

BJYM

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GOVERNANCE WITHOUT FEAR

JAN VISHWAS
AS NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT



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It's a matter of immense delight that Parliament has passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2026. This Bill strengthens a trust-based framework that empowers our citizens. It marks the end of rules and regulations that are outdated. At the same time, it ensures speedy disposal of cases, reduces litigation burden with decriminalisation.

What is also noteworthy is the consultative approach with which this Bill was drafted.

My compliments to all those who have given their insights towards the drafting of the Bill and supported it in Parliament.


Source: Post on X



With a clear focus on reform and simplification, the passage of the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026 in Parliament marks an important step towards improving ease of living and ease of doing business in the country. By removing outdated legal provisions and reducing compliance burden, it reflects a governance model rooted in trust and efficiency.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, this initiative strengthens the vision of a New India where citizens are empowered, businesses are encouraged, and systems are simpler, faster, and more effective.

Source: Post on X



Remarks of the BJP President **Shri Nitin Nabin**



For too long, India's laws spoke a language of suspicion. A missed filing, a labelling error, a procedural lapse and an honest citizen, an earnest entrepreneur, a first-generation founder could find herself staring at a criminal prosecution. Not because she intended harm. Not because she committed fraud. Simply because the system was designed to doubt rather than to trust.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jan Vishwas reforms change that. Fundamentally. Irreversibly.

Jan Vishwas 1.0, enacted in 2023 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts, the most comprehensive regulatory reform in the history of independent India. Jan Vishwas 2.0, which I had the privilege of chairing through the Parliamentary Select Committee, goes further still: 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts, touching every corner of Indian economic and civic life, from tea gardens to municipal governance, from the forest floor to the digital economy.

This edition is BJYM's attempt to put these reforms in the hands of India's youth, not as a policy document, but as a story. The story of a young woman in Tirupati who can now grow her food business without fearing an inspector's knock. The story of a first-generation founder in Kanpur who finally believes the system wants him to succeed. The story of a tribal family in Chhattisgarh who will no longer be criminalised for grazing cattle on forest land.

These are not statistics. These are lives.

The essays gathered in this edition represent the best of young India's thinking lawyers, economists, doctors, students, and practitioners, all united in the conviction that trust is not a concession the state makes to its citizens. It is the very foundation on which a Viksit Bharat will be built.

As India marches towards 2047, let this be our generation's contribution: a nation where the law is not a maze to be feared, but a path to be walked with confidence.

Vande Mataram

Tejasvi Surya
MP Lok Sabha, Bengaluru South

Message from the BJYM National President Shri Tejasvi Surya

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A nation's maturity is revealed not in the volume of its laws, but in the spirit that animates them. Whether it governs through suspicion or trust. Whether it treats its citizens as potential offenders to be monitored or as partners in progress to be empowered. Whether it builds walls of compliance or opens doors of opportunity.

For decades, India's regulatory architecture was animated by a colonial instinct, one that presumed guilt before innocence, that attached criminal liability to the most minor procedural lapses, and that turned the honest act of running a business into a permanent exercise in legal self-defence. A missed filing, a labelling discrepancy, a clerical oversight and an entrepreneur who had harmed no one, defrauded no one, and intended nothing but to build, could find herself facing criminal prosecution. This was not an aberration. It was the design. And its cost in stunted ambition, in deferred formalisation, in innovation that never happened was borne most heavily by those who could least afford it: the small business owner, the first-generation founder, the tribal family whose livelihood depended on land their ancestors had tended for centuries.

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and its ambitious successor, Jan Vishwas 2.0, represent India's decisive break from that inheritance.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jan Vishwas 1.0 decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts spanning 19 ministries, the most comprehensive cross-sectoral regulatory reform in the history of independent India. Jan Vishwas 2.0, steered through a Parliamentary Select Committee and passed by both Houses of Parliament, extended that mandate further: 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts under 23 ministries, with 717 amendments targeting ease of doing business and 67 improving ease of living. Together, the two phases have eliminated nearly 1,000 situations in which an honest citizen could have faced imprisonment for a technical lapse. Not reduced. Eliminated.

This is not administrative housekeeping. It is a philosophical transformation.

This edition is an attempt to place that transformation in the hands of young India. Not as a policy document. Not as a government circular. But as a living conversation, written by young Indians for young Indians, about what it means when a state finally chooses to trust its people.

The essays gathered in these pages come from across the country and across disciplines. Lawyers and economists, doctors and policy analysts, Company Secretaries and IIT professors, students and BJYM workers each have brought their own lens to the Jan Vishwas reforms, and each has found in them something worth saying. Some have analysed the legal mechanics of decriminalisation with precision. Others have traced the economic dividend for MSMEs and startups. Some have rooted these reforms in the Vedic tradition of ahimsa and dharmic proportionality. Others have connected them to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's lifelong vision of social justice and economic empowerment. One writes from the ground reality of Chhattisgarh's state-level reforms; another from the vantage point of international economics in Geneva.

This diversity is the edition's greatest strength. It is also proof that Jan Vishwas is not merely a policy; it is the beginning of a broader social transformation, one whose ripples are being felt from forest villages to startup hubs, from Tier-3 cities to global boardrooms.

Across every essay in this edition, a single thread runs through the journey from fear to trust. The young woman in Tirupati, who runs a small food processing unit and once lived under the threat of criminal prosecution for a labelling error, can now grow without fear. The tribal family in Chhattisgarh that has grazed cattle on forest land for generations will no longer face the threat of imprisonment for a way of life inherited from their ancestors. The first-generation startup founder who once hid his mistakes rather than correcting them because correction meant exposure and exposure meant prosecution can now experiment, fail, learn, and build.

This is what "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance" looks like on the ground. Not in rankings. Not in press releases. But in the quiet confidence of a citizen who finally believes the state is on her side.

This edition arrives at a moment when India is advancing towards its most ambitious national goal, Viksit Bharat 2047. That goal cannot be achieved by infrastructure alone, or by economic policy alone. It requires that crores of young Indian people, women entrepreneurs, small traders, and marginal communities be able to engage with the system without fear, claim their place in the formal economy with confidence, and contribute their full energies to the national endeavour. Jan Vishwas opens that door.

As you read these pages, we invite you not merely to understand a policy, but to recognise a philosophy in which governance means service, not control; in which law guides rather than threatens; and in which the relationship between the state and its citizens is built not on suspicion, but on the most durable foundation of all: trust.

That trust is the true foundation of New India.

डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर जयंती विशेष

बाबा साहेब का विचार, नरेंद्र मोदी का नेतृत्व और विकसित भारत का संकल्प

श्री लाल सिंह आर्य राष्ट्रीय

अध्यक्ष अनुसूचित जाति मोर्चा



संविधान शिल्पी भारत रत्न श्रद्धेय बाबासाहेब डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर जी की 136वीं जयंती केवल एक ऐतिहासिक तिथि नहीं, बल्कि भारत की आत्मा का उत्सव है। यह वह दिन है, जब हम उस महापुरुष को स्मरण करते हैं, जिन्होंने सदियों की सामाजिक विषमता को चुनौती दी और एक ऐसे भारत की नींव रखी, जहाँ न्याय, समानता और गरिमा प्रत्येक नागरिक को समान अधिकार हो। बाबा साहेब का जीवन संघर्ष, ज्ञान और संकल्प का अद्वितीय उदाहरण है—एक ऐसा जीवन, जिसने विपरीत परिस्थितियों में भी शिक्षा और आत्मसम्मान की मशाल को कभी बुझने नहीं दिया।

डॉ. अंबेडकर का व्यक्तित्व बहुआयामी था। वे केवल संविधान निर्माता ही नहीं, बल्कि एक बड़े अर्थशास्त्री, श्रेष्ठ विधिवेत्ता, महान समाज सुधारक और दूरदर्शी राष्ट्रनिर्माता थे। उन्होंने यह स्पष्ट रूप से समझा था कि यदि भारत को एक सशक्त राष्ट्र बनाना है, तो केवल राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता पर्याप्त नहीं होगी; इसके साथ-साथ सामाजिक और आर्थिक न्याय भी सुनिश्चित करना होगा। यही कारण है कि उन्होंने संविधान में ऐसे प्रावधानों को शामिल किया, जो समाज के अंतिम व्यक्ति को भी समान अवसर और अधिकार प्रदान करते हैं।

उनकी दूरदर्शिता का एक और महत्वपूर्ण पहलू था—मजबूत संस्थाओं का निर्माण। बाबा साहेब का मानना था कि किसी भी राष्ट्र की स्थिरता और प्रगति उसकी संस्थागत संरचना पर निर्भर करती है। वित्त आयोग, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक, रोजगार कार्यालयों और श्रम नीतियों की जो बुनियाद उन्होंने रखी, वह आज भी भारत की आर्थिक व्यवस्था को मजबूती प्रदान कर रही है। उनकी सोच केवल वर्तमान तक सीमित नहीं थी, बल्कि उन्होंने आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए भी एक मजबूत आधार तैयार किया।

इतना ही नहीं, बहुत कम लोग जानते हैं कि डॉ. अंबेडकर की डॉक्टरेट थीसिस ने भारत में वित्त आयोग की स्थापना की नींव रखी और उनके विचारों ने 1934 के आरबीआई अधिनियम के निर्माण को दिशा दी। उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय विद्युत ग्रिड, दामोदर घाटी परियोजना, हीराकुंड बांध और सोन नदी परियोजना जैसे बड़े बुनियादी ढांचों के विकास को प्राथमिकता दी, यह योजनाएँ इस बात का प्रमाण हैं कि वे केवल सामाजिक न्याय के ही नहीं, बल्कि आर्थिक विकास और राष्ट्र निर्माण के भी अग्रदूत थे। आज जब भारत बुनियादी ढांचे के क्षेत्र में तेजी से प्रगति कर रहा है, तब यह स्पष्ट होता है कि हम उसी मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, जिसकी दिशा बाबा साहेब ने दशकों पहले तय की थी।

बाबा साहेब का सबसे बड़ा सपना था—एक ऐसा भारत जहाँ कोई भी व्यक्ति जाति, वर्ग, लिंग या जन्म के आधार पर भेदभाव का शिकार न हो। उन्होंने सामाजिक न्याय को केवल एक नारा नहीं, बल्कि शासन और समाज का मूल सिद्धांत बनाने का प्रयास किया। उनका मानना था कि राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता तभी सार्थक है, जब सामाजिक और आर्थिक समानता भी सुनिश्चित हो।

बाबा साहेब का सबसे बड़ा योगदान यह था कि उन्होंने समाज के वंचित, शोषित और पिछड़े वर्गों को मुख्यधारा में लाने का प्रयास किया। उनका संघर्ष केवल अधिकारों के लिए नहीं था, बल्कि आत्मसम्मान के लिए था। उन्होंने शिक्षा को सामाजिक परिवर्तन का सबसे बड़ा माध्यम माना और दलितों तथा वंचितों को उच्च शिक्षा के लिए प्रेरित किया। उनका यह विश्वास था कि जब तक व्यक्ति शिक्षित नहीं होगा, तब तक वह अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक नहीं हो सकता।

आज जब हम वर्तमान भारत की ओर देखते हैं, तो पाते हैं कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में देश उसी दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहा है, जिसकी परिकल्पना बाबा साहेब ने की थी। “सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास, सबका प्रयास” केवल एक नारा नहीं, बल्कि शासन की कार्यप्रणाली का आधार बन चुका है। अंत्योदय की भावना के साथ सरकार यह सुनिश्चित कर रही है कि विकास का लाभ समाज के अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुँचे।

मोदी सरकार ने आर्थिक समावेशन के क्षेत्र में जो ऐतिहासिक कार्य किए हैं, वे बाबा साहेब के आर्थिक चिंतन का जीवंत उदाहरण हैं। जनधन योजना के माध्यम से करोड़ों लोगों के बैंक खाते खोले गए, आधार और मोबाइल के साथ जोड़कर उन्हें सीधे लाभ पहुँचाया गया। डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणाली, यूपीआई और भीम ऐप ने आम नागरिक को आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त बनाया है और शोषण और भ्रष्टाचार से बचाया है। यह सब उस सोच का विस्तार है, जिसमें बाबा साहेब आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण को सामाजिक मुक्ति का आधार मानते थे।

इसके साथ ही, आधारभूत संरचना के क्षेत्र में जो व्यापक परिवर्तन हुए हैं, वे भी उल्लेखनीय हैं। प्रधानमंत्री गति शक्ति, भारतमाला, सागरमाला और राष्ट्रीय लॉजिस्टिक्स नीति जैसी योजनाएँ देश को नई गति प्रदान कर रही हैं। यह सब केवल विकास परियोजनाएँ नहीं, बल्कि एक मजबूत और आत्मनिर्भर भारत की नींव हैं, जो बाबा साहेब के आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप हैं।

जहाँ आज का भारत बाबा साहेब के सपनों को साकार करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहा है। स्वतंत्रता के बाद लंबे समय तक सत्ता में रही कांग्रेस ने उन्हें वह सम्मान नहीं दिया, जिसके वे हकदार थे। उन्हें चुनावों में हराने के प्रयास हुए, संसद में उनकी उपेक्षा की गई और उनके विचारों को पर्याप्त महत्व नहीं दिया गया। कांग्रेस ने बाबासाहेब के जीवित और मरने के बाद राजनैतिक और सामाजिक जीवन समाप्त करने के लिए एक बार नहीं, बहुत बार प्रयास किए।

इतना ही नहीं, बाबा साहेब को उनके जीवनकाल में भारत रत्न से भी वंचित रखा गया और उनकी स्मृति से जुड़े स्थलों की उपेक्षा की गई। यह एक ऐसा ऐतिहासिक तथ्य है, जिसे नकारा नहीं जा सकता। वर्षों तक उनके योगदान को सीमित रखने का प्रयास किया गया, जिससे नई पीढ़ी उनके वास्तविक महत्व से परिचित नहीं हो सकी।

इसके विपरीत, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की सरकार ने बाबा साहेब को सच्चे अर्थों में राष्ट्रीय सम्मान दिलाने का कार्य किया है। पंचतीर्थ का निर्माण, लंदन स्थित उनके निवास को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्मारक में परिवर्तित करना, संविधान दिवस की शुरुआत, संयुक्त राष्ट्र में उनकी जयंती का आयोजन—ये सभी पहल इस बात का प्रमाण हैं कि सरकार उनके विचारों को वैश्विक स्तर पर स्थापित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

सामाजिक न्याय को सशक्त बनाने के लिए भी कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए गए हैं। राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग को संवैधानिक दर्जा देना, एससी/एसटी अत्याचार निवारण कानून को सख्त बनाना, तथा आरक्षण को आगे बढ़ाना—ये सभी निर्णय बाबा साहेब के उस सपने को साकार करते हैं, जिसमें हर वर्ग को समान अवसर मिले।

महिला सशक्तिकरण के क्षेत्र में भी उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हुई है। बाबा साहेब महिलाओं के अधिकारों के प्रबल समर्थक थे और उन्होंने समान नागरिक संहिता जैसे विषयों पर अपने विचार स्पष्ट रूप से रखे थे। आज महिलाओं को राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक अधिकार प्रदान करने की दिशा में जो कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, वे उनके विचारों का ही विस्तार हैं।

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आज भारत “विकसित भारत 2047” के लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है। यह केवल एक आर्थिक लक्ष्य नहीं, बल्कि एक सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक परिवर्तन का भी प्रतीक है। यह वह भारत है, जहाँ हर व्यक्ति को समान अवसर मिलेगा, जहाँ विकास समावेशी होगा और जहाँ राष्ट्र आत्मनिर्भरता के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ेगा।

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भारत खड़ा हो सकता है यानी सशक्त समाज और समृद्ध भारत ! बाबासाहेब डॉ अंबेडकर जी का दृष्टिकोण स्पष्ट था कि यदि सामाजिक समानता और आर्थिक न्याय साथ-साथ चले तभी भारत वास्तव में विकसित राष्ट्र बन सकता है। उनका सपना आज भी हमारे मिशन 2047 के लिए प्रेरणा स्रोत है।

अंततः, बाबा साहेब का सपना केवल सरकारों के प्रयासों से नहीं, बल्कि हर नागरिक की भागीदारी से ही साकार होगा। हमें उनके विचारों को अपने जीवन में उतारना होगा और राष्ट्र निर्माण में सक्रिय भूमिका निभानी होगी।

आज का भारत एक नए आत्मविश्वास के साथ आगे बढ़ रहा है—एक ऐसा भारत, जो अपने अतीत से प्रेरणा लेकर भविष्य की ओर दृढ़ता से कदम बढ़ा रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में यह यात्रा केवल विकास की नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक न्याय और राष्ट्रीय गौरव की भी है।

यही सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि होगी उस महान युगपुरुष को, जिसने हमें समानता, न्याय और स्वाभिमान का मार्ग दिखाया।

Chhattisgarh

Reimagining Governance Through Jan Vishwas

O.P. Choudhary

Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh

Governance in a modern, aspirational economy must evolve with its ambitions. As India moves towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, the relationship between the State, citizens and businesses must be rooted in trust, clarity and cooperation. The idea of Jan Vishwas recognises a simple truth: most citizens and enterprises intend to comply and contribute. When minor procedural lapses are treated with rigid legal action, regulation risks becoming counterproductive.



From fear of compliance to ease of compliance.

At the national level, the Government of India, under the strong leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has translated this philosophy into far-reaching legislative action. Beginning with the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and further strengthened through subsequent expansions culminating in the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, passed by both Houses of Parliament, the Union Government has undertaken one of the most comprehensive exercises in regulatory reform in recent times. Together, these measures have laid a robust national foundation for trust-based, facilitative governance, one that States can build upon and tailor to local realities while advancing shared national development goals.

It is in this context that Chhattisgarh has taken a pioneering step.

Chhattisgarh: Leading Jan Vishwas Reforms

Chhattisgarh is the first State to comprehensively adopt the Jan Vishwas philosophy through focused legislative reform under the decisive leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai. Through the Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2025, and the Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) (Second) Act, 2025, the State has undertaken a far-reaching rationalisation of regulatory enforcement, decriminalising 279 minor offences across a wide range of laws and departments.

The 2025 Act amended 163 provisions across 8 Acts and 7 Departments, converting fines and imprisonment for minor violations into proportionate penalties and introducing compounding of offences, particularly across departments such as Urban Administration, Housing and Environment, Excise and Labour. Building on this foundation, the Second Amendment further decriminalised 116 provisions

spanning 14 Acts and 11 Departments, including Commercial Tax, Labour, Panchayat and Rural Development, and Irrigation, by converting fines and imprisonment into penalties and omitting redundant provisions.

Less criminalisation, more cooperation

Collectively, these reforms aim to institutionalise trust-based governance for businesses, citizens, workers, farmers and committees, modernising regulation by shifting the focus from prosecution to compliance, while firmly preserving regulatory authority and public interest.

Benefits across Business

The true value of the Jan Vishwas reforms lies not merely in statutory change, but in how they reshape everyday interactions between businesses and the government. These amendments directly benefit thousands of stakeholders- small traders, manufacturing units, contractors, housing developers, farmers and agribusinesses by reducing uncertainty, compliance costs and time lost to avoidable disputes.

For manufacturing units and MSMEs, amendments to the Chhattisgarh Industrial Relations Act, 1960, provide meaningful relief. Procedural lapses during labour inspections, such as delays in filing statutory returns that earlier exposed enterprises to criminal proceedings and prolonged litigation, can now be resolved administratively through compounding and modest penalties. This ensures faster resolution, business continuity and protection of worker interests.

Similarly, for real estate developers and infrastructure companies, amendments to the Chhattisgarh Nagar Tatha Gram Nivesh Adhiniyam, 1973, have introduced certainty into enforcement. Issues arising during site inspections, including planning norm violations or alleged obstruction, are now addressed through clearly defined civil penalties rather than criminal prosecution. This

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By reducing regulatory friction, cutting avoidable litigation and restoring trust between the State and its stakeholders, these reforms free entrepreneurial energy and enhance administrative capacity.
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encourages cooperative inspections, reduces project delays caused by litigation, and strengthens investor confidence in urban development processes.

For farmers, irrigation users and agribusinesses, amendments to the Chhattisgarh Irrigation Act, 1931, bring proportionality to enforcement. Earlier, unauthorised diversion of canal water, even arising from bona fide misinterpretation, could result in criminal prosecution. Under the revised framework, such cases attract monetary penalties imposed by competent authorities, protecting public water resources while sparing farmers from prolonged legal proceedings for nonmalicious lapses.

Trust as the Foundation of Growth

From enforcement-heavy to trust-driven governance.

As India advances into the Amrit Kaal, the next 25 years of transformative national growth, States must serve as engines of investment, innovation and opportunity. Chhattisgarh's Jan Vishwas reforms align seamlessly with the Chief Minister's Anjor Vision 2047 and the national priorities of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance, Ease

of Doing Business, and Ease of Living.

