

Bill No. 104 of 2026

THE JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2026

A

BILL

to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026.

Short title and
commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for amendments relating to different enactments mentioned in the Schedule.

Amendment of
certain
enactments.

2. The enactments mentioned in column (4) of the Schedule are hereby amended to the extent and in the manner mentioned in column (5) thereof.

Revision of fines
and penalties.

3. The fines and penalties provided under various provisions in the enactments mentioned in the Schedule shall be increased by ten per cent. of the minimum amount of fine or penalty, as the case may be, prescribed therefor, after the expiry 5 of every three years from the date of commencement of this Act:

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in this section, if any enactment mentioned in the Schedule provides the manner of revision of fines and penalties therein, only the said provision shall be applicable for increase of fines and penalties for provisions of such enactment. 10

Savings.

4. The amendment or repeal by this Act of any enactment shall not affect any other enactment in which the amended or repealed enactment has been applied, incorporated or referred to;

and this Act shall not affect the validity, invalidity, effect or consequences of anything already done or suffered, or any right, title, obligation or liability already 15 acquired, accrued or incurred or any remedy or proceeding in respect thereof, or any release or discharge of, or from any debt, penalty, obligation, liability, claim or demand, or any indemnity already granted, or the proof of any past act or thing;

nor shall this Act affect any principle or rule of law, or established jurisdiction, form or course of pleading, practice or procedure, or existing usage, custom, 20 privilege, restriction, exemption, office or appointment, despite the fact that the same respectively may have been in any manner affirmed, or recognised or derived by, in or from any enactment hereby amended or repealed;

nor shall the amendment or repeal by this Act of any enactment revive or restore any jurisdiction, office, custom, liability, right, title, privilege, restriction, 25 exemption, usage, practice, procedure or other matter or thing not now existing or in force.

Power to remove
difficulties.

5. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of different enactments mentioned in the Schedule as amended by this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, 30 not inconsistent with the provisions of the enactments as amended by this Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall, as soon as may be after it is 35 made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

THE SCHEDULE

(See section 2)

Sl. No.	Year	No.	Short title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	1870	7	The Court-fees Act, 1870	(A) In section 34, for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:— “(3) Any person appointed to sell stamps, who,— (a) with fraudulent intent, disobeys any rule made under this section, or sells or offers for sale any stamp without being duly appointed, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, or with both; (b) without any fraudulent intent, contravenes any rule made under this section, shall be liable to penalty not exceeding ten thousand rupees.”. (B) After section 34, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:— “34A. Adjudication of penalties.—(1) For the purpose of adjudicating penalties under clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 34, the Administrator of the Union territory concerned may appoint an officer not below the rank of Deputy Commissioner or Deputy Collector or any officer equivalent in rank as an adjudicating officer for holding an inquiry and imposing penalties: Provided that the Administrator of the Union territory concerned may appoint as many adjudicating officers as may be required. (2) The adjudicating officer may summon and enforce the attendance of any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case to give evidence or to produce any document, which in the opinion of the adjudicating officer may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject-matter of the inquiry, and if, on such inquiry, is satisfied that the person concerned has contravened any rule made under sub-section (1) of section 34, he may impose penalty as deemed fit, subject to the amount mentioned under clause (b) of sub-section (3) of the said section: Provided that no such penalty shall be imposed without giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard. 34B. Appeal.—(1) Whoever aggrieved by an order of the adjudicating officer under section 34A may, within thirty days from the date of receipt of such order, prefer an appeal to the Commissioner or Collector of the Division or before any officer equivalent in rank designated as such by the Administrator of the Union territory concerned as an appellate authority.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(2) An appeal may be admitted after the expiry of the period of thirty days, if the appellant satisfies the appellate authority that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within that period. (3) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such order as he may think fit. (4) An appeal under sub-section (1) shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of filing. (5) If penalty imposed by the adjudicating officer under sub-section (1) of section 34A or by an order of the appellate authority under sub-section (3) of this section, as the case may be, is not deposited, the amount shall be recovered as an arrear of land revenue.”.
2.	1871	1	The Cattle-trespass Act, 1871	(A) For section 3, the following section shall be substituted, namely:— ‘3. Definitions.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— (a) “adjudicating officer” means the Sub-Divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate authorised by the State Government or the Union territory administration, as the case may be ; (b) “appellate authority” means the District Magistrate or the Additional District Magistrate authorised by the State Government or the Union territory administration, as the case may be; (c) “cattle” includes also camels, buffaloes, horses, mares, geldings, ponies, colts, fillies, mules, asses, pigs, rams, ewes, sheep, lambs, goats and kids; (d) “local authority” means Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Municipality, Cantonment Board, Notified Area Committee, Gram Panchayat or any other authority for the time being vested by law with the control and administration of any matters within a specified local area; and (e) “officer of police” also includes village-watchman.’. (B) In section 6, for the words, “the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)”, the words, brackets and figures “clause (28) of section 2 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023)” shall be substituted. (C) In section 8, in clause (a), for the word “animals”, the word “cattle” shall be substituted.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(D) For section 12, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—
				“12. Penalties for cattle impounded.—(1) For every head of cattle impounded as aforesaid, the pound-keepers shall impose penalty in accordance with the scale for the time being prescribed by the State Government in this behalf by notification in the Official Gazette and different scales may be prescribed for different local areas.
				(2) All penalties so imposed shall be deposited with the Magistrate of the District through such officer as the State Government may direct.
				(3) A list showing the penalties and the rates of charge for feeding and watering cattle shall be posted in a conspicuous place on or near to every pound.”.
				(E) In section 13,—
				(i) in the marginal heading, for the word “fines”, the word “penalties” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “payment of the fines”, the words “payment of penalties imposed” shall be substituted.
				(F) In section 15,—
				(i) for the words “appear and refuse to pay the said fines and expenses”, the words “appears and refuses to pay the said penalties and expenses” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “deposit of the fines”, the words “deposit of the penalties imposed” shall be substituted.
				(G) In section 16,—
				(i) in the marginal heading, for the word “fines”, the word “penalties” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “deposit the said fines”, the words “deposit the said penalties imposed” shall be substituted;
				(iii) for the words “Deduction of fines and expenses”, the words “Deduction of penalties and expenses” shall be substituted;
				(iv) for the words “fines leviable”, the words “penalties imposed” shall be substituted;
				(v) in clause (c), for the word “fines”, the word “penalties” shall be substituted.
				(H) In section 17,—
				(i) in the marginal heading, for the word “fines”, the word “penalties” shall be substituted.
				(ii) for the words “the fines so deducted”, the words “the penalties so deducted” shall be substituted.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(I) In section 22,—
				(i) for the words “one hundred rupees”, the words “five thousand rupees” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “together with all fines paid”, the words “together with all penalties paid” shall be substituted;
				(iii) for the words “the fines and expenses leviable”, the words “the penalties imposed and expenses incurred” shall be substituted.
				(J) In section 23, for the words “compensation, fines and expenses”, the words “compensation, penalties and expenses” shall be substituted.
				(K) In section 24, for the words “on conviction before a Magistrate, be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, or with fine not exceeding five hundred rupees, or with both”, the words “on being found in default by the adjudicating officer, be liable to penalty of not exceeding five thousand rupees” shall be substituted.
				(L) In section 25,—
				(i) for the words “Any fine imposed under the next following section or for the offence of mischief”, the words “Any penalty imposed under the next following section or for mischief” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “the person convicted of the offence”, the words “the person found liable” shall be substituted.
				(M) For section 26, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—
				“26. Penalty for damage caused to land or crops or public roads by pigs and cattle.—(1) Any owner or keeper of pigs who, through neglect or otherwise, damages or causes or permits to be damaged any land, or any crop or produce of land, or any public road, by allowing such pigs to trespass thereon, shall, on being found in default by the adjudicating officer be liable to penalty not exceeding one thousand rupees.
				(2) Any owner or keeper of cattle who, through neglect or otherwise, damages or causes or permits to be damaged any land or any crop or produce of land or any public road, by allowing such cattle to trespass thereon, shall, on being found in default by the adjudicating officer be liable to penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees.”.
				(N) In section 27, for the words “be punished, on conviction before a Magistrate, with fine not exceeding fifty rupees. Such fines”, the words “on being found in default by the adjudicating officer, be liable to penalty, not exceeding five thousand rupees and such penalty” shall be substituted.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
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(O) After section 27, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“27A. Adjudication of penalties.—For the purpose of adjudicating penalties under the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, the State Government or the Union territory administration, may authorise the Sub-Divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate, as the case may be, having jurisdiction, as an adjudicating officer for holding an inquiry and imposing penalties in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government:

