

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
(Office of the Registrar General at Jammu)

Subject:- The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Gram Nyayalayas Rules, 2025.

NOTIFICATION

No:- 1314 of 2025/RG

Dated:- 08.04.2025

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) and (2) of Section 39 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, do hereby makes rules for regulation of Gram Nyayalayas established in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

CHAPTER-1

1. Short title and commencement:-

- a. These rules are called “**The High Court of J&K and Ladakh Gram Nyayalayas Rules 2025**”.
- b. These rules shall come into force with effect from the date of publication in the official Gazette of the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

2. DEFINITIONS

In these rules unless the context otherwise provides -

- a. “Act” means Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.
- b. “Conciliator” means the Conciliator appointed under Section 27 of the Act.
- c. “Chief Judicial Magistrate” means Chief Judicial Magistrate of the concerned District in whose local limit Gram Nyayalaya is established.
- d. “District & Sessions Judge” means Principal District & Sessions Judge of the concerned District in whose local limit Gram Nyayalaya is established.
- e. “High Court” means the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- f. Judicial Officer means Munsiff/Civil Judge (Junior Division)/JMJC.
- g. “Nyayadhikari” means the Presiding Officer of the Gram Nyayalaya established under Section 5 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008.
- h. “State Government” means the Governments of UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



- i. Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act or the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

CHAPTER-II

GRAM NYAYALAYA

3. One or more Gram Nyayalaya shall be established under Section 3 of the "Act" for "every Panchayat or a group Panchayat", depending upon the area and population, by the Governments of UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
 - a. Headquarter of the Gram Nyayalaya shall be at a place specified by notification issued by the Governments of UTs of J&K and Ladakh under Section 3 & 4 of the Act.
 - b. Gram Nyayalaya may conduct sittings at such place or places within its jurisdiction with prior public notice under intimation to the High Court.
4. All proceedings before the Gram Nyayalaya may be in English, Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu and Hindi, the official languages as per the Jammu & Kashmir Official Language Act, 2020 or as may be notified by the Governments of UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from time to time, for particular Gram Nyayalaya(s) or as a whole.
5. The District & Sessions Judge shall have supervisory powers and control over the Gram Nyayalayas established within its jurisdiction, subject to general superintendence of the High Court.
6. The office of Gram Nyayalayas shall be opened on all working days from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. or during such hours as may be notified by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from time to time.
7. The Gram Nyayalayas shall ordinarily hold sittings from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with a lunch break not exceeding half an hour between 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

NYAYADHIKARI

8. The State Government shall, on recommendation of the High court, appoint Nyayadhikari from amongst the officers of the cadre of Munsiff/Civil Judge (Junior Division) to preside over one or more Gram Nyayalayas.

9. NYAYADHIKARI, appointed for Gram Nyayalaya, shall within his/her local limits hold mobile court with prior intimation to the Chief Judicial Magistrate and/or District & Sessions Judge of the concerned District.
10. (i) The Gram Nyayalayas shall use a common seal of one and half inch square with the name of Gram Nyayalayas on the top; name of panchayat at the bottom; name of Revenue District on the left arm; UT J&K or UT of Ladakh on right arm and monogram of "Ashok Chakra" within inscription "Satyameva Jayate" in the official language of the UT in the center as shown below:-

Name of Gram Nyayalaya		
Name of Revenue District	Ashok Chakra with Satyameva Jayate inscription	Ut of J&K or UT of Ladakh
	Name of Panchayat	

- (ii) The Nyayadhikari shall use his/her designation seal as under:

Nyayadhikari

Name of the Gram Nyayalaya

Name of the District, UT of J&K or Ladakh

CHAPTER-III

JURISDICTION:

11. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas shall be to entertain and decide all civil matters as specified in **Schedule-II** of the Act when the value of subject matter does not exceed Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) only.
12. The local limits of each Gram Nyayalaya shall be the Panchayat area for which the Gram Nyayalaya has been constituted.
13. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Court Fees Act, 1870 and without prejudice to any other law in force, a court fees of Rs.100/- (Rupees One Hundred) only shall be payable on all the applications which are in the nature

of suits, claims and Civil Disputes presented before the Gram Nyayalaya and a court fee of Rs. 5/- (Rupees Five) only shall be payable on all other miscellaneous applications as well Criminal Case and on other interlocutory matter including vakalatnama presented before the Gram Nyayalayas.

14. Gram Nyayalayas have jurisdiction over specific civil and criminal cases, as outlined in the First and Second Schedules of the Act.

CHAPTER-IV

PROCEDURE:

15. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Act or by the Rules, all existent rules applicable to civil and criminal courts under the jurisdiction of High court of J&K and Ladakh shall apply mutatis mutandis in relation to proceedings before the Gram Nyayalayas to the extent they are not inconsistent with the Act.
16. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Act or by the Rules, provisions of J&K Civil Procedure Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation Rules, 2009 and J&K Mediation & Conciliation Rules 2019 shall apply mutatis mutandis in relation to proceedings before the Gram Nyayalayas.
17. The Gram Nyayalayas are not bound by the rules of evidence in Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023 but must be guided by the principles of natural justice
18. Where a suit, claim or dispute has been duly instituted, summons shall be issued by the Gram Nyayalaya, accompanied by a copy of the plaint/application to the opposite party to appear and answer the claim by such date as may be specified therein and same shall be served either personally or through the Gram Nyayalaya's Process Service/Staff entrusted with such job or through registered A/D Post, or any other means of service including service through electronic means as may be prescribed by notification by the High court from time to time. The process server may take the assistance of the Headman/Village Chief/Local Panchayat official etc., of the particular area for service of such summons/notice and in such case, the Headman/Village Chief/Local Panchayat Officials shall put his/her signature as a witness to such service or non-service of summons/notice.
19. (i) All suits, claims or disputes as referred in Schedule-II of the Act shall be presented in the form of simple application by stating the name and detailed

address of the petitioner(s), opposite party(s), facts leading to dispute and relief claimed followed by a verification.