By reducing regulatory friction, cutting avoidable litigation and restoring trust between the State and its stakeholders, these reforms free entrepreneurial energy and enhance administrative capacity. They enable businesses to focus on productivity, expansion and employment generation, while reassuring investors that Chhattisgarh offers not only natural resources and robust infrastructure, but also a predictable, modern and agile regulatory environment - one in which reform is embedded in the State's very DNA.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, Jan Vishwas is more than a legislative amendment; it is a statement of intent. It reflects confidence in our people, belief in our enterprises, and faith in cooperative governance. Through these reforms, Chhattisgarh is laying the institutional foundations for inclusive prosperity- ensuring that industry can flourish, investment can grow, and economic progress carries the State and the nation confidently towards a prosperous Amrit Kaal and Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision 2047.



The Language of Trust and End of Procedural Tyranny

Rethinking Process Raj and Colonial Penal Logic in India

**Dr. Mrittunjoy Guha
Majumdar**

Adjunct Professor, NIAS
Bengaluru and BJYM Magazine
Editorial Board Member

There is a question that every civilisation must eventually confront, not in Parliament, not in policy papers, but in the quiet conscience of its governing philosophy: what does the state truly believe about the people it governs? This is not merely an administrative inquiry; it is a profoundly moral one. For the character of a state is revealed not in its declarations, but in the texture of its laws, in the presumptions they carry, the burdens they impose, and the trust they extend or withhold. Statutes, more than speeches, disclose whether a nation governs through faith in its citizens or fear of them. As Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya observed in his renowned work *Rashtra Jeevan ki Disha*,

आत्मानुभूति के प्रयत्नों में जिन सामाजिक व्यवस्थाओं एवं पद्धतियों की राष्ट्र अपनी सहायता के लिए सृष्टि करता है, अथवा जिन रीति-रिवाजों में उसकी आत्मा की अभिव्यक्ति होती है वे ही यदि कालावपात से मार्ग में बाधक होकर उसके ऊपर भार रूप हो जाएँ तो उनसे मुक्ति पाना भी प्रत्येक राष्ट्र के लिए आवश्यक है।

Translation: “In the efforts of self-experience, the social institutions and systems that a nation creates to aid itself, or the customs in which the expression of its spirit is reflected, if over time become obstacles in its path and weigh upon it like a burden, then it is necessary for every nation to free itself from them as well.”

In India’s postcolonial regulatory history, this principle is evident: minor procedural lapses were often met not with correction, but with the threat of criminal sanction. Compliance became less an exercise in civic responsibility and more a ritual of risk avoidance. In such a framework, the citizen was not treated as a participant in governance, but as a potential violator to be monitored, regulated, and, if necessary, punished. This inheritance was not accidental; it echoed an older logic of governance in which control preceded consent and coercion substituted for trust. Yet a confident democracy cannot indefinitely sustain a system that presumes guilt in the ordinary act of participation. To govern a free people is not merely to regulate their conduct, but to recognise their dignity. And any meaningful reform must begin here with a fundamental rethinking of what the state believes about its citizens, and whether it is finally prepared to trust them.

The Inheritance We Did Not Choose

When India became independent, she inherited more than territory; she inherited a legal architecture shaped not to nurture freedom, but to maintain subjugation. The genius of colonial administration lay not in its armies, visible, costly instruments of coercion, but in a subtler, more enduring mechanism: law as a web of permanent vulnerability. Not everyone was prosecuted, yet all were prosecutable. A delayed filing, a missing license, or a deviation from some arcane procedural rule carried the shadow of criminal sanction. The state rarely acted; it was enough that it could.

Citizens, in turn, became their own jailers, internalising this pervasive vulnerability as a habitual instinct. Anthropological and archival studies reveal the human toll of these systems: artisans, traders, and farmers navigating labyrinthine regulations, performing compliance rituals that trained generations to equate law with control rather than justice, survival with citizenship. In such a framework, legality became a theatre of fear, and freedom, a ceremonial fiction. Bharat Ratna Dr B.R. Ambedkar repeatedly emphasised that law must serve not only order but justice, that it must recognise the intrinsic dignity and agency of every individual. He famously said, “Law and order are the medicine of the body politic, and when the body politic gets sick, medicine must be administered.”

Systems that presume guilt corrode society’s moral foundation, reducing citizens to instruments of the state rather than partners in its governance. Colonial statutes such as the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, municipal licensing codes, and intricate excise regulations encoded suspicion into daily life, conditioning compliance through anxiety and restraint. The Jan Vishwas reforms signify more than administrative efficiency; they mark the philosophical reclamation of liberty itself—stripping away inherited architectures of distrust, restoring dignity, and redefining the citizen as a co-creator of democratic life. True freedom, Babasaheb reminds us, is not merely the absence of political masters; it is the transformation of law from an instrument of domination into a medium of empowerment, enabling the human spirit to flourish, fully conscious of its capacity to participate, create, and aspire.

Process as Power

There is a distinction, which is fine in appearance but vast in consequence, between two visions of law. In the first, law is an expression of civilisational values. It exists to protect, to enable, to define the boundaries of harm, and to leave free all that lies within those boundaries. It is, at its best, what Bharat Ratna Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan called the outward form of an inward ethical life, the attempt of a society to make its moral convictions visible

and enforceable. In the second, law is an instrument of administration. It exists not to enable freedom but to manage it. To ensure that nothing happens outside the sanctioned procedure, the approved form, and the registered sequence. Here, the purpose of law is not justice. It is order. And order, in this conception, is maintained not by clarity of principle but by complexity of process: so intricate, so layered, so threaded through with possibility of inadvertent violation, that the ordinary citizen is always, in some sense, at the mercy of the official who chooses whether to look. India has, for too long, been governed by the second vision. This was the Process Raj, which was even more insidious than its predecessor, because it wore the clothes of democracy while retaining the instincts of empire. A tax filing is missed by a day. A return was submitted with a technical error. A compliance document absent from a dossier. None of these are acts of harm. None involves fraud, deception, or damage to another. Yet statute after statute, inherited or written across the decades of independent India, treated them as offences worthy of criminal prosecution or imprisonment, of the full weight of the coercive state. The result was not law in the service of the citizen. It was law as the permanent subordination of the citizen to the bureaucratic will.

The procedural intensity of India's legal system can be understood through the dual lenses of bureaucratic rationality and state legibility. Max Weber's concept of rational-legal authority, administered by codified rules applied impersonally, was effectively operationalised in colonial India, where statutes and regulations were designed less to enable social outcomes than to render complex societies transparent and controllable. James C. Scott's notion of "high-modernist legibility" further explains the logic: colonial law, from excise codes to municipal licensing regimes, reduced diverse local practices into registers, permits, and forms, making populations legible to bureaucratic oversight. Post-independence, this logic persisted in many inherited statutes, despite the political break of

1947. Indian administrative thinkers like K.T. Shah recognised the risks of over-codification, which can stifle discretion, while V.P. Menon observed that procedural uniformity could render administration rigid. The result was a legal and bureaucratic ecosystem in which citizens were perpetually accountable to the mechanics of process rather than the ends of justice. Reform efforts such as the Jan Vishwas initiative thus operate not merely at the level of statute; they attempt to recalibrate the epistemology of governance itself, reducing procedural overreach while restoring discretionary space for ethical and practical judgment.

The Economy of Fear

Punishment is not merely a consequence. It is a statement. When a state punishes fraud with imprisonment, it says: deliberate harm to others is intolerable. When it punishes violence with imprisonment, it says: the body of every citizen is sacred, and its violation will not be borne. These are moral statements. They express what a civilisation values and what it will not permit. But when a state punishes a delayed filing with the same instrument, the criminal prosecution or the possibility of imprisonment, it says something quite different. It says: I do not trust you. It says: "Your compliance cannot be assumed; it must be coerced. It says, most fundamentally, you are not a citizen in the full sense—a rights-bearing, responsibility-accepting participant in a self-governing society. You are a subject, and you will be treated as one until you prove otherwise. Gandhiji, who understood power as few have, saw that the deepest form of subjugation is not the external chain but the internal one, the self-image of the governed shaped by the governing gaze.

People told perpetually that they cannot be trusted will, in time, begin to behave like people who cannot be trusted. The suspicion of the state becomes the psychology of the society. The Jan Vishwas reforms are, in this light, more than a legal correction. They are an act of civilisational

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The great revolutions of history are not always announced with their own grandeur. Sometimes they arrive in the form of administrative amendments, deleted sub-clauses, revised penalty schedules, quietly recalibrated thresholds. Unglamorous.

restoration, the state choosing, in hundreds of small statutory amendments, to extend to its citizens the fundamental democratic courtesy of assumed good faith. There is a practical dimension to this that must be named plainly. Fear is expensive. Not in the way that taxes are expensive visibly, measurably, on a balance sheet, but in the way that anxiety is expensive: in the distortion of attention, the diversion of energy, the narrowing of possibility. An entrepreneur who operates under the constant shadow of criminal liability for technical lapses does not think like an entrepreneur. She thinks like a defendant. Her questions are not about how to build, how to grow, or how to serve. Her questions are: how do I avoid it, how do I protect myself, how do I survive the system?

Consider the Companies Act prior to the 2013 and 2020 amendments: hundreds of provisions criminalised minor reporting errors, late filings, or omissions, with penalties including imprisonment, even for first-time, inadvertent mistakes. The Shops and Establishments Acts in many states imposed detailed record-keeping obligations for small businesses, often requiring multiple registers and inspections. Small traders moving from the informal to the formal economy frequently found themselves vulnerable to fines, license cancellations, or prosecution for procedural non-compliance. A civilisation that harnesses the creative energy of its people toward productivity builds prosperity. A civilisation that harnesses it toward procedural self-protection squanders it.

A 2025 TeamLease RegTech report Decoding Compliance for Manufacturing MSMEs in India, found that a typical manufacturing MSME faces over 1,450 compliance obligations annually across seven categories of law, requiring management of 48 different registers, interaction with 59 types of inspectors, and adherence to 486 imprisonment clauses (many linked to procedural violations rather than deliberate wrongdoing). The financial burden is equally stark: compliance costs range from ₹13 lakh to ₹17 lakh per year, a significant sum for enterprises with limited resources and minimal in-house legal expertise. Nor is this merely a compliance burden; it is a criminalisation crisis, as a

comprehensive analysis of India's 1,536 business laws found that 54% (843) contain imprisonment clauses, with 86% of the 26,134 compliance provisions prescribing jail terms imposing up to three years for violators, treating procedural lapses with the same coercive instruments reserved for theft or fraud.

The pace of regulatory change compounds the problem: in FY 2024-25 alone, there were 9,331 updates across ministries, with roughly 90% directly impacting the over 6.45 crore MSMEs across India. What has been the result of this decriminalisation push? The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts, replacing criminal penalties with monetary fines for minor violations, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 that the government would introduce the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalise over 100 additional outdated legal provisions. Early assessments suggest meaningful impact: a NITI Aayog working paper concluded that embedding trust at the core of tax governance strengthens voluntary compliance and optimises enforcement resources, findings consistent with OECD research across 38 countries showing that trust and power are positively correlated with tax compliance.

Bharat squandered its economic potential and prosperity for decades. And the cost fell most heavily not on the large enterprise, which could afford compliance infrastructure, legal counsel, and the quiet navigation of official discretion. It fell on the small business owner, the first-generation entrepreneur, the trader attempting to move from the informal to the formal economy, who found that formalisation brought not opportunity but exposure. This is the subtle injustice of Process Raj: that its burden was always regressive. The poorer you were, the less able to bear it. The more marginal your enterprise is, the more threatening the system becomes. It was a system that claimed to regulate everyone equally while, in practice, protecting the large and crushing the small. The Jan Vishwas reforms correct this.

A Trusting State and the Civilizational Stakes

There is an argument made against these reforms, sometimes in good faith and sometimes not, that decriminalisation weakens the state. That, without the threat of criminal sanction, compliance will collapse, and the regulatory order will dissolve into permissiveness. This argument mistakes the appearance of strength for its substance. A state that governs through fear is not strong; it is anxious. It is a state that does not trust its own authority except when backed by coercion: a state that has confused the loudness of its threats with the depth of its legitimacy. Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee repeatedly emphasised in speeches and interviews that governance is most effective when it earns trust rather than demands compliance. The state that commands respect through fairness, clarity, and proportionality is genuinely strong. The state that maintains order only through fear is strong in the way a dam is strong: impressive until the moment it is not. The Jan Vishwas philosophy, civil consequences for procedural lapses, criminal sanction reserved for genuine harm, is not the softening of the state. It is the maturation of governance: recognising that compliance born of trust is more durable, willing, and generative than compliance born of terror. A trusting state secures the voluntary participation of its citizens in governance, an outcome no coercive mechanism can replicate.

India is not merely a nation-state; she is, as Dr Radhakrishnan observed, a civilisation taking political form: a continuous experiment in aligning human life with ethical, social, and spiritual principles. Her legal and political systems have historically been informed not only by administrative expediency but by Dharma: the recognition that governance must uphold the moral and social order, protect individual dignity, and enable the flourishing of society as a whole. Texts such as the Arthashastra and the words of Acharya Vidyananda emphasise proportionality, fairness, and the ethical responsibility of the ruler, rather than the mere exercise of coercive power. The Upanishadic and Dharmic vision of ethical self-cultivation (swadhyaya) conceives of the individual as a moral agent, responsible for her actions and capable of discernment, reflection, and

ethical decision-making. Major reforms in India's modern history have reflected this civilizational orientation: the constitutional abolition of untouchability was a reaffirmation of samata, the principle of inherent equality; economic liberalisation and the dismantling of the License Raj were acknowledgements of swatantrata, the freedom of initiative and enterprise as a moral and social good. In this lineage, the Jan Vishwas reforms express a Dharmic understanding of law itself: that the citizen is not a subject to be monitored and punished for minor lapses, but a partner in the moral and administrative life of the state. By replacing procedural suspicion with assumed good faith, the reforms align modern governance with India's civilizational principle that power is legitimate only when exercised in service, restraint, and trust. Law, in this view, is not merely coercion. It is the instrument through which Dharma is enacted in public life.

Coda: The Quiet Revolution

The great revolutions of history are not always announced with their own grandeur. Sometimes they arrive in the form of administrative amendments, deleted sub-clauses, revised penalty schedules, quietly recalibrated thresholds. Unglamorous. Unheroic in their appearance. Profound in their consequence. The dismantling of the Process Raj will not have its own monuments. It will not be commemorated with a national holiday. The citizen who, for the first time, registers her small business without fear, who files her return knowing that a technical error will not bring a criminal notice to her door, will likely not know the names of the legislation that made her freedom possible. But she will feel it. In the slight loosening of anxiety. In the willingness to try. In the accumulation, across millions of such moments, of a different relationship between a state and its people: one no longer mediated by fear, but built, brick by careful brick, on the more durable foundation of mutual respect. This is what Jan Vishwas offers India: not merely better law, but better governance. Not merely easier compliance, but a more honest compact between citizen and state. Not merely reform, but reformation.

Introduction

India's governance has long been shaped by a regulatory architecture of fear, in which even minor procedural lapses risked criminal penalties, discouraging innovation and enterprise. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 and 2.0 mark a decisive shift from this legacy, replacing excessive criminalisation with trust-based governance. By decriminalising minor offences and introducing civil penalties, these reforms reduce compliance burdens, ease litigation, and empower businesses, especially MSMEs and startups. Moving from suspicion to facilitation, they redefine the state-citizen relationship and advance India's vision of a transparent, efficient Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The Architecture of Regulatory Fear

Consider a small-time textile exporter in Surat who, in 2019, failed to file a routine quarterly return. The default was a clerical lapse, corrected within a week. Yet the law prescribed a maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment for such an omission. Multiply this story by the tens of millions of MSMEs, startups, and individual entrepreneurs across Bharat, and you begin to understand not a legal problem but a governance pathology.

Over-criminalisation, the promiscuous attachment of criminal sanctions to minor, technical, or procedural regulatory defaults, is among the least-discussed yet most consequential features of post-Independence Bharatiya governance. It is the legal infrastructure of the inspector raj: not merely the inspector with a clipboard, but the inspector backed by the implicit threat of handcuffs. Before the Jan Vishwas reforms, a publisher failing to submit an annual statement under the Press and Registration of Books Act, or a boiler owner omitting a registration mark, faced criminal liability for what are, in substance, compliance lapses.

Beyond the Inspector Raj Decriminalisation and the New Regulatory State

Abhinav Shukla

Law Student



The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, is now complemented by the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 framework, which represents a systematic attempt to excise this pathology from India's statute books. Amending 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts, the legislation is described in its own preamble as an Act "to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business."

The Conceptual Foundation: Over-Criminalisation and Its Discontents

Indian legislation, drafted largely in the decades following Independence, was shaped by a colonial administrative inheritance and a Nehruvian economic philosophy that regarded the private economic actor with structural suspicion. Laws governing everything from environmental disclosures to drug labelling to company filings were written from an assumption of potential bad faith, with criminal prosecution as the default enforcement mechanism. Statutes such as the Spices Board Act and the Information Technology Act prescribed imprisonment for procedural defaults.

The consequences have been layered. Courts have been deluged with prosecutions for technical defaults, absorbing judicial time disproportionate to their social significance. The compliance ecosystem has ballooned, with professional fees for lawyers and chartered accountants representing a hidden tax on doing business. Most perniciously, criminal law has been instrumentalised: when every regulatory default is a potential criminal matter, the inspector acquires enormous leverage over the regulated entity. Decriminalisation, as applied in the Jan Vishwas framework, does not mean immunity. It means replacing the blunt instrument of criminal prosecution with calibrated civil and administrative penalties proportionate to the gravity of the default.

Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0: The Foundation Phase

The Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, amended 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts spanning 19 ministries. The

breadth signals not a sectoral intervention but a systemic rethink. The Acts amended range from the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, to the Aadhaar Act, 2016, with the sectoral sweep covering pharmaceuticals, environment, agriculture, information technology, food safety, maritime law, intellectual property, financial services, and public utilities.

The changes fall into three categories. First is the conversion of criminal offences into civil or administrative penalties. Section 4 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937, which prescribed imprisonment of up to six months, now provides for a penalty of up to five lakh rupees to be imposed by an adjudicating officer. The Information Technology Act replaces imprisonment for sections 67C and 72A with monetary penalties of up to twenty-five lakh rupees. Second, adjudicating officers, typically of Joint Secretary rank at the Centre or District Magistrate level in States, are empowered to hold inquiries and impose penalties with procedural safeguards, time-bound disposal, and appellate oversight, without the full apparatus of criminal justice. Third, compounding mechanisms allow regulated entities to settle specified offences by paying a prescribed sum without formal adjudication.

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Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0: Consolidation and Institutionalisation

If Jan Vishwas 1.0 was the assertion of a principle, Jan Vishwas 2.0 represents its consolidation. Advancing through the legislative calendar in 2025-26, it extends the review to telecommunications legislation, digital services regulation, labour compliance provisions, and financial services law, while addressing design gaps revealed by implementation experience. Critically, it brings Government companies and PSU officials who were previously exposed to criminal liability for procedural defaults in regulatory filings within the reformed framework.

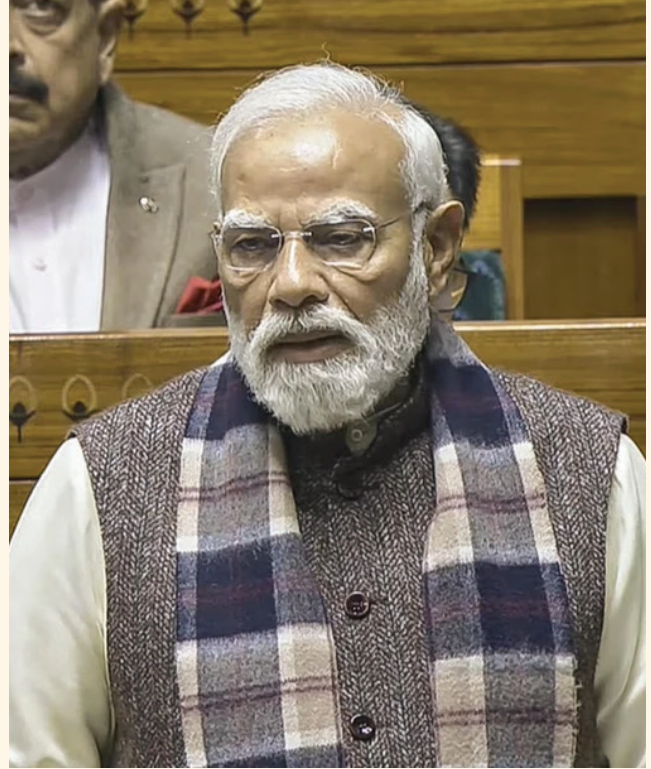
Three structural refinements merit attention. The adjudicating officer framework is significantly

professionalised, with explicit provisions on qualifications, training mandates, and procedural standards. Section 3 mandates a 10 per cent increase in minimum fines every three years, an inflation-adjustment mechanism that preserves deterrence without requiring fresh legislative intervention, and, in its refined form, incorporates a data-driven review of compliance rates before revising penalties. Finally, Jan Vishwas 2.0 introduces mandatory annual reporting by ministries and regulators on adjudicatory proceedings, penalty amounts, and compliance rates by laying the evidentiary foundation for ongoing evaluation, adjustment, and, where under-deterrence is empirically demonstrated, targeted reversal.

