

## **The Times of India**

### **High Court upholds tough criteria for judges recruitment**

AHMEDABAD: A division bench of Gujarat high court on Tuesday upheld its system and dismissed a petition filed by advocates aspiring for the post of district judge which sought the abolition of the requirement of securing minimum 40% marks in the interview conducted by sitting HC judges.

The petition was filed after only eight candidates could clear the written tests, of some 1,000 advocates who participated in the recruitment process for 55 posts of district judge last year. The tough recruitment process led them to file a petition in the high court, where they questioned the legality of having a minimum benchmark for the interview. They challenged the validity of the amendment to Rule 8 (3) of the Gujarat Higher Judicial Service Rules.

The HC rejected the arguments canvassed by the petitioners and maintained that the rule for prescribing minimum qualifying marks of 40% is neither in violation of Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution nor a violation of Supreme Court orders. The HC observed that the selection process was designed to "to assess the suitability of the candidate for the cadre by judging the mental alertness, knowledge of law, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgment, skills, attitude, ethics...and the like".