



सिविल न्यायाधीश (कनिष्ठ खंड) — राजस्थान

The Civil Judge is the entry-level post of the Rajasthan Judicial Service — the judge sitting in the courts subordinate to the district court, before whom civil suits and the smaller criminal matters come. The work is recording...



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करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

The Civil Judge is the entry-level post of the Rajasthan Judicial Service — the judge sitting in the courts subordinate to the district court, before whom civil suits and the smaller criminal matters come. The work is recording evidence, hearing parties and advocates, writing judgments on law and fact, and holding the process and its timelines. It is one of the few posts where entry itself carries decisive authority: from the first day you are deciding someone's property dispute, tenancy, contract or bail, and that decision acts directly on their life. The Rajasthan Judicial Service comprises three cadres — District Judge, Senior Civil Judge and Civil Judge — and of these only Civil Judge is filled entirely by direct recruitment. It is therefore the door into the judicial service, and the whole ladder above it begins there.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	A degree of Bachelor of Laws (Professional) from a university established by law in India and recognised under the Advocates Act, 1961; and a thorough knowledge of Hindi written in Devanagari script, Rajasthani dialects and the social customs of Rajasthan (Service Rules 2010, rule 18)
Recruiting body	Rajasthan High Court / the Recruiting Authority — this post sits under the High Court, distinct from the Commission's ordinary recruitments
Age limit	21 to 40 years, reckoned on the 1st of January following the last date for applications — widened in 2018 from 23 to 35 (Service Rules 2010, rule 17) — the upper limit is relaxed for reserved categories and for women (detail below)
Starting salary	Judicial service pay differs from the state's ordinary pay matrix and follows the National Judicial Pay Commission recommendations — see the advertisement
Demand	100% by direct recruitment — of the three judicial cadres, only this one is filled entirely that way

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- A deep interest in law, justice and reasoning
- Public responsibility and impartiality
- Work built on reading, listening and writing judgments

ABILITIES

- Impartiality — the first and last test of this post
- Composure under pressure and in emotionally charged matters
- The ability to see fact and law separately and then join them
- Clear, reasoned writing, because the judgment will be read on appeal

KEY SKILLS

- Working knowledge of the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code
- Contract, property, tenancy and family law
- Judgment writing and the language of an order
- Understanding of Hindi and Rajasthani dialects, which the rule makes mandatory
- The Evidence Act and the appreciation of evidence
- The Penal Code and the special Acts
- Court management — the cause list, timelines and records

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12; the arts stream is the natural route here.
- 2 Take a degree of Bachelor of Laws (Professional) — the five-year integrated law course or a three-year LL.B. after graduation. The rule requires the degree to be from a university established by law in India and recognised under the Advocates Act, 1961 — so check Bar Council of India recognition when choosing a college.
- 3 Do not treat rule 18(2) lightly: a candidate must possess a thorough knowledge of Hindi written in Devanagari script, of Rajasthani dialects, and of the social customs of Rajasthan. This is not a formality — testimony in a subordinate court is often given in the local dialect, and evidence cannot be appreciated without understanding it. For candidates from outside Rajasthan this is a real condition.
- 4 Your age must be between 21 and 40. Note that this was widened in 2018 — it was formerly 23 to 35. Older sources or older advertisements may still show 23 or 35; that is text from before 27-12-2018.
- 5 Rule 19 also requires proof of character: a certificate of good character from the Principal Academic Officer of the university, college or school last attended, and two certificates from responsible persons written not more than six months before the date of application.
- 6 Apply when the Recruiting Authority's advertisement appears and sit the competitive examination.

MAIN EXAMS

- Rule 16 states the most important thing about this post: recruitment to the Civil Judge cadre "shall be made only by direct recruitment on the basis of the result of a competitive examination conducted by the Recruiting Authority". Of the three judicial cadres this is the only one filled entirely by direct recruitment — District Judge and Senior Civil Judge are filled by promotion and by recruitment from among Advocates.
- The age relaxation in this service differs from other Rajasthan posts and should be read exactly as the rule has it. The 5-year relaxation in the upper age limit is given to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, More Backward Classes, Economically Weaker Sections "and Women Candidates" — with no category qualification. Most Rajasthan rules give women 5 years in the General category and 10 years in the reserved categories; this rule is written differently.
- The general age-relaxation note further down this page applies to many Rajasthan services, but one part of it does not apply to this post, so it is corrected here. The provision that widows and divorced women face no upper age limit has been found in seven Rajasthan service rule sets — but in the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules 2010 that provision was DELETED by a notification of 20-08-2020, and even before deletion it read "the upper age limit shall be upto 45 years" rather than no limit at all. Do not rely on that provision when applying for this post.
- Who conducts the examination also differs in the rules and is worth knowing: for District Judge posts the examination is conducted by the High Court, while for Civil Judge it is conducted by the Recruiting Authority. This post does not come through the Public Service Commission's ordinary recruitment process as the state's other posts do, so its advertisements and notices are published elsewhere.
- And an explanation has been added to the rule which should be read: "The relaxation in age will be admissible only in one category." Relaxations do not stack — if you fall in more than one category, the relaxation still applies once.
- This post sat recorded as unverified in this project's register for a long time, simply because it had been searched for in the Commission's list of advertisement names. Judicial service recruitment does not run through the Commission, so that list could never have answered the question. The service rules establish the post plainly.

