

District Judge Career Path in India

A District Judge is the highest judicial authority in a district of India, handling both civil and criminal jurisdiction. There are two primary ways to become a District Judge: (1) Promotion from Civil Judge (Senior Division), and (2) Direct recruitment through Higher Judicial Services (HJS) exams.

Eligibility Criteria: • Law graduate (LL.B.) with enrollment in Bar Council of India

- Minimum 7 years of continuous legal practice in High Court or subordinate courts
- Age typically between 35 to 45 years (with relaxations for reserved categories)
- Recent Supreme Court mandate: 3 years' minimum experience for lower judicial service aspirants

Recruitment Routes:

1. Direct Entry via HJS Exam:

- Conducted by respective State High Courts or PSCs
- Includes Preliminary (objective), Mains (written), and Interview
- One-year Judicial Training before posting

2. Promotion:

- From Civil Judge (Senior Division) based on seniority, performance, and internal exams.

State / Exam	Approx Application Period
Rajasthan HC District Judge	July–August 2024
Andhra Pradesh HC District Judge	March 12–27, 2025
Jharkhand, Orissa, Delhi, Karnataka	Varies by year

Pay and Perks:

- ₹51,550 – ₹63,070 at entry level
- Up to ₹76,450 with seniority
- Housing, travel, medical, and pension benefits
- Promotions possible to High Court and Supreme Court (via Collegium)

Summary Pathway:

1. LL.B. degree → 2. Bar Council Registration → 3. 7 Years Practice → 4. HJS Exam → 5. Judicial Training → 6. District Judge Appointment

For recruitment notifications, visit:

<https://districts.ecourts.gov.in/Recruitment>

<https://testbook.com/judiciary-exams>