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## LAW DEPARTMENT

### NOTIFICATION

The 20th April, 2026

**S.R.O. No.291/2026**— In pursuance of the judgment dated the 9th October, 2025 in Civil Appeal No. 3947 of 2020 and the judgment dated the 19th November, 2025 in I.A. No. 230675/2025 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1022 of 1989, passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233, 234 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Odisha, after consultation with the Odisha Public Service Commission and High Court of Orissa, hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service Rules, 2007, namely: -

**1. Short Title and Commencement.**—(1) These rules may be called the Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force from the date of publication in the *Odisha Gazette*.

**2.** In the Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service Rules, 2007, (herein- after referred to as the "said rules"), the proviso appended to the sub-rule (3) of rule 6, shall be omitted.

**3.** In the said rules, in rule 6 in sub-rule (4), for the words "made from the Bar", the following words shall be substituted, namely:-

"in accordance with the eligibility criteria as specified in rule 9"

**4.** In the said rules, in rule 6, for sub-rule (5), the following sub-rules shall be substituted, namely:-

"(5) The vacancies for each recruitment year shall be determined on the basis of overall cadre strength, so as to apply the ratio of 50:25:25 to the entire cadre, as prescribed in sub-rules (2), (3) and (4) of rule 6.

(6) If, in any recruitment year, the vacancies earmarked for Direct Recruitment and Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) remain unfilled due to

non-availability of suitable candidates, despite the completion of the respective recruitment processes, such unfilled vacancies shall be filled up in the same recruitment year through usual promotion, from the cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division), in accordance with sub-rule(2) of rule 6.”

**5.** In the said rules, in rule 9.-(1) for clause(b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(b) be an advocate in continuous practice for not less than seven years as on the date of application; or

be an advocate who have previously served in the judicial service and possesses a combined experience of not less than seven years as judicial officer and as an advocate, as on the date of application; or

be a Judicial Officer who has completed seven years of continuous practice as an advocate before joining the judicial service; or

be a Judicial Officer who possesses a combined experience of not less than seven years as an advocate and as a judicial officer, as on the date of application.

**Note 1** - Certificate of legal practice shall be certified either by the Principal Judicial Officer of a Court or by an advocate of that Court having a minimum standing of 10 years, duly endorsed by the Principal Judicial Officer of such a District or a Principal Judicial officer at such a station. In so far as the candidates who are practicing before the High Courts or Supreme Court, they shall produce certificate certified by an advocate who has a minimum standing of 10 years, duly endorsed by an officer designated by that High Court or Supreme Court . The number of years of practice completed shall be calculated from the date of provisional enrolment or registration with the concerned State Bar Council.

**Note 2** - The certificate pertaining to Judicial Service shall be obtained from the respective High Courts."

(2) In clause (c), for the words and figures "as on 1st April of the recruitment year for which vacancy has been determined", the words "as on the date of application" shall be substituted.

**6.** In the said rules, for rule 13, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:-

“13.(1)The *inter se*-seniority of officers appointed under rule 6 shall be determined on the basis of the annual four-point roster, comprising all officers recruited or promoted in the particular Recruitment Year, and shall follow the repeating sequence as prescribed in Appendix-C, irrespective of the actual dates of their appointment.

(2) If the recruitment process from any source is not completed in the recruitment year in which it began, but the appointments are made before the end of the following recruitment year, such appointees shall be placed at their respective roster points for the recruitment year in which the process was initiated, provided that no appointments from any source are made for the next recruitment year before these appointments are effected.

**Explanation-** Whereas, the recruitment process from all three sources is initiated in Recruitment Year A and the procedures for appointment of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) and Usual Promotion (UP) candidates are completed within Year A, they shall accordingly be placed in the Annual Roster for that year. However, if due to various reasons, the appointments of Direct Recruits (DRs) are made only in Recruitment Year A+1, in such scenario, Direct Recruits, although appointed in Year A+1, shall also be placed in the roster for Year A, provided that their appointments are effected before the appointments of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE), Usual Promotion and Direct Recruits arising from the recruitment process initiated in Year A+1.

(3) If the recruitment process is not initiated for vacancies arising in the same recruitment year, the candidate filling such vacancies, in subsequent recruitment, shall be granted seniority within the annual roster of the recruitment year in which the recruitment process is finally concluded and appointment is made.

(4) If the vacancies earmarked for Direct Recruitment (DR) or the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) in a particular Recruitment Year cannot be filled due to non-availability of suitable candidates, despite completion of recruitment process, such unfilled vacancies shall be filled up in the same Recruitment Year through Usual Promotion (UP) from among eligible Civil Judges (Senior Division):

Provided that officers promoted through such Usual Promotion shall also be placed in the same Annual Roster, but only against the subsequent Usual Promotion (UP) roster positions. The diversion of vacancies shall not entail any Regular Promoted officer to occupy the roster points reserved for Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) or Direct Recruitment ".

7. In the said rules, for "Appendix-C", the following Appendix shall be substituted, namely:-

**APPENDIX-C**

(See Rule 13)

[4 Point Roster governing *inter se*-seniority of District Judges, in repeating sequence]

1.	Usual Promotion
2.	Usual Promotion
3.	Promotion through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE)
4.	Direct Recruit"

[No.5876—VJ-03/2026/L.]

By Order of the Governor

PABITRA MOHAN SAMAL

Principal Secretary to Government