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HIGH COURT OF MADRAS

TAMIL NADU STATE

JUDICIAL SERVICE

(CADRE AND RECRUITMENT RULES), 2007

@ Amendments issued vide G.O.(Ms.) No.877, Home (Courts.I) Department, dt.24.11.2017.

** Amendments issued vide G.O.(Ms.) No.234, Home (Courts.I) Department, dt.03.04.2018.*

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**TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL SERVICE
(CADRE AND RECRUITMENT) RULES, 2007**

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 233, 233-A, 234, 235 and the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Tamil Nadu in consultation with the High Court, Madras and Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, wherever necessary, hereby makes the following Rules:

1. Short title: These rules may be called the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service (Cadre and Recruitment) Rules, 2007.

2. Definition: In these rules, 'High Court' means, the High Court of Judicature at Madras and the 'Government' means 'The Government of Tamil Nadu'.

3. Constitution: The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service shall consist of the following categories, namely:-

Category:-

1. District Judge (Super time scale)
2. District Judge (Selection Grade)
3. District Judge (Entry Level)
4. Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate (Assured Career Progression Scale – II Stage)
5. Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate (Assured Career Progression Scale – I Stage)
6. Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate.
7. Civil Judge (Assured Career Progression Scale - II Stage)
8. Civil Judge (Assured Career Progression Scale - I Stage)
9. Civil Judge

4. Appointing Authority:-

The appointing authority for the categories of posts shall be the authority vested with such authority under Article 233 and Article 234 of the Constitution of India.

Provided that the appointing authority for appointment by promotion to categories 1. District Judge (Super time Scale), 2. District Judge (Selection Grade), 3. Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate shall be the High Court, Madras in accordance with Article 235 of the Constitution of India.

5. Method of appointment, Qualification and Age:-

In respect of each category of posts specified in column (1) of the Schedule below, the method of appointment and the qualifications shall be as specified in the corresponding entries in columns (2) and (3) thereof and the respective Annexure thereof:-

THE SCHEDULE

Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
1	District Judge (Super time Scale)	By promotion by Selection on the basis of Merit-cum-Seniority from Category 2 viz., 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 10% of the Cadre strength of District Judge shall be promoted to the Cadre of District Judge (Super time Scale)
2	District Judge (Selection Grade)	By promotion by Selection on the basis of Merit-cum-Seniority from Category 3 viz., District Judge (Entry level) by the High Court.	Must have put in 5 years of continuous service in category 3 i.e as District Judge (Entry level). Provided 25% of Cadre strength of District Judge shall be promoted to the cadre of District Judge (Selection Grade)
3	District Judge (Entry level)	(i) 65 per cent by promotion from amongst the Senior Civil Judges / Chief Judicial Magistrates / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrates on the basis of principle of merit-cum-seniority and suitability. The criteria to assess the merit and suitability are under the following heads: (a) Evaluation of Judgments rendered by the candidates in the preceding five years. (b) Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports in the Preceding five years. (c) Work done during the preceding five years.	

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Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
		<p>(d) Pendency of disciplinary proceedings, if any.</p> <p>Provided that in the event of non-availability of Senior 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) 10 per cent by promotion from amongst the Senior Civil Judges / Chief Judicial Magistrates / Chief Metropolitan Magistrates / Metropolitan Magistrates, strictly on the basis of merit to be adjudged on the basis of Limited Competitive Examination, 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 viva-voce as prescribed and conducted by the High Court as detailed below :-</p> <p>(a) <u>Written Test</u> ... 45 marks</p> <p>(Objective type test in Civil, Criminal and Constitutional Laws)</p> <p>(b) <u>Quality of judgments</u>... 30 marks</p> <p>(delivered as Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate, during the preceding 3 years)</p>	<p>Must have completed five years of qualifying service in the category of Senior Civil Judge / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate inclusive of ACP I and II Stage.</p>

Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
		<p>(c) <u>Annual Confidential Reports</u> ... 10 marks</p> <p>(recorded during the preceding 5 years)</p> <p>(d) <u>quantum of leave availed during the preceding 5 years.</u> ... 5 marks</p> <p>(e) <u>Viva-voce – Test</u> ... 10 marks</p> <p>Total ... 100 marks</p> <p>(the minimum qualifying marks out of 100 marks, shall be 50 marks):</p> <p>Provided that, if any of the vacancy under the 10 percent quota could not be filled up, such vacancy shall be filled up by regular promotion by the method specified in item (i) above.</p>	
		<p>@</p> <p>“(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”.</p>	<p>@</p> <p>“1. 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 recognized by the University Grants Commission, or any other equivalent qualification and got enrolled in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu or in the Bar Council of any other State.</p> <p>2. 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)</p>

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Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
			<p>@</p> <p>"3. 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 notification for recruitment to the post was issued".</p>
4	Senior Civil Judge/Chief Metropolitan Magistrate/Chief Judicial Magistrate [II Stage ACP Scale]	Gradation subject to entries in Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any.	Must have completed five years of continuous service in the category of Senior Civil Judge. [ACP Scale I stage].
5	Senior Civil Judge/ Chief Judicial Magistrate / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate [I Stage ACP Scale]	Gradation subject to entries in Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any.	Must have completed five years of continuous service in the category of Senior Civil Judge.
6	Senior Civil Judge / Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Chief Judicial Magistrate / Metropolitan Magistrate.	By promotion by selection on the basis of merit-cum-seniority from among the category of Civil Judges by the High Court (i) Entries in the Annual Confidential Reports inclusive of Vigilance Reports, if any. (ii) Evaluation of the Judgments rendered by the candidate in the preceding five years. (iii) Work done statement for preceding five years.	

Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
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]
8	Civil Judge [I 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.
9	Civil Judge	@ 9.By direct recruitment on the basis of Preliminary Examination, Main examination and viva voce test conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Annexure-II to these Rules.	@ (1).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 recognized by the University Grants Commission, or any other equivalent qualification and got enrolled in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu or in the Bar Council of any other State. And @ (2).Must be practicing as an Advocate or Pleader in any Court on the date of Notification for recruitment to the post and must have so practiced for a period of not less than 3 years on such date. (or) Must be an Assistant Public Prosecutor having not less than 3 years of experience as an Advocate and / or Assistant Public Prosecutor (and)

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Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
			<p>Age: 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 style="text-align: center;">(or)</p> <p>(3) Must be a fresh Law Graduate possessing a degree in law from a recognized University as mentioned in Clause (1) above, who is eligible to be enrolled as an Advocate and who has secured an over all percentage of 50% marks in acquiring such a law degree in case of open categories and 45% marks in respect of other reserved categories. Fresh Law Graduates are those who have obtained the degree of Law within a period of three years prior to the date of notification.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(and)</p> <p>Age: Must have attained the age of 22 years and must not have completed the age of 27 years as on 1st July of the year in which the selection for appointment is made.</p> <p>Explanation: Rules 12 (d) (ii), 52 and 53 of the General Rules for the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services shall not apply for this recruitment.</p>

Sl.No.	Category (1)	Method of Appointment (2)	Qualification (3)
			<p>@ (Insertion)</p> <p>(1).Persons who have enrolled as an Advocate, but do not possess three years practice at the Bar would be eligible to appear in the recruitment for the post of Civil Judge, under the category of Fresh Law Graduates, provided they satisfy the other requisite eligibility criteria.</p> <p>@ Re-numbered as :-</p> <p>(2).Provisions contained in clause (ii) of sub-section (8) of Section 20, Section 63 and Section 64 of Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Condition of Service) Act, 2016 (T.N. Act 14 of 2016) shall not apply to this recruitment.</p>

5-A. Appointment on deputation:-

Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, appointment to the service may also be made by the Government, in consultation with the High Court, Madras by deputation of a person holding analogous post in the Puducherry Judicial Service for a period not exceeding three years, or for such a term as may be fixed by the High Court.

