



## THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

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Dated: 31.01.2024

**HCKL/589/2024-REC4**

### **NOTIFICATION**

### **KERALA JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION - 2024**

Online applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) (**Pay** : 77840 - 136520) in the Kerala Judicial Service against NCA and Regular vacancies as detailed below. Candidates can submit applications only after completing One Time Registration in the Recruitment Portal of the High Court (<https://hckrecruitment.keralacourts.in>). Online applications can be submitted from **05.02.2024** onwards. No other means/modes of application will be accepted.

### **NCA VACANCIES**

**[Those who apply for NCA vacancies can apply for the Regular vacancies also]**

2. **Recruitment number: 1/2024** (2<sup>nd</sup> Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to notification No.REC 4- 80988/2021, dated 31.01.2022).

**Number of vacancies:** **Scheduled Tribes – 2** (Candidates belonging to **Scheduled Tribes/ Scheduled Castes** in the State of Kerala can apply for the post. However, only in the absence of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes community in the merit list, candidates from Scheduled Castes community will be considered for appointment).

**Method of recruitment:** Direct recruitment (candidates belonging to the Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes communities in the State of Kerala alone are eligible to apply).

3. **Recruitment number: 2/2024** (1<sup>st</sup> Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to notification No. HCKL/352/2023- REC 4, dated 19.01.2023)

**Number of vacancies:** **Scheduled Tribes – 2** (Candidates belonging to **Scheduled Tribes/ Scheduled Castes** in the State of Kerala can apply for the post. However, only in the absence of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes community in the merit list, candidates from Scheduled Castes community will be considered for appointment).

## **Scheduled Castes Converts to Christianity - 1**

**Hindu Nadars - 1**

**Latin Catholics/ Anglo Indians – 1**

**Method of recruitment:** Direct recruitment (candidates belonging to the Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes communities and those who belong to the Non - Creamy layer of the other three notified communities in the State of Kerala alone are eligible to apply).

### **REGULAR VACANCIES**

#### **4. Recruitment number : 3/2024**

**Number of vacancies : 7 (Probable)** (includes one vacancy reserved for Persons with Disabilities (Deaf and hard of hearing) which was kept unfilled in the previous year for want of eligible candidate and carried forward to this year as per Section 34 (2) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016)

**Method of recruitment:** (i) Direct Recruitment; and (ii) Recruitment by Transfer.

- 5. Mode of selection:** The selection shall be made after holding competitive examinations at two successive stages. The first stage is the Kerala Judicial Service (Preliminary) Examination. The second stage is the Kerala Judicial Service (Main) Examination, consisting of a written examination and a viva-voce. The preliminary examination and main examination will be conducted on the basis of the Scheme and Syllabi given at clauses 8 to 11 of this notification. The preliminary as well as the main examination will be common for the candidates who apply in response to Recruitment Nos.1/2024 & 2/2024 for NCA vacancies and Recruitment No. 3/2024 for regular vacancies.

#### **6. Qualifications:**

##### **I. Direct Recruitment:**

A candidate for appointment as Civil Judge (Junior Division) by direct recruitment shall satisfy the following general conditions, namely;

- a)** Shall be a citizen of India.
- b)** Shall be a holder of a degree in Law recognized by the Bar Council of India for the purpose of enrolment as an Advocate.
- c)** Shall not have completed 35 years of age on the first day of January, 2024. The upper age limit shall be raised by five years in the case of candidates belonging to any of the Scheduled Castes or adult members of such castes and their children when such adult members are converted to other religions, or Scheduled Tribes and by three years in the case of candidates belonging to any of the Other Backward Classes, as provided in Rule 10(c) of Part II of Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958. Ten years age relaxation over and above the existing upper age limit will be granted to Persons with benchmark disabilities who come within the definition of section 2 (r) of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (Central Act 49 of 2016).
- d)** Shall be of good character.
- e)** Shall be of sound health having no bodily infirmities, which renders them unfit for appointment.

While applying for the post, candidates should ensure that they fulfill the eligibility and other norms mentioned in the notification. Save as otherwise provided, the qualification prescribed for the post shall be the one acquired by the candidate on or before the last date fixed for closure of application filing process.

## **II. Recruitment by Transfer:**

No officer in service shall be eligible for appointment as Civil Judge (Junior Division) by transfer unless the officer is a holder of a degree in law recognized by the Bar Council of India for the purpose of enrolment as an advocate and is an approved probationer in any one or more of the feeder categories enumerated as Sl. Nos. (i) to (viii) below. The officer shall not have completed 54 years of age as on the last date fixed for for closure of application filing process.

7. A person who is otherwise qualified for appointment by transfer but is not holding any of the posts enumerated below at the time of application for appointment by transfer, shall be eligible for appointment if such person has held any one or more of such posts at any time for the prescribed number of years and is holding a post in a higher scale of pay in any of the offices from which appointment is to be made.

