

Raipur, the 7th April 2006

NOTIFICATION

F.No. 2986/943/21-B/C.G.- In exercise of powers conferred by Article 234 read with the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India, to regulate the Recruitment and Service Condition of Members of Lower Judicial Service, in supersession of the existing Rules in force, the Governor of Chhattisgarh, in consultation with the High Court and State Public Service Commission, hereby makes the following Rules: -

1. Short Title and Commencement. – (1) These Rules may be called the Chhattisgarh Lower Judicial Service (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2006.

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

(3) It shall apply to all the members of the Chhattisgarh Lower Judicial Service.

2. Definitions. – In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires --

- (a) “Chief Justice” means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Chhattisgarh.
- (b) *¹“Committee” means a Committee consisting one or more judges of the High Court nominated by the Chief Justice for supervision of recruitment process conducted by the Commission.*
- (bb) *¹“Commission” means Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission.*
- (c) “Direct Recruitment” means direct recruitment to the post in category (a) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 in the manner prescribed in sub-rule (1) of Rule 5.
- (d) “Foreign Service” means the service as defined in sub-rule (7) of Rule 9 of Chhattisgarh Fundamental Rules.
- (e) “Governor” means the Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- (f) “Government” means the Government of Chhattisgarh.
- (g) “High Court” means the High Court of Chhattisgarh.
- (h) “Other Backward Classes” means Other Backward Classes declared by the State Government from time to time by notification.
- (i) “Recognized University” means any University recognized by the Government of India.

¹ – Clause (b) and (bb) of Rule 2 substituted vide notification no.8515/2595/XXI-B//C.G./2013 dated 06-09-2013.

- (j) “Service” means the Chhattisgarh Lower Judicial Service.
- (k) “State” means the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (l) “Scheduled Caste” means the Scheduled Caste specified in relation to this State under Article 341 of the Constitution of India.
- (m) “Scheduled Tribe” means the Scheduled Tribe specified in relation to this State under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.

3. Constitution of Service. – The Service shall consist of the following categories namely: -

¹(1) ***Civil Judge (Junior Division):–***

- (a) ***Civil Judge (Junior Division) (Entry Level) (In pay scale 77840-136520) (J-1).***
- (b) ***Civil Judge (Junior Division) (ACP-I) (In pay scale 92960-136520) (J-2) after 5 years of continuous service from the date of entry.***
- (c) ***Civil Judge (Junior Division) (ACP-II) (In pay scale 111000-163030) (J-3) after completion of another 5 years of continuous service, if not promoted as Civil Judge (Senior Division).***

(2) ***Civil Judge (Senior Division):–***

- (a) ***Civil Judge (Senior Division) (Entry level) (In pay scale 111000-163030) (J-3).***
- (b) ***Civil Judge (Senior Division) (ACP-I) (In pay scale 122700-180200) (J-4) after 5 years of continuous service as Civil Judge (Senior Division).***
- (c) ***Civil Judge (Senior Division) (ACP-II) (In pay scale 144840-194660) (J-5) after completion of another 5 years of continuous service, if not promoted to the Cadre of District Judge in Higher Judicial Service.***

The pay scales provided in sub-rule (1) and (2) shall be revisable from time to time subject to revision of salary of High Court Judges, by maintaining the present ratio.

The conferment of benefit by way of ACP Scales shall be made on the appraisal of the work and performance by the High Court.

²Provided that 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.

(3) The Service shall consist of following persons: -

- (a) Persons who, at the time of commencement of these Rules, are holding substantive or officiating capacity, the post of Civil Judges – Junior Scale (known as Civil Judge Class-II), Civil Judges – Senior Scale (known as Civil Judge Class-I) and Civil Judges – Selection Grade-cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate/Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

1 – sub rule (1) and (2) of rule 3 substituted vide notification no.10856/2672/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 08.09.2023.