The Economic Dividend and Legal Outcomes

The link between regulatory quality and economic performance is well established, and India's rise in Ease of Doing Business rankings from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd reflects this. Decriminalisation reduces compliance costs, lowers dependence on legal retainers, and improves the incentive structure for enterprise creation. When minor technical defaults attract criminal liability, risk-taking is discouraged, particularly in sectors with complex compliance frameworks. By converting criminal exposure into calibrated financial penalties, Jan Vishwas meaningfully shifts this calculus for MSMEs, startups, and individual innovators in the IP ecosystem, where reforms to the Patents Act, Trade Marks Act, and Geographical Indications Act remove imprisonment for procedural lapses.

India's courts operate under a case backlog that has become a standing reproach to governance quality. The criminal prosecution of regulatory defaults has been a non-trivial contributor, diverting finite judicial attention from socially significant proceedings. The administrative adjudicatory route created by Jan Vishwas redirects this entire category of litigation to a forum better suited for its resolution. Administrative adjudicating officers, operating with specialist knowledge and a regulatory mandate, are better positioned to resolve compliance disputes efficiently and consistently. Time-bound disposal requirements,



which are sixty days for most appeals, ninety days under the Pharmacy Act, introduce decisional discipline absent from criminal proceedings.

Conclusion: Governance for Viksit Bharat

The Jan Vishwas Bills are sometimes discussed as administrative housekeeping in legislative form. This framing, while accurate, misses the deeper significance. At a more fundamental level, the reforms are a statement about the kind of regulatory state India aspires to be as it positions itself for the transformative decade separating the present from its centenary of independence. By substituting a presumption of trust for one of suspicion as the operating premise of regulatory interaction, they begin to repair the alienation from the civic enterprise that over-criminalisation had fostered.

India's ambition of Viksit Bharat by 2047 rests, in its economic dimension, on the ability to sustain investment and enterprise formation at a transformative scale. That transformation requires a regulatory environment in which risk-taking is rewarded rather than penalised, compliance is structurally achievable rather than perpetually precarious, and the energy of entrepreneurs is directed toward innovation rather than absorbed by legal contingency management. The Jan Vishwas framework represents a credible legislative step toward that environment.

Jan Vishwas to Viksit Bharat

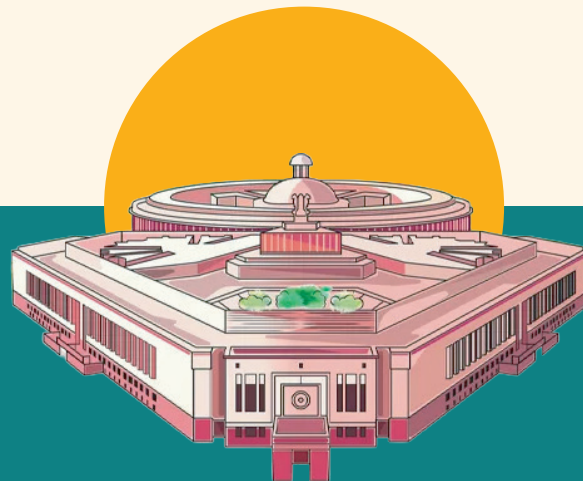
Reimagining Governance Through Trust

Abhinandan Kaul

Ex-Media In charge DUSU

T.V. Anchor, Co-Founder

Young Sapiens



There is a story that rarely makes headlines.

A small-town bakery owner in Indore, running a modest operation that employed eight people from his neighbourhood, once spent three sleepless nights because a government inspector found a minor labelling discrepancy on his packaging. Not adulteration. Not fraud. A labelling technicality. Under the old legal order, that technicality carried the shadow of criminal prosecution: imprisonment, a permanent record, the social stigma that follows a man home long after the case is closed.

He didn't expand his business that year. He didn't hire the two extra hands he had budgeted for. He simply survived the fear.

A young entrepreneur in Kanpur put it plainly when he reflected on the early days of his manufacturing unit: "It used to feel like one small mistake could ruin everything. Not because I wanted to break the law, but because the law itself felt like a maze. Today, it feels like the system wants me to succeed, not stumble."

These are not isolated experiences. Multiply them by a million, across mandis and workshops, across small clinics and neighbourhood chemists, across young Indians who dared to dream but were quietly suffocated by a legal architecture designed not to empower them, but to police them. That is the India that existed, not in its spirit, but in its statutes.

The Jan Vishwas Bills, 1.0 and 2.0, introduced under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, are not merely legislative reforms. They are a philosophical reset. A decisive declaration that the Indian state trusts its citizens and intends to govern accordingly.

The Weight We Inherited

Independent India inherited a colonial legal framework built on one foundational assumption: the governed cannot be trusted. Every minor deviation, every technical lapse, every administrative oversight was met with the same blunt instrument. Criminalisation. Imprisonment. Fear.

Decades passed. Laws multiplied. But the philosophy remained unchanged. By the time India entered its 75th year of independence, its statute books carried hundreds of provisions where an ordinary citizen could face criminal prosecution for offences that, in any mature democracy, would attract a fine, a notice, or a corrective warning at most.

The result was legal terror, and its most consistent victims were never the corrupt or the criminal. They were the small, the honest, and the entrepreneurial.

Routine economic and civic activity had quietly turned into a legal minefield. The distance between the state and its people widened in the process. The Jan Vishwas Amendment Act, 2023, was the first decisive surgical strike against this inheritance.

Bill 1.0: A New Legal Vocabulary

Passed in August 2023, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act amended 42 Central Acts and decriminalised 183 provisions across a wide sweep of India's regulatory landscape.

The Acts covered read like a catalogue of everyday Indian enterprise: the Food Safety and Standards Act, the Environment Protection Act, the Information Technology Act, the Patents Act, the Copyright Act, the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, the Indian Post Office Act, and dozens more.

The nature of change was elegant in its simplicity. Imprisonment clauses for minor, technical, and

procedural offences were replaced with civil monetary penalties and administrative mechanisms. Courts were taken out of equations that never needed them. Regulators were repositioned as facilitators rather than instruments of criminal sanction.

In practical terms, this meant that offences such as delays in filing returns, minor documentation errors, and procedural non-compliances, previously punishable with imprisonment, were reclassified as civil defaults. The distinction is not merely legal. It is civilizational.

Consider what this meant on the ground. Under the FSSAI framework, minor packaging violations were decriminalised. Under the IT Act, technical non-compliances that previously exposed individuals to criminal liability were converted into compoundable offences. Under environmental statutes, procedural lapses entirely distinct from actual ecological harm were carefully disentangled from the criminal code.

The law was finally learning to distinguish between a man who poisons a river and a man who files a form a day late. That distinction, obvious to common sense for decades, had somehow escaped the statute books for seventy-five years.

Bill 2.0: Deepening The Promise

If 1.0 was the declaration, 2.0 is the doctrine made permanent. Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 expands the decriminalisation framework to additional laws and sectors, ensuring that the reform is not episodic, but systemic. More Acts brought under review. More provisions rationalised. The architecture of compliance has been further simplified.

What distinguishes Bill 2.0 is its emphasis on institutionalising trust rather than merely legislating it. Administrative mechanisms for adjudication are strengthened, clarity in enforcement is enhanced, and ambiguity in legal

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interpretation is reduced. It builds on the first Bill while addressing gaps and expanding its scope.

Together, the two bills form a coherent legislative vision: minimum intervention, maximum clarity, and zero tolerance reserved for cases of genuine harm. The direction is unmistakable. India is moving toward a regulatory ecosystem where the default assumption about its citizens is not guilt, but responsibility.

The Decriminalisation Framework: Restoring Proportionality

One of the most consequential aspects of these reforms is the structured, three-layered approach to decriminalisation that runs through both bills.

Across the two legislations, offences have been broadly addressed through the complete decriminalisation of minor violations, the replacement of imprisonment with graded monetary penalties, and a shift toward administrative adjudication mechanisms.

This has significant implications that go beyond the legal. First, it removes the psychological burden that had long discouraged risk-taking. The fear of imprisonment for a minor, often unintentional lapses, is a quiet killer of ambition. Second, it introduces proportionality, recognising that not every violation warrants criminal prosecution and that many are better addressed through corrective and monetary measures. Third, it aligns India's regulatory practices with global standards, where civil penalties are the established norm for non-malicious compliance failures.

The law is being recalibrated to distinguish between error and intentional wrongdoing. That distinction is fundamental to any just system, and its absence had cost India dearly for far too long.

Across Sectors: New Regulatory Confidence

The impact of the Jan Vishwas reforms is not confined to any single domain. It ripples across the entire economy.

In manufacturing and trade, businesses benefit from reduced compliance anxiety. Procedural lapses

no longer carry the spectre of criminal proceedings, allowing firms to redirect their attention toward productivity and growth. In services and startups, regulatory flexibility means innovation is no longer stifled by the fear of inadvertent non-compliance. Even in sensitive domains like environmental regulation, the approach reflects a considered balance: maintaining accountability while avoiding undue criminalisation of technical breaches, and encouraging compliance through cooperation rather than coercion.

The common thread across every sector is the same. Regulation is becoming more facilitative than punitive. The state is moving, gradually but irreversibly, from the posture of a suspicious watchman to that of an invested partner.

The MSMEs That Breathe Easier

India's 63 million MSMEs are the backbone of the economy, the engine of employment, the quiet heroes of the Atmanirbhar vision. And for decades, they carried an invisible burden that no ease-of-doing-business ranking ever fully captured.

For a small business owner, the fear of criminal liability is not an abstraction. It shapes decisions at every turn. It discourages formalisation. It keeps expansion plans permanently on hold. It makes the system feel adversarial at the precise moment a young entrepreneur needs it to feel supportive. Jan Vishwas has begun dismantling this burden systematically and legislatively, without reversal.

What follows is what may genuinely be called a confidence dividend. Entrepreneurs become more willing to formalise their businesses, engage with the regulatory system, and take the risks that growth demands when the system itself is perceived as fair and reasonable. Startups in food-tech, logistics, health-tech, and agri-processing have seen specific regulatory frictions ease. A compliance lapse can now be corrected, paid for, and put behind a young venture without a criminal case shadowing its future for years.

This is what ease of doing business genuinely feels like at the ground level. Not in rankings or press

releases. But in the quiet confidence of an entrepreneur who finally believes the state is backing her, not surveilling her.

Lighter Courts, Lighter Lives

India's judiciary carries one of the heaviest caseloads in the world. A significant, if rarely discussed, contributor to this burden has been the criminalisation of minor regulatory matters, cases that have clogged district courts for years, consuming judicial time that rightfully belongs to matters of serious grievance and genuine wrongdoing.

Jan Vishwas addresses this at its root. By routing disputes to regulatory bodies better equipped to handle them swiftly and proportionately, the bills reduce litigation, improve administrative efficiency, and deliver legal clarity. Laws become easier to understand, simpler to implement, and less likely to generate the interpretive ambiguity that feeds prolonged litigation.

This is governance reform and judicial reform achieved through a single legislative intervention. That is the mark of thinking in systems rather than silos, something this government has demonstrated a particular aptitude for.

The Philosophy Behind the Policy

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya envisioned a state that functions as a Dharma-Yantra, an instrument of ethical harmony rather than coercive control. The Jan Vishwas reforms are, at their core, a return to that vision.

A state that criminalises its citizens for paperwork errors is not a confident state. It is an anxious one, compensating for its own insecurity with the heaviest instruments at its disposal. A state that genuinely believes in its people governs differently. It corrects. It guides. It extends the benefit of the doubt.

Trust, in this context, does not imply the absence of regulation. It implies intelligent regulation, firm where necessary, flexible where possible, and always proportionate. It recognises that citizens are not adversaries of the state, but partners in its

progress. Jan Vishwas does not weaken accountability. It matures it.

Viksit Bharat Needs a Vishwas-Based State

The aspiration of Viksit Bharat by 2047 is not reducible to an economic target. It is a civilizational will. Economic growth requires capital and infrastructure, but it also requires confidence. Social progress demands welfare, but it also demands dignity. Governance must ensure compliance, but it must also inspire participation.

The bakery owner in Indore should not need to fear the state. The young startup founder should not be held criminally liable for compliance oversight. The farmer, the chemist, the small manufacturer, they deserve a legal system that sees them as partners in national progress, not perpetual suspects awaiting the next inspection.

Reform, of course, is never a one-time act. Its success will depend on consistent implementation, continuous review, and the willingness to respond to emerging challenges. There will be debates about the extent of decriminalisation, about sectoral nuances, and about enforcement mechanisms. These are natural in any evolving system. What matters is the direction.

And the direction, here, is unmistakable.

The strength of a nation does not lie merely in its ability to regulate. It lies in its capacity to trust. The Jan Vishwas Bills have begun building that capacity, one provision at a time, one entrepreneur at a time, one freed-up courtroom at a time.

That trust, once legislated and once lived, becomes the foundation on which everything else is constructed.

Minimum government. Maximum governance. And holding it all together: Jan Vishwas.

Unpacking the Jan Vishwas Paradigm and the Future of Indian Jurisprudence

Ankit Jakhar
Public Policy Analyst

For decades, the Indian entrepreneur and the common citizen alike have existed within a legal landscape characterised by what many scholars call regulatory cholesterol. The statute books, inherited from a colonial impulse to control and a post-independence impulse to over-regulate, have been cluttered with criminal sanctions for minor procedural lapses. It is within this context that the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, and its successor 2.0, emerged as a promised panacea.

The legislative intent is clear: to foster Ease of Doing Business by de-cluttering the legal system. However, as any seasoned public policy analyst will observe, the transition from a penal state to a regulatory state is rarely a simple arithmetic reduction of jail time. It represents a tectonic shift in how the state perceives its citizens - moving from a relationship of suspicion to one of administrative management. Yet, beneath the veneer of trust-based governance, lies a complex reconfiguration of power that warrants a closer, more sceptical examination.



The Categorical Shift: From Crime to Compliance

The Jan Vishwas framework, across both its iterations, targets a staggering breadth of legislation from the Boilers Act, 1923, to the Information Technology Act, 2000. The decriminalization effort primarily segments offences into three broad categories.

The first involves procedural and technical lapses. These are victimless violations, such as the failure to maintain registers, delays in filing returns, or the use of incorrect signage in industrial premises. Under the older regime, a small-scale manufacturer could, in theory, face imprisonment for failing to report a change in a factory's layout. Jan Vishwas 1 and 2 systematically strip away the threat of the jail cell for these infractions, treating them as administrative errors rather than criminal acts.

The second category is more contentious: regulatory non-compliance in specialised sectors such as pharmaceuticals, the environment, and intellectual property. Here, the Bill amends acts such as the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Environment (Protection) Act. The concern here shifts from guilty mind (*mens rea*) to strict liability. While the removal of imprisonment for minor labelling errors is welcome, the line between a minor error and a substantial threat to public safety often becomes blurred in the hands of the bureaucracy.

The third category covers obsolete laws that have lingered in the Indian Penal Code and various special acts. By repealing or amending provisions that have lost relevance in a digital, globalised economy, the state is attempting to clean the attic. However, the sheer volume of these changes spanning over 42 Acts in the first Bill alone suggests a rush that may overlook the nuanced deterrent effect that criminal law once provided.

The Mechanics of the "Penalty": Replacing the Gavel with the Ledger

Perhaps the most significant structural change

introduced by the Jan Vishwas framework is the wholesale replacement of imprisonment clauses with a dual system of Fines and Penalties. To the layperson, these terms are interchangeable; to the policy analyst, they represent two different universes of justice.

A fine is a judicial punishment, imposed by a magistrate after a trial. A penalty, however, is an administrative imposition. By shifting from imprisonment to penalties, the Jan Vishwas bills effectively bypass the judiciary for a wide range of offences. In their place, the bills introduce the Adjudicating Officer (AO). These are executive branch officials, typically at the rank of Joint Secretary or above, who are now empowered to conduct inquiries and impose financial penalties.

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If the Jan Vishwas framework leads to a culture of "pay-to-pollute" or "pay-to-ignore-safely," then we have merely traded one form of legal dysfunction for another.

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This reflects a pivot toward what Ian Ayres and John Braithwaite described as Responsive Regulation. In theory, the state should use a pyramid of enforcement: persuasion at the base, civil penalties in the middle, and criminal prosecution at the apex. The Jan Vishwas framework flattens this pyramid. While this reduces the burden on an already sclerotic court system, it raises a fundamental question of constitutional hygiene: the separation of powers. When the executive serves as investigator, prosecutor, and judge, the Jan Vishwas (People's Trust) may inadvertently become Bureaucratic Fiat.

Furthermore, the Bill introduces a compounding mechanism and periodic revisions of penalties, increasing the amounts by 10% every 3 years. This indexation of punishment treats law enforcement like fiscal policy, ensuring that the cost of noncompliance remains high enough to deter, but not so high as to shut down commerce.

Implications for the Institutional and Individual Fabric

The legal and compliance implications of these changes are profound, yet asymmetric. For the large corporation, Jan Vishwas is a windfall. The removal

of the threat of the arrest of the Managing Director for a compliance slip-up reduces legal risk premiums and simplifies the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting landscape. For these entities, the increase in financial penalties is merely a cost of doing business.

However, for the individual professional - the pharmacist, the small-scale printer, or the independent inventor the implications are more nuanced. The shift to administrative penalties means that while they may not go to jail, they lose the procedural safeguards of a criminal trial. In a courtroom, the burden of proof lies with the state. In an administrative hearing before an Adjudicating Officer, the balance of probabilities often replaces the beyond a reasonable doubt standard. The individual now faces a powerful bureaucracy without the shielding presence of a magistrate.

Institutionally, we are witnessing the birth of a Regulatory State. The creation of appellate mechanisms within the executive branch (appealing an AO's decision to a higher-ranking bureaucrat rather than a judge) signals a move toward a more efficient but perhaps less just system. Public policy analysts often warn of Regulatory Capture, in which the agencies meant to oversee an industry become too closely aligned with its interests. With the removal of the ultimate deterrent - imprisonment - there is a risk that wealthy violators may find it cheaper to pay their way out of systemic negligence.

The Philosophy of the "Nudge" vs. the "Noose"

At its core, the Jan Vishwas framework is an application of "Nudge Theory" on a legislative scale. The state is trying to nudge the citizen toward compliance by making the cost of violation financial rather than personal. It assumes that the modern citizen is a rational economic actor who calculates risk in Rupees, not in days spent behind bars.

But we must ask: does this framework account for the "negative externalities" of decriminalisation? In the realm of environmental law, for instance, replacing imprisonment with fines for certain types of pollution might lead to a situation in which it is more profitable for a factory to pollute and pay the

penalty than to invest in expensive effluent treatment plants. Here, the "Nudge" fails because the economic incentive is misaligned with the public good.

Conclusion: A Cautious Step Toward Maturity

The Jan Vishwas Bills 1 and 2 are undoubtedly a landmark in Indian legislative history. They represent a long-overdue acknowledgement that a modern economy cannot be policed using the tools of a 19th-century penal colony. The reduction of the Inspector Raj and the de-clogging of the courts are goals that no reasonable analyst would oppose.

However, tone must look beyond the ease-of-business rankings. The true test of these bills will not be in how many thousands of crores are saved in litigation costs, but in whether the administrative machinery remains accountable. As we delegate judicial powers to the executive, we must ensure that the Adjudicating Officer does not become the new Inspector.

The shift from the Noose of criminal law to the Ledger of administrative penalties is a sign of a maturing state, but it requires a vigilant citizenry and a robust system of administrative law to ensure that Trust is not just a legislative title, but a lived reality. If the Jan Vishwas framework leads to a culture of "pay-to-pollute" or "pay-to-ignore-safety," then we have merely traded one form of legal dysfunction for another. The success of this decriminalisation paradigm lies not in removing the jailer, but in the integrity of the officer who replaces him.

“Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.”

*Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi*

Jan Vishwas Bill

Transforming Fear
into Faith,
Compliance into
Confidence

Adv. Aditya Gandhi

Advocate, Practicing Company
Secretary and BJYM State
Secretary Prachar, Delhi

A Promise Written in Law

Picture a first-generation entrepreneur in a small Indian town. She has built a modest food-processing unit from scratch, employs 15 families, and pays all taxes on time. One morning, an inspector arrives. A packaging label is marginally non-compliant. The punishment prescribed by the statute: six months in prison. No fraud committed. No one harmed. Just a paperwork error — and yet, the full weight of criminal law falls on an honest woman’s shoulders.

For decades, this was the lived reality of millions of Indian entrepreneurs, traders, and professionals. Over 1,500 provisions across central statutes carried imprisonment clauses for offences that were, in truth, nothing more than technical lapses. Laws inherited from colonial rulers — designed to control a subject population, not empower a free citizenry — had made the Indian state the greatest source of fear for the very people it should have been empowering. The chilling effect was real and profound: risk-averse promoters shelved expansion plans, honest executives hesitated to sign documents, and the entire enterprise ecosystem operated under a permanent cloud of legal dread.

It took the vision and moral clarity of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to say: " This ends now. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and the forthcoming Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 are his definitive answer, not merely a legislative reform, but a moral declaration that the Indian citizen is, by default, honest and fully deserving of the state’s trust.