Provided that such person on deputation, shall draw the pay as drawn by him/her in the scale of pay in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, any member of the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service, may also be deputed to the Puducherry Judicial Service by the Government in consultation with the High Court, Madras to an analogous post, for a period of three years or for such a term as fixed by the High Court.

Provided that such person on deputation shall draw the pay as per the terms and conditions governing the deputation.

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6. Training, Test and Confirmation:-

(1) Training:-

(a) Every person appointed to the category of District Judges (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) As many temporary additional posts in the cadre of District Judge as there are directly recruited District Judges undergoing training shall be created for the duration of the said training.

(c) Every person appointed to the category of Civil Judge shall undergo training for a period of twelve months.

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 during the period of training and allowed annual increment even during the period of training.

If they pass the Accounts Test for Executive Officers before the completion of one year of service, they shall be eligible to draw the first increment in advance from the date following the date of passing such examination.

(2) Tests:-

Every person appointed to the categories of District Judge (Entry Level) / Civil Judge by direct recruitment shall, within the period of probation, pass the Account test for Executive Officers.

(3) Confirmation:-

An officiating District Judge (Entry level) or an officiating Civil Judge shall be confirmed by the High Court to be a full member of the Service in the category concerned at the earliest possible opportunity in any substantive vacancy which may exist or arise in the category in which he/she is officiating according to his/her seniority in the category concerned.

7. Posting and Transfer:-

All postings and transfer of the members of the service, subsequent to their first appointment thereto, shall be made by the High Court.

8. Seniority:-

(1) The seniority of a person appointed to the category of District Judge (Entry Level) shall be with reference to the date of appointment to the said Service.

(2) The seniority of a person appointed to the category of District Judge (Selection Grade) / District Judge (Super time Scale) shall be determined by the date of first appointment to that category.

Provided that where the date of the first appointment of two or more District Judges to the category of the District Judge (Selection Grade) / District Judge (Super time Scale) is the same, then the inter-se seniority shall be determined by the rank assigned to them in the list drawn by the High Court.

Provided further that the seniority of a person appointed to the category of District Judge by promotion from among the qualified persons belonging to the categories 4 or 5 or 6 as the case may be, shall be fixed by the High Court.

(3) The seniority of a person appointed to the category of Senior Civil Judge shall be determined by the rank assigned in the list drawn by the High Court.

(4) The seniority of a person appointed to the category of Civil Judge shall be determined by the rank assigned to him/her in the list drawn by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

9. Application of other Rules:-

All rules regulating the conditions of service of the members of the State Civil Services, made from time to time under any law or the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India shall subject to Articles 233, 233-A, 234 and 235 of the Constitution of India, apply to the members governed by these rules.

*10. Reservation of appointments:-

Section 27 of the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 2016) relating to reservation of appointment and Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (Central Act 49 of 2016) shall apply for appointment to the cadres of District Judge (Entry Level) and Civil Judge, by direct recruitment.

Provided that four percent of vacancies shall be reserved for the following persons with "benchmark disabilities", namely:-

(i).One percent for the persons in the following category of disabilities under the category of 'Locomotor disability' (as defined in the Schedule appended to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016):-

- (a) Locomotor disability of One Arm, One Leg and Both Legs;
(b) Leprosy cured person;
(c) Dwarfism;
(d) Acid attack victims;

(ii) One percent for the persons with 'Low vision' under the category of 'Visual Impairment' (as defined in the Schedule appended to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016);

(iii) One percent for the persons with 'hard of hearing' under the category of "Hearing Impairment" (as defined in the Schedule appended to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016);

(iv). Remaining One percent for the persons mentioned in the above clauses (i), (ii) & (iii), above, on rotation basis.