2 – proviso inserted after second para of clause(c) of sub rule(2) of rule 3 vide notification no.10856/2672/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 08.09.2023.

(b) Persons recruited directly or promoted to the Services in accordance with the provision of these rules.

4. Strength of Service. – The strength of Service shall be determined by the Governor from time to time in consultation with the High Court:

Provided that the number of posts in sub-rule (2) of Rule 3 in the cadre of ⁵*Civil Judge (Senior Division)* shall be 40% of the total number of permanent posts in the cadre of Civil Judges.

5. Method of Recruitment and Appointment –

(1) All appointments to category (a) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 shall be made by the Governor by direct recruitment in accordance with the recommendations of the *Commission*² on selection:

Provided that the procedure and curriculum for holding examination for the selection of candidates shall be prescribed by the *Commission in consultation with the High Court and the State Government*², as per *Schedule-I*¹:

⁴Provided also that for direct recruitment a candidate belonging to unreserved category has to secure minimum 33% marks in the viva-voce and those belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Classes shall be required to secure minimum 25% marks in the viva-voce.”

(2) Appointment to category sub-rule (2) of Rule 3 shall be made by the High Court by selection and promotion amongst ⁶*Civil Judge (Junior Division)* on the basis of merit-cum-seniority:

¹*The number of vacancies and the officers to be brought under the zone of consideration for promotion shall be in the ratio 1:3 and the suitability of the officers shall be tested in accordance with norms prescribed in Schedule-II.*

Time Schedule for filling up vacancies and recruitment

¹**5-A. Time Schedule for filling up vacancies** – *The projected vacancies and the time schedule for filling up the vacancies shall be in accordance with the order dated 04-01-2007 passed by Hon’ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 1867 of 2006 (Malik Mazhar Sultan And Another. Versus U.P. Public Service Commission & Others.).*

³**5-B. List of Candidates approved by the Commission.-** *(1) After the result of written examination is prepared, the Commission shall call for interview such number of candidates, who in the opinion of the Commission have secured minimum marks as may be fixed by the Commission in this respect.*

1 – inserted vide notification no.1717/D-658/21-B/08 dated 23-02-2008.

2– The word “Committee” in sub-rule (1) and the words “Committee in consultation with the High Court” in proviso to sub-rule (1) substituted with words “Commission” and “Commission in consultation with the High Court and the State Government” vide notification no.8515/2595/XXI-B//C.G./2013 dated 06-09-2013.

3 - Rule 5-B inserted vide notification no.8515/2595/XXI-B//C.G./2013 dated 06-09-2013.

4 – Inserted vide notification no.3230/3723/XXI-B/C.G./2019 dated 23-11-2019

5- *Civil Judge (Senior Division)* substituted in place of *Senior Civil Judge* vide notification no.10856/2672/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 08.09.2023 r/w Corrigendum No. 13771/3738/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 04.12.2023.

6 - *Civil Judge (Junior Division)* substituted in place of *Civil Judges* vide notification no.10856/2672/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 08.09.2023.

- (2) *Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any rules or orders, the Commission shall invite a sitting Judge of the High Court to be nominated by the Chief Justice to participate in the interview of the candidates called under sub-rule (1) and opinion given by him with regard to the suitability of the candidates shall not be disregarded by the Commission unless there are strong and cogent reasons for not accepting the opinion for which reason must be recorded in writing by the Commission.*
- (3) ¹*The Commission then shall prepare a final list of selected candidates in order of their proficiency as disclosed by aggregate of marks finally awarded to each candidates in the written examination and the interview:*

Provided that if two or more candidates obtained equal marks in the aggregate, the name of the candidate being elder in age, shall be placed higher:

Provided further that if two or more candidates of equal age obtained equal marks in aggregate, the name of candidate, who has obtained higher marks in the written examination, shall be placed higher.