- Relaxation in the upper age limit — 5 years for male candidates of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, More Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections; 5 years for women candidates of the General category; and 10 years for women candidates of those same categories. Which means plainly that the bare figure printed against a post understates a reserved-category woman's eligibility by a decade — if you are in that category, work out your eligibility only after adding the relaxation. In Rajasthan, 30% of the posts in direct recruitment are reserved category-wise for women candidates. Widows and divorced women have no upper age limit at all — the rules say it in those words. It is Rule 13(9) of the Rajasthan State and Subordinate Services (Direct Recruitment by Combined Competitive Examination) Rules 1999, it appears again as the same proviso in the Rajasthan Medical & Health Subordinate Service Rules, and RPSC advertisements reproduce it. A widow must furnish a certificate of the death of her husband from the competent authority, and a divorced woman the proof of divorce. The exact terms of relaxation and reservation are given in that recruitment's own advertisement.

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- National Law University, Jodhpur — five-year integrated law course — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://nlujodhpur.ac.in/>)
- Government law colleges, Rajasthan — LL.B. — Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner (<https://hte.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- University of Rajasthan — Faculty of Law — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://uniraj.ac.in/>)
- Rajasthan State Judicial Academy — the institution that trains judicial officers after selection — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://home.rajasthan.gov.in>)

ONLINE

- Rajasthan High Court — recruitment notices for the judicial service — This post's advertisements are published here, not on the Commission's site (<https://hcraj.nic.in/>)
- India Code — the bare Acts the examination is built on — Government of India (<https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>)
- eCourts — cause lists, orders and judgments of the subordinate courts — Government of India (<https://ecourts.gov.in/>)
- Bar Council of India — recognition of law colleges, which rule 18 requires — Government of India (<https://www.barcouncilofindia.org/>)
- आर.एस.एस.बी. — पिछले प्रश्न-पत्र, उत्तर कुंजी व पाठ्यक्रम (निःशुल्क) — The Staff Selection Board's own site — the most reliable free preparation material there is (https://rsmssb.rajasthan.gov.in/show_archived?menuName=Xj4lCb9vGxpQnfls%2FxlZ2g%3D%3D)
- विभागीय सेवा नियम (कार्मिक विभाग) — पद की योग्यता व आयु मूल दस्तावेज़ में पढ़ें — The Department of Personnel publishes the service rules for every cadre. Read these before any coaching material — qualification, age and the method of recruitment are settled here and nowhere else. (<https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- स्वयं (SWAYAM) — भारत सरकार के निःशुल्क ऑनलाइन कोर्स — Free (<https://swayam.gov.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल पुस्तकालय (NDLI) — Free books and study material (<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>)
- एन.सी.ई.आर.टी. — निःशुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तकें — The foundation for general knowledge, maths and science (<https://ncert.nic.in/>)

FEES

An LL.B. costs very little at government law colleges and Rajasthan has one in every division; the National Law University at Jodhpur is in the state as well. Checking Bar Council of India recognition when choosing a college is essential, because rule 18's condition is recognition under the Advocates Act — a degree from an unrecognised institution does not confer eligibility, and that is exactly where years and fees are lost. The main preparation material is free, and that is a genuine feature of this examination: the Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes, the Evidence Act, contract, property and family law and Rajasthan's local Acts are all authoritative on India Code, and the orders and judgments of the subordinate courts can be read on eCourts, which is how you learn what a judgment actually looks like. What is studied for this examination is what is used daily afterwards.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana (free coaching, apply via SSO) (<https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in/signin>)
- Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Dept scholarships (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)

- Buddy4Study scholarship search (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

District and subordinate courts across Rajasthan — the courts of Civil Judges and judicial magistrates, down to tehsil and sub-divisional level. A posting may be in any district and the first posting is usually at a smaller place; transfers are regular.

WORK CULTURE

This post is a solitary one from the first day, and that should be known in advance. A judge has to keep a distance inside and outside the court — from advocates, from parties and from local society — because impartiality must not only exist but be seen. At the smaller places where first postings fall, that distance narrows social life considerably. The workload is real: case numbers are high, dates and adjournments are part of the routine, and the pressure of pendency is constant. Writing judgments is work that comes after the day's work. In return the satisfaction is unlike any other: the order you write concerns someone's home, land, marriage or liberty, and it takes effect that day. Training after selection is at the Rajasthan State Judicial Academy, and the ladder above — Senior Civil Judge, District Judge — runs by promotion from this cadre, so this entry post is the foundation of the entire judicial career.