Provided that no such penalty shall be imposed without giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

27B. Appeal.—(1) Whoever aggrieved by an order of the adjudicating officer under section 27A may, within thirty days from the date of receipt of the such order, prefer an appeal to the District Magistrate or the Additional District Magistrate specially authorised in this behalf by the State Government or the Union territory administration as an appellate authority, in such form and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(2) An appeal may be admitted to after the expiry of the period of thirty days, if the appellant satisfies the appellate authority that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within that period.

(3) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such order as he may think fit.

(4) An appeal under sub-section (1) shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of filing.

27C. Imprisonment for non-payment of penalty.—Where any person fails to pay the penalty imposed under the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder within ninety days of such imposition, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to twice the amount of the penalty, or with both.”.

(P) For section 28, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“28. Remittance of penalty.—(1) Where an adjudicating officer imposes a penalty under the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, the amount of said penalty realised shall be credited to the fund of the Animal Welfare Board of India constituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960).

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(2) The Board referred to in sub-section (1) shall utilise the amount realised through penalty under sub-section (1) for the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.”.
				(Q) In CHAPTER VII, for the Chapter heading “SUITS FOR COMPENSATION”, the heading “APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION” shall be substituted.
				(R) In section 29,—
				(i) in the marginal heading, for the words “sue for compensation”, the words “apply for compensation” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “suing for compensation in any competent Court”, the words “making an application for compensation to the adjudicating officer” shall be substituted.
				(S) In section 30,—
				(i) for the words “convicting Magistrate”, the words “adjudicating officer” shall be substituted;
				(ii) for the words “such suit”, the words “such complaint” shall be substituted.
				(T) After section 31, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—
				“32. Power of Central Government to make rules.—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to carry out the provisions of this Act.
				(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
				(a) the manner of holding an inquiry and imposing penalties under section 27A;
				(b) the form and manner of appeal under sub-section (1) of section 27B; and
				(c) the manner of utilisation of penalty amount under sub-section (2) of section 28.
				(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				Houses agree in making any modification in said rules or both Houses agree that the rules should not be made, the rules shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.”