6. Reservation of Posts for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes, Women and Physically Handicapped Persons-

- (1) Posts for direct recruitment ²[* *] shall be reserved for the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes in accordance with the provisions of Chhattisgarh Lok Sewa (Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anusuchit Jan-Jatiyon Aur Anya Pichhade Vargon Ke Liye Aarakshan) Adhiniyam, 1994 (No. 21 of 1994).
- (2) 30% of the posts shall be reserved for the woman candidates at the stage of direct recruitment ²[* *] and the reservation shall be horizontal and compartmentwise.

Explanation. – “Horizontal and compartment-wise reservation” means reservation in each category, namely: Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and General.

- (3) ³*Four percent of vacancies shall be reserved for the following persons under section 34 of “the Rights of Persons with disabilities Act, 2016”:-*
- (a) *One percent for the persons with “Low vision” and “blindness”.*
 - (b) *One percent for the persons with “hard of hearing” excluding “deaf”.*

1 - inserted vide notification no.8515/2595/XXI-B//C.G./2013 dated 06-09-2013.

2 - in Sub-rule (1) and (2) of rule 6, the words “(Entry Level)” omitted respectively, vide notification no.10856/2672/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 08.09.2023.

3 - sub-rule (3) of rule 6, substituted, vide notification F.No.4555/4467/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 19.12.2024.

- (c) *One percent for the persons with “Locomotor disability”, “Leprosy cured person”, “Dwarfism”, “Acid attack victims”, “Cerebral Palsy” and “muscular dystrophy”.*
- (d) *One percent for the persons with Autism and multiple disabilities, from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (c) in the posts identified for each disabilities.*
- (e) *Percentage of disabilities for persons with benchmark disabilities in the recruitment to the service shall be in accordance with the executive instructions/Rules/circulars of the State Government issued from time to time in this behalf:*

Provided that where in any recruitment year any vacancy cannot be filled up due to non-availability of a suitable persons with benchmark disability or for any other sufficient reasons, such vacancy shall be carried forward in the succeeding recruitment year and if in the succeeding recruitment year also suitable person with benchmark disability is not available, it may first be filled by interchange among the four categories and only when there is no person with disability available for the post in that year, the Appointing Authority shall fill up the vacancy by appointment of a person, other than a person with disability:

Provided further that if the nature of vacancies in an establishment is such that a given category of person cannot be employed, the vacancies may be interchanged among the four categories with the prior approval of the appropriate Government.

7. Eligibility. –

- (1) No person shall be eligible for appointment to posts in category (a) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 unless, he or she: -
 - (a) is a citizen of India,
 - (b) has completed the age of 21 years and has not completed the age of 35 years on the first day of January of the next following year in which applications for appointment are invited:

Provided that upper age limit shall be relaxable upto a maximum limit of 5 years for candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or Other Backward Classes :

Provided further that the upper age limit shall be relaxable upto a maximum limit of 10 years in case of women candidates belonging to each category namely Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or Other Backward Classes and General:

Provided further that the upper age limit for Government servant whether permanent or temporary, shall be relaxable upto further 3 years in addition to the relaxations available as above.

¹Provided further that where a candidate who was eligible in age to apply for appointment in any calendar year in which vacancies were notified as per Rule 5-A and if for some reason recruitment proceeding could not be initiated, such candidate shall be eligible in age to appear in the following recruitment proceedings.

- (c) ³**possesses a degree in law of any recognized University.**
 - (d) has good character and is of sound health and mind and is free from any disability which renders him unfit for such appointment.
- (2) A person shall be disqualified for appointment by direct recruitment, if, he/she;
- (a) has more than one spouse living.
 - (b) has been dismissed or removed from service by any High Court, Government, Statutory Authority or Local Authority.
 - (c) has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or has been permanently debarred or disqualified by any High Court or Union Public Service Commission or any State Public Service Commission or any Services Selection Board or Staff Selection Commission.
 - (d) has been found guilty of professional misconduct under the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961 or any other law for the time being in force.

