

Judges recruitment: High Court reserves order

Ahmedabad: Gujarat high court has kept its verdict reserved on a petition filed by advocates aspiring for the post of district judges. They have sought abolition of provision for securing minimum 20 marks in the interview conducted by the sitting high court judges after they found the criteria very difficult for a candidate to clear the recruitment process.

The advocates moved a plea when only eight candidates out of 1,000 who participated in the recruitment process for 40 posts of district judges last year, could clear the written tests. The tough recruitment process led them to file a petition in the high court, where they questioned the legality of keeping a minimum benchmark in viva voce of 50 marks. They challenged the validity of rule 8 of the Gujarat Higher Judicial Service Rules.

Petitioner's advocate Digant Popat submitted that before 2007, there was no provision of minimum bench mark for clearing the interview. It was by an amendment in the rule in 2007, that the new provision was introduced against the law. The high court has been urged to direct its administrative wing to make provision whereby the marks scored during the interview should be added to the marks secured in written examinations.