

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF LAW, JUSTICE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

NOTIFICATION
Srinagar, 16TH the June, 2026

S.O 173.—In exercise of the powers conferred by proviso to article 309 read with article 233 of the Constitution of India, the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in consultation with the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is pleased to make the following amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service Rules, 2009, namely:—

1. In rule 2.-

(1) after clause (f), following clauses shall be added:-

(g) In-Service Candidate means a person from the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Judicial Service who has a combined experience of seven years or more as an Advocate and as a Judicial Officer;

(h) Advocate means and would include practicing Advocates, Pleaders/Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors.

(2) existing clause (g) shall be re-lettered as clause (i).

2. In rule 5:-

(1). In sub-rule 5(1) (a) and 5(2)(d)(i), the word "65 percent" shall be substituted by "50 percent";

(2). sub-rule 5(1)(b) shall be substituted as under:

"25% by promotion strictly on the basis of merit through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination from the cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division) having minimum 3 years' service as a Civil Judge (Senior Division) with minimum seven years' total service

J. Lalit.

rendered as Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Civil Judge (Senior Division)";

(3). sub-rule 5(1)(c) shall be substituted as under:

"25% of the posts shall be filled by direct recruitment from amongst the eligible advocates and in-service candidates on the basis of written and viva voce test conducted by the High Court.";

(4). proviso to sub-rule (1) shall be deleted;

(5). sub-rule 5(2)(b) shall be substituted as under:

"must be a practising advocate in the Courts of Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction having been in actual continuous practice for a period of not less than seven years or must be an in-service candidate having a combined continuous experience of seven years or more as an Advocate and judicial officer as on the last date of receipt of applications";

(6). rule 5(2)(d)(i) and 5(2)(d)(ii) shall be re-lettered as 5(3) and 5(4) respectively;

(7). proviso to sub-rule (2) shall be deleted; and

(8). sub-rule 5(4) so re-lettered shall be substituted as under:

"For eligibility for promotion against the remaining 25 per cent posts required to be filled up by promotion strictly on the basis of merit through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, the minimum qualifying service shall be 3 years' service as a Civil Judge (Senior Division), with minimum seven years' total service rendered as Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Civil Judge (Senior Division)".

3. Rule 7 shall be substituted as under:-

- (i) The High Court shall hold a Limited Departmental Competitive Examination for promotion of eligible

Judicial

candidates in terms of Rule 5(1)(b) in the following manner:-

Written examination:

180 marks

The written examination shall consist of two written papers. The first paper regarding questions relating to Laws and Procedure carrying 100 marks will have a duration of three hours. The second paper carrying 80 marks, will require the candidate to frame and write in a duration of 90 minutes, two judgments (each carrying 40 marks) one in a Civil matter and the other in Criminal one.

Performance assessment:-

80 marks

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------|
| a) Last 5 years' ACRs | – | 35 marks |
| b) Judgments | – | 25 marks |
| c) Disposal
(only contested cases) | - | 20 marks |

Viva voce : 20 marks

Provided that a candidate shall be eligible to appear in viva voce only in case he secures 50% marks in each paper in the written examination and 50% marks in Performance Assessment and 55% marks in aggregate.

Provided further that only the candidates who secure 55% or more marks in aggregate shall be declared successful. The appointments to the post shall be made on vacancies available for the category (b) of Rule 5(1).

4. Schedule 'B' shall be substituted as under:-

SCHEDULE (B)

SEE RULE 12

- (i) That, the seniority of officers within the Higher Judicial Service shall be determined through an annual 4-point roster, filled by all officers

appointed in the particular year in the repeating sequence of 2 RPs, 1 LDCE, and 1 DR.

- (ii) That, only if the recruitment process is completed within the year after which it was initiated and no other appointments, from any of the three sources, have already taken place in respect of the recruitment initiated for that subsequent year, shall the officers belatedly so appointed be entitled to seniority as per the roster of the year in which recruitment was initiated.
- (iii) That, if the recruitment process is not initiated for vacancies arising in a given year in the same year, the candidate filling such vacancy, in subsequent recruitment, shall be granted seniority within the annual roster of the year in which the recruitment process is finally concluded and appointment is made.
- (iv) That, after the recruitment of DRs and LDCEs is complete for a particular year, the positions falling in their quota that remain unfilled due to lack of suitable candidates shall be filled through RPs, subject to such RPs being placed only on subsequent RP positions in the annual roster; and the vacancies in the subsequent year shall be computed so as to apply the proportion of 50:25:25 to the entire cadre.

By order of Lieutenant Governor.

**Sd/-
(Achal Sethi)**

Commissioner Secretary to Government

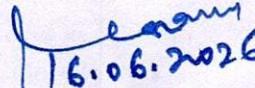
No: Law-Jud/130/2023-10.

Dated. 16 -06-2026.

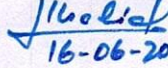
Copy to the:

1. Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department.
2. Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, J&K.

3. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. Commissioner Secretary to Government, General Administration Department.
5. Registrar General, High Court, of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This is with reference to his letter No. 19288/RG/GS dated 28-04-2026.
6. Secretary, Law and Justice, Union Territory of Ladakh.
7. Director, Archaeology, Archives and Museums, J&K, Jammu.
8. General Manager, Government Press, Srinagar for publication in an extraordinary issue of Government Gazette.
9. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K for information of Chief Secretary.
10. Private Secretary to Commissioner Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and P.A. for information of Commissioner Secretary.
11. I/C Website, Department of Law, Justice & PA.
12. S.O Section, Department of Law, Justice & PA (w. 7. s.c).
13. Concerned file.


16.06.2026
(Binny Kumar)

Assistant Legal Remembrancer


16-06-2026 .