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Separate paging is given to this part in order that it may be filed
as a separate compilation.

PART III

Laws, Regulations and Rules passed thereunder.

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT,
JAMMU.**

Under Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, the following Bill together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

By order of the Hon'ble Speaker.

Sd/-
MANOJ KUMAR PANDIT,
Secretary.

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR CIVIL COURTS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026**

[L.A. Bill No. 03 of 2026.]

A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Courts Act, (Svt) 1977.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. **Substitution of expressions “ Munsiff ” and “Subordinate Judge ”.**— In the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Suits Act, (Svt) 1977 (hereinafter referred to as the 'principal Act'), for the words "Munsiff" and " Subordinate Judge wherever occurring, the words Civil Judge (Junior Division)" and "Civil Judge (Senior Division)" shall respectively be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 21, Act No. XLVI of (Svt) 1977.**— In section 21 of the 'principal Act', in sub-section (2) :—

(i) for the words "fifteen thousand rupees" the words ten lakh rupees" shall be substituted.

(ii) the proviso shall be omitted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Jammu and Kashmir Civil Courts Act, (Svt) 1977 Act, was enacted to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the civil courts in the Jammu and Kashmir, thereby streamlining the administration of justice and establishing a formal hierarchy and structure for the subordinate judiciary. The Act formally established a structured hierarchy of civil courts below the High Court, including the District Court (principal Civil Court of original jurisdiction), Court of Additional Judge, Court of Subordinate Judge, and Court of Munsiff. It also defines the pecuniary (monetary) and territorial jurisdiction of these various courts, including the original and appellate jurisdictions of the District Judges and the High Court.

The nomenclature of Munsiffs and Subordinate Judge only exists in Jammu and Kashmir, whereas in other States/Union Territories, the expression Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Civil Judge (Senior Division) is being used for Munsiffs and Subordinate Judges. More so, the pecuniary Jurisdiction of Munsiffs is fixed as fifteen thousand rupees under section 21 (2) of the said Act, which is very low. It is in this context High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with Full Court recommendation has proposed amendments to align the nomenclature of Munsiffs and Subordinate Judge with Civil Judge (Jr. Division) and Civil Judge (Senior Division) as it exists in other States/Union Territories. Besides the pecuniary Jurisdiction of Munsiffs has also been proposed to be ten lakh rupees.

Hence the instant Bill.

**MINISTER INCHARGE
DEPARTMENT OF LAW, JUSTICE AND PA.**