The Scale and Sweep of the Reform

Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 amended 183 provisions across 42 central Acts — replacing imprisonment clauses with monetary penalties for offences involving no criminal intent and no public harm. The



legislation it touches spans the full breadth of Indian economic life: the Environment (Protection) Act, the Food Safety and Standards Act, the Legal Metrology Act, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the Patents Act, the IT Act, and dozens more. This is not incremental tinkering. It is a surgical, systematic dismantling of the colonial architecture of regulatory fear.

The principle is as simple as it is revolutionary: the law must distinguish between a criminal and a citizen who made an honest mistake. Strict penalties must be reserved for deliberate fraud and intentional harm. For everyone else – the manufacturer whose label had a typo, the trader whose weights were marginally off, the pharmacist with a stock-entry error – the response must be correction and a fine, not incarceration. Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 deepens this work, bringing additional statutes under reform and strengthening administrative adjudication so disputes are resolved swiftly without burdening courts or crushing the spirit of enterprise. Together, Bills 1.0 and 2.0 represent the most comprehensive decriminalisation of economic law in the history of independent India.

Modi's Guarantee to Every Indian Entrepreneur

As a Company Secretary working closely with businesses ranging from infrastructure majors to first-generation MSMEs, I have witnessed first-hand the paralysing effect of regulatory criminalisation on honest enterprise. Promoters refusing to sign documents. Directors declining board positions. Founders shelving expansion plans. Not because of any wrongdoing – but purely because of fear of an irrational system. The Jan Vishwas reforms are systematically dismantling this fear. The impact is already visible across India's business landscape:

- MSMEs and first-generation entrepreneurs operate with measurably greater confidence, no longer paralysed by the threat of criminal liability for minor compliance lapses.
- Start-ups and young founders can experiment and self-correct without fearing that an honest mistake will end their venture and their liberty.

- Access to credit improves as criminal records no longer shadow balance sheets, enabling banks to lend and investors to commit more readily.
- India's Ease of Doing Business trajectory from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd index gains a powerful new accelerant as the regulatory environment signals trust over suspicion.

The Road to Viksit Bharat Runs Through Jan Vishwas

India's ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047 demands the full unleashing of its entrepreneurial energy. It requires millions of MSMEs to scale into mid-sized enterprises, millions of young Indians to take the leap and start their own ventures, and global capital to flow into Indian manufacturing, services, and technology at an unprecedented scale. None of this is possible in a legal environment where honest citizens fear the state. All of it becomes possible when the state chooses to trust them.

What makes Modi's Jan Vishwas reforms truly remarkable is that they are simultaneously a moral statement and a masterstroke of economic policy. When entrepreneurs do not fear arrest for technical defaults, they invest more boldly. When start-up founders know that an honest mistake will not result in a criminal record, they innovate more freely. When MSMEs are not paralysed by the compliance burden of navigating criminal statutes, they hire more workers and scale faster. Trust, it turns out, is the most productive form of capital.

The Jan Vishwas reforms have not merely amended statutes, they have fundamentally rewritten the social contract between the Government of India and its people. In the quiet confidence of a first-generation entrepreneur who no longer fears an inspector's visit, in the expanding ledger of an MSME that chose to invest rather than contract, their impact will be felt for generations. That is Modi's true guarantee to every Indian: not just laws on paper, but genuine trust in the hearts of a billion citizens. And that trust, hard-won and legislatively guaranteed, is the surest foundation on which Viksit Bharat will be built.



Statutory Faith

How Jan Vishwas Rewrote the Compact Between State & Citizen

Nihal Sharma

Former BJYM State Executive Member &
Member Telecom Advisory Committee

For too long, India's statute books told a story of suspicion. Thousands of provisions buried across dozens of laws transformed ordinary citizens and small businesspeople into potential criminals not for fraud, not for harm, but for paperwork lapses, missed filings, and administrative oversights. The state's first instinct was prosecution. The result was fear, paralysis, and a profound erosion of trust between the governed and those who govern.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has decisively turned that page. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 and its successor, the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0, represent the most comprehensive rationalisation of India's penal regulatory framework in the nation's post-Independence history. Together, they encode in law what Modi ji has long believed in spirit: that the role of government is to enable its people, not to police them.

The Architecture of Trust

Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 amended 183 provisions across 42 central laws, decriminalising minor offences, converting imprisonment clauses into compoundable penalties, and removing the spectre of jail from activities that were never truly criminal. From the Food Safety and Standards Act to the Press and Registration of Books Act, the reforms swept across sectors, touching the lives of traders, manufacturers, publishers, farmers, and professionals alike.

The logic was elegant and overdue. When a shopkeeper fails to display a price list, the

appropriate response is a fine, not a criminal record. When a factory misfiles an environmental return due to clerical error, the answer is correction and compliance not prosecution. By disaggregating genuine wrongdoing from administrative imperfection, Jan Vishwas 1.0 restored proportionality to India's legal architecture.

Jan Vishwas 2.0: Deepening the Reform

Building on the momentum of its predecessor, Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 carries the reform mandate further. Where the first bill targeted the low-hanging fruit of obvious over-criminalisation, 2.0 goes deeper, proposing decriminalisation of over a hundred more provisions, streamlining adjudicatory mechanisms, and embedding the principle of compounding into regulatory enforcement across additional sectors, including telecommunications, company law, and environmental compliance.

Critically, 2.0 also introduces systemic safeguards: periodic review mechanisms that will require Parliament to examine penal provisions in new legislation before they accumulate into the thicket that took decades to clear. Future Parliaments will, by design, inherit a cleaner statute book. The reform, in other words, is not merely remedial; it is preventive.

The Ease of Living Dividend

Critics sometimes frame these reforms as serving only the interests of large business. The truth is precisely the opposite. It is the street vendor who faces disproportionate prosecution for a licence lapse. It is a small manufacturer in a tier-three city that cannot afford a lawyer to navigate a criminal complaint over a misfiled return. It is the first-generation entrepreneur who is deterred from formalising their business by the sheer density of penal consequences. Jan Vishwas liberates them.

The Jan Vishwas reforms are not soft on genuine wrongdoing. Provisions involving fraud, consumer harm, environmental damage, and deliberate violations retain their criminal teeth. What changes is the treatment of honest people making honest mistakes, and that distinction is the moral heart of the legislation.

Governance as a Moral Compact

The deepest significance of Jan Vishwas lies not in any particular clause but in the philosophy it embodies. India is a civilisation of entrepreneurs from the smallest kirana to the largest conglomerate; the instinct to create, trade, and build is woven into our DNA. For too long, the state positioned itself as an adversary of that instinct, erecting walls of compliance and wielding prosecution as a first resort. The Jan Vishwas Bills reconfigure that relationship. They declare that the government of India trusts its citizens to be honest actors, and in doing so, they invite citizens to trust the government in return.

This is the spirit of Viksit Bharat made statutory. A developed India will not be built by a state that criminalises its own people's enterprise. It will be built by a government willing to get out of the way to light the path rather than block it. Under Prime Minister Modi's vision of minimum government and maximum governance, the Jan Vishwas Bills are among the most powerful expressions of that compact between the state and the citizen that independent India has ever enacted.

The Era of Trust

History does not always announce itself with cannon fire. Sometimes it arrives in the form of a clause amended, a prison term removed, a citizen freed from the shadow of a law that never should have touched them. The Jan Vishwas reforms are more than legislative change; they are a decisive reset of the state's mindset. They signal the end of governance rooted in suspicion and the rise of a system anchored in trust, accountability, and confidence in its people. In doing so, they do not merely ease compliance; they unlock the full potential of India's entrepreneurial spirit. This is the foundation upon which a Viksit Bharat will be built, not through control, but through empowerment; not through fear, but through faith. The message is clear: in the India of tomorrow, the state will stand not as a barrier, but as a partner in progress, fueling the courage, ambition, and 'sahaas' of every citizen who dares to build.



From Red Tape to Real-Time BJP's Governance Vision and Its Outcomes

Anunay Sharma

B.B.A. LL.B, Symbiosis Law
School, Noida

Governance has become the focal point in the shifting environment of Indian politics, where legitimacy to govern and public trust have come to the fore. India has experienced a decisive transformation since 2014 under the rule of Shri Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has overhauled the government system, accused of inertia and bureaucratic opacity, into one that prioritises efficiency, digitisation, accountability, and citizen-based service delivery. This change, commonly called a “Governance Vision” has taken the shape of administrative reform, legal redesign and more general governance deliverables.

This paper critically analyses these developments in a BJP-prismatic focus with an emphasis on administrative modernisation, legal innovation, and governance restructuring, which have all contributed to redefining the Indian state.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE: RED TAPE TO DIGITAL GOVERNANCE.

Modernisation of the Indian administrative machinery has been a pillar of the BJP's governance philosophy. The Indian administrative system has been historically weighed down by the bureaucratic inefficiencies of the colonial era and needs to

undergo a structural redesign to align with the needs of a 21st-century economy.

Digital India and E-Governance Revolution- The flagship Digital India program is a paradigm shift in administrative operations. The government has also achieved a lot in minimising procedural delays and enhancing transparency through initiatives such as e-office, online grievance redressal systems like CPGRAMS, and real-time dashboards. Research shows that the growth in digital public services and automation has enhanced efficiency and accessibility of administration, especially between 2015 and 2019. These reforms allowed interaction with the state through digital interfaces and reduced human discretion and corruption.

Welfare Efficiency and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)- Welfare delivery has not been left out of administrative reforms. The DBT mechanism, combined with Aadhaar and Jan Dhan accounts, has eradicated intermediaries and leakages in the delivery of subsidies. Not only has this enhanced fiscal efficiency, but it has also increased citizens' trust in the state.

Reform and accountability of the Civil Service- Efforts like performance evaluation, entry to bureaucracy in a lateral manner and schemes like Anubhav Awards have made attempts to motivate efficiency and innovation in the civil services. Additionally, reforms to pensions and grievance redress mechanisms have enhanced the delivery of services to government employees and retirees.

Goal: An Applying State- The net effect of all these administrative changes is the birth of a more responsive and nimble state apparatus- one that is more focused on service delivery than on procedure.

2. LEGAL REFORMS: A NEW FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNANCE.

In parallel with administrative change, the BJP administration has pursued an ambitious programme of legal reforms to streamline,

modernise, and decolonise the Indian legal system.

Abolition of Dated Laws- Among its greatest successes has been the abolition of more than 1,500 old laws, many of which were remnants of colonial rule. The move has led to less clutter in the law, greater ease of doing business, and the elimination of redundant compliance requirements.

Introduction of New Criminal Codes- The enactment of the modified criminal legislation as a substitute for colonial law is a revolutionary move towards the compatibility of Indian law with present-day realities. These reforms focus on victim-oriented justice, expedited trials, and integration of technology in law enforcement.

Social Justice Legislation- The BJP government has undertaken social measures by passing laws that focus on social problems, including the criminalisation of instant triple talaq, which is indicative of its gender justice and constitutional equality.

Economic and Regulatory Reforms- Economic governance has also been facilitated by legal changes. The adoption of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), GST framework and regulatory simplification has led to a more predictable and investor-friendly environment.

Deliverable: Simplified and Modern Ecosystem of Legal- All these legal reforms are geared towards ensuring that there is a lean, open and modernised legal framework that can promote economic development as well as social justice.

3. GOVERNANCE RESULTS: EFFICIENCY, TRANSPARENCY, AND CITIZEN-CENTRICITY

The final evaluation of any reform is its results. The model of governance promoted by the BJP is focused on quantifiable outcomes, often expressed as minimum government, maximum governance.

Policy Efficiency and Ease of Doing Business- The effectiveness of the administrative and legal

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Despite the persisting problems, the course of reforms in governance under the BJP highlights the desire to create a contemporary, effective, and responsible state.
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reforms is evident in India's rise in the ease of doing business rankings worldwide in the first years of the BJP's rule. This has made India a more attractive destination for investment, thanks to streamlined processes, no paper approvals, and limited red tape. Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures. The incorporation of technology into governance has greatly reduced the risk of corruption. Digital payments, online procurement systems, and real-time monitoring have been used to enhance accountability.

Federal and Cooperative Governance- Cooperative federalism has been highlighted by the BJP via structures such as NITI Aayog, which promotes cooperation between the Centre and states. This strategy has enabled alignment of policies and enhanced implementation success across sectors.

Infrastructure and Service Delivery - The results of governance can also be seen in the development of infrastructure, the electrification of rural areas, sanitation, and housing projects. Initiatives such as Swachh Bharat and PM Awas Yojana have enhanced the lives of millions of people, and they are a sign of a model of governance that is more focused on practical results.

Another characteristic of BJP rule is the application of data analytics and real-time surveillance to make policy decisions. This evidence-based governance has enhanced the precision of policies and the efficiency of implementation.

Outcome: Trust-Based Governance - These changes have led to what could be termed trust-based governance, wherein citizens are becoming increasingly convinced that the state can be a facilitator rather than a hindrance.

4. THE REFORM CONTINUUM: BUILDING MOMENTUM

The achievements are great, but governance is an ongoing process. Recent moves show that the BJP government is geared towards maintaining the momentum of reforms. A detailed analysis of reforms across ministries (both legislative, policy, and administrative) demonstrates a commitment to continuous review and refinement. This

institutionalised system of governance makes it dynamic and receptive to new problems.

5. PROBLEMS AND FUTURE

A moderate discussion should also take into consideration the obstacles that come with massive reforms. Problems of administrative bottlenecks, disproportionate application among states and the necessity of more fundamental institutional changes remain. Studies show that, initially, digital governance delivered high returns, but the rate of change has slowed since 2019 due to a lack of technological innovation and execution barriers. Nevertheless, these obstacles are opportunities as well. The second step in governing reform can include:

- a. Increased decentralisation and strengthening of local governments.
- b. Governance with AI and advanced analytics.
- c. Enhancing institutional accountability measures.
- d. Improving citizen involvement in policy-making.

CONCLUSION

The Governance Vision Realised. The BJP's system of governance represents a radical shift in India's administrative and legal paradigm. The government has tried to redefine the relationship between the state and the citizens by focusing on efficiency, transparency and citizen-centricity. Since the digitisation of governance and the lightening of legal regulations, the reforms achieved since 2014 are consistent with a vision: the alignment of administrative practices with developmental objectives.

Despite the persisting problems, the course of reforms in governance under the BJP highlights the desire to create a contemporary, effective, and responsible state. Essentially, the Governance Visionary option is not just a political story but a structural change- a change that aims at making India an exemplary example of good governance in the 21st century.

From the Post Office to the Forest Act

What Jan Vishwas Actually Changed

Mayank Raj Patel

Student of B. A (Hons) History,
Ramjas College

Introduction :

The Jan Vishwas (amendment of provisions) act , 2023, as the name suggests, seeks to promote trust-based governance by reducing the criminalisation of minor offences. The term Jan Vishwas, meaning the “trust of the people”, reflects the broader objective of a more facilitative legal environment.

The bill was introduced in Parliament by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in December 2022, with the aim of enhancing ease of living and ease of doing business. The report of the Parliamentary committee was laid before the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 17th March and 20 March 2023, respectively. The act amended 183 provisions across 42 Central legislation is administered by 19 ministries /departments. Its core intent is to create a balance between the nature of offences and proportionality of punishment, primarily by decriminalising minor offences and replacing them with civil and monetary penalties. The implementation of the act has been planned in phases.



Objective :

The act contains a slew of amendments, areas of interest to the decriminalisation of various preferences through:

1. Removing prescribed imprisonment terms for certain offences while enhancing a prescribed fine.
2. Removing prescribed imprisonment for certain offences while enhancing prescribed fines, if any, for such offence.
3. Revision and removal of both prescribed imprisonment terms and fine.

For effective implementation of the above, the proposal measures such as(a) pragmatic revision of fines and penalties to the offence committed, (b) establishment of adjudicating officers, (c) establishment of Appellate authorities, (d) periodic increase in quantum of fines and penalties (10% of the minimum amount every three years).

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It reflects India's broad effort to improve the business environment and encourage economic activity, particularly for small businesses, by distinguishing between intentional wrongdoing and procedural lapses.

Amendments in major provisions :

The Indian Post Office Act, 1898

This Act 23 sections relate to misconduct, voluntary withdrawal from duty, making false entries in registers, defiling or injuring post office letter boxes, etc. Under Chapter X, it is proposed to be omitted. These provisions relate to defaults by postal employees, other postal workers, employees of other agencies, and other individuals. An individual can effectively be taken under various acts and rules, including CCS rules 1965 for GDS rules 2020, Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023. This is the most controversial amendment, as it may lead to unjustified invasions of privacy and violate the right to privacy. This amendment is also criticised on the grounds that it does not align with the objective of the Act of Ease of Business and Ease of Life.

The Indian Forest Act, 1927 :

This act (section 26(1)(d)) provides for imprisonment for passing a kettle in forest land marketed as protected and reserved areas. This

provision is being recommended by removing the imprisonment and fine. Now, this contravention will attract a penalty amendment, which will benefit tribals/villagers who may unknowingly trespass forest land while pasturing cattle, since the violation is not serious and may not be intentional. Imprisonment provisions were not justified; however, entry is proposed to be achieved by levying a penalty of ₹500.

The Food Corporation Act,1964, & The Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962 :

This act, sections 41 and 38, provides for imprisonment and a fine for using the name of a food and warehouse Corporation without the corporation's consent. Imprisonment (up to 6 months) and a fine (₹1000) are proposed to be removed for the use of the food warehouse Corporation's name in any prospectus or advertisement without the corporation's consent and only charged with a civil penalty.

The Cantonment Act,2006 :

This act (section 289(5)) had provisions for imprisonment for carrying or using non-biodegradable polythene bags in Cantonment areas. This provision is being removed as most of the times citizens using polythene bags may not be aware about then being biodegradable or not.

Legal Metrology Act, 2006

This act deals with weights and measures. Many offences carry mandatory imprisonment; decriminalising measures, such as giving false information to a legal metrology officer, controller, or director, are proposed to be made compoundable (section 48). Rush for each of doing business, retailers, and manufacturers is no longer under constant threat of legal action for technical errors in labelling or weighing.

Motor Vehicle Act, 1988

This act (section 200(1)) Proposes That Contraventions related to driving regulations,

obstructing the free flow of traffic, and producing false registration documents be made compoundable. This modernised safety in enforcement by focusing on financial data for non-procedural lapses.

Collection of Statistics Act, 2008

This act (chapter IV, sections 15) &(16) facilitates the collection of statistics on economic, demographic, social, and scientific environmental aspects. This act provides imprisonment for minor procedural offences, such as failure to produce books, accounts, documents, or records; making any false or misleading statement; manipulating or removing any information; or violating any provisions of this act. Violations of this act are not seen as natural and do not cause any damage. These criminal provisions are now being removed from the act. This amendment encourages data compliance through administrative fines rather than treating a failure to fill out a form as a criminal act.

Criticism & Responses :

Argument 1. This act is an Escape route for a big Corporation.

Regarding the concern that the act is an escape route for long-term cooperation, that debate is a tug-of-war between deterrence and pragmatism. Critics argue that replacing jail time with a fine allows well-connected firms to treat law-breaking as a cost of doing business, potentially creating a system in which the rich can pay to bypass regulation. On the other hand, supporters suggest the old system was actually more discriminatory towards small businesses, who, like the resources to fight long criminal battles, don't have a legal advisory team to support them, by removing the threat of imprisonment. It protects small entrepreneurs from the life-altering stigma of a criminal record and creates ease of doing business.

Argument 2. Removing judicial burden :

In terms of judicial burden, the act is viewed by some as a statistical manoeuvre that merely shifts paperwork from court to administrative officers without simplifying the laws themselves. Sceptics

worry that this gives the executive branch too much power and does not actually reduce the total legal burden on the citizen. Conversely, proponents argue. This is a vital prioritisation strategy. They maintain that criminal courts should be reserved for serious offences, violence, and fraud, rather than clouded by technicalities such as font-size errors on labels or minor postal delays. In India, still more than 5 crores cases are pending. The act is to surgically clean the system so the judge can focus on delivering justice. Where is it most needed?

Conclusion :

The General Vishwas(Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, marks an important shift towards trust waste governance by decriminalising minor offences and reducing compliance burden. It reflects India's broad effort to improve the business environment and encourage economic activity, particularly for small businesses, by distinguishing between intentional wrongdoing and procedural lapses.

However, concerns regarding potential misuse, especially by large corporations, and its role in reducing judicial burden without strengthening enforcement mechanisms cannot be overlooked.

This, while the act represents a progressive reform aimed at balancing regulation with ease of doing business, its success will ultimately depend on effective implementation and the ability to maintain accountability along with facilitation.

How Jan Vishwas Finally Freed India's Entrepreneurs

Jay Ambani

CFA L3 Candidate, CA Finalist

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When every small mistake feels like a big punishment, you hesitate to even start."

There is a kind of anxiety every Indian entrepreneur understands. It is not about competition, funding, marketing, product development, or sales. Instead, it stems from the legal side of doing business, which, for years, has weighed heavily on the business community in India. There has always been a constant fear of making even small mistakes, such as missing an income tax filing deadline, delaying a licence renewal, or unintentionally submitting incorrect information. Over time, these minor errors did not just result in penalties but carried the heavy risk of criminal action, court cases, even jail, and most importantly, irreparable damage to one's reputation.