(ii) The application in the nature of suits, claims or disputes and all other miscellaneous applications shall be presented before the Nyayadhikari or the officer so authorized by the Nyayadhikari.

20.(i) The Nyayadhikari shall follow summary procedure in criminal trials and prioritize conciliation.

(ii) Duty of the Nyayadhikari in the first instance should be to make efforts for settlement of all civil disputes through conciliation and mediation. The provisions of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 shall be extended to the litigants before the Gram Nyayalayas.

(iii) After appearance of parties, or at any stage thereafter, where it is possible to do so consistent with the nature and circumstances of the case, the Nyayadhikari shall persuade, the parties for conciliation and if the Nyayadhikari is of the view that there is reasonable possibility of a settlement between the parties, he shall refer the matter to one or more Conciliators for effecting settlement between the parties and adjourn the proceedings for such period as he deems fit to make attempt for settlement.

(iv) The Conciliator shall submit his report within three weeks from the date of his appointment, unless the time period is extended by the Nyayadhikari.

(v) If the parties arrive at a settlement before the Conciliator relating to suit, claim or dispute or any part thereof, such settlement shall be reduced to writing, signed by both the parties and countersigned by the Conciliator.

21. **Appointment of Conciliators/Mediators:-** For the purposes of Section 26, the concerned District & Sessions Judge, in consultation with its respective District Magistrate, shall prepare a panel consisting of the names of social workers at the village level having integrity, qualification and experience, for appointment as Conciliators/Mediators.

22. The following persons may, after observing the formalities in Section 27 of the Act, be appointed as Conciliators/Mediators:-

- (a) Principal/Head Master of School within the local area
- (b) Village Headman
- (c) Retired Government Servant above the cadre of Class IV employees
- (d) Panchayat President/Member(s)
- (e) Senior Anganwadi Worker(s)
- (f) Senior Gram Sevak(s)

(g) Circle Officer(s)

(h) Any other person who has been trained as Mediator

(i) Any leading citizen of the locality whom the Nyayadhikari finds fit to work as Mediator

23. The Conciliator shall ensure that the parties involved in the conciliation are fairly informed and have an adequate understanding of the procedural aspects of conciliation and he shall not indulge in conduct unbecoming of a Conciliator.

24. Upon submission of report by the Conciliator/Conciliators, the Gram Nyayalaya shall take up the matter for hearing on a date fixed therefor and shall pronounce judgment or order in terms thereof unless it considers the terms of the settlement unconscionable or illegal.

25. If the parties do not settle their dispute, or where the terms of settlement appears to be unconscionable or illegal, the Gram Nyayalaya shall proceed to hear the parties and dispose of the matter on merits in accordance with law.

26. The Gram Nyayadhikari will maintain the register of all matters referred and response received from Conciliators.

27. The remuneration to the Conciliators shall be paid as prescribed by the Governments of UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

CHAPTER-V

28. (i) The District & Sessions Judge or any other Senior Judicial Officer as nominated or authorized by the District & Sessions Judge shall inspect the Gram Nyayalayas within his/her jurisdiction once in every six months or as directed by the High Court.

(ii) The Annual Confidential Report of the Nyayadhikari shall be written by the concerned Chief Judicial Magistrate and upon reviewing by the respective District & Sessions Judge, shall be submitted before the High Court.

29. The Gram Nyayalayas shall observe such holidays, as may be notified by the Governments of UTs of J&K and Ladakh respectively from time to time.

30. The provision of the Indian Limitation Act, 1963 shall be applicable to the proceedings before Gram Nyayalayas and no suit or proceeding shall be initiated for which the period of limitation as prescribed has expired.
31. The High Court of J&K and Ladakh shall have power to amend, modify, delete or relax any provision of these rules, as may be deemed necessary.

By Order


8/4/25

(Shahzad Azeem)
Registrar General

Dated: 08.04.2025

No: 19909-20016 /RG/GS

Copy of the above forwarded to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr/Mrs Justice _____
..... for information of their Lordships.
3. Secretary to the Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, UT of J&K, Jammu.
4. Secretary, Department of Law and Justice, UT of Ladakh, Leh.
5. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu.
6. Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.
7. Registrar Rules, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu
8. Registrars Judicial, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Srinagar/Jammu.
9. Registrar Computers (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu.
....for information and necessary action.
10. All Principal District & Sessions Judges, UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
11. Manager, Government Press, Jammu for publication in the government gazette.
12. I/C NIC, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu for uploading the same on the official website of the High Court.
13. I/C Library, High Court Wing Srinagar/Jammu, for information and keeping record of the same
14. Order file.


8/4/25
Registrar General