8. Disqualification. – Any attempt on the part of the candidate to obtain support for his candidature, by any means, may be a disqualification for admission to examination or selection for the Service.

9. Commission's² Decision about Eligibility of Candidate. – The decision of the *Commission*² as to eligibility or otherwise of the candidate for admission to the examination shall be final.

10. List of Candidates Recommended by the Commission². –

- (1) The *Commission*² shall forward to the Government a list arranged in order of merit of the candidates qualified for the post. The list shall be published for general information.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of these Rules and Chhattisgarh Civil Services (General Conditions of Service) Rules, 1961, candidates shall be considered for appointment to the available vacancies in the order in which their names appear in the list.

1 – inserted vide notification no.7120/D-2517/XXI-B/CG/07 dated 14-08-2007

2 – The word “Committee” in Rule 9 and 10 substituted by the word “Commission” vide Notification No. 8515/2595/XXI-B/C.G./2013 dated 06-09-2013.

3 - substituted vide notification no.831/500/XXI-B/C.G./25 dated 21.02.2025

11. Probation. –

- (1) A person appointed to category (a) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 shall be posted on probation for a period of *three*² years.
- (2) A person appointed to a post in category (a) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 shall undergo a judicial training for a period of one year in accordance with the scheme prepared by the High Court and shall also include training in the ¹*Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy*.
- (3) The High Court may, at any time, before the completion of probation period extend the period of probation, but the total period of probation shall not exceed ⁴*four* years.
- (4) The High Court, may at any time, before the completion of period of probation, recommend termination of the services of ³*Civil Judge (Junior Division) (Entry Level)* appointed to the category (a) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 3.
- (5) On successfully completion of probation, a probationer shall be confirmed in the Service or post, to which, he has been appointed and if no permanent post is available, a certificate shall be issued in his favour by the High Court to the effect that the probationer would have been confirmed, but for the non-availability of the permanent post and as soon as a permanent post becomes available, he shall be confirmed.
- (6) A person appointed on probation shall continue as such until terminated or confirmed under sub-rule (4) or sub-rule (5) as the case may be.
- (7) When a probationer is confirmed, he shall be allowed to draw annual increment for the whole of the period of probation.

12. Postings and Transfers. – All posting and transfers of person appointed to the Service shall be made by the High Court.**13. Seniority. –**

- (1) The seniority of the members of the Service holding substantive or officiating post at the time of commencement of these Rules shall continue to be the same as it exist at the commencement of these Rules.
- (2) ⁵The seniority, inter se, of persons appointed by promotion under sub-rule (2) of rule 5 shall be determined by their inter se seniority in lower cadre.

1 - Substituted vide notification no.3230/3723/XXI-B/C.G./2019 dated 23-11-2019

2 – substituted vide notification no. 5604/1611/XXI-B/C.G./2021 dated 08.06.2021

3- *Civil Judge (Junior Division) (Entry Level)* substituted in place of *Civil Judge* vide notification no.10856/2672/XXI-B/C.G./23 dated 08.09.2023.

4- the word “four” substituted in place of “three” vide notification no. 4555/4467/XXI-B/C.G./24 dated 19.12.2024.

5- Substituted vide notification no. 3355/4307-4336/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 23.09.2024

- (3) ³Persons appointed to the service by direct recruitment after commencement of these rules shall be ranked inter se in the order of merit they are placed in select list.

The seniority of persons, whose cases are not covered under sub-rule (1), (2) and (3) shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Chhattisgarh Civil Services (General Conditions of Service) Rules, 1961.