STARTUP

mahakumbh

BHARAT INNOVATES

Decades of Inaction and the System Nobody Dared to Fix

For decades, this quiet apprehension sat at the heart of India's regulatory system. Previous governments spoke of reform, but what they consistently delivered was complexity and an invisible sense of fear within the MSME sector. A system deeply rooted in colonial thinking continued to treat entrepreneurs not as creators of growth but as potential threats to it, with compliance rules that were burdensome and restrictive. Those in power showed no urgency or willingness to bring about meaningful change. However, when our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, he recognised how outdated and deeply flawed the system had become and decided it was time to draw a line.

What India Looked Like Before 2014

To understand the scale of Modi Ji's intervention, one must first examine India's regulatory landscape before 2014. Previous governments spoke extensively about liberalisation, and while the 1991 reforms opened up the economy, they left the compliance and enforcement machinery largely untouched. Entrepreneurs faced what was widely known as the "Inspector Raj". A system where petty officials held enormous discretionary power, regulations were often kept deliberately vague, and compliance remained uncertain by design. Even minor lapses could invite criminal prosecution, routinely turning honest business errors into serious legal risks. The laws of that era made little distinction between intent and error and between a fraudster and an honest businessman, because both were treated alike. Put simply, a paperwork mistake could make someone a criminal in the eyes of the state.

Dismantling 70 years of Regulatory Rot with the Jan Vishwas Act

It is this very system that began to be dismantled in the years that followed. What started as a broader push to reduce compliance burdens gradually

evolved into a structured, large-scale clean-up of outdated laws, most notably through the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which, in its first phase alone, decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries. This was the first time in the history of independent India that any government had undertaken a consolidated, cross-sectoral decriminalisation exercise of this scale. Jan Vishwas 2.0, passed by both Houses of Parliament in 2026, took that intent and delivered it at a dramatically larger scale, amending 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts spanning 23 Ministries, with 717 provisions set for outright decriminalisation and the remaining 67 amended to improve ease of living. Together, across both phases, the Modi government amended provisions in over 120 Central Acts, touching nearly 1,000 provisions in total, achieving in three years what no previous Indian government had managed in seven decades. In plain terms, over 1,000 situations where an entrepreneur could have faced jail for a minor error have now been replaced with nothing more than a fine, a warning, or an advisory. That is not routine governance. That is transformation at scale.

India's Business Ranking Tells the Real Story

Before 2014, India's position in global business rankings was, frankly, an embarrassment. The country ranked 142nd in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index, below nations like Belarus, Kosovo, and Zambia. Foreign investors politely cited India's "regulatory complexity" and chose Vietnam, Indonesia, or Bangladesh instead. Domestic businesses either stayed small and unorganised or struggled under a system rife with red tape and corruption. The Modi government treated that ranking as a national challenge. Over a decade of sustained reforms, such as cutting compliance requirements, digitising processes, and decriminalising laws, India climbed to 63rd by 2020, a jump of nearly 80 positions. That is not just a statistic. That is tens of thousands of

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This has eased pressure on a judicial system already weighed down by over 4.8 crore pending cases, enabling MSMEs to operate with greater confidence and accelerating formalisation, access to credit, and economic growth.
.....

businesses that got started, funded, and scaled because the path was finally cleared for them.

Why Modi Ji's Model Stands Apart from the World

Now consider the global picture. The United States, often cited as the gold standard for entrepreneurship, still maintains criminal provisions for small business labelling violations under federal FDA law, something even American business groups themselves have long and heavily criticised. And then there is China, where enforcement is so deeply political that businesses can be shut down, fined, or seized overnight based on political convenience rather than any clear legal rule, with no written guarantee that the punishment will actually fit the crime. Compare all of this to India, where Prime Minister Modi's leadership has firmly established the principle of proportionality, making sure that punishment matches the gravity of the offence and clearly separates serious fraud and safety violations from routine procedural non-compliance.

Best Time for India's Youth to Build Is Right Now

The average Indian college student with a business idea before 2014 faced a system deliberately designed to wear them down. First-generation entrepreneurs without political or bureaucratic contacts had a dramatically lower survival rate than those with connections, not because of the quality of their idea, but because of the quality of their access. That India is gone. In its place, Prime Minister Modi has built an ecosystem that has made India the third-largest startup hub in the world, with over 1.5 lakh startups and more than 100 unicorns, providing employment to more than 16 lakh people. Under Jan Vishwas, a college student who launches a small business and makes a regulatory mistake in their first month gets an advisory, not an arrest. They correct it and keep going. This is what a government that genuinely believes in its youth looks like

A New Deal for India's MSMEs

India's MSMEs, which contribute over 30% to GDP and employ millions, have long carried the weight of an outdated regulatory system rooted in suspicion rather than trust. The Jan Vishwas Act,

2023 and its expanded framework mark a decisive break from that and fundamentally change how the government views its entrepreneurs. Instead of treating citizens as suspects burdened by compliance, it signals a profound shift from a state that punishes to a state that partners, where minor errors are corrected, not criminalised. This has eased pressure on a judicial system already weighed down by over 4.8 crore pending cases, enabling MSMEs to operate with greater confidence and accelerating formalisation, access to credit, and economic growth. This is more than a legal reform. It is a rebalancing of the relationship between the state and its people. For a young, ambitious, and globally competitive India under Prime Minister Modi, it represents a decisive move from control to trust, from fear to confidence and in doing so, unlocks the true potential of its entrepreneurs in a way that decades of past governance never could.



From Punitive to Participative

How Jan Vishwas is Modernising Indian Governance

Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Pandey

Faculty, Ramjas College,
University of Delhi

From decriminalisation to trust-based governance, the Jan Vishwas initiative marks a paradigm shift in India's regulatory approach. It simplifies compliance while strengthening institutional efficiency and transparency. A forward-looking reform shaping the future of governance and economic growth.

India's governance framework is undergoing a significant transformation, moving from a system rooted in strict enforcement and criminal penalties toward one that emphasises trust, efficiency, and ease of compliance. The Jan Vishwas reform initiative represents a major step in this direction, reflecting the government's commitment to simplifying regulatory processes and strengthening the relationship between the state, citizens, and businesses.

The foundation of this reform was laid with the enactment of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023. This legislation marked a decisive shift by decriminalising a large number of minor offences across more than forty Central laws. Traditionally, even technical or procedural compliance lapses could attract criminal penalties, including imprisonment. Such provisions often created an environment of fear, discouraged entrepreneurship, and contributed to unnecessary litigation. The 2023 reform addressed these concerns by replacing criminal liability for minor offences with monetary penalties and introducing mechanisms for quicker resolution.

This shift reflects a broader change in governance philosophy from a punitive compliance model to a trust-based regulatory system. The objective is not to weaken regulation but to make it more rational, proportionate, and effective. By focusing on serious violations while easing the burden for minor defaults, the system encourages voluntary compliance and promotes a cooperative relationship between regulators and stakeholders. In many ways, this approach resonates with India's classical governance ideals, where the emphasis was on welfare and balanced administration. The well-known dictum, "प्रजासुखे सुखं राज्ञः", highlights that the ultimate aim of governance is the well-being of the people. The Jan Vishwas framework reflects this spirit by reducing unnecessary hardships and enabling a more citizen-friendly regulatory environment.

A key feature of the reform is its wide scope. By covering multiple sectors such as commerce, industry, environment, and agriculture, it ensures

that the benefits of decriminalization are not limited to a single domain. The introduction of graded penalties further strengthens the system by ensuring that punishment is proportionate to the nature and severity of the offence. This reduces arbitrariness and enhances predictability, which is essential for businesses and individuals alike.

The impact on governance is substantial. Earlier, administrative systems often became entangled in enforcing minor compliance issues, leading to delays and inefficiencies. With the removal of criminal provisions for such cases, authorities can now focus more on substantive governance and policy implementation. This not only improves administrative efficiency but also reduces the burden on the judicial system, allowing courts to concentrate on serious matters.

From an economic perspective, the reform is equally significant. A regulatory environment perceived as overly strict or punitive can act as a barrier to investment and innovation. By minimising the risk of criminal prosecution for minor lapses, the Jan Vishwas framework creates a more conducive atmosphere for businesses, particularly for MSMEs and startups. It lowers compliance costs, reduces uncertainty, and enhances investor confidence, factors that are crucial for sustained economic growth.

Importantly, the reform process has not remained static. Building on the 2023 framework, subsequent years have seen further efforts to expand and refine the scope of Jan Vishwas provisions. The introduction of a new version of the Bill in 2025, followed by its subsequent refinement and passage in 2026, indicates the government's continued commitment to deepening regulatory reforms. These developments aim to extend the principles of decriminalisation and trust-based governance to additional laws and sectors, thereby strengthening the overall framework.

This continuity reflects a dynamic approach to policymaking, where reforms are not seen as one-time measures but as evolving processes. By gradually expanding the scope of Jan Vishwas provisions, the government is working toward

creating a comprehensive regulatory ecosystem that is both efficient and responsive to the needs of a growing economy.

At the same time, it is important to maintain a balance between facilitation and enforcement. While decriminalisation reduces compliance burdens and fosters trust, it must be accompanied by effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Serious violations should continue to attract stringent penalties to ensure that the integrity of the regulatory system is preserved. The philosophical foundation of this balanced approach can be understood through the idea: “दण्डः शास्ति प्रजाः सर्वाः” - punishment must be just, proportionate, and purposeful.

The Jan Vishwas framework does not eliminate regulation; it refines it, ensuring that enforcement is fair and meaningful rather than excessive.

Overall, the Jan Vishwas initiative represents a significant step toward modernising India's governance structure. Aligning regulatory practices with the principles of trust, transparency, and efficiency contributes to a more enabling environment for citizens and businesses alike. It also reinforces India's position as an emerging global economic power by promoting a regulatory culture that is both robust and facilitative.

As the reform continues to evolve, its success will depend on effective implementation and continuous evaluation. However, the direction is clear: a move toward governance that empowers rather than restricts, that facilitates rather than penalizes, and that builds trust as the foundation of compliance. In essence, the vision underlying the Jan Vishwas framework reflects the timeless principle “यतो धर्मस्ततो जयः”- where governance is aligned with justice, fairness, and ethical responsibility, it ultimately leads to sustainable success and public confidence. This integration of trust-based regulation with the idea of dharma reinforces that true administrative strength lies not merely in control, but in ensuring a just, balanced, and citizen-centric system.

Trust as Governance

Jan Vishwas and
the Reform India
Deserves

Aastha Gupta

Lawyer and Research Associate
at Geojuristoday Research
Foundation

*“Empowering the
individual means
empowering the
nation. And
empowerment is
best served
through rapid
economic growth
with rapid social
change.”*

~ Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee



Picture a first-generation entrepreneur who spent fifteen years building a small textile business from nothing. In 2011, a government inspector found that a procedural register had not been updated in the prescribed format. No fraud, no harm, no injury, just a paperwork lapse. What followed consumed three years of his life in criminal proceedings, court dates, and legal fees that dwarfed his earnings. Under the convoluted regulatory framework that prevailed for decades under previous regimes, this was not an exception. The system worked exactly as designed, a colonial architecture of suspicion. Decades of such a governance framework stunted the growth of Indian businesses. It took Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to transform this inherited architecture of fear and dismantle it, piece by piece, with the conviction that a nation should grow at the pace its people deserve, and its laws should not be designed to hold them back.

The State and the Citizens: A Relationship That Shapes Economies

The relationship between the state and the citizen-entrepreneur is among the most consequential variables in a country's economic trajectory. When the state positions itself as a facilitator, enterprise flourishes. And when it positions itself as a gatekeeper, enforcing compliance through fear, the entrepreneurial instinct is suppressed, costing the potential economic growth. India's regulatory inheritance from the colonial era was overzealous, with minor procedural lapses attracting criminal liability, resulting in a compliance culture built on calculated avoidance of its consequences rather than civic engagement with regulation.

From the very first year of their tenure, the Modi government identified the suffocated regulatory order and began dismantling it by decriminalising various obsolete and punitive provisions, setting the tone for a decade of sustained regulatory rationalisation. The Economic Survey 2024-25 demonstrates how deeply these shortcomings were

neglected and what the present administration had to tackle. MSMEs used to bear disproportionately high compliance costs in terms of time and financial resources, and firms intentionally remain small to avoid regulatory scrutiny and statutes that impose criminal penalties for minor infractions. The biggest casualties are employment generation and labour welfare, the very interests that most regulations were designed to serve. Moreover, it identified that regulatory compliance burden holds back formalisation, limiting employment growth, choking innovation, and depressing productivity.

The Silent Engines in India's Growth

The ambition of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 relies considerably on the productive capacity of the MSME and startup sectors. Even in a hostile compliance environment, this sector's contributions are substantial: MSMEs account for 30.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output, and 45.73% of total national exports, and the sector employs over 12 crore persons across approximately 7.34 crore enterprises. India's startup ecosystem has grown from fewer than 500 registered startups in 2014 to over 2 lakh as of 2026, making India the world's third-largest

startup hub. Unicorns have risen from 4 in 2014 to nearly 125. Startups created over 17.28 lakh direct jobs by 2024. Nearly 44,000 startups were registered in 2025 alone, the highest in any single year. The numbers tell a story, one marked by development and resilience.

Jan Vishwas: The Architecture of Reform

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and its successor, the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2025-26, operationalise a single governing principle: 'proportionality.' Sanctions must match the gravity of the wrong. Minor procedural defaults are not crimes. This principle is implemented through concrete and specific mechanisms:

- 1. Decriminalisation at scale: Jan Vishwas 1.0 decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central

*"The Jan Vishwas Bill marks a major shift in the country's governance philosophy from suspicion to trust."
~ Shri Tejasvi Surya"*



- Acts administered by 19 Ministries. Jan Vishwas 2.0 proposes amendments to 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts under 23 Ministries, with 717 provisions targeted for decriminalisation and 67 for rationalisation for ease of living.
 - 2. Civil penalties over criminal liability: Imprisonment is replaced with monetary fines calibrated to the offence, revised upward by 10% every three years to retain deterrent value.
 - 3. Adjudicating Officers: Designated executive authorities handle minor violations administratively, outside criminal courts.
 - 4. Graded enforcement: First offences attract advisory notices; repeat violations receive warnings; civil penalties are a last resort.
 - 5. Appellate mechanism: An independent appeals structure ensuring that penalties levied are subject to check, preventing arbitrary action.
 - imprisonment of up to 3 years. Now, a civil penalty of up to Rs. 25 lakh. Benefit: Technology startups and fintech companies are freed from criminal liability for data.
 - **Patents Act, 1970 (Section 122):** Failure to supply information to the Patent Office carried up to 6 months imprisonment. Now, a civil fine of Rs. 1 lakh plus Rs. 1,000 per day for continuing violations. Benefit: Pharma companies and tech startups are incentivised to engage formally with the patent system.
 - **Trade Marks Act, 1999 (Sections 106-109):** Misrepresentation and falsification carried imprisonment of up to 3 years. Now, financial penalties are linked to turnover. Benefit: MSMEs and small traders can protect and enforce brand identity without criminal exposure.
 - **Indian Forest Act, 1927:** Pasturing cattle in forest land carried criminal imprisonment. Now, civil penalty. Benefit: Rural and forest-dependent enterprises and farmers are relieved of criminal liability for ordinary livelihood activity.
- Jan Vishwas 1.0 and 2.0: Measuring the Reform's Growth**
- Jan Vishwas 1.0 (2023) established the principle and tested its application across 42 Acts. Key transformations include:
- Under the IT Act, 2000 (Section 72A), disclosure of personal information in breach of a lawful contract previously carried a maximum
 - Jan Vishwas 2.0 (2025-26) deepens the reform in three important ways: it is broader in sectoral scope and more structurally

- sophisticated, introducing the graded enforcement model. For instance, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the manufacture and sale of cosmetics in contravention of the Act carried a maximum imprisonment of up to 1 year and a fine of Rs. 20,000. Under 2.0, civil penalty of Rs. 1 lakh or three times the value of confiscated goods, whichever is higher. Benefit: India's growing cosmetics and wellness MSME sector gains formal market access without the risk of criminalisation.

Together, the two phases have dismantled the criminal compliance architecture across nearly 1,000 statutory provisions. The Confederation of Indian Industry has described this as unlocking 'Restrained Capital.' Additionally, India's courts have a backlog of over 4.8 crore pending cases, and a significant proportion of these involve minor regulatory and commercial disputes, further delaying justice. Under PM Modi's reformative leadership, India has aligned itself with the global consensus, as recognised by the United Kingdom through the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act, 2008 and by Singapore through its administrative enforcement rather than criminal courts.

The progress can be traced through Foreign Direct Investment, which crossed \$748 billion in 2025. Many global manufacturers, such as Apple, are now moving to India, substantially improving the economy and creating more jobs. Exponential growth in defence exports, with Rs. 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, also demonstrates the resilience of the Indian economy and the government's recognition that domestic enterprises are the backbone of growth and development.

The Ground Impact: India's Ease of Doing Business

Between 2010 and 2014, India ranked poorly in global indexes, consistently outranked by its neighbours, not because of its economy or geography, but because of decades-long governance failures. Starting a business in India involved navigating over a dozen separate approvals. Factory licences took months. Environmental clearances were discretionary. The labyrinth of compliance eventually compelled

several global manufacturers to choose other countries to avoid the unpredictable business environment. Years of red tape cost India the unrealised investment, forgone jobs and lost talent. Under PM Modi, India rose from 142nd to 63rd in the World Bank Doing Business ranking in 2020 and holds 39th position in the IMD World Competitiveness Index 2024. The Jan Vishwas reforms mark a significant contribution to this trajectory under the Modi government. At the ground level, it has palpable, visible effects through Udyam registrations, which have crossed 3.80 crore units. Over 3.96 lakh MSME loan applications worth Rs. 52,300 crore were sanctioned under digital credit, reflecting expanding formal-sector engagement.

Seven NDA-governed states have initiated their own decriminalisation exercises, rationalising over 1,000 state-level provisions. The Jan Vishwas reform has cascaded downward into the actual operating environments of Indian business.

The consolidation of 29 Central labour laws into four Labour Codes has cut factory construction approval timelines from 90 to 30 days, complementing the Jan Vishwas framework as part of a coherent deregulatory architecture.

The balance between enforcement and breathing space is not a trade-off. A regulatory framework that prosecutes a cosmetics manufacturer for a procedural default is not enforcing the law in any meaningful sense but frittering away the law's authority on disputes unworthy of it.

Prime Minister Modi's governing conviction, captured in the formulation 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', is precisely this insight, elevated to a philosophy of state. The Jan Vishwas reform is its most concrete legislative expression to date. It embodies a state confident enough in its institutions to trust its citizens, proportionate enough in its enforcement to distinguish inadvertence from intent, and ambitious enough in its vision to clear the path for Indian enterprise to grow at the pace that a Viksit Bharat demands.



Surgical Strike on Red-Tape

The Legal Architecture of Jan Vishwas 1.0 and 2.0

Diksha Bohra

Public Policy Researcher and
Strategic Communications
Professional

Historically, the Indian regulatory framework was heavily weighed down by what legal experts' term "over-criminalisation." A minor clerical error in a filing or a technical lapse in an environmental logbook could, theoretically, land a managing director in prison. This severe overlap of civil defaults and criminal liability created a culture of compliance rooted in fear rather than systemic integrity. However, the introduction of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, serving as the first iteration, followed by the ambitious roadmap of Jan Vishwas 2.0, marks a seismic shift in India's legal philosophy.

This transition from a carceral regulatory regime to an administrative one is not merely about deleting sections of law; it is a fundamental reimagining of the relationship between the state, the citizen, and the corporation. By decoupling actual crimes from procedural lapses, the Jan Vishwas framework seeks to improve the ease of doing business while simultaneously unburdening a judiciary currently drowning in over 40 million pending cases. At its core, the framework is built on the principle of proportionality. Historically, Indian law failed to distinguish between deliberate crime and simple negligence. Under the new framework, the government has recognised that minor offences which do not involve a direct threat to public safety or national security should not carry the stigma or the resource drain of a criminal trial.

The scale of this legislative overhaul is substantial. Jan Vishwas 1.0 addressed 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts, and Jan Vishwas 2.0 aims to significantly expand this ambit, reportedly targeting over 100 additional provisions across diverse sectors. This transition represents a definitive move toward trust-based governance, where the default assumption is that the citizen or business owner intends to comply, and failures are treated as technical errors to be corrected by fines rather than transgressions to be punished by imprisonment. It acts as a surgical strike on specific categories of law where criminal penalties were long deemed disproportionate.

The largest category of reform involves administrative paperwork. Under older legislation, such as the Indian Post Office Act or the Patents Act, minor delays or incorrect disclosures could carry potential jail time. The first Jan Vishwas bill converted these into monetary penalties, ensuring that, for instance, failure to furnish information regarding the working of a patent is met with a robust fine rather than the threat of incarceration. Perhaps the most debated category involves the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and the

Environment (Protection) Act. Previously, even minor breaches of reporting standards could trigger criminal proceedings. The Jan Vishwas framework shifts these toward a polluter-pays model. While some point out that this might embolden large polluters, the legislative intent is pragmatic: rather than getting bogged down in decade-long criminal trials, the state can immediately levy substantial administrative penalties that can be used for direct environmental remediation.

