

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
APPELLATE SIDE
NOTIFICATION

NO. 10788-RG

Dated: Calcutta, the 30th day of November, 2023

**EXAMINATION FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO THE CADRE OF DISTRICT
JUDGE (ENTRY LEVEL) FROM MEMBERS OF THE BAR IN THE WEST BENGAL
JUDICIAL SERVICE FOR THE YEAR' 2023**

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for selection of District Judge, as referred to in clause (a) or sub-rule (1) of rule 24 of the West Bengal Judicial (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2004 as per time schedule fixed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Malik Mazhar Sultan's case.

A Competitive Examination will be held in Kolkata, West Bengal for selection of the eligible candidates to the above posts.

PLAN OF EXAMINATION:

The examination shall be conducted in **03 (three) phases**.

In the **first phase**, there will be a **preliminary test** consisting of objective type questions of **50 (fifty) marks**. Each question of such preliminary test shall carry **02 (two) marks**. In case of each wrong answer, there will be negative marking of 02 (two) marks. The **duration** of the preliminary test will be **01 (one) hour**. The preliminary test will be taken on the basis of *Current Affairs, General Awareness and Law papers* (i.e. **Paper II – V**), as prescribed for written examination (Second Phase). **Preliminary Test** will be conducted through *OMR* sheets in duplicate. *The answer-key of the preliminary test will be published after the test, for inviting objections from the candidates, if any, within 7 (seven) days from the date of such publication of answer-key. Any objection filed beyond the stipulated time shall not be entertained.*

The minimum marks required to appear in the **written test** (the **Second Phase**), is **50%** with negative marking in the preliminary test. Successful candidates shall be allowed to appear at the written examination in the Second Phase.

NOTE-I: The marks obtained in the preliminary test would not be carried forward in the written test in the second phase.

The **Written Test** in the **Second Phase** consists of **05 (five) papers (Paper I – V)** mentioned below. Each paper carries **100 (one hundred) marks**. Time for giving answer is **03 (three) hours** for each paper. Total marks for written test in second phase are **500 (five hundred)**.

The answer scripts shall be evaluated by adopting evaluation method. The qualifying marks on each subject will be **40 (forty)** and in addition to that candidates must obtain **50%** on aggregate in order to be successful in the written test in the Second Phase.

Further **100 (one hundred) marks** are reserved for **Viva-Voce/ Personality Test**.

Total **300 (three hundred) marks** in aggregate *i.e.* **50%** of the **total marks 600 (six hundred)** will be the **qualifying marks** for being empanelled in the panel for being appointed to the post of District Judge (Entry Level) by way of Direct Recruitment from among the members of the Bar, in view of the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in Writ Petition (C) No. 490 of 2007 (Hemani Malhotra – Vs. – High Court of Delhi) prohibiting fixation of any bench mark for viva-voce/personality test.

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 4 (Four)

[but likely to vary subject to result of Civil Appeal No. 1867 of 2006 (Malik Mazhar Sultan's case) now pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India].

SYLLABUS:

Name of the paper	Syllabus
<u>PAPER-I</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Translation from Bengali to English 2. Precis Writing. 3. Essay Writing on General Awareness Topics.
<u>PAPER-II</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Code of Civil Procedure including its application to commercial courts. 2. Arbitration & Conciliation Act including its application to commercial courts. 3. Limitation Act. 4. Specific Relief Act. 5. Law relating to Intellectual Property. 6. Law relating to Contract. 7. Evidence Act.
<u>PAPER-III</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Code of Criminal Procedure. 2. Indian Penal Code. 3. Negotiable Instruments Act (Sections 138 to 147). 4. NDPS Act. 5. Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act. 6. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. 7. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
<u>PAPER-IV</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfer of Property Act. 2. Constitutional Law. 3. Statutes on Hindu Law relating to Marriage, Succession, Adoption, Maintenance, Minority & Guardianship. 4. Muslim Law relating to Marriage, Maintenance, Minority & Guardianship. 5. Indian Succession Act. 6. Guardian and Wards Act. 7. Indian Trust Act.
<u>PAPER-V</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Bengal Premises Tenancy Act. 2. West Bengal Land Reforms Act. 3. West Bengal Estate Acquisition Act. 4. Bengal Public Demand Recovery Act. 5. Industrial Disputes Act. 6. Motor Vehicles Act.