14. Pay, Allowances and other Conditions of Service. –

- (1) The members of the Service shall be paid, pay, allowances and be provided with facilities as recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission (Shetty Pay Commission) as accepted by the Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 21-3-2002 in the case of All India Judges' Association vs. Union of India, (2002 AIR SCW 1706).
- (2) Fixation of pay of the members of Service shall be made in accordance with the Chhattisgarh Lower and Higher Judicial Service (Revision of Pay of Rules, 2003).
- (3) The members of the Service shall also be entitled to other benefits and their conditions of service shall be governed in accordance with the existing rules applicable to the Government servants of the corresponding grade in general and not inconsistent with these Rules.
- (4) ¹Any member of the Lower Judicial Service, who is allowed permission/NOC/forwarding of his/her application seeking employment in other department/State by the High Court, shall submit a bond to the effect that in the event of eventual selection and relinquishment of his/her service, he/she ² *shall serve three month's prior notice or three months salary in lieu thereof at the time of such relinquishment.*
- (5) ⁴The members of the Service, who possess post graduate degree in Law shall be entitled to the benefit of three advance increment in the following manner:-
- (a) The Judicial Officers who acquire the degree of LL.M. before joining the service shall be entitled to three additional increments from the date of joining the service or from 01/11/1999, whichever is later, while those who have acquired/acquire the same after joining the service shall be entitled to these increments from the date of acquisition of the higher qualification of LL.M.

1- Inserted vide notification no. 4381/1037/XXI-B/C.G./2020 dated 06.06.2020

2- Substituted vide notification no.1415/1207,1205,1629/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 05.07.2024

3- Inserted vide notification no.3355/4307-4336/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 23.09.2024.

4- Inserted vide notification no.3355/4307-4336/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 23.09.2024.

- (b) The three increments granted to the Judicial Officers on acquisition of LL.M. degree shall be treated as additional increments.
- (c) The additional increments shall continue to be drawn by the Judicial Officers on their further promotion and/or placement in Higher Pay Scale, as the case may be.
- (d) The additional increments so drawn shall not exceed the maximum limit of the pay scale for the post of District Judge (Super Time Scale).

15. Superannuation Age. –

- ¹(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2), every member of the service shall retire from the service on the afternoon of the last day of the month, in which, he attains the age of sixty years.

Provided that a member of service whose date of birth is the first day of a month shall retire from service on the afternoon of the last day of the preceding month on attaining the age of sixty years.

- (2) A member of the service may, in the public interest, be retired at any time after he has completed 20 years qualifying service, or he attains the age of 50 years, whichever is earlier, without assigning any reason.
- (3) For finding out whether a Member of the Service should be retired prematurely under sub-rule (2), the Chief Justice may constitute a Screening Committee for the scrutiny and assessment of such member of the service, based on his past record of service, character rolls, quality of judgments/orders and other relevant matters like his integrity, reputation and utility.

16. Oath. – Every person, appointed to the Service by direct recruitment before he joins, shall make and subscribe before such person as may be specified by the Chief Justice, oath or affirmation in the following form: -

“I,, having been appointed as a member of the Chhattisgarh Lower Judicial Service, do swear in the name of God/solemnly affirm, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India. That I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment, perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill will, and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws”.

17. Deputation. – A member of the Service may be appointed in deputation to perform the duties of any post under Central Government or the State Government or to serve in an organization, which is wholly or partly owned or controlled by such Government or in foreign service or in the High Court.

18. Interpretation. – If any question arises as to the interpretation of these Rules, the decision of the High Court shall be final.

¹**18-A.** *In consultation with the High Court, State Government shall be competent to make any further amendment in these rules as may be necessary from time to time.*

19. Power to Relax. – Where the High Court is satisfied that the operation of any of these Rules causes undue hardship in any particular case or class it may for reasons to be recorded in writing dispense with or relax the particular Rule to such extent and subject to such exceptions and conditions as may be deemed necessary:

Provided that as and when any such relaxation is granted by the High Court, the Governor shall be informed of the same.

20. Repeal & Saving. – Chhattisgarh Lower Judicial Service (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1994 and orders, resolutions, if any, in force immediately before the commencement of these Rules, are hereby repealed or rescinded as the case may be, in respect of matters covered by these Rules:

Provided that any order made or action taken under the Rules so repealed shall be deemed to have been made or taken under the corresponding provisions of these Rules.