The most significant mechanical change in these bills is the replacement of imprisonment with penalties and fines. To the layperson, these terms might seem interchangeable, but legally, the distinction is profound. A fine is a criminal sanction imposed by a judge after a full trial, carrying the weight of a criminal conviction. A penalty, however, is an administrative measure imposed by a designated Adjudicating Officer without stepping foot in a courtroom. By shifting from fines to penalties, the Jan Vishwas legislation has effectively bypassed the overwhelmed Magistrate courts.

Under this new framework, the government is actively appointing Adjudicating Officers within various ministries. If a company violates a provision of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act that has been decriminalised, it no longer receives a summons from a criminal court. Instead, the Adjudicating Officer conducts an inquiry, hears the company's defence, and issues an order for a penalty. Data from the initial rollout of Jan Vishwas 1.0 suggests that this adjudication model drastically reduces the lifecycle of a dispute from up to seven years in a criminal court to a mere six to twelve months. Furthermore, to ensure these penalties remain a meaningful deterrent against inflation, the bills introduce a periodic revision mechanism that automatically increases the amounts by 10% every 3 years.

For the individual entrepreneur or the designated partner of a limited liability partnership, the

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implications are life-altering. In the previous regime, being charged with a criminal offence for a minor regulatory lapse could mean an individual faced severe difficulties obtaining a passport, passing background checks for board positions, or securing personal loans. By stripping away these imprisonment clauses, the framework ensures that regulatory errors remain civil debts rather than permanent criminal records.

For institutions ranging from micro-enterprises to multinational corporations, this paradigm shift necessitates a complete overhaul of internal audit and compliance protocols. With the move toward administrative adjudication, the role of the Chief Compliance Officer becomes more critical than that of external legal counsel in minor matters. Institutions must now focus heavily on the compounding of offences, a process where an entity admits to a lapse and pays a standardised fee to avoid prolonged litigation. Jan Vishwas 2.0 is expected to streamline this compounding process even further, transforming it into an almost automated online procedure.

However, the experience of implementing the first bill has shown that because penalties are now administrative and easier to execute, they are often issued more frequently. When a matter required a full criminal trial, the sheer cost and effort of prosecution often deterred the government from pursuing minor cases. Now, with a streamlined mechanism, enforcement is likely to be much more consistent and automated. Consequently,

institutions must invest heavily in Regulatory Technology to ensure that filings are precise, as the excuse of procedural complexity is no longer a viable defence against an administrative penalty. While institutions can expect a gradual reduction in long-term litigation spending and fewer retainers for criminal defence lawyers, those funds must be swiftly redirected toward robust internal controls and specialised management teams capable of representing the firm before Ministry-appointed officers.

Ultimately, the Jan Vishwas frameworks represent a profound maturing of the Indian state. It is a vital transition from an insecure regulator that relied heavily on the threat of punishment to a confident, modern regulator that relies on trust and economic incentives. For the individual, it offers a more dignified existence where an administrative mistake is no longer equated with a crime. For the institution, it provides a predictable, albeit strictly enforced, regulatory environment.

As Jan Vishwas 2.0 moves toward full implementation, the message from the legislature is clear: India's path to a multi-trillion-dollar economy will be paved with administrative efficiency, not criminal intimidation. The ease of doing business is finally being matched by the ease of living, marking the end of an era when the law was a trap and the beginning of one where the law is a guide.

For decades, governance in India carried an invisible undertone, with compliance driven by fear. A missed filing, a minor delay, or even an unintentional lapse could escalate into something far larger than it deserved. The passage of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, quietly challenges this legacy. Not dramatically. Not loudly. But decisively.

Building on the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, this reform reflects a deeper shift under Narendra Modi, a governance model that increasingly trusts citizens rather than suspects them. With active parliamentary engagement from leaders like Tejasvi Surya, the reform signals not just continuity, but conviction.

1. What does the Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 truly represent?

At first glance, it is about numbers: 784 provisions amended, 79 laws touched, over 1,000 offences rationalised. But beneath the numbers lies something more meaningful. It represents a change in how the State views its people. Earlier, the system assumed, “If something goes wrong, punish.” Now, it asks, “Was there intent, or was it just error?” That distinction changes everything

2. Why was such a reform necessary? A ground reality check

Imagine a small business owner in Bengaluru. A delayed compliance filing, not because of negligence, but because systems failed or awareness was lacking. Yet the consequences could include criminal proceedings. This was not rare; it was routine. India had over 7,300 criminal offences across 370 laws, many tied to regulatory compliance rather than real crime. Somewhere, the system lost sight of proportion. This Bill is, in many ways, an attempt to restore it.

3. What are the key reforms introduced?

The reform does not dismantle the system; it rebalances it. Minor offences, around 805 of them, are no longer criminal. They are treated for what they are, correctable mistakes. Outdated

“न भयेन न दण्डेन,
धर्मेणैव प्रजाः स्थिताः”

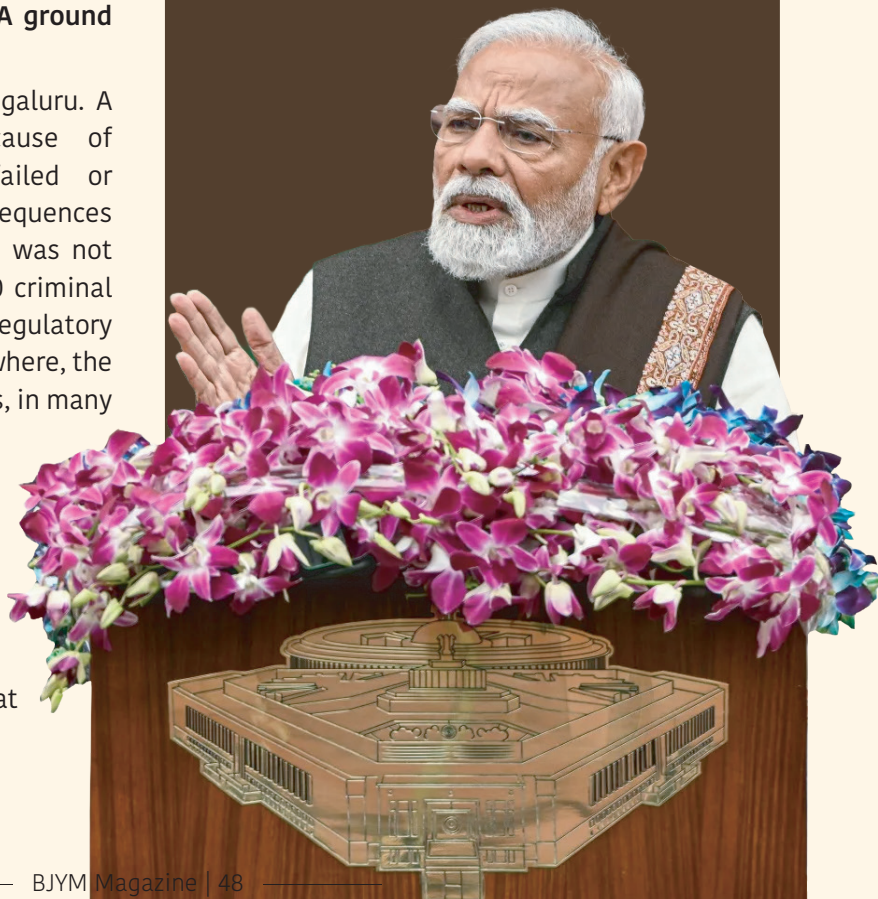
*Not by fear nor by
punishment, but by
righteousness do
people remain
aligned*

Jan Vishwas Bill 2026

From Compliance Fear to a Culture of Trust

Dr Akshitha H M

Doctor, Author, Columnist



provisions, 125 of them, have simply been removed, a quiet acknowledgement that laws must evolve with time. Some offences can now be settled quickly through compounding, avoiding years of litigation. Others have had their punishments rationalised because not every mistake deserves a disproportionate consequence. It is not leniency. It is maturity in lawmaking.

4. What is the most transformative conceptual shift?

The real shift lies in a simple distinction, crime versus compliance. Earlier, both were often treated the same. Now, crimes remain crimes, while compliance failures become administrative matters. This shift from courts to adjudicating officers, and from imprisonment to penalties, makes governance faster, fairer, and far less intimidating. It reflects an old principle from Indian thought, “दण्ड नीतिः प्रजासुखाय”, punishment must ultimately serve public welfare.

5. Which sectors are impacted?

What makes this reform remarkable is its breadth. From the Tea Act to the Motor Vehicles framework, from municipal governance laws to colonial-era legislation, it touches everyday systems people interact with, often unknowingly. This is not a reform for one sector. It is a reform for the entire regulatory mindset.

6. How are different types of offences treated?

The Bill recognises something simple yet powerful: not all violations are equal. A missed deadline is not fraud. A documentation error is not a crime. So, it removes trivial offences, softens procedural defaults, and clarifies vague provisions that were earlier open to misuse. In doing so, it replaces ambiguity with clarity and fear with predictability.

7. What is the graded enforcement mechanism?

Instead of jumping straight to punishment, the system now pauses. First comes a warning. Then an opportunity to correct. Only repeated disregard invites stronger action. It feels less like policing and more like guidance. And that shift, though subtle, is deeply impactful.

8. What does this mean for businesses and MSMEs?

For India’s entrepreneurs, especially MSMEs, this reform is quietly transformative. Compliance is no longer a looming threat; it becomes a manageable responsibility. A young founder once remarked, “Earlier, one mistake felt like the end. Now, it feels like a chance to fix things.” That psychological shift, from fear to confidence, is perhaps the Bill’s most underrated achievement.

9. How does this reshape governance?

Governance, at its best, is not about control; it is about creating conditions where people can thrive responsibly. This Bill reduces court burden, improves administrative efficiency, and most importantly, rebuilds trust. It signals that the State is not an adversary, but a partner. And that makes all the difference.

10. Are there challenges ahead?

Of course. Any reform of this scale depends on implementation. Awareness, administrative capacity, and consistency across authorities will determine whether the spirit of the law translates into reality. But the direction is clear. And sometimes, direction matters more than perfection.

A Quiet but Powerful Shift

The Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 does not make headlines in the way dramatic reforms do. But its impact will be felt in offices, in small businesses, and in everyday compliance decisions. It reflects a deeper belief that citizens, when trusted, are more likely to comply than when coerced.

That citizen, when trusted, are more likely to comply than when coerced.

As the Bhagavad Gita reminds us:

“यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठः तत्तदेवेतरो जनः”

(As leaders act, so do people follow.)

By choosing trust over fear, governance itself becomes an example. And perhaps, that is where real reform begins.

The trajectory of a nation's economic and social progress is inextricably linked to the sophistication of its legal architecture. For decades, the Indian regulatory landscape was characterised by a colonial-era reliance on punitive measures, in which minor procedural lapses and technical non-compliances were met with disproportionate threats of criminal prosecution. This systemic over-criminalisation created an atmosphere of regulatory anxiety, stifling the spirit of enterprise and burdening the national judiciary with avoidable litigation. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a profound journey of legislative purification. The introduction of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, followed by the expansive Jan Vishwas 2.0, represents a fundamental shift in the state's approach to its citizens: moving from a position of inherent suspicion to one of foundational trust.

Redefining the Social Contract

Trust-Based Governance and the Legislative Dawn of Jan Vishwas

Sanidhya Sinha

Political Consultant &
Chanakya Awardee, Policy Boot Camp
2025, Rashtram School of Public
Leadership



The trajectory of a nation's economic and social progress is inextricably linked to the sophistication of its legal architecture. For decades, the Indian regulatory landscape was characterised by a colonial-era reliance on punitive measures, in which minor procedural lapses and technical non-compliances were met with disproportionate threats of criminal prosecution. This systemic over-criminalisation created an atmosphere of regulatory anxiety, stifling the spirit of enterprise and burdening the national judiciary with avoidable litigation. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a profound journey of legislative purification. The introduction of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, followed by the expansive Jan Vishwas 2.0, represents a fundamental shift in the state's approach to its citizens: moving from a position of inherent suspicion to one of foundational trust.

The philosophical core of the Jan Vishwas reforms lies in the distinction between "mala fide" intent and "bona fide" procedural error. In the past, the lack of a nuanced enforcement framework meant that a small-scale entrepreneur or a citizen could face imprisonment for failing to update a register or missing a filing deadline. By systematically identifying and amending such provisions, the government is actualising the principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance." This is not merely a reduction in paperwork; it is a profound re-engineering of the social contract, ensuring that the law serves as a facilitator of progress rather than a barrier to productivity.

Jan Vishwas 1.0 served as the pioneer in this reformative journey, targeting 42 Central Acts across 19 Ministries. Through this legislation, 183 provisions were rationalised, effectively replacing criminal sanctions with monetary penalties. This initial phase addressed critical sectors, including pharmacy, the environment, and commerce. For

instance, amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Public Liability Insurance Act ensured that technical breaches would no longer result in the social and legal stigma of a criminal record. By introducing a mechanism for the compounding of offences, the Act provided a pathway for swift resolution, allowing businesses to rectify errors through civil settlements rather than enduring protracted criminal trials. Furthermore, the inclusion of a mandatory 10 per cent increase in minimum fines every 3 years ensured that the financial deterrent remained relevant and effective without requiring frequent legislative intervention.

Building upon the success of the first iteration, Jan Vishwas 2.0 represents an even more ambitious and comprehensive expansion of this trust-based model. This second phase encompasses 79 Central Acts and involves amending over 780 provisions. While the first bill focused heavily on industrial and commercial sectors, Jan Vishwas 2.0 reaches deeper into the daily lives of citizens and the operational realities of various professional spheres. It touches upon diverse areas such as transport, municipal administration, and healthcare. A notable example of this citizen-centric approach is

found in the amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, which now incorporate grace periods and rationalised penalties, shielding ordinary citizens from immediate punitive action for minor oversights. Similarly, by standardising administrative procedures in municipal laws, the reform removes decades of bureaucratic ambiguity that previously plagued property owners and local businesses.

The decriminalization framework introduced by these reforms has profound implications for the MSME and start-up ecosystems. For a small entrepreneur, the "cost of compliance" has historically included a "fear factor" that inhibited growth and risk-taking. The transition toward a graded enforcement mechanism, where first-time offenders are often given an opportunity to comply through improvement notices rather than facing

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By shifting the adjudication of minor offences from the criminal courts to designated administrative officers within the respective ministries, the legislation actively de-clogs the judicial pipeline.



immediate prosecution, which provides the necessary breathing room for businesses to thrive. This shift fosters a culture of voluntary compliance, in which the state serves as a guide and regulator rather than a prosecutor. By removing the threat of imprisonment for technicalities, the government has effectively reduced the leverage of the "Inspector Raj," thereby enhancing the ease of doing business at the grassroots level.

From a judicial perspective, the outcomes of the Jan Vishwas reforms are equally significant. By shifting the adjudication of minor offences from the criminal courts to designated administrative officers within the respective ministries, the legislation actively de-clogs the judicial pipeline. This move allows the judiciary to dedicate its finite resources to serious criminal matters and complex civil litigation, thereby improving the overall speed of justice delivery in the country. The establishment of internal adjudicatory mechanisms and appellate authorities ensures that disputes are handled by experts with sectoral knowledge, leading to more consistent and predictable legal outcomes. This predictability is a vital component of a stable investment climate, signalling to the global community that India is a jurisdiction characterised by the rule of law and administrative efficiency.

Furthermore, the sectoral impact of these reforms extends to environmental governance and public health. By rationalising laws such as the Environment (Protection) Act, the state ensures that

while environmental degradation is dealt with the utmost seriousness, procedural lapses in documentation do not lead to the criminalisation of industry leaders. In the healthcare sector, the amendments to the Clinical Establishments Act allow medical professionals to focus on their primary duty of care without the constant shadow of litigation over record-keeping errors. This balanced approach ensures that the primary objective of the law, be it environmental protection or public health, is achieved through effective deterrence rather than indiscriminate punishment.

In conclusion, the Jan Vishwas reforms are a testament to the maturing of the Indian Republic. As the nation advances toward the goal of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047, establishing a transparent, predictable, and trust-based regulatory ecosystem is indispensable. By purging the statute books of archaic and obstructive provisions, the Modi Government has empowered Indian citizens and Indian entrepreneurs to contribute to the national narrative with confidence. These reforms represent a landmark shift toward a governance model where the state trusts its citizens and, in turn, earns the trust of the society it serves. The Jan Vishwas Acts are not just legal documents; they are the foundation of a modern, efficient, and dignified India, where the law is a catalyst for the collective aspirations of a billion people.



Facilitator, Not Enforcer

The Jan Vishwas Shift in India's Regulatory Governance

Dr. Shashi Bhushan

Meteorologist, and
Scientist at The Institute
of Environmental
Research and Rural
Development, Patna

Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 can be seen as an important step in reshaping India's regulatory landscape. For a long time, several central laws carried provisions that treated even minor lapses as criminal offences. This created an environment in which compliance was often driven by fear rather than by responsibility. The reform initiative, introduced under the leadership of Narendra Modi, attempts to correct this imbalance by making the system more practical and proportionate.

The central idea behind the Bill is straightforward: not every mistake should invite criminal punishment. Many routine issues, such as delays in filing documents, minor procedural errors, or technical noncompliance, were earlier punishable by imprisonment. Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 replaces such provisions with monetary penalties or administrative actions. This ensures that the law's response matches the seriousness of the offence, without unnecessarily criminalising individuals or businesses.

Another notable aspect is the wide scope of the reform. Instead of focusing on a single sector, the Bill amends provisions across various fields, including environment, trade, and industry. This broader approach brings a degree of uniformity and clarity, making the regulatory system easier to understand and follow.

More than just a legal change, the Bill reflects a shift in approach. It seeks to create a system where the government acts as a facilitator rather than a strict enforcer. By reducing the risk of harsh penalties for minor lapses, it encourages voluntary compliance and builds confidence among businesses and citizens alike. In this sense, the Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 lays the foundation for a governance model grounded in trust, balance, and practical efficiency.

Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 — Deepening the Reform Agenda

Building on the groundwork laid in the first phase, the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 carries the reform process forward into a broader, more structured space. While the earlier effort began easing the burden of criminal provisions for minor lapses, this phase takes a wider view, extending the same approach across more laws and sectors. The intention is clear: the idea of compliance without fear should not remain limited but become part of the overall character of governance.

The scope of reform now extends to areas such as commerce, the environment, transport, and public services. In doing so, it addresses a long-standing issue that different laws often treated similar procedural lapses in different ways. By aligning these provisions, the Bill moves toward a system that is easier to understand and more predictable in practice.

Another important shift lies in how enforcement is approached. Instead of relying on criminal proceedings for technical or non-serious violations, the emphasis is placed on monetary penalties and

administrative measures. This makes the response more proportionate and allows authorities to resolve matters more quickly, without the delays that usually accompany court processes.

At a broader level, the Bill reflects a gradual change in the role of the State. Rather than acting primarily as a regulator that penalises, it moves toward becoming a facilitator that enables compliance. This is especially relevant for smaller businesses and startups, which often struggle with complex rules.

In this sense, Jan Vishwas 2.0 is not just an extension; it brings together earlier efforts into a more coherent and practical framework, centred on clarity, consistency, and trust.

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The Jan Vishwas reforms represent a clear shift in how governance is understood and practised in India. Instead of relying on fear and punitive provisions, the emphasis is now on trust, responsibility, and practical compliance.
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Decriminalisation Framework: What Actually Changed?

At the core of the Jan Vishwas reforms is a clear attempt to separate genuine wrongdoing from routine lapses. For a long time, India's regulatory system treated even minor mistakes, often clerical or procedural, in the same way as deliberate violations. The new framework tries to correct this by identifying offences that do not involve fraud, public harm, or intentional misconduct, and removing criminal consequences from them.

A large number of changes relate to everyday compliance issues, such as delays in filing returns, small documentation gaps, or lapses in reporting. Earlier, these could trigger criminal proceedings, sometimes even provisions for imprisonment. Under the revised approach, most such instances are treated as civil defaults, where penalties are financial or administrative in nature. The idea is simple: the response should match the seriousness of the lapse.

There is also a shift in how enforcement is carried out. Instead of pushing matters into the courts, regulatory authorities are now given greater responsibility to handle violations through adjudication. This reduces delays and eases the



burden on the judicial system, while making the process more direct and time-bound. At the same time, stricter provisions remain for serious offences, especially those involving fraud, environmental damage, or risks to public safety, to ensure deterrence is not weakened.

The effect of these changes goes beyond legal procedure. By removing the constant fear of criminal action for minor errors, the reforms make it easier for individuals and businesses to engage with the system. Compliance, in this sense, becomes less about fear and more about responsibility. Overall, the framework reflects a more balanced approach—firm where it needs to be, but reasonable where it can be.

Impact on Businesses, MSMEs & Startups

For a long time, small businesses and startups in India have operated under a cloud of regulatory anxiety. Procedures were often complex, and even minor lapses such as delays in filing returns or technical errors could escalate into criminal cases. For MSMEs and young enterprises with limited legal and financial capacity, this environment was not just burdensome; it was discouraging. Instead of focusing on growth or innovation, many found

themselves preoccupied with avoiding compliance risks.