### **Feeder categories of officers for Recruitment by Transfer:**

- i. Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade I & II
- ii. Assistant Registrars and other officers of the High Court in the same scale of pay of Assistant Registrars, Personal Assistant to the Chief Justice, Additional Personal Assistant to the Chief Justice, Section Officers, Librarian, Reference Librarian, Court Officers, Filing Scrutiny Officers, Accountant, Head Translator, Private Secretary to Judges including Higher Grade and Personal Assistant (Selection Grade) to Judge in the High Court of Kerala.
- iii. Under Secretaries, Section Officers and Librarian in the Advocate General's Office.
- iv. Section Officers and Librarian in the Law Department, Government Secretariat.
- v. Sheristadars of District Courts, Additional District Courts, Special Courts, the Office of the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals, the Office of the State Transport Appellate Tribunal, Family Court and Wakf Tribunals and Sub Courts, Senior Superintendents of the District Courts and Additional District Courts and Selection Grade Confidential Assistants in the Subordinate Civil Courts.
- vi. Sheristadars of Chief Judicial Magistrate's Courts and Selection Grade Confidential Assistants in the Subordinate Criminal Courts.
- vii. Full time Assistant Professors of Government Law Colleges.
- viii. Principal Counsellors of the Family Courts in the State of Kerala.

### **8. Reservation of appointment for Regular vacancies:**

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

- b) The rules relating to reservation of appointments contained in Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 (Rules 14 to 17) shall apply to appointment by direct recruitment (Regular vacancies). Rule 5(3) of the Kerala Judicial Service Rules, 1991 shall apply to the appointment by transfer.
- c) 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 Judicial Service Rules, 1991 and scheme of examination framed thereunder.

**9. Scheme of the Preliminary Examination:**

The preliminary examination will be conducted on **11.05.2024** (tentative). It consists of one paper of objective type screening test based on the syllabus given below containing 100 multiple choice questions, each question carrying two marks. Maximum marks will be 200 and one mark will be deducted for each incorrect answer. Duration of the preliminary examination will be two and a half hours. The preliminary examination is conducted for the purpose of shortlisting the candidates and the marks obtained in the preliminary examination shall not be counted for determining the final order of merit of the candidates.

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 examination. Only those candidates who are declared by the High Court to have qualified in the preliminary examination will be eligible for admission to the main written examination provided they are otherwise found eligible for admission to the main examination. Short list of candidates selected for the main examination will be published in the Notice Board and in the recruitment portal of the High Court.

**10. Syllabus for the Preliminary Examination:**

Part A	Code of Civil Procedure, Indian Contract Act, Negotiable Instruments Act, Transfer of Property Act, Specific Relief Act, Kerala Building (Lease and Rent Control) Act.
Part B	Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act.
Part C	Constitution of India, Legal G.K., Reasoning & Mental ability.

**11. Scheme of the Main Examination:**

- a) Written Examination: The Kerala Judicial Service Main (Written) Examination consists of 4 papers based on the syllabus given below. Each paper carries 100 marks and the duration for each paper will be three hours. The number of candidates for viva voce shall not ordinarily exceed three times the number of notified vacancies.
- b) Viva-Voce: Maximum marks for viva voce shall be 50. Only those candidates who are shortlisted as per the above scheme shall be called for viva-voce. The cut off marks in the viva-voce is fixed at 40% for general

and OBC candidates and 35% for candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste and Schedules Tribes. Fraction of half or more than half shall be regarded as full marks and less than half shall be ignored. The marks secured by candidates in the viva-voce shall be added to the total marks secured by them in the Main (written) examination.

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

Papers	Subjects
Paper-I	English Grammar, General Essays (two), Translation of Malayalam Depositions/Documents to English and vice-versa, Precis writing.
Paper-II	Part-A: Indian Contract Act, Transfer of Property Act, Limitation Act, Specific Relief Act, Easements Act, Kerala Building (Lease and Rent Control) Act, Hindu Succession Act, Indian Succession Act - Parts V, VI & X, Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act. Part-B: Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation Act, Kerala Stamp Act, Kerala State Legal Services Authorities Act, The Kerala Panchayath Raj Act -Ch. X, XI, XXIA & XXIII, Kerala Municipality Act - Ch. IX, X, XXIV & XXV, Negotiable Instruments Act (except Ch. XVII), and Registration Act.
Paper-III	Part-A: Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, Abkari Act, Negotiable Instruments Act -Ch. XVII, The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act. Part-B: Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Kerala Police Act, Probation of Offenders Act, Forest Act, N.D.P.S. Act (provisions relating to bail and trial by Magistrates).
Paper-IV	Part-A: Code of Civil Procedure, Civil Rules of Practice, Kerala Civil Courts Act, Order in Interlocutory Application/ Framing of issues/Judgment writing (Civil) Part-B: Code of Criminal Procedure, Criminal Rules of Practice, Framing of charges/Order in Criminal Miscellaneous Petitions/ Judgment writing (Criminal)

**13. Training:** Every person selected for appointment shall undergo training for a period of not less than one year extendable up to two years. The training will be conducted by the Kerala Judicial Academy.