¹Schedule-I²

(See Rule 5 (1))

The Examination shall be conducted in three parts, namely, (i) Preliminary examination, (ii) ⁶Main Examination (Written) and (iii) Viva-voce. The scheme of the examinations shall be as follows: -

(a) Preliminary Examination

The preliminary examination shall be of the duration of two hours consisting of objective-type questions from the following:

- (1) ⁹The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (No. 45 of 2023)
- (2) Code of Civil Procedure
- (3) ⁹The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (No. 46 of 2023)
- (4) ⁹The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (No. 47 of 2023)
- (5) Constitution of India
- (6) Transfer of Property Act
- (7) Contract Act
- (8) Limitation Act
- (9) ⁵The Chhattisgarh Rent Control Act, 2011
- (10) Court Fees Act
- (11) Specific Relief Act
- (12) Registration Act
- (13) Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code
- (14) The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881⁴
- (15) The Chhattisgarh Excise Act, 1915⁴
- (16) ⁸General Knowledge of Chhattisgarh

(b) Main Examination (Written) (Max. Marks 100)

For main Examination, the relatively more meritorious candidates from among those who appeared in the preliminary examination in the ratio of 1:10 having regard to the number of vacancies, shall be called for ⁶Main Examination (Written) to be conducted which shall consist of :

- (i) Framing of Issues and writing of Judgment in Civil Cases. (Maximum Marks 40)
- (ii) Framing of Charges and writing of Judgment in Criminal Cases. (Maximum Marks 40)
- (iii) Translation :
 - (1) English to Hindi - Maximum 10 marks.
 - (2) Hindi to English - Maximum 10 marks.

(c) Viva-voce

⁷Relatively more meritorious candidates from amongst those who appeared in the Main Examination shall be called for Viva-voce in the ratio of 1:3 having regard to the number of vacancies. The maximum marks for Viva-voce would be 15.

1 – Schedule inserted vide notification no.7120/D-2517/XXI-B/CG/07 dated 14-08-2007
 2 - The figure “I” after the word “Schedule” inserted and the figure “1:3” in viva voce substituted by the figure “1:10” vide notification no.1717/D-658/21-B/08 dated 23-02-2008
 3 - “50” marks for viva-voce substituted by “15” vide notification no.4687/D-1449/21-B/C.G./08 dated 07-05-2008
 4 - inserted vide notification no.3640/1304/XXI-B/C.G./2012 dated 02-05-2012
 5 - “Accommodation Control Act” substituted vide notification no. 8515/2595/XXI-B/C.G./2013 dated 06-09-2013.
 6 – Substituted vide notification no.3230/3723/XXI-B/C.G./2019 dated 23-11-2019
 7 - The figure “1:10” in viva voce substituted by the figure “1:3” vide notification no. 5604/1611/XXI-B/C.G./2021 dated 08.06.2021
 8-Inserted vide notification no.1415/1207,1205,1629/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 05.07.2024.
 9 – Substituted vide notification no.2078/2073/XXI-B/C.G./2024 dated 16.08.2024

¹Schedule-II
{See Rule 5 (2)}

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| (1) Evaluation of judgments - | 40 marks |
| (2) Evaluation of Annual Confidential Reports for the last five years | 10 marks |
| (3) Vigilance Report | 10 marks |
| | XXXXXX² |
| | ----- |
| “Total | - 60 marks³” |

By order and in the name of the Governor of Chhattisgarh

1 - Scheduled – II inserted vide notification no.1717/D-658/21-B/08 dated 23-02-2008
2- Omitted vide notification/endt. no. 8667/1620/21-B/C.G./2020 dated 13.11.2020
3- Substituted vide notification/endt. no. 8667/1620/21-B/C.G./2020 dated 13.11.2020