The Jan Vishwas reforms have begun to change this ground reality. With the introduction of the Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0 and its expansion in Bill 2.0, a conscious effort has been made to remove criminal penalties for minor, non-serious offences. In their place, monetary penalties and administrative mechanisms have been introduced. This shift may appear technical, but its impact is deeply practical. It reduces both the fear of punitive action and the cost of compliance.

For MSMEs and startups, this translates into greater operational confidence. An inadvertent mistake is no longer treated as a criminal act, allowing entrepreneurs to devote their time and resources to business development rather than legal safeguards. The change also brings a degree of predictability into the system, making regulatory processes easier to understand and navigate.

Equally important is the shift in the tone of governance. A system that signals trust tends to encourage voluntary compliance. Startups, in particular, benefit from such an environment, as they depend on flexibility, experimentation, and the

ability to take calculated risks without disproportionate consequences.

In line with PM Modi's governance approach, these reforms also strengthen India's appeal as an investment destination by reducing procedural friction. The broader message is simple but significant: small errors will not determine an enterprise's fate. Instead, businesses are being given the space to grow, adapt, and contribute more confidently to the economy.

Governance & Legal Outcomes

The Jan Vishwas reforms address a persistent weakness in India's governance system, the heavy burden of litigation arising from minor, technical violations. For years, courts have been occupied with cases involving procedural lapses rather than serious offences, slowing the delivery of justice. By removing criminal penalties for such minor defaults, the reforms are likely to ease this pressure and allow the judiciary to concentrate on more substantive matters. This shift can contribute to faster case disposal and a more credible justice system.

Another important change lies in the approach to enforcement. Instead of relying on criminal prosecution, the focus has moved toward civil penalties and administrative action. This introduces a more balanced form of accountability, where punishment is proportionate to the nature of the offence. Regulatory authorities now operate within clearer guidelines, reducing the scope for arbitrary action and making compliance more predictable for both individuals and businesses.

The reforms also simplify procedures and bring greater clarity to existing laws. When rules are straightforward and well-defined, compliance becomes easier and disputes less frequent. This helps create a more stable regulatory environment, which is essential for economic activity and institutional trust.

At a broader level, these changes reflect a gradual shift in the State's role from a strict enforcer to a more facilitative presence. Governance, in this sense, becomes less about control and more about enabling compliance. The overall outcome is a

system that is more efficient, transparent, and aligned with the needs of a changing India.

Challenges & Way Forward

The promise of the Jan Vishwas reforms will be tested not in legislation, but in everyday practice. Translating the idea of trust-based governance into administrative behaviour is not automatic, especially in a system that has long relied on punitive enforcement. Variations in interpretation across departments, and occasional reluctance among officials to move away from established methods, could dilute the intended impact. At the same time, many small businesses and local stakeholders may remain unaware of the changes, limiting the reforms' reach at the ground level.

Addressing these gaps calls for sustained institutional effort. Administrative training must emphasise a shift in mindset from control to facilitation, while clear communication can help citizens and entrepreneurs better understand the new framework. Strengthening digital compliance platforms, ensuring accessible grievance redressal, and maintaining transparency in enforcement will be equally important. Going forward, periodic reviews and stakeholder feedback should guide the evolution of these reforms, ensuring they remain practical, consistent, and aligned with the broader goal of trust-driven governance.

Conclusion: Building Trust in New India

The Jan Vishwas reforms represent a clear shift in how governance is understood and practised in India. Instead of relying on fear and punitive provisions, the emphasis is now on trust, responsibility, and practical compliance. This change reflects a growing recognition that a modern, fast-moving economy requires laws that enable rather than obstruct.

Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Modi, these reforms align with the broader goal of building a Viksit Bharat where citizens and businesses are treated as partners in progress. In this sense, Jan Vishwas goes beyond legal amendments; it seeks to restore confidence in institutions and reshape the everyday experience of governance.

In the tapestry of India's modern history, few shifts have been as profound as the transition from a "state of suspicion" to a "state of trust." For decades, the Indian entrepreneur and the common citizen lived under the shadow of an "Inspector Raj," where minor procedural lapses were met with the heavy hand of criminal law. Today, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, that shadow is finally lifting. As we witness India's rise as the world's third-largest economy, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 1.0 and 2.0 stand as the twin pillars of a new regulatory philosophy: one where the government trusts its citizens and empowers its creators.

The Philosophy of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance"

The Jan Vishwas reforms are not merely legislative amendments; they are a declaration of faith in the Indian people. The BJP government recognised early on that for India to reach the milestone of a \$5 trillion economy and eventually a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the shackles of archaic, colonial-era laws had to be broken.

The core intent is simple yet revolutionary: Decriminalisation. By converting imprisonment clauses into civil penalties for minor, technical, or procedural defaults, the government is ensuring that an honest mistake in paperwork doesn't land someone in a prison cell. This shift reinforces the principle that the state should be a facilitator of growth, not a hurdle to progress.

Jan Vishwas 1.0: Laying the Foundation

Launched in 2023, the first iteration of the Jan Vishwas Act was a massive cleaning exercise of India's legal cupboards. It targeted 42 Central Acts across 19 Ministries, decriminalising over 183 provisions.

Vishwas-Yukt Bharat: How Jan Vishwas 1.0 and 2.0 Are Building a Trust Economy

Santhati Srinavya

State Secretary, BJYM,
Andhra Pradesh



Targeting Redundancy: It removed the fear of criminal prosecution from laws governing industries such as pharmacy, the environment, and copyright.

The 10% Rule: A unique feature was the rationalisation of fines, ensuring they remain relevant by introducing a 10% increase in minimum amounts every three years, thus maintaining a deterrent effect without the need for constant legislative intervention.

Jan Vishwas 2.0: The 2026 Leap Toward Efficiency

As we enter April 2026, the Jan Vishwas 2.0 (2026 Bill) has expanded this horizon exponentially. This version is more ambitious, touching 79 Central Acts and proposing amendments to 784 provisions.

By incorporating sectors like Post Offices, Railways, and Agriculture, Jan Vishwas 2.0 ensures that the “Trust-Based” model permeates every touchpoint of a citizen’s life.

Empowering the Backbone: MSMEs and Startups

The primary beneficiaries of this “Ease of Doing Business” blitz are India’s MSMEs and Startups. For a young entrepreneur in Bengaluru or a small factory owner in Ludhiana, the threat of criminal litigation was a “compliance tax” that stifled innovation.

Under the Modi Government’s new framework:

Risk Reduction: Entrepreneurs can now focus on “Product over Paperwork.”

Investor Confidence: Foreign and domestic investors are more likely to commit capital when the legal environment is predictable and non-adversarial.

Efficiency: The introduction of administrative adjudicating officers reduces the burden on our judiciary, which currently grapples with millions of pending cases.

Integration with “Team India” Initiatives

The Jan Vishwas reforms do not work in isolation. They are part of a broader ecosystem of governance excellence:

Mission Karmayogi: Training civil servants to move

from a “Rule-based” to a “Role-based” mindset, ensuring they implement these trust-based laws with empathy.

PM GatiShakti & PRAGATI: Using technology to ensure that while regulations are eased, accountability and project timelines are strictly monitored by the PMO.

Digital India: The move toward “Self-Certification” and “Faceless Assessment” complements the Jan Vishwas Bill by removing the human interface where corruption often breeds.

A Global Benchmark in Regulatory Reform

India’s trajectory is now being watched globally. According to recent trends, India has seen a 27% growth in new business registrations over the last five years. Our jump in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business rankings (before they were paused for revamp) was legendary. The Jan Vishwas reforms are the next logical step creating a “Sovereign Trust” that is rare in emerging markets.

From the Sadhana Saptah (Capacity Building Week) held this month to real-time project monitoring via the PRAGATI platform, the BJP government has proven that it is not just about passing laws; it is about changing the country’s culture.

Toward a Viksit and Vishwas-Yukt Bharat

The journey from Jan Sunwai (listening to people) to Jan Vishwas (trusting people) is the hallmark of the Modi era. As we look at the latest trends, be it the record-breaking GST collections, the explosion of the UPI ecosystem, or our burgeoning space sector, one thing is clear: when the government trusts the genius of its people, the people deliver a New India.

The Jan Vishwas 1.0 and 2.0 reforms are a testament to a government confident enough to let go and a society ready to lead. By reducing bureaucratic friction and replacing fear with fairness, we are not just reforming laws; we are reinforcing the very soul of our democracy. As we move closer to the goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, these reforms will be remembered as the moment India chose to trade the “danda” of the inspector for the “hath” of the partner.



Unlocking the Drawbridge

How Jan Vishwas is Freeing India's Young Entrepreneurs

Tejaswini Kalasamudram

State Convenor, PRT Cell,
Andhra Pradesh

For decades, A small business owner in India faced something worse than competition, the shadow of criminal prosecution for missing a filing. One landmark law is changing that. And the data shows why it matters most for young and women entrepreneurs.

Picture a young woman in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. She runs a small food processing unit that employs four people and makes a modest living. One day, a government inspector arrives and finds a minor labelling irregularity. Under the old law, that was a criminal offence. Possible imprisonment. Destroyed credit. Finished business. Not because she was corrupt. Not because she intended harm. Because she missed a label.

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This was not a hypothetical. It was the everyday reality for millions of Indian entrepreneurs. A typical small business had to comply with over 500 annual regulations, many of them outdated, colonial-era provisions, and a single technical lapse could trigger criminal liability. The rational response for any first-generation founder was not to scale, not to formalise, and sometimes not to start at all.

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, is the Modi government's answer to decades of this punitive architecture. It decriminalises 183 provisions across 42 laws, converting minor offences into monetary penalties. And the economic data behind it makes the case unambiguously: this is one of the most consequential reforms for young India in a generation.

The Scale of What is at Stake

India's MSME sector is not a footnote in our economy. It is the economy for the majority of working Indians, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of GDP and employing about 11 crore people. Yet despite this scale, 90 per cent of India's MSMEs remain informal – operating in the shadows, invisible to credit systems, unable to grow. The reason is not laziness or lack of ambition. Data from CII surveys and NITI Aayog studies is unambiguous: 68 per cent of entrepreneurs cite compliance complexity as their primary barrier, an

54 per cent say fear of inspections keeps them from registering.

Think about that. More than half of India's potential business builders are scared away from the formal economy not by market failure but by government design. Jan Vishwas is the Modi government's answer to the failure.

What Jan Vishwas Actually Does

The law is surgical, not symbolic. It amends 42 central laws across nine ministries and converts 183 criminal provisions – many of them outdated colonial-era penalties – into monetary fines. This is the administrative equivalent of replacing a firing squad with a parking ticket for minor infractions. Here is what that means on the ground:

Violation	Before Jan Vishwas	After Jan Vishwas	Who Benefits
FSSAI labelling error	Imprisonment upto 3 months	Monetary penalty Rs. 1-5 lakh	Food entrepreneurs
Minor filing default	Criminal prosecution	Compondable fine	All MSMEs
IT Act minor breach	Possible jail term	Graduated civil penalty	Tech startups
NI Act technical default	Cognisable offence	Civil remedy pathway	Traders, MSMEs
Minor Environmental violation	Criminal liability	Grades penalty system	Manufacturing MSMEs

This bill comes on top of the Modi government's broader deregulation push, over 40000 compliances simplified or removed across central and state governments since 2014. Jan Vishwas is the capstone: It does not just reduce paperwork; it removes the threat of persecution that made paperwork so terrifying in the first place.

Acceleration to Startup India

The nation knows the success story of the Startup India initiative of the Modi government. Since 2016, the ecosystem has exploded with 1.57 lakh DPIIT-Recognised startups, 116 unicorns (3rd globally) and marking 55 per cent of startups in Tier 2/3 cities.

But behind the unicorns is a harder truth: India has an estimated 7.7 crore micro-enterprises. Only 1.57 lakh are formally recognised as startups. The vast majority of small workshops, home businesses, and village-level entrepreneurs never formalise because the cost of entry into the formal system

feels like a trap. Jan Vishwas lowers the drawbridge. Even a 5 per cent shift of informal enterprises into the formal economy would roughly add 38 lakh new registered enterprises overnight. More than two decades of Startup India growth, achieved through a single legislative signal of trust.

Women Entrepreneurs: The Biggest Winners

NITI Aayog's 2022 survey of Women-led MSMEs found that 68 per cent of women entrepreneurs cited compliance complexity as a barrier, compared to 41 per cent of men in the same business categories. Women entrepreneurs report roughly twice the regulatory anxiety of their male counterparts, not because they typically have less access to chartered accountants and established networks that help navigate bureaucracy.

Stand-Up India has already delivered: ₹43,600 crore+ has been sanctioned to over 2.42 lakh loan accounts, with a striking 81% of beneficiaries being women. PMEGP has generated 76.7 lakh jobs since 2008, with 30% reservation for women. But both schemes hit the same ceiling: women receive the loans, launch the units, then refuse to scale. Fear of entering a formal compliance regime as the business grows is a documented, measurable brake on growth.

Jan Vishwas removes that brake. A woman running a food unit who once faced criminal prosecution for a labelling mistake now faces a fine that she can contest, pay, and move forward from. That is the difference between giving up and growing.

The Economic Logic – Stop Punishing Growth

Here is the cruel paradox of India's old regulatory architecture: the more your business grew, the greater your legal exposure became. An informal micro-enterprise flying under the radar bore almost no compliance burden. The moment you registered and scaled, you inherited hundreds of annual obligations, any of which could trigger criminal proceedings. The rational choice for a risk-averse first-generation entrepreneur was to stay small and invisible.

This is not a theory. A 2022 KVIC study found that over 65% of PMEGP units, enterprises that received

government subsidies specifically to grow, never crossed the micro threshold despite years of operation. They did not lack capital. They did not lack markets. They lacked the confidence to grow into a system that could punish them.

Economists estimate that if just 10% of India's informal MSMEs formalise, the GDP addition could reach ₹5 lakh crore. No subsidy scheme can achieve that. No credit programme can achieve that. But a single legislative signal, we trust you & we will not jail you for paperwork, can shift the calculus for millions of entrepreneurs simultaneously. That is what Jan Vishwas aims to do for Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The Bottom line

India's youth do not lack ambition. India's women do not lack entrepreneurial drive. What they have lacked for decades is a governance system that trusts them enough not to threaten them with imprisonment for a paperwork error. The Jan Vishwas Act is Prime Minister Modi's declaration that this era is over.

It decriminalises 183 provisions. It amends 42 laws. It could unlock ₹5 lakh crore in GDP. But its most important effect cannot be measured in rupees: it gives a young woman in Andhra Pradesh, a first-generation founder in Bihar, a street-corner trader in Uttar Pradesh, the permission to grow without fear.

That permission is the most powerful reform of a generation, the architects of New India. And it has the BJP's name on it.



From Draconian to Proportionate

How Jan Vishwas Is Unlocking India's Growth Story

Srikar Srivatsa Dahagam

Author and Alumnus of MA
International Economics at
IHEID, Geneva

In 2026 April, amid the vibrant electoral mood across West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Pondicherry, the Shri Narendra Modi-led NDA government quietly launched one of India's most forward-looking reforms through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bills, 2026. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 27, 2026. The Bill has been brought in to further liberalise India's legal system, which was first done in the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2025. The bill was submitted back then to the select parliamentary committee under the chairmanship of BJYM president and Bengaluru South MP, Shri Tejasvi Surya. The select committee further added some points, and the bill was passed in both houses of parliament a few days ago. Given that these bills have been referred to the parliament's select committee, the spirit of democracy has been kept alive in this case. These bills are revolutionary and transformative, as when implemented, they will play a big role in realising the vision of PM Narendra Modi to reduce government interference in the day-to-day lives of citizens.

The Jan Vishwas Bills seek to fully implement the idea of a “laissez – faire” economy, which has been missing in the country even after 78 years of independence. In India, there are almost 5.5 crore pending court cases. India has one of the lowest ratios of judges to cases. Most of these cases are the ones where serious criminal or legal offences are not included; many of these cases are registered under archaic laws, which hurts the speed of justice and the long-pending legal cases in India, also increasing the economic cost of arbitration, which is not good for the long-term development of India. More legal cases over petty offences result in a lack of transparency & gives rise to more conflicts, which can increase the economic burden on the Indian judiciary.

The Jan Vishwas Bills have sought to decriminalise offences and impose a civil penalty instead. The National Highways Act, 1956, is cited most often in this provision introduced by the bill. Before the act, making a highway impassable was punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment; now, instead, the bill provides for a civil penalty of between Rs. 10 lakh and 1 crore. This kind of provision will facilitate the arbitration of petty cases like the example above, while increasing revenue from fines for local administrations. Additionally, the bill has advocated for the removal of imprisonment terms; for example, under the Indian Succession Act, 1925, there used to be a jail term for people who could not provide proof of revoked administration terms within 3 months. Such draconian acts, which used to put people behind bars and ruin their self-esteem, have now been replaced by a fine. These kinds of steps will help to improve the trust of a common citizen in India's often complex legal system.

The Jan Vishwas Amendment Bills also have a direct impact on multiple economic sectors, further boosting the Indian growth story. The trade and export sector has seen multiple acts, such as the Tea Act of 1953 & APEDA Act of 1985, amended to remove the imprisonment clause for obstruction of officers or failure to protect books, which has been

replaced with a financial penalty. These acts were made in the era when the Indian economy was under the myth of Nehruvian socialism with very little to no exposure to foreign capital, amending such kind of acts via the Jan Vishwas Bills will give further impetus to the FPOs in our country who have been playing a critical role in improving India's export baskets. The bills also have the potential to increase ease of doing business in sectors such as Urban governance, where suspicion-based nighttime detention has been scrapped & outdated provisions of the NDMC Act (1994) & DMC Act (1957) have been amended. These steps can go a long way toward revolutionising the modernisation of urban governance in India without hampering the existing system.

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Jan Vishwas Bills are more than routine amendments to outdated laws in India; they can boost India's growth story in the long run.

The bill has also advocated a structural shift, which is often underrated in the social sciences academia. The bill has put more emphasis on arbitration and appellate authorities, which will undoubtedly help young law students to explore more opportunities outside of litigation and fighting court cases, which would allow these students to develop more skill sets in social sciences, again, that would be helpful for the long-term personality development of students. The introduction of appellate authorities will also help facilitate the peaceful resolution of cases, without the brutal grind of the Indian judiciary, which is exceptionally critical in today's day and age.

To conclude, the Jan Vishwas Bills are more than routine amendments to outdated laws in India; they can boost India's growth story in the long run. By removing legal bottlenecks and envisioning to promote ease of doing business and ease of living without fear, Prime Minister Modi has again proved why he is India's greatest reformer without a doubt.

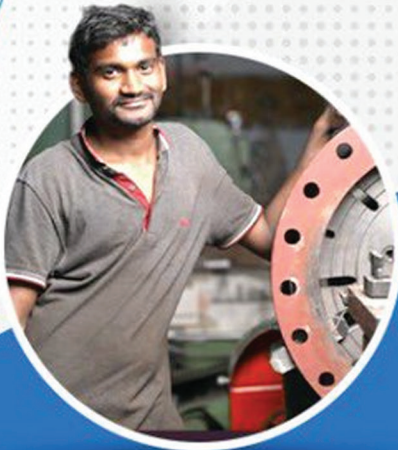


Jan Vishwas

Enabling MSMEs and
Young Entrepreneurs
through Trust-Based
Governance

Vrinda Dixit

Analyst at Quality
Council of India



India's economic growth story has long been shaped by its laws and regulatory framework. Today, as the world's sixth-largest economy and on track to become the third-largest in the coming years, the need for efficient, enabling governance is more critical than ever. Yet, for years, the burden of compliance often fell disproportionately on small businesses and ordinary citizens. Even minor technical lapses could expose individuals to criminal penalties, creating an environment of caution rather than confidence. As India aspires to become a more competitive and investment-friendly economy, there is a growing need to move towards a system that balances regulation with trust. Laws must not only enforce accountability but also enable economic activity, ensuring that governance strengthens, not strains, the relationship between the state and its citizens.

Jan Vishwas (जन विश्वास), which translates to “people’s trust,” has been a key principle of governance under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rooted in the idea of minimum government and maximum governance, the approach aims to reduce regulatory pressures on businesses and citizens alike, building trust between the state and its citizens. The Jan Vishwas Bills are a clear representation of this transformation.

Jan Vishwas 1.0

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, was introduced in December 2022 with a clear premise that not every technical mistake should be treated as a criminal offence, and penalties should be proportionate. The Act also links fines to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to ensure they remain relevant over time. In doing so, it became one of the most comprehensive efforts to decriminalise minor offences across multiple statutes simultaneously. The Act was passed with broad support, amending 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts under 19 ministries.

Jan Vishwas 2.0

Building on Jan Vishwas 1.0, Jan Vishwas 2.0 broadens the scope of reforms. It was introduced in Parliament in August 2025 and referred to a Select Committee led by Tejasvi Surya. The Committee examined the bill's scope with input from internal and external stakeholders and, in turn, expanded its initial scope to ensure wider coverage. The revised Bill was subsequently introduced by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada. Of the proposed changes, 717 aim to make it easier to do business in India, while 67 are intended to improve the living conditions of people. Overall, the Bill proposes amendments to 79 Central Acts across 23 ministries, covering 784 provisions.