NOTE-II: Candidates will not be allowed to answer the questions with the assistance of books/Bare Acts in any of three phases of the entire examination procedure.

VIVA-VOCE :

The Selection Board shall call such number of successful candidates in the written test in the Second Phase for viva-voce/personality test as it thinks fit strictly according to merit list prepared on the basis of aggregate marks obtained by those candidates but such number in no case should exceed five times the number of vacant posts.

The High Court reserves the right to relax above eligibility criteria and qualifying marks in each subject or aggregate, if required.

The **final merit list** will be published on the basis of the total marks obtained by the successful candidates on the **written test** (descriptive) in the second phase and the **viva-voce/personality test**.

QUALIFICATION:

No person shall be eligible for appointment by direct recruitment unless:-

- (a) he/she is a citizen of India;
- (b) he/ she has attained the age of 35 years and has not attained the age of 45 years (relaxation of 3 years on upper age for the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) on 1st day of January, 2023;
- (c) he/she has been practicing for not less than seven years as an advocate as on 01-01-2023; and
- (d) he/she has good character and is of sound health and free from any bodily defect which renders him/her unfit for such appointment.

PAY SCALE:

The pay matrix in Annexure-I of the Judicial Department G.O. No.3129-J/JD/V/2A-03/2020 dated 28.10.2022 illustrates the existing pay of the officers of the District Judge (Entry Level) of the W.B.J.S. cadre as follows:-

Sr. No.	District Judges (Entry Level)	District Judges (Selection Grade)	District Judges (Super Time Scale)
Level	<u>J-5</u>	<u>J-6</u>	<u>J-7</u>
Year 1	144840	163030	199100
Year 2	149190	167920	205070
Year 3	153670	172960	211220
Year 4	158280	178150	217560
Year 5	163030	183490	224100
Year 6	167920	188990	
Year 7	172960	194660	
Year 8	178150	200500	
Year 9	183490	206510	
Year 10	188990	212710	
Year 11	194660	219090	

All other perks like free News Papers, Magazine, Medical Reimbursement facilities, entitlement of fuel (petrol or diesel), Robe Allowance etc. are admissible as per Rules.

All appointments to the posts mentioned above shall be made by the Governor in accordance with the recommendation of the High Court and all selection to the posts mentioned above shall be made by the High Court.

PROBATION:

A Judicial Officer in the rank of District Judge (Entry Level) shall be on probation for a period of two years from the date on which he joins duty. The High Court may, at any time, extend the period of probation but the total period of probation shall not exceed three years. The High Court may, at any time during or at the end of the period of probation, recommend termination of the probationer from service. On successful completion of probation, the probationer shall, if there is permanent post available, be confirmed in the service and if no permanent post is available, a certificate shall be issued by the High Court to the effect and as soon as a permanent post becomes available, he/ she shall be confirmed. A probationer shall be deemed to be on probation until confirmed, or terminated, as the case may be.

POSTING & TRANSFER:

All postings and transfers of the Judicial Officers in the rank of District Judge (Entry Level) shall be made by the High Court.

SENIORITY:

The seniority of the District Judge (Entry Level) Judicial Officers in the rank of District Judges shall be governed in terms of the Rule 31 of the West Bengal Judicial (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2004 and directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India from time to time.