WHO HIRES

- The Rajasthan High Court and the district courts subordinate to it
- Civil and judicial magistrate courts at district and tehsil level
- The Rajasthan State Judicial Academy — training and associated work

DEMAND (2026)

Vacancies in the subordinate judiciary are permanent and the pressure of pendency keeps the need for this cadre alive, so recruitment is comparatively regular — it is one of the few posts whose advertisement tends to return. One point matters practically when planning: this recruitment does not run through the Public Service Commission, so watching the Commission's website will not bring notice of it — the advertisements appear on the Rajasthan High Court's site, and that oversight is exactly how many candidates miss a cycle. The competition is hard and should not be underestimated, but its shape is worth understanding: the eligibility conditions are comparatively simple — a law degree and an age — so applicants are many, and the filtering happens through the depth of the examination rather than through any precondition. Which means the quality of preparation is what decides. Know too that widening the age to 21–40 in 2018 opened the window considerably, and it stays open for someone who has already practised as an advocate for some years. The number of posts describes the judiciary's requirement, not your chances of selection. One thing to be clear about — the "demand" described above counts posts, not your chance of getting one. Selection is by open competition and the number of applicants runs to many times the number of posts, so most candidates are not selected in any given recruitment. That is not an argument against this career; it is an argument against making it your only plan. Keep studying or building a skill alongside your preparation, so that the year is not lost whichever way the result goes.

7 Career growth

- 1** Civil Judge (Junior Division) — the entry post, 100% direct recruitment; training after selection at the Rajasthan State Judicial Academy
- 2** Senior Civil Judge — by promotion from this cadre
- 3** District Judge — by promotion, and also by direct recruitment from among Advocates, for which the age is 35 to 45 and the examination is conducted by the High Court
- 4** Beyond that, elevation to the High Court bench, which follows a constitutional process

EARNINGS

Starting	न्यायिक सेवा के वेतनमान के अनुसार — विज्ञप्ति देखें
Mid level	₹1,10,000 – ₹1,50,000 (भत्तों सहित, वरिष्ठ सिविल न्यायाधीश स्तर पर)
Senior level	₹1,60,000 से अधिक (भत्तों सहित, ज़िला न्यायाधीश स्तर पर)

Judicial service pay differs from the state's ordinary pay matrix and follows the National Judicial Pay Commission recommendations, so it cannot be compared directly with other state-service posts — it sits above them. The pay figure was not taken from the 2010 rules for this page, so no starting salary is printed here; it will be in the advertisement. The mid-level and senior figures above are approximate and are not confirmed from any official document; read them as a direction, not a promise. Beyond salary, this post carries official accommodation, transport and other facilities under the judicial service rules. The starting figure is BASIC PAY, so that it can be compared directly against other careers. Dearness allowance (60% of basic since 1 January 2026) and house rent allowance are added on top of it, so take-home pay is appreciably higher. The mid-level and senior figures are approximate monthly income including allowances, not basic pay. Note — in Rajasthan a direct recruit is a probationer-trainee for the first 2 years and is paid a fixed remuneration, not the pay scale; dearness allowance and house rent allowance are not payable in those two years (Rajasthan Service Rules, rule 7(30A)). The full pay scale applies once probation is completed. The pay matrix level for this post could not be confirmed on this page from an official document — it is not in the service rules and not in the CET Rules 2022 schedule. No level is therefore stated here. The correct figure is printed in the official advertisement for the recruitment; check it there before applying. The figures above rest on the Rajasthan 7th pay matrix, which is what applies as of 17 August 2026. The Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission were approved on 28 October 2025 and it must report within 18 months of its constitution. State governments normally adopt a Central Pay Commission with modifications, and later than the Centre does — so Rajasthan pay will be revised too, though by how much and when is not yet settled.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- The only entirely direct-recruitment door into the judicial service
- Real decisive authority and public responsibility from the first day
- Simple eligibility — a law degree and an age; no prior experience required
- Preparation material almost entirely free, and it is what is used daily afterwards
- The 2018 widening to 21–40 opened the window considerably
- Pay above other state-service posts

The challenges

- A solitary post — impartiality requires keeping a social distance
- The pressure of pendency and the added burden of writing judgments
- Postings and transfers anywhere in the state, usually beginning at smaller places
- Advertisements appear on the High Court site, not the Commission's — an oversight that makes candidates miss a cycle
- The widow and divorcee age provision was deleted in this service in 2020, unlike other services

9 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Assistant Prosecution Officer (Rajasthan)
- Junior Legal Officer (Rajasthan)
- Judge

10 Sources & further reading

1. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules, 2010 — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/modulCategory/202303210354592432088judical2010merged.pdf>
2. Rajasthan High Court — recruitment notices — <https://hcraj.nic.in/>
3. Home Department, Rajasthan — the State Judicial Academy site is not currently reachable — <https://home.rajasthan.gov.in>

4. India Code — Central and State Acts — <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/>
5. Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (official) — <https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in/>
6. Department of Personnel, Rajasthan — service rules — <https://dop.rajasthan.gov.in/>
7. 8th Central Pay Commission — Cabinet approval of the Terms of Reference (PIB, 28 October 2025) — <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2183289>

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