

RECRUITMENT RULES

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LAW DEPARTMENT

(G. O. Ms. No. 4/2026-LD., Puducherry, dated 13th March 2026)

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution read with the Government of India, Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Department of Justice) Notification No. 30/16.76-Jus., dated 31st August, 1979 and in supersession of the Notification issued *vide* G.O. Ms. No. 17/2025-LD., dated 24th September, 2025 of the Law Department, Government of Puducherry and all other enabling powers in this behalf, the Lieutenant-Governor, Puducherry, on the recommendations of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras, is pleased to make the following rules further to amend the Puducherry Judicial Service (Cadre and Recruitment) Rules, 2008 issued *vide* Notification under G.O. Ms. No. 8/08-LD., dated 8th April, 2008 of the Law Department, Government of Puducherry and published as a supplement to the Gazette No. 18, dated 29th April, 2008, namely:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*— (1) These rules may be called the Puducherry Judicial Service (Cadre and Recruitment) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. *Amendment of rule 8.*— In the Puducherry Judicial Service (Cadre and Recruitment) Rules, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), for the rule 8, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"8. *Method of appointment, qualification and age.*— In respect of each category of posts specified in column (2) of the Table below, the method of appointment and the qualifications shall be as specified in the corresponding entries in columns (3) and (4) thereof and the respective Annexures thereof :

TABLE

Sl. No.	Category	Method of appointment	Qualification
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	District Judge (Supertime Scale).	By promotion by selection on the basis of merit- <i>cum</i> -seniority from category (2) <i>viz.</i> , District Judge (Selection Grade) by the High Court.	Must have put in not less than 3 years of continuous service as District Judge (Selection Grade), provided 15% of the cadre strength of District Judge shall be promoted to the cadre of District Judge (Supertime Scale), with effect from 01-01-2020.
2	District Judge (Selection Grade).	By promotion by selection on the basis of merit- <i>cum</i> -seniority from category (3) <i>viz.</i> , District Judge (Entry Level) by the High Court.	Must have put in 5 years of continuous service in category (3) <i>i.e.</i> , as District Judge (Entry Level), provided 35% of cadre strength of District Judge shall be promoted to the cadre of District Judge (Selection Grade), with effect from 01-01-2020.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3	District Judge (Entry Level).	<p>(i) 50 per cent by promotion from amongst the Senior Civil Judges / Chief Judicial Magistrate on the basis of principle of merit-<i>cum</i>-seniority and suitability.</p> <p>The criteria to assess the merit and suitability are under the following heads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The candidates' updated knowledge of law. (b) Evaluation of Judgments rendered by the Judicial Officer in the preceding five years. (c) Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports in the preceding five years. (d) Work done / Disposal rate during the preceding five years. (e) Pendency of disciplinary proceedings, if any. (f) Performance of the Judicial Officer in the <i>viva voce</i>. (g) General perceptions and awareness as also communication skills. <p>Provided that in the event of non-availability of Civil Judges ACP Scale-II Stage, the claims of suitable candidates in the cadre of Senior Civil Judges ACP Scale-I Stage will be considered.</p> <p>Provided further that in the event of non-availability of candidates in the cadre of Senior Civil Judges ACP Scale-I Stage, the claims of suitable candidates available in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge will be considered.</p> <p>(ii) 25 per cent by promotion from amongst the Senior Civil Judges / Chief Judicial Magistrate, strictly on the basis of merit to be adjudged on the basis of Limited Competitive Examination based on the cadre strength, quality of Judgments delivered during the preceding 3 years, Annual Confidential Reports for the preceding 5 years, leave taken during the preceding 5 years and <i>viva voce</i> as prescribed and conducted by the High Court as detailed below:</p>	<p>Must have completed 3 years of qualifying service in the category of Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate inclusive of ACP I and II stage and the total service, including service rendered as a Civil Judge and Senior Civil Judge shall be a minimum of seven years service.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		(a) Written Test . . . 45 marks (shall be Objective Type Test from Civil, Criminal and Constitutional Laws).	
		(b) Quality of Judgments . . . 30 marks (delivered as Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate, during the preceding 3 years).	
		(c) Annual Confidential Reports (recorded during the preceding five years). . . 10 marks	
		(d) Quantum of leave availed . . . 5 marks during the preceding five years.	
		(e) <i>Viva voce</i> Test . . . 10 marks	
		Total . . . 100 marks	

(The minimum qualifying marks out of 100 marks should be 50 marks):

Provided that, if any of the vacancy under the 25 per cent quota could not be filled up, such vacancy shall be filled up by regular promotion on the basis of merit-*cum*-seniority, *i.e.*, the method specified in item (i) above, in that particular year. However, filling up of the vacant posts in the ratio considered for Limited Competitive Examination will be carried out from the simultaneous selection process carried out for regular promotions of the same year.

(iii) 25 per cent of the posts shall be filled by direct recruitment from amongst the eligible advocates on the basis of the Preliminary Examination, Main Examination and *viva voce* Test prescribed and conducted by the High Court in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Annexure-I to these rules.

(1) Must be a citizen of India.

(2) Must possess a Degree in Law of a University in India established or incorporated by or under a Central Act or a State Act or an Institution recognised by the University. Grants Commission or any other equivalent qualification and got enrolled as an Advocate under a State Bar Council established under the Advocates Act, 1961.

(3) Must be practising on the date of notification as an Advocate and must have so practised for a period of not less than seven years as on such date. (*See* Annexure-I).

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
4	Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate (II-Stage ACP Scale).	Gradation subject to entries in Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any.	<p>(4) Must have attained the age of 35 years and must not have attained the age of 48 years in the case of SC / ST and 45 years in the case of others as on 1st July of the year in which the selection for appointment is made.</p> <p>Must have completed five years of continuous service in the category of Senior Civil Judge / ACP Scale-I Stage.</p> <p>If, for any reason, delay in grant of ACP goes beyond one year, one additional increment for every year delay shall be granted subject to adjustment while drawing the arrears on grant of ACP.</p>
5	Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate (I-Stage ACP Scale).	Gradation subject to entries in Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any.	<p>Must have completed five years of continuous service in the category of Senior Civil Judge.</p> <p>If, for any reason, delay in grant of ACP goes beyond one year, one additional increment for every year delay shall be granted subject to adjustment while drawing the arrears on grant of ACP.</p>
6	Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate.	<p>(i) 90 per cent by promotion by selection on the basis of merit-<i>cum</i>-seniority from among the category of Civil Judges, by the High Court on the basis of the following criteria:</p> <p>(a) Entries in the Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, in the preceding three years.</p> <p>(b) Evaluation of the Judgments rendered by the candidate in the preceding three years.</p> <p>(c) Work done / Disposal rate in the preceding three years.</p> <p>(ii) 10 per cent by promotion from amongst the Civil Judges (Junior Division), strictly on the basis of merit to be adjudged on the basis of Limited Competitive Examination based on the cadre strength, quality of Judgment delivered during the preceding 3 years, annual confidential reports for the preceding 3 years, leave taken during the preceding 3 years and <i>viva voce</i> as prescribed and conducted by the High Court as detailed below:</p>	<p>Must have completed three years of qualifying service in the category of Civil Judge.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		<p>(a) Written Test . . . 45 marks (Objective Type Test in Civil, Criminal and Constitutional Laws).</p> <p>(b) Quality of Judgments . . . 30 marks (delivered as Civil Judge, during the preceding 3 years).</p> <p>(c) Annual Confidential Reports . . . 10 marks (recorded during the preceding 3 years).</p> <p>(d) Quantum of leave availed . . . 5 marks during the preceding 3 years.</p> <p>(e) <i>Viva voce</i> Test . . . 10 marks</p> <p>Total . . . 100 marks</p> <p>(The minimum qualifying marks out of 100 marks should be 50 marks):</p> <p>Provided that, if any of the vacancy under the 10 per cent quota could not be filled up, such vacancy shall be filled up by regular promotion on the basis of merit-<i>cum</i>-seniority, <i>i.e.</i>, the method specified in item (i) above, in that particular year. However, filling up of the vacant posts in the ratio considered for Limited Competitive Examination will be carried out from the simultaneous selection process carried out for regular promotions of the same year.</p>	
7	Civil Judge (II-Stage ACP Scale).	Subject to entries in the Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any.	Must have completed five years of continuous service as Civil Judge (I-Stage ACP Scale). If, for any reason, delay in grant of ACP goes beyond one year, one additional increment for every year delay shall be granted subject to adjustment while drawing the arrears on grant of ACP.
8	Civil Judge (I-Stage ACP Scale).	Subject to entries in the Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any. (Recommendations of Second National Judicial Pay Commission as accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 643 of 2015, dated 19-05-2023 <i>vide</i> Para No. 44.15(i) to be considered while awarding I-Stage ACP Scale of Pay).	Must have completed five years of continuous service as Civil Judge. If, for any reason, delay in grant of ACP goes beyond one year, one additional increment for every year delay shall be granted subject to adjustment while drawing the arrears on grant of ACP.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
9	Civil Judge	By direct recruitment on the basis of the Preliminary Examination, Main Examination and <i>viva voce</i> test conducted by the High Court in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Annexure-II to these rules.	<p>I. Must be a citizen of India.</p> <p>II. (a) Must possess a Degree in Law of a University in India established or incorporated by or under a Central Act or a State Act or an Institution recognised by the University Grants Commission or any other equivalent qualification and got enrolled as an Advocate under a State Bar Council established under the Advocates Act, 1961.</p> <p>(b) Must be practising as an Advocate or Pleader in the High Court or Courts Subordinate thereto and must have so practised for a minimum period of 3 years on the date of the High Court's Notification for recruitment to the post.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(or)</p> <p>Must be an Assistant Public Prosecutor having not less than 3 years of experience as an Advocate and/or Assistant Public Prosecutor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(and)</p> <p>(c) <i>Age</i>: Must have attained the age of 25 years and must not have attained the age of 35 years in the case of General Category and 40 years in the case of Reserved Categories, as on the 1st July of the year in which the vacancies in the posts are notified.</p> <p>(i) Experience of the Advocates practising in the District Judiciary, be certified either by the Principal Judicial Officer of that Court or by an Advocate of that Court having a minimum standing of ten years duly endorsed by the Principal Judicial Officer of such a District or a Principal Judicial Officer at such a station.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			(ii) Experience of the Advocates practising before the Hon'ble Supreme Court or High Courts, be certified by an Advocate who has a minimum standing of 10 years duly endorsed by an Officer designated by that High Court or the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
			(iii) Experience gained while working as Law Clerks with any of the Judges or Judicial Officers in the Country shall also be considered while calculating their total number of years of practice.
			Experience must be calculated from the date of provisional Enrolment / Registration with the concerned State Bar Council.

3. *Amendment of rule 10.*— In the said rules, for the rule 10, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

"10. *Training.*— (a) Every person appointed to the category of District Judge (Entry Level) by direct recruitment shall undergo:

- (i) training as Civil Judge for a period of not less than six months.
- (ii) training as Senior Civil Judge for a period of not less than six months; and
- (iii) training in Forensic Science for a period of not less than two months.

(b) Every person appointed to the category of Civil Judge must compulsorily undergo at least one year of training before presiding in a Court.

(c) The District Judges (Entry Level) / Civil Judges appointed by direct recruitment shall be paid the minimum of the time scale of pay applicable to the post of District Judge / Civil Judge (Junior Division) during the period of training and allowed annual increment even during the period of training:

Provided that the Administrator may, on the recommendation of the High Court grant advance increments to suitable candidates appointed to the service."

4. *Amendment of Annexure II.*— In the said rules, in Annexure-II under rule 8, for the entries against para 1, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(1) The High Court may invite applications based on the vacancies available for appointment to the post of Civil Judge.

Provided that such applications shall be invited from time to time to select the required number of candidates for appointment as Civil Judge as per the entries in category 9 of the Table under Rule 8.

The candidate who applies for direct recruitment to the post should send along with his / her application copies of all the essential certificates/documents specified in the notification relating to the post issued by the High Court. Besides the above, he / she should also send the following:—

- (a) In case of a member of the Bar, Degree Certificate, Enrolment Certificate issued by the State Bar Council established under the Advocates Act, 1961; a Certificate of such practice from the Authorities specified below:—

- (i) In case of candidates practising in the High Courts or the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, such Certificate should be obtained from an Advocate who has a minimum standing of 10 years duly endorsed by an Officer designated by that High Court or the Supreme Court of India.
 - (ii) In case of Advocates practising in District Judiciary such Certificate should be obtained either from the Principal Judicial Officer of that Court or by an Advocate of that Court having a minimum standing of ten years duly endorsed by the Principal Judicial Officer of such a District or a Principal Judicial Officer at such a station.
- (b) In the case of Assistant Public Prosecutor / Government Pleader, the appointment order as Assistant Public Prosecutor/Government Pleader Service Certificate from the Department Head under whose authority the appointment was made, specifying the number of years of qualifying service.
- (c) Birth Certificate or any other authentic certificate to show the date of birth."

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor)

JHANAZ RAFFI *alias* JHANSI,
Under Secretary to Government (Law).