Eligible candidates may submit applications on plain paper A-4 size (210 X 297 mm) with the following typed/ computerized format addressed to the Registrar General–cum-Secretary, Selection Board, High Court, Appellate Side, Calcutta–700001, furnishing particulars as under:

APPLICATION FORMAT

1. **Name (In Block Letters)** :
2. **Father's/Husband's Name** :
3. **Date of Birth** :
(According to Madhyamik or equivalent examination certificate) (Attach attested copy of certificate.)
4. **Actual age as on 01-01-2023** :
5. **Actual age on the date of application:**
6. **Sex (Male/ Female)** :
7. **Full Postal Address**
(**IN BLOCK LETTERS**) (Mentioning Post Office, Sub-division, District, PIN Code, Mobile Nos. & e-mail ID)
 - (a) **Present** :
 - (b) **Permanent** :
8. **Academic Qualification** :
(**attach extra sheet if necessary**) (**attach attested copy of documents**). (Name of examinations passed/ Name of Board /University /Institute /Division/Class/Year of Passing/Percentage of marks obtained/ Subjects taken)
9. **Other Qualifications, if any. :**
(**attach attested copy of documents**)
10. **Date of Enrolment** :
(Attach attested copy of Enrolment Certificate under Advocates Act)
11. **Practice details as an Advocate** :
(Attach original certificate of experience at the Bar given by the President/Vice-President/Secretary of the concerned Bar and countersigned by the District Judge in case of District & Sub-divisional Bar. In case, the candidate practices in the High Court, no counter signature is necessary).
12. **Do you belong to SC/ST of West Bengal :**
[if so, (i) mention your sub caste,
(ii) Designation of issuing authority of SC/ST certificate] (Attach attested copy of the certificate).
13. **Total Experience as a practicing lawyer:**
(Attach relevant attested document)
14. **Nationality** :
15. **Any other relevant information with: reference to the requirement of the post.** (Attach extra sheet, if necessary) (Attach attested copy of documents).
16. **List of Documents enclosed.**

Declaration

I hereby declare that all statements made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and in the event of any information being found false my candidature is liable to be cancelled.

Date:

Place:

Signature of the Candidate in full

NOTE-III: Candidates should fill in the application form in own handwriting. Incomplete applications with defect or application not accompanied by requisite documents or received after the due date are liable to be rejected summarily. Candidates are required to submit all original documents related to educational qualifications, professional qualifications, age and others before viva-voce/personality test. In case of failure to furnish the original documents, candidature shall be cancelled. If at any stage of the process, a candidate is found to be ineligible for admission to the test in terms of the advertisement, his/her candidature shall be cancelled without making any reference to him/her and without assigning any reason. Permission to appear in written test or viva-voce/interview will not confer any right of selection on the candidate. The candidates should conform to all the instructions as may be given from time to time in respect of the preliminary stage, written examination and viva-voce/interview. In case of any non-conformity, candidature may be cancelled.

Each application must be accompanied by (a) Application Fee of Rs. **2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only), Rs.1000/- (Rupees One thousand only) for SC/ST candidates only** by Bank Draft which must be purchased on or after the date of publication of this advertisement/notification and before the last date of submission of application and drawn in favour of **Registrar General-cum-Secretary, Selection Board, High Court, Calcutta.** (b) 03 (Three) recent and identical coloured passport size photographs duly signed on the frontal side by the candidate [one to be pasted on the top right hand corner of the application and other 02 (two) to be stitched with the application. Said other 02 (two) identical coloured photographs should be preserved for issuance of Duplicate Admit Cards, if necessary] (c) Documents as mentioned above, (d) Two character certificates, in original (One of the character certificate must be obtained from the President / Vice-President / Secretary of the Bar Association where the candidate is practicing and other by any respectable person). (e) Two self addressed envelopes affixing there with a postage stamp of Rs.45/- (Rupees Forty Five only) each. (f) Self-attestation in all respect will be allowed.

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:

The last date for submission of application is by 4:30P.M.on 16th December, 2023.

The application must be sent in a closed envelope by registered post with A/D or by Speed Post or by Courier Service. Application reaching the office concerned after the due date and time shall not be considered, even though the same are posted well in advance.

NOTE-IV: Any form of solicitation for selection by or on behalf of any candidate will lead to outright rejection of his/her candidature.

By Order

Sd/-

**Chaitali Chatterjee (Das)
Registrar General-cum-Secretary,
Selection Board
High Court, Appellate Side,
Calcutta.**