Explanation:- The roster points meant for the candidates with benchmark disabilities mentioned in clauses (d) and (e) of sub section (1) of Section 34 of the said Central Act, shall be allotted to the candidates in categories (i) to (iii) mentioned above, in the same order:

Provided further that the candidates who perform the following physical activities alone are

Eligible:-

- (a) - Work Performed by Sitting - S
(b) - Work Performed by Sanding - ST
(c) - Work Performed by Writing - W
(d) - Work Performed by Seeing - SE
(e) - Work Performed by Hearing - H
(f) - Work Performed by Reading and Writing - RW
(g) - Communicating (Communicating would also include verbal or non-verbal communication) – C.

11. Probation:-

(1) Every person appointed to the post of District Judge (Entry level) by direct recruitment, shall from the date on which he/she joins duty be on probation for a total period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years, including the period of training as may be prescribed by the High Court. The High Court shall be competent to extend the period of probation of a District Judge (Entry level) if it is not satisfied with his/her work or conduct. Orders declaring the completion of probation shall be issued by the High Court.

(2) Every person appointed to the post of Civil Judge by direct recruitment, shall from the date on which he/she joins duty be on probation for a period of two years within a continuous period of three years, including the period of training as may be prescribed by the High Court.

(3) The High Court shall be competent to extend the period of probation of Civil Judge if it is not satisfied with his/her work or conduct. Orders declaring the completion of probation shall be issued by the High Court.

12. Oath or affirmation by the District Judge or Civil Judge :-

Every person appointed as District Judge (Entry Level) or Civil Judge by direct recruitment shall, before he/she enters upon his/her office, make and subscribe before the Chief Justice of the High Court or such other Judge of the High Court or District Judge, as may be appointed in that behalf by the Chief Justice, as Oath or affirmation in the following form:

"I having been appointed to the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service as 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 and favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution of India and the laws."

13. Repeal and Savings:-

(1) The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service (Cadre and Recruitment) Rules 1995 are hereby repealed.

(2) The repeal shall not affect the validity of the list of selected candidates for the posts of District Judge or Civil Judge as the case may be, under the repealed rules and appointment of such selected candidates.

(3) All the kinds of proceedings (including action taken to make recruitment and preparation of the list of selected candidates) commenced under the repealed rules and are pending on the date of commencement of these rules shall be continued and completed in accordance with the repealed rules as if they have not been repealed.

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@ ANNEXURE I (under Rule 5)

DISTRICT JUDGE (ENTRY LEVEL) BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT

(1) The Government, in consultation with the Madras High Court, shall invite applications for filling up the post of District Judge (Entry Level), by Direct Recruitment.

(2) A candidate shall, along with his application -

(a) If he/she is an Advocate or Pleader, produce from the Presiding Officer of the Court in which he/she is actually practising, a Certificate indicating the length of his/her practice;

(b) If he/she is an Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade-I or an Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade-II, produce from the Collector of the District concerned, a certificate indicating the length of his/her service; and

(c) produce a certificate of good character, from a Senior Advocate or Counsel and another from a responsible person, not being a relative but who is well acquainted with him/her in his/her private life.

(d) Birth Certificate or any other authentic Certificate showing the date of birth of the candidate.

(3).The High Court shall conduct the competitive examination for direct recruitment to the post of District Judge (Entry Level), in three stages, as specified below:-

(a).Preliminary examination (objective type question paper) to be conducted either by way of online test or by way of on-paper test, in Optical Mark Recognition Paper (OMR paper);

(b).Main Examination; and

(c).Viva voce test

(4).The minimum marks for pass in the Preliminary Examination shall be as follows:

(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	For the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste (A) and Scheduled Tribe	30 Marks
2.	For the candidates belonging to Backward Class (OBCM), Backward Class (M) and Most Backward Class/Denotified Community	35 Marks
3.	For others	40 Marks

All the successful candidates in the Preliminary Examination, shall be called upon for Main Examination.

(5).After the Main Examination, the High Court shall fix, at its discretion, the cut-off marks, for each paper separately, which shall in any event, be not less than the marks as follows:-

(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	For the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste (A) and Scheduled Tribe	35% of Marks in each Paper
2.	For the candidates belonging to Backward Class (OBCM), Backward Class (M) and Most Backward Class/Denotified Community	40% of Marks in each Paper
3.	For others	45% of Marks in each Paper

The High Court shall then call upon such number of the successful candidates to appear for viva voce test, as it deems fit and proper, keeping in view the available vacancies;

Provided that if more than one candidate secure identical cut-off marks as fixed by the High Court, all such candidates shall be called upon to appear for viva voce test.

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(6).From the candidates who have appeared for viva voce test, the final selection of the candidates shall be made based on the combined marks secured by the candidates in the Main Examination and viva voce test. The maximum marks allotted for the Main Examination and viva voce test shall be 75% and 25% respectively.

(7).The Notification enlisting the successful candidates shall be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and it shall cease to be operative from the date of Publication of the next list of successful candidates in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette.

@ ANNEXURE II (under Rule 5)
CIVIL JUDGE BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT

- (1) The Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission') shall invite applications for direct recruitment to the post of Civil Judge, with reference to the vacancies reported by the Government, through one English daily and one Tamil daily, having wide circulation in the State.

- (2) A candidate who applies for direct recruitment to the said post should send along with his application, copies of all the essential certificates and documents specified in the notification issued by the Commission. Besides the above, he should send the following along with his application:-
 - (a) In the case of a member of the Bar, the Degree Certificate, Enrolment Certificate issued by the Bar Council and a certificate such practice from the authorities specified below:-
 - (1) In the case of candidates practicing in the High Court, such Certificate should be obtained from the Registrar (Judicial) at the Principal seat or at the Madurai Bench of the High Court, as the case may be.
 - (2) In case of candidates practicing in the High Courts of other States and the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, such Certificate should be obtained from the Registrar, who is in charge of the judicial side of respective High Court or the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
 - (3) In case of advocates, practicing in Subordinate Courts, such Certificate should be obtained from the Presiding Officer of the Court in which the candidate is/has been practicing.
 - (b) In the case of an Assistant Public Prosecutor or a Government Pleader, the appointment order as Assistant Public Prosecutor or Government Pleader and a service certificate from the Head of Department specifying the number of years of qualifying service.
 - (c) In the case of a fresh Law Graduate, Law Degree Certificate issued by the University concerned.
 - (d) Birth Certificate or any other authentic Certificate showing the date of birth of the candidate.

(3).The competitive examination for selection to the post of Civil Judge by direct recruitment shall consist of 3 stages i.e.,:

- (a).Preliminary Examination;
- (b). Main Examination; and
- (c). Viva-voce test?.

(4).The syllabi for the examinations shall be as follows:-

(a):- Preliminary Examination (Objective type – Maximum marks:100), to be conducted either by way of online test or by way of on-paper test, in Optical Mark Recognition Paper (OMR paper):

Part-A

The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908;
The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1981;
The Transfer of Property Act, 1882;
The Indian Contract Act, 1872;
The Specific Relief Act, 1963;
The Constitution of India; and
The Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960.

Part-B

The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;
The Indian Penal Code, 1860;
The Indian Evidence Act, 1872;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Acts/Ordinances containing
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1932;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1938;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1952;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1961;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Amending Act, 1966;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1972;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1983;
The Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 1983;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1993;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005;
The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013;

That apart, skill of the candidates is also been tested to the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960 (Act 18 of 1960) and the new Act, namely Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017 (Tamil Nadu Act 42 of 2017) and the Criminal Minor Acts (including Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012).

Part-C General Knowledge – Test of reasoning and mental ability.

The minimum marks for a pass in the Preliminary Examination shall be as follows:-

(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	For the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste (A) and Scheduled Tribe.	30 Marks
2.	For the candidates belonging to Backward Class (OBCM), Backward Class (M) and Most Backward Class/Denotified Community	35 Marks
3.	For others	40 Marks

(b).Main Examination:-

(i) Translation Paper (Maximum Marks 100)

Translation of passages from English to Tamil and from Tamil to English. The passages will be from Depositions, Judgments and Documents.