One significant change in Jan Vishwas 2.0 is the shift towards graded enforcement. For first-time violations, there will be an advisory or a warning, while penalties will increase only for repeated offences. The underlying idea is that the state should focus on correcting issues rather than punishing.

What This Means for Businesses, MSMEs, and India’s Youth

For a small business owner, compliance isn’t just about following rules; it’s often about navigating uncertainty. A delayed filing, a minor labelling error, or a gap in documentation could earlier escalate into criminal proceedings. Large companies have the resources to deal with this. But for MSMEs, especially first-time entrepreneurs, this creates hesitation. It slows decisions, discourages expansion and in many cases, often keeps businesses small

The Jan Vishwas reforms address this imbalance by shifting the framework from criminal liability to civil penalties. More than 180 provisions across 42 Central Acts have been decriminalised under Jan Vishwas 1.0, replacing imprisonment clauses with monetary penalties and administrative mechanisms. This reduces the fear associated with regulatory oversight and introduces predictability, an essential condition for business growth.

Take a simple example. A small manufacturer dealing with a labelling issue or a delayed compliance filing would earlier risk facing criminal charges. Today, under the revised framework, such cases are treated as correctable defaults, with financial penalties replacing the threat of imprisonment. The process becomes faster, fairer and far less disruptive.

Jan Vishwas 2.0 builds on this by introducing a more practical approach to enforcement. A first-time mistake may invite a warning or advisory, while stricter penalties are reserved for repeated non-compliance. This signals that the system is moving from punishing businesses to helping them get it right.

This shift is not limited to businesses alone. Its impact is equally significant for India’s young and emerging entrepreneurs. India is a young country, with over 65 per cent of its population under 35. What is changing today is not just the size of this demographic, but also the mindset. More young Indians are choosing to build, experiment and take risks, contributing to the growth of the MSME sector.



The challenge is that the system has not always made it easy. For a young founder starting out, the fear of getting something “wrong” on the compliance side can be enough to hold them back. Legal uncertainty doesn’t just affect operations; it affects confidence. And without confidence, innovation slows down.

The Jan Vishwas reforms address this by reducing the risk of criminal penalties for minor mistakes; they create a space where young entrepreneurs can focus on building rather than constantly looking over their shoulder. Whether it’s a start-up in agri-tech, a small manufacturing unit, or a digital service venture, the shift is the same. Less fear, more freedom to grow.

These reforms are not isolated changes. They reflect a broader governing vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that has consistently emphasised trust as the foundation of governance. They are about making the system more approachable for a generation that wants to participate, not hesitate. Jan Vishwas, or people’s trust, signals that effective governance derives its legitimacy from enabling citizens rather than constraining them.

The Road to Viksit Bharat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of Viksit Bharat, a developed India by 2047, relies on a modern and trust-based regulatory system. In this context, these reforms are especially important for India’s youth, first-time entrepreneurs, and small businesses. Many of them operate with limited legal and financial protections. By lowering the risk of criminal penalties for minor mistakes, the framework reduces barriers to entry and allows new ventures to focus on growth instead of compliance complexities.

The Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 is not just another legal reform; it reflects the kind of regulatory system India is moving towards. One where the law supports ambition, where the first interaction with the system is supportive and where mistakes lead to correction, not punishment. Under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership, India is transforming the relationship between the state and its citizens, and the Jan Vishwas Bill is a stepping stone towards a Viksit Bharat.



न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम युवा शक्ति जन विश्वास और आत्मनिर्भर भारत की राह

श्रेणिक बोथरा
प्रदेश सह कोषाध्यक्ष,
भाजयुमो छत्तीसगढ़

“जब शासन डर से नहीं, विश्वास से चलता है—तभी युवाओं की वास्तविक क्षमता जागृत होती है।”

एक राष्ट्र की प्रगति के इतिहास में कुछ ऐसे निर्णायक क्षण आते हैं, जब नीतिगत सुधार केवल प्रशासनिक परिवर्तन तक सीमित नहीं रहते, बल्कि शासन की मूल सोच को ही परिवर्तित कर देते हैं। Narendra Modi ji के नेतृत्व में प्रस्तुत जन विश्वास विधेयक 1.0 और जन विश्वास विधेयक 2.0 ऐसे ही ऐतिहासिक सुधार हैं, जिन्होंने भारत की शासन प्रणाली को डर आधारित व्यवस्था से निकालकर विश्वास आधारित मॉडल की ओर अग्रसर किया है।

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लंबे समय तक भारत की अनुपालन प्रणाली में ऐसे अनेक प्रावधान रहे, जहाँ छोटी छोटी प्रक्रियात्मक त्रुटियों पर भी आपराधिक दंड का प्रावधान था। इस व्यवस्था ने विशेष रूप से युवाओं और नवाचार करने वाले वर्ग में एक प्रकार का भय उत्पन्न किया। उद्यमिता की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाने वाले युवा अक्सर कानूनी जटिलताओं और दंड के जोखिम के कारण हिचकिचाते थे। परिणामस्वरूप, देश की विशाल प्रतिभा का एक हिस्सा अपनी पूरी क्षमता तक नहीं पहुँच पाता था।

जन विश्वास सुधारों ने इसी समस्या को जड़ से समझते हुए एक संतुलित और व्यावहारिक समाधान प्रस्तुत किया है। अनेक छोटे अपराधों को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करते हुए दंड व्यवस्था को अधिक मानवीय और तार्किक बनाया गया है। यह परिवर्तन केवल कानूनों में संशोधन नहीं है, बल्कि यह शासन की सोच में एक व्यापक बदलाव का प्रतीक है—जहाँ नागरिकों को नियंत्रित करने के बजाय उन्हें विकास का सहभागी माना जा रहा है।

“जहाँ व्यवस्था डर पैदा करती है, वहाँ प्रतिभा सीमित हो जाती है; जहाँ व्यवस्था विश्वास देती है, वहाँ संभावनाएँ असीमित हो जाती हैं।”

भारत आज विश्व के सबसे युवा देशों में से एक है। यह युवा शक्ति केवल जनसंख्या का आंकड़ा नहीं, बल्कि राष्ट्र की सबसे बड़ी पूंजी है। आज का युवा पारंपरिक सीमाओं से आगे बढ़कर नवाचार, उद्यमिता और नेतृत्व के नए आयाम स्थापित कर रहा है। लेकिन उसकी सफलता उस व्यवस्था पर निर्भर करती है, जिसमें वह कार्य करता है।

डर और जटिलताओं से भरी व्यवस्था रचनात्मकता को सीमित कर देती है, जबकि विश्वास आधारित व्यवस्था नए विचारों को जन्म देती है। जन विश्वास विधेयक इसी दिशा में एक सशक्त कदम है, जिसने युवाओं को यह भरोसा दिया है कि उनकी छोटी गलतियाँ उनके बड़े सपनों के रास्ते में बाधा नहीं बनेंगी। यह भरोसा ही नवाचार को गति देता है और उद्यमिता को विस्तार देता है।

इन सुधारों का प्रभाव विशेष रूप से स्टार्टअप और MSME क्षेत्र में स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता है। ये दोनों ही क्षेत्र युवाओं की ऊर्जा और भागीदारी से संचालित होते हैं। सरल प्रक्रियाएँ, कम कानूनी जोखिम और बेहतर व्यापारिक वातावरण ने युवा उद्यमियों को एक नई दिशा

प्रदान की है। अब वे अधिक आत्मविश्वास के साथ अपने विचारों को साकार कर पा रहे हैं और आर्थिक विकास में सक्रिय योगदान दे रहे हैं।

“युवा जब बिना डर के आगे बढ़ता है, तभी राष्ट्र आत्मनिर्भर बनता है।”

विशेष रूप से खादी और ग्रामोद्योग जैसे क्षेत्रों में, जहाँ छोटे उद्यम स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ हैं, ये सुधार अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण सिद्ध हो रहे हैं। ये न केवल पारंपरिक उद्योगों को सशक्त बना रहे हैं, बल्कि नए उद्यमियों को भी आगे आने के लिए प्रेरित कर रहे हैं।

जन विश्वास विधेयक केवल आर्थिक सुधारों तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह शासन और नागरिकों के बीच संबंधों को भी एक नई दिशा देते हैं। विश्वास आधारित शासन नागरिकों में जिम्मेदारी और स्वामित्व की भावना उत्पन्न करता है। जब सरकार युवाओं पर विश्वास करती है, तो युवा केवल लाभार्थी नहीं रहते, बल्कि राष्ट्र निर्माण के सक्रिय भागीदार बन जाते हैं।

यह दृष्टिकोण “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance” के सिद्धांत को भी सशक्त करता है। अनावश्यक हस्तक्षेप को कम करते हुए, पारदर्शिता और दक्षता को बढ़ावा देना आधुनिक शासन की आवश्यकता है। आज का युवा डिजिटल, जागरूक और महत्वाकांक्षी है, और वह ऐसी ही व्यवस्था की अपेक्षा करता है, जो उसे बाधित न करे, बल्कि उसके विकास में सहायक बने।

जन विश्वास पहल विकसित भारत के निर्माण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण आधारशिला है। एक विकसित राष्ट्र की पहचान केवल आर्थिक विकास से नहीं, बल्कि उसकी संस्थाओं की मजबूती, उसकी व्यवस्थाओं की सरलता और उसके नागरिकों के आत्मविश्वास से होती है। विश्वास आधारित शासन मॉडल इन सभी तत्वों को सशक्त करता है और भारत को एक नई ऊँचाई की ओर ले जाता है।

“जब सरकार अपने युवाओं पर विश्वास करती है, तो युवा केवल सफल नहीं होते—वे राष्ट्र का भविष्य गढ़ते हैं।”

आज भारत एक ऐसे दौर में है, जहाँ उसकी युवा शक्ति उसके भविष्य की दिशा तय कर रही है। जन विश्वास जैसे सुधार इस शक्ति को सही मार्ग प्रदान करते हैं, उसे प्रेरित करते हैं और उसे राष्ट्र निर्माण की मुख्यधारा में जोड़ते हैं। यह केवल नीतिगत परिवर्तन नहीं, बल्कि एक नए भारत की नींव है—एक ऐसा भारत, जो विश्वास, नवाचार और युवा शक्ति के बल पर आगे बढ़ रहा है।

जन विश्वास बिल 2.0

विश्वास आधारित शासन की ओर एक निर्णायक कदम

अतुल व्यास

लेखक, अधिवक्ता एवं नीति
विश्लेषक

लोकतंत्र का वास्तविक आधार केवल चुनाव या संस्थाएँ नहीं, बल्कि विश्वास होता है। यह विश्वास एकतरफा नहीं होता—यह नागरिकों का सरकार पर जितना निर्भर करता है, उतना ही सरकार का अपने नागरिकों पर विश्वास भी उसे सशक्त बनाता है। जब शासन अपने लोगों को संदेह की दृष्टि से नहीं बल्कि क्षमता और जिम्मेदारी के दृष्टिकोण से देखता है, तभी एक जीवंत और प्रभावी लोकतंत्र का निर्माण होता है। इसी मूल भावना को साकार करने की दिशा में जन विश्वास सुधार बिल 2.0 एक महत्वपूर्ण और समयानुकूल कदम है, जो भारत की शासन व्यवस्था में एक गहरे परिवर्तन का संकेत देता है। यह पहल केवल एक विधायी सुधार नहीं, बल्कि प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में शासन की उस व्यापक सोच का हिस्सा है, जो “न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन” के सिद्धांत को व्यवहार में उतारती है।

लंबे समय तक भारत की कानूनी और प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था ऐसी रही, जिसमें छोटे और तकनीकी प्रकार के उल्लंघनों को भी आपराधिक श्रेणी में रखा गया। दस्तावेजों में त्रुटियाँ, प्रक्रियात्मक देरी या अनुपालन में मामूली चूक जैसे मामलों में भी जेल की सजा का प्रावधान होना न केवल अनुपातहीन था, बल्कि इसने नागरिकों और उद्यमियों के बीच एक स्थायी भय का वातावरण भी उत्पन्न किया। परिणामस्वरूप कानून का पालन जिम्मेदारी से नहीं, बल्कि डंड के डर से होने लगा। ऐसी व्यवस्था अल्पकाल में नियंत्रण तो स्थापित कर सकती है, लेकिन दीर्घकाल में यह न तो नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करती है और न ही आर्थिक और सामाजिक गतिशीलता के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण तैयार करती है। इसके साथ ही, इन छोटे-छोटे मामलों के कारण न्यायालयों पर अनावश्यक बोझ बढ़ता गया, जिससे न्यायिक प्रक्रिया धीमी और जटिल होती चली गई।



इन्हीं संरचनात्मक समस्याओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए जन विश्वास बिल 2.0 एक स्पष्ट और व्यावहारिक समाधान प्रस्तुत करता है। इस सुधार का केंद्रीय विचार डिफ्रिंजिडेशन है—अर्थात् ऐसे छोटे अपराधों को आपराधिक श्रेणी से बाहर निकालना, जिनका समाज या सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा पर कोई गंभीर प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता। इस दिशा में अनेक कानूनों में संशोधन करते हुए सैकड़ों प्रावधानों में जेल की सजा के स्थान पर आर्थिक या प्रशासनिक दंड की व्यवस्था लागू की गई है। यह केवल कानूनी भाषा में परिवर्तन नहीं, बल्कि शासन की मूल मानसिकता में एक संरचनात्मक बदलाव का संकेत है—जहाँ नियंत्रण के स्थान पर विश्वास को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। इस प्रक्रिया में संसद की प्रासंगिक समितियों द्वारा व्यापक विचार-विमर्श और अनेक बैठकों के माध्यम से इन प्रावधानों को परिपक्व स्वरूप दिया गया है। महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि गंभीर अपराधों के लिए कड़े प्रावधान यथावत रखे गए हैं, जिससे यह सुधार संतुलित और जिम्मेदार दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।

इस परिवर्तन का प्रभाव केवल विधायी स्तर तक सीमित नहीं है। प्रशासनिक और न्यायिक प्रणाली पर भी इसका व्यापक असर दिखाई देता है। जहाँ पहले छोटे मामलों के लिए भी अदालतों का दरवाजा खटखटाना पड़ता था, वहीं अब विभागीय और प्रशासनिक तंत्र के माध्यम से त्वरित समाधान संभव हो रहा है। इससे न्यायालयों पर बोझ कम होता है और वे अपने संसाधनों को अधिक गंभीर और जटिल मामलों पर केंद्रित कर सकते हैं। परिणामस्वरूप न्याय प्रणाली अधिक प्रभावी, तेज और नागरिकोन्मुख बनती है, जो किसी भी आधुनिक लोकतंत्र की मूल अपेक्षा होती है।

इस सुधार का सबसे गहरा प्रभाव भारत के आर्थिक और सामाजिक आधार पर पड़ता है—विशेष रूप से छोटे उद्योगों, व्यापारियों, स्टार्टअप्स, युवाओं और श्रमिक वर्ग पर। भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था का बड़ा हिस्सा इसी वर्ग पर निर्भर करता है, लेकिन लंबे समय तक यह वर्ग जटिल कानूनी प्रावधानों और अनिश्चितताओं के बीच कार्य करता रहा। छोटे उल्लंघनों के कारण कानूनी कार्रवाई का भय उनके विकास में एक अदृश्य बाधा बन गया था। डिफ्रिंजिडेशन के बाद यह भय कम होता है और उसकी जगह आत्मविश्वास लेता है। अब उद्यमी अपने संसाधनों और ऊर्जा को कानूनी जटिलताओं में उलझाने के बजाय नवाचार, विस्तार और उत्पादकता पर केंद्रित कर सकते हैं। यह परिवर्तन केवल “ease of doing business” की रैंकिंग तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह जमीनी स्तर पर आर्थिक गतिविधियों को गति देता है।

यह पूरा सुधार एक व्यापक वैचारिक परिवर्तन का भी प्रतीक है। औपनिवेशिक काल की प्रशासनिक संरचना मूलतः अविश्वास पर आधारित थी, जहाँ नागरिकों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कठोर दंडात्मक प्रावधान बनाए गए थे। स्वतंत्रता के बाद भी इस मानसिकता का प्रभाव लंबे समय तक बना रहा। जन विश्वास बिल इस विरासत

से बाहर निकलने का प्रयास है। यह दंड आधारित शासन से विश्वास आधारित शासन की ओर एक संक्रमण है, नियंत्रण से सशक्तिकरण की ओर एक यात्रा है। भारतीय परंपरा में शासन का आधार केवल दंड नहीं, बल्कि न्याय, संतुलन और समाज के प्रति उत्तरदायित्व रहा है। यह सुधार उसी परंपरा को आधुनिक संदर्भ में पुनर्स्थापित करता है।

“भरोसे की भाजपा सरकार” या “सबका साथ सबका विश्वास” यह केवल चुनावी नारे ही नहीं बल्कि जब सरकार में हैं तब सही अर्थ में नागरिकों पर भरोसा प्रकट करना यह इस बिल द्वारा सार्थक करते हुए 140 करोड़ लोगों पर विश्वास रखने वाला और पारस्परिक विश्वास से जिम्मेदारी का भाव जागृत करने वाला यह बिल है, सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर उठाए गए अन्य कदम भी इसी विश्वास आधारित दृष्टिकोण को पुष्ट करते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, सेल्फ-अटेस्टेशन को मान्यता देना एक ऐसा निर्णय था जिसने करोड़ों नागरिकों के जीवन को सरल बनाया। जहाँ पहले छोटे-छोटे कार्यों के लिए भी शपथपत्र और सत्यापन की जटिल प्रक्रियाओं से गुजरना पड़ता था, वहीं अब नागरिकों की सत्यनिष्ठा पर विश्वास करते हुए प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया गया। इस प्रकार के निर्णय केवल प्रशासनिक सुविधा नहीं प्रदान करते, बल्कि नागरिकों में जिम्मेदारी और सहभागिता की भावना को भी सुदृढ़ करते हैं।

किसी भी राष्ट्र के लिए यह आवश्यक है कि उसकी कानूनी और प्रशासनिक संरचना समय के साथ बदलती परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप स्वयं को ढालती रहे। ऐसे अनेक कानून जो कभी प्रासंगिक थे, समय के साथ अप्रभावी या बाधक बन जाते

हैं। उन्हें समाप्त करना या संशोधित करना केवल एक विकल्प नहीं, बल्कि एक उत्तरदायित्व है। जन विश्वास बिल इसी उत्तरदायित्व की अभिव्यक्ति है, जो हजारों छोटे और अप्रासंगिक प्रावधानों को समाप्त करते हुए एक अधिक सरल, पारदर्शी और उत्तरदायी व्यवस्था की ओर मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है।

यह सुधार केवल वर्तमान की आवश्यकताओं का उत्तर नहीं, बल्कि भविष्य की दिशा का निर्धारण भी है। जैसे-जैसे भारत विकसित भारत 2047 के लक्ष्य की ओर अग्रसर है, वैसे-वैसे यह आवश्यक हो जाता है कि शासन नागरिकों पर विश्वास करते हुए उनकी क्षमता को सशक्त बनाए। जन विश्वास 2.0 इसी परिवर्तन का प्रतीक है—एक ऐसा परिवर्तन जो नियंत्रण के स्थान पर सहयोग, संदेह के स्थान पर विश्वास और दंड के स्थान पर उत्तरदायित्व को स्थापित करता है। यही दृष्टिकोण एक आत्मविश्वासी, सक्षम और विकसित भारत की आधारशिला रखता है।

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 जैसे-जैसे भारत
 विकसित भारत 2047
 के लक्ष्य की ओर
 अग्रसर है, वैसे-वैसे यह
 आवश्यक हो जाता है
 कि शासन नागरिकों
 पर विश्वास करते हुए
 उनकी क्षमता को
 सशक्त बनाए।

जन विश्वास विधेयक

विश्वास आधारित शासन और विकसित भारत की ओर बढ़ते कदम

प्रो. वीरेंद्र कुमार विजय
प्रोफेसर, ग्रामीण विकास एवं
प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र, IIT दिल्ली और
सदस्य, बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स, IIT
भिलाई, छत्तीसगढ़

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत आज अपने 'अमृत काल' के उस पड़ाव पर है, जहाँ औपनिवेशिक काल के पुराने और दमनकारी कानूनों को पीछे छोड़कर एक आधुनिक, विश्वास आधारित, पारदर्शी और सशक्त शासन व्यवस्था का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। इस परिवर्तन के केंद्र में जन विश्वास विधेयक 1.0 और 2.0 हैं, जो न केवल व्यापार करने की सुगमता (Ease of Doing Business) को बढ़ाएगा, बल्कि आम नागरिक के जीवन में 'ईज ऑफ लिविंग' (Ease of Living) को भी सुनिश्चित करेगा। 'जन विश्वास विधेयक' (Jan Vishwas Bill) 1.0 और 2.0 भारत के विनियामक दर्शन (Regulatory Philosophy) को 'नियंत्रण' से 'सहयोग' की ओर ले जा रहे हैं।



ऐतिहासिक रूप से, भारत में कई ऐसे कानून प्रचलन में थे जो छोटी-छोटी तकनीकी गलतियों या प्रशासनