for recruitment to NCA vacancies (Recruitment Nos.20/2017, 21/2017, 22/2017) and Regular vacancies (Recruitment No.23/2017).
- f) Candidates applying for more than one recruitment **should not apply separately.** In Step-I, they should select the Method of Recruitment/ Eligible Community against relevant recruitment number/s for which they want to apply. They need to pay the application fee only once. If they opt to apply separately, they will have to remit separate application fee for each recruitment and they will lose the 'common candidate' status in the examination. So, the eligible candidates who desire to apply for more than one recruitment should avoid applying separately to get the status of the 'common candidate' in view of the fact that common examination is prescribed for recruitments to Regular and NCA vacancies.
- g) 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. Under no circumstances, he/she should share/mention the e-mail ID with/to any other person.
- h) In case a candidate does not have a valid personal e-mail ID, he/she may create his/her new e-mail ID before applying online.
- i) If the candidate does not mention his/her Mobile Number/e-mail ID, no intimation relating to the recruitment will be sent to the candidates. Such candidates will have to visit the website frequently for getting information about the recruitment.
- j) Before applying online a candidate will be required to have a scanned (digital) image of his photograph and signature as per the specifications given in the link "**Guidelines for Photograph & Signature**" available on the main page. For photograph, the size of the file should be between 20 to 40 KB with dimensions of 200 pixels height & 150 pixels width and for signature, it should be between 10 to 20 KB with dimensions of 100 pixels height & 150 pixels width. 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 write the examination.
- k) 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 requirement are given in the links "**Sample Application Form**" available in the main page.
- l) 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.

m) 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 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 log in to the system. Under no circumstances, he/she should share/mention Key Number with/to any other person.

n) 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/-

The application fee can be paid only through the branches of the State Bank of India using the system generated fee payment challan that can be downloaded on completion of Step I Process. Payment of fee by Demand Draft/Cheque/Money Orders/Postal Orders etc. will not be accepted. Fees once paid will not be refunded on any account nor can it be held in reserve for any other examination.

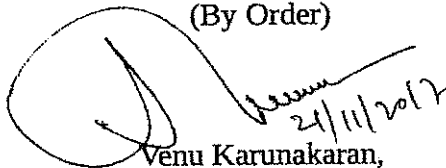
- o) On completion of Step-I (New Registration), the candidate will be assigned an **Application Number** which will be displayed on the screen and intimated to the candidates through SMS/e-mail and the candidate can take a print of the system generated Fee Payment Challan by clicking on the link "**Download Challan**". The candidates can also take a print of the Fee Payment Challan by clicking on the link "**Download Challan**" in the profile of the candidate in Step-II part.
- p) Making use of this Challan, a candidate can deposit the fee in cash at any branch of the State Bank of India after two banking days of completion of Step-I process or on receipt of an SMS alert in this regard, whichever is earlier. The bank will not accept any other challan/form for the payment of fee by cash. On depositing the fee by this challan, the bank will provide a "**Journal Number**". The candidate should ensure that on deposit of fee, the bank branch issues to him/her CANDIDATE COPY of the Challan with Journal number and Date of Deposit clearly written/stamped in it as these are required for fee validation. **Those who have to pay fees can proceed with Step-II only after 2 banking days of making the fee payment or on receipt of SMS alert in this regard, whichever is earlier.** However, the uploading of the photograph and signature in Step-II can be made even before fee payment, if the candidate so desires.
- q) To continue the application process, the candidate has to log in to 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.
- r) A candidate who is exempted from payment of application fee can directly log in by clicking on "Step-II /Registered Applicant" immediately on completion of Step-I and continue with the application process.
- s) In the **profile** of the candidate, the links - Upload Photograph and Signature, Download Challan, Fees Validation, Application, History of Practice, Experience, Final Submission, and Print Application are available to the candidate. Only after completion of uploading of photograph and signature and fees validation, can the candidate proceed with the other links in Step-II.

- t) After satisfying that the information furnished are correct and complete, the candidate must finally submit the Application by clicking the link '**Final Submission**' and furnishing the details required therein. The process of online application will be complete only on 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.
- u) The candidates can take printout of Application and keep it for future reference. They need not send the print out of the online application to the High Court.
- v) The candidates should submit the following documents to the High Court by post or by hand on or before 22.01.2018, after applying online.
- I. Original Certificate of Experience at the Bar, Character and Conduct in 'FORM-A' duly filled up and certified by the Judicial Officer, which should show atleast 7 years of practice. (FORM -A can be downloaded from the main page by clicking the link "**Downloads**"). The candidate may use as many number of FORM A, as required. Application Number should be mentioned in the space provided for the same in Form 'A'.
 - II. Self attested copies of the following documents
 - (a) Law Degree certificate.
 - (b) Relevant page of school record to prove name and date of birth.The originals of all relevant records (including the certificates referred at II (a) and (b) above) shall be produced when called for. Failure to produce the original documents when called for, will result in disqualification of the applicant.
- w) The envelope containing the duly filled 'FORM-A' in original and self attested copies of documents mentioned at (v) (II) shall be superscribed "KERALA STATE HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION 2017 – APPLICATION NO : – COPIES OF DOCUMENTS" and sent to "THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM, KOCHI-682 031".
- x) The candidates are advised to keep the Application Number and Key Number securely as both are required each time they log in to the system.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. An application once made will not be allowed to be withdrawn.

16. The candidate's copy of the Fee Payment Challan should be retained by the candidate and produced if called for.
17. 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.
18. Applications which do not comply with the instructions in this notification shall be rejected.
19. A candidate shall submit only one application.
20. **Important dates to be remembered with regard to submission of application:**

Date of commencement of Step-I and Step-II process	28/11/2017
The date of closure of Step-I process	27/12/2017
The last date for remittance of application fee	04/01/2018
Date of closure of Step-II process	11/01/2018
Last date for receipt of the copies of the required documents	22/01/2018

21. **Admission Tickets :** Admission Tickets for Preliminary examination, if any, and for written examination will not be sent by post. The candidates should 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 and the matter will be informed through press release and through SMS/e-mail. The candidates are also advised to visit the website of the High Court at least once in two weeks to know about the schedule of the examination.
22. **Call Letter for Viva-voce :** Call Letters for viva-voce will not be sent by post. The eligible candidates should 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 through SMS/e-mail. The eligible candidates are also advised to visit the website of the High Court at least once in a week to know about the schedule of the viva-voce.
23. For removal of doubts, candidates may call: 0484-2562235.

(By Order)

Venu Karunakaran,
Registrar (Recruitment & Computerisation)