(ii) Law Paper-I (Maximum Marks 100)

The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, Principles of Pleading and the Constitution of India.

(iii) Law Paper-II (Maximum Marks 100)

Framing of Issues and Writing of Judgments in Civil Cases.

(iv) Law Paper-III (Maximum Marks 100)

Framing of Charges and Writing of Judgments in Criminal Cases.

The minimum marks for a pass in each paper of the Main Examination shall be as follows:-

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(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	For the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste (A) and Scheduled Tribe.	30% of Marks in each Paper
2.	For the candidates belonging to Backward Class (OBCM), Backward Class (M) and Most Backward Class/Denotified Community	35% of Marks in each Paper
3.	For others	40% of Marks in each Paper

(c) .Viva- voce (Maximum marks 60)

The candidate's General Knowledge and Knowledge of Law, grasp of Procedural Laws and Principles of Law and his suitability for appointment as Civil Judge shall be tested. The minimum marks for a pass in the viva-voce for all categories of candidates shall be 18:

Provided that no candidate who has secured less than minimum marks specified for the Main Examination shall be eligible for viva-voce.

(5) The Commission shall conduct the Preliminary Examination, Main Examination and Viva-voce test as specified below:-

- (a). On receipt of applications from the candidates, scrutiny of applications shall be done by the Commission strictly in accordance with the instructions and guidelines prescribed by it for the purpose.
- (b). Hall Tickets shall be despatched to the candidates whose applications have been admitted by the Commission, sufficiently in advance to the date of Preliminary Examination.
- (c) (i). Sets of question papers for drawal for the Preliminary Examination, together with answer keys shall be set by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice for the purpose.
 (ii).After declaration of the result of the Preliminary Examination, question papers for all the four papers in the Main Examination together with answer keys will be set by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice for the purpose.
 (iii).Hall tickets shall be despatched to the successful candidates in the Preliminary Examination, sufficiently in advance to the date of Main Examination by the Commission.

- (d) Five sets of question papers in the prescribed syllabi shall be set by moderators appointed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice from time to time and these sets would be handed over to the Commission for safe custody.
- (e) The Hon'ble Chief Justice would pick up, in the presence of other Hon'ble Judges, a set of question papers containing key answers from a minimum of three such sets. The picked up set would be signed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and by other Hon'ble Judges present and handed over to the Controller of Examinations, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for printing. The other not picked question papers would be collected back by the Controller of Examinations for safe custody.
- (f) The printed question papers shall be received at the Commission's Office and will be transported to the designated Centres escorted by the Officials from the Commission and the High Court. Each packet shall contain 20 question papers and they shall be bundled into larger parcels of cloth lined covers.
- (g) At the point of arrival, the representatives of the High Court and the Commission shall receive the sealed bundles containing the question papers and the papers shall be kept inside the Treasury Vault under armed security.
- (h) Chief Invigilators shall be appointed by the Commission as per the usual procedure. On the previous day of examination, the Chief Invigilator appointed, shall verify the adequacy of question papers at the Treasury in the presence of Officials of the Commission and the High Court and keep them back in Treasury vault till the morning of the examination day.
- (i) On the day of examination, the question papers shall be taken from the vault of the Treasury and transported to the examination centre as per the procedure evolved by the Commission, so that it shall reach the examination centre at least half-an-hour before the examination. The question paper packet(s) shall be opened by the Invigilators five minutes before the commencement of the examination.
- (j) The persons drafted for invigilation work shall normally be the teachers of the educational Institution where the examination is conducted.
- (k) The Commission's staff as well as the High Court or Judicial Officers may be deputed for inspection of the examination halls. Flying squads are also appointed by the District Revenue Officer, who is the Co-ordinator for the examinations conducted by the Commission.
- (l) Hon'ble High Court Judges or District Judges, to be nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, can also make surprise inspection. Members of the Commission shall also make surprise inspection.
- (m) Immediately on the completion of the examination, all the answer papers of the candidates shall be collected by the Invigilators and the same shall be counted, packed and sealed by the Chief Invigilator. The same shall be signed by him, handed over to the persons nominated by the Commission and deposited in the Treasury for onward transmission to the Commission in chartered vehicles with police bandobust accompanied by the staff of the Commission.

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- (n) Dummy numbers shall be assigned to the answer papers by the persons deputed by the Controller of Examinations in the Commission's Office, after all the answer paper are received in the Commission's Office, from the respective Centres.
 - (o) After the dummy numbers are assigned to the answer papers, the same shall be sent by the Commission to the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy situated at Greenways Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600 028 or any other place designated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Madras High Court for evaluation, which shall be the Centralized Evaluation Centre.
 - (p) District Judges (Super time scale), District Judges (Selection Grade) and District Judges (Entry Level), are eligible to be appointed as Examiners.
 - (q) The bundle containing the answer keys would be handed over by the controller of Examinations, to the Chief Examiner and the same would be opened by the Chief Examiner in the presence of other Examiners. Valuation of the answer papers shall be done by the Examiners nominated by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for the purpose.
 - (r) The staff and Officers of the Commission shall be present at the time of evaluation of the answer sheets and assist the Examiners in the evaluation process.
 - (s) The Examiners shall prepare the mark sheet (one copy only), seal it and hand over the same to the Controller of Examinations, for further processing.
 - (t) The procedure mentioned in clauses (d) to (m) above, shall be followed mutatis-mutandis for Preliminary Examination and the evaluation of the answer scripts (online test or OMR paper) shall be done in the Commission's Office in the presence of an official of the Hon'ble High Court nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice. The procedure mentioned in clauses (d) to (s) above shall be followed mutatis-mutandis for the Main Written Examination.
 - (u) The Controller of Examinations shall oversee the conversion of Dummy numbers, to Registration numbers before tabulation, for ascertaining the candidates who are qualified for admission to Main Examination and Viva- Voce test.
 - (v) If large number of candidates secured pass mark in the preliminary examination, the candidates for admission to Main Examination will be shortlisted as decided by the Commission at the rate not exceeding 10 times of the number of vacancies following the rule of reservation. Candidates for viva-voce test will be shortlisted in the ratio of 1:2 or 1:3 with reference to the number of vacancies as specified in "Instructions to Applicants" under the heading "Procedure of Selection".
 - (w) The Viva-voce test will be conducted in the Commission's Office with a minimum of five interview Boards per day, comprising of one Hon'ble Judge of the High Court and such number of Members of the Commission, as are available at the time of conduct of interview.

- (x) A Hon'ble Judge of the High Court, to be nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, for each of the interview Boards constituted will be the Chairperson of the Board and his views in the matter of awarding marks or grades, which is by consensus shall normally be accepted, unless there are cogent reasons for not accepting such advice, to be recorded in writing by the Chairman and Members of the Commission.
- (y) The marks or grade sheets shall be sealed and handed over to the Secretary to the Commission for safe custody. After the Viva-voce test is completed, the marks obtained by the candidate in Main Examination as well as Viva-voce test would be collated and published. The names of the successful candidates shall thereafter, be prepared by the Commission and sent to the Government of Tamil Nadu for appointment after due publication of the results as per these Rule.
- (z) The Notification enlisting the successful candidates shall be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and it shall cease to be operative from the date of publication of the next list of successful candidates, in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette.

5. A tentative time schedule for the recruitment would be prepared by the Commission in consultation with Hon'ble High Court and the same would be adhered to, to the maximum possible extent for finalizing the selection process.

@ Amendments issued vide G.O.(Ms.) No.877, Home (Courts.I) Department, dt.24.11.2017.

* Amendments issued vide G.O.(Ms.) No.234, Home (Courts.I) Department, dt.03.04.2018.