



THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

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REC 4 - 38134/2021

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NOTIFICATION

KERALA STATE HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION – 2021

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 06/10/2021 onwards. No other means/modes of application will be accepted. After applying online, the candidates should submit the documents prescribed to the High Court of Kerala by post or by hand on or before 04/12/2021.

NCA Vacancies

1. **Recruitment Number** : **4/2021**
(6th Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to Notification No. B1- 82403/2010 dated 04.03.2011)
Number of vacancy : **Scheduled Tribes - 1**
(Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes in the State of Kerala can also apply for the post. However, only in the absence of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribe community in the merit list, candidates from scheduled caste community will be considered for appointment)
2. **Recruitment Number** : **5/2021**
(3rd Re-notification relating to the select list prepared pursuant to Notification No. REC4 - 63016/2015 dated 30.09.2015)
Number of vacancies : **Hindu Nadars - 1**
(Candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes and SC/ST category in the State of Kerala can also apply for the post. However, only in the absence of candidates belonging to Hindu Nadar community in the merit list, candidates from Other Backward Classes or SC/ST will be considered for appointment)

Regular Vacancies

3. **Recruitment Number** : 6/2021
Number of vacancies : 3 Nos.
4. **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, 2021.
 - (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, 2021.
 - (g) He shall be an Advocate continuing in practice at the time of appointment (*As per Judgment 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 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.

5. **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 as well as the main examinations will be common for the candidates who apply in response to Recruitment Nos. 4/2021, 5/2021 and 6/2021. 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 examination. The date of Preliminary examination will be announced later.

6. 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.

7. **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)

8. **Reservation of Appointment:** Rule 15 of Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 shall be applicable for the NCA recruitments.
9. **Reservation of Appointment:** The rules relating to reservation and appointments contained in rules 14 to 17 in Part II of the Kerala State and Subordinate Services Rules, 1958 shall apply to appointment by direct recruitment.
10. **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.
11. **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 (j) 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) The online application form is common for the NCA Recruitments (Recruitment Nos. 4/2021 & 5/2021) and Regular Recruitment (Recruitment No. 6/2021).
- f) **Candidates applying for more than one Recruitment Number should not apply separately.** In Step-I, they should select all the recruitment numbers, for which they want to apply by clicking the relevant category available in the drop menu. 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 (as separate Roll No. will be assigned to each application) 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.
- h) In case a candidate does not have a valid personal e-mail ID, he/she may create an 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 candidate. 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 following specifications;

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

- k) 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 write the examination.**
- l) 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.
- m) 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.
- n) 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.
- o) 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.
- p) 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.
- q) 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, Teaching experience, Civil/Criminal cases etc...).
- r) On satisfying that the information furnished are 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'**.

- s) **Payment of application fees is the last stage of the application process.** After making '**Final Submission**' as indicated in clause (r) above, the candidate, if applicable, shall make the payment of application fees within the stipulated time. **Online applications which are not followed by payment of application fees, in applicable cases, will be incomplete.**

- t) Candidates are required to submit the application fees, as stated below:

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

- u) **The application fee can be paid through online mode (Debit Card/Credit Card/Net Banking) or offline mode (Cash payment at the branches of the State Bank of India using the system generated fee payment challan).** 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. 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 (r) above.** The candidates should ensure that the web browser used by them is compatible with that of the Bank to make hassle free payment of application fee.
- v) *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.*
- w) *Payment through offline mode can be made only after the last date fixed for closure of Step I process. The challan 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 system generated challan will not be available. So, candidates should ensure that the challan is downloaded on or before the date fixed for closure of Step II process. However, payment through offline mode can be made till the date fixed for the same.*
- x) 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) 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.
- y) 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.**
- z) The candidates should take printout of Application and keep it for future reference. They need not send the print out of the online application. However, they should

sent the documents mentioned in clause 14 of this notification to the High Court within the date specified for the same.

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. **The candidates should submit the following documents to the High Court of Kerala by post or by hand on or before 04.12.2021, 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 at least 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.

The envelope containing the duly filled ‘FORM–A’ in original and self attested copies of documents mentioned at (14) (II) shall be superscribed "KERALA STATE HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION 2021 – APPLICATION NO : – COPIES OF DOCUMENTS" and sent to "THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM, KOCHI-682 031".

15. 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.
16. An application once made will not be allowed to be withdrawn.
17. The candidate's copy of the Fee Payment Challan should be retained by the candidate and produced if called for.
18. 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.
19. Applications which do not comply with the instructions in this notification shall be rejected.

20. A candidate shall submit only one application.

21. **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	06.10.2021
The date of closure of Step-I process	27.10.2021
Date of closure of Step-II process and remittance of application fee through online mode	03.11.2021
Date of commencement of remittance of application fee through offline mode * Those candidates who wish to pay the application fee through offline mode should download the challan on or before the last date fixed for closure of Step II process (ie; 03.11.2021)	08.11.2021
The last date for remittance of application fee through offline mode	18.11.2021
Last date for receipt of the copies of the required documents	04.12.2021

22. **Admission Tickets :** Admission Tickets for written examination (preliminary/ main) will not be sent by post. The candidates should login to their profile page via 'Step-II/ Registered Applicant' link 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.**

23. **Call Letter for Viva-voce :** Call Letters for viva-voce will not be sent by post. The eligible candidates should login to their profile page 'Step-II/Registered Applicant' link 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.**

24. For removal of doubts, candidates may call: 0484-2562235.

(By Order)



P.G. Ajithkumar
Registrar (District Judiciary)