**14. Probation:** Every person appointed shall be on probation for a total period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years from the date on which the person joins duty.

**15. Tests:** Every person appointed shall, within the period of probation, pass the Account Test for Executive Officers of the Kerala State or the Account Test (Lower) unless the appointee has already passed either of those tests.

**16. Pre-examination training to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates:** A pre-examination training of a short duration will be conducted by the Kerala Judicial Academy for the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, who qualify for the Main (Written) Examination. Such training shall be given only if there are sufficient number of candidates in that category who pass the Preliminary Examination. No fee will be charged for the training. However, the

candidates will not be eligible for any stipend or allowance for attending the training. The expenses of boarding and lodging will not be met by the High Court.

**17. Steps for One Time Registration and submission of applications:**

- a) Eligible candidates can submit online applications through the Recruitment Portal (<https://hckrecruitment.keralacourts.in>) only after completing the 'One Time Registration' process. Before the final submission of the application, candidates must ensure correctness of the information in their profile. For detailed instructions on 'One-Time Registration' and 'Submission of application', please see 'How to apply' link in the Recruitment Portal.
- b) Before attempting One-Time Registration and submission of application, the candidate should read the detailed notification, How to Apply, Guidelines for Photograph & Signature /FAQ etc provided in the Recruitment Portal. Candidates should also be ready with their scanned Photograph & Signature and the details to be filled at the time of One-Time Registration and submission of application such as Qualifications, Experience, Employment, Disability (if any) etc.
- c) The online application form is common for the NCA Recruitment (Recruitment Nos.1/2024 & 2/2024) and Regular Recruitment (Recruitment No.3/2024).
- d) Candidates applying for more than one Recruitment Number shall make a single application by selecting the respective recruitments in 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.
- e) 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, the candidate will not be allowed to write the examination.**
- f) **Payment of application fee is the last stage of the application process.** After completing online application filing process, if applicable, the candidate shall make the payment of application fee within the stipulated time. *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 same has been successful by following the instructions given in this regard in the 'How to Apply' link, even if, they have received message from their bank regarding successful payment of amount.*
- g) Candidates are required to submit the application fee, as stated below:

Category of Applicant	Amount of Fee
SC/ST/Unemployed Persons with Disability	Nil
All Others (even if the application is common for Regular and NCA vacancies)	₹1250/-

*For further details on fee payment please see 'How to Apply' link.*

- h) Candidates should keep a copy (soft/hard) of the Application and keep it for future reference. They need not send the print out of the online application or any other documents to the High Court.
- i) Online application validation rules are designed on the basis of Notification/Rules requirement. Candidates are advised to read the Notification/Rules carefully and refer **"How to Apply"** in the Recruitment Portal. 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 same is liable to be rejected if found to be not fulfilling the eligibility criteria at any point of time.
18. 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 appear for the examination by making alterations in the Admission Tickets downloaded will be disqualified.
19. **Candidates applying to the post by Recruitment by Transfer shall obtain the service certificate issued from the Head of Office/Department, in the prescribed form (Form 'A') available in the link 'Downloads' in the website, on or before the last date prescribed for closure of application filing process and keep it with them and produce as and when called for by the High Court.**
20. Candidates who are in the service of the Government of India or any of the State Governments applying to the post by direct recruitment should obtain 'No Objection Certificate' from their Head of Office or Department before submission of the application and keep it with them. If the candidates fail to produce the No Objection Certificate as and when called for, their candidature will stand cancelled.
21. An application once made will not be allowed to be withdrawn.
22. Copy of the Fee Payment chalan should be retained by the candidate and produced if called for.
23. Full and correct information shall be furnished in the online application. Furnishing of false or incorrect information 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.
24. A candidate shall submit only one application.
25. **Admission Tickets : Admission Tickets for preliminary/main (written) examinations will not be sent by post.** The candidates should login to their profile to download the Admission Tickets from the Recruitment Portal. The Admission Tickets will be ready for download three weeks prior to the date of the preliminary/main (written) examination and the matter will be intimated 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.
26. **Call Letter for Viva Voce :** Call Letters for viva voce will not be sent by post. The eligible candidates should login to their profile to download the Call Letters from

the Recruitment Portal. The Call Letters will be ready for download two weeks prior to the date of the viva voce and the matter will be intimated 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.

**27. Important dates with regard to submission of application:**

<b>Date of commencement of application filing process/ fee payment through online mode</b>	<b>05.02.2024</b>
<b>The date of closure of application filing process/ fee payment through online mode</b>	<b>25.02.2024</b>
<b>Date of commencement of remittance of application fee through offline mode</b>	<b>01.03.2024</b>
<b>The last date for remittance of application fee through offline mode</b>	<b>07.03.2024</b>

**28.** For clearing doubts, candidates may dial 0484-2562235, on all working days from 10.00 a.m to 04.30 p.m.

(By Order)



P.J. Vincent  
Registrar (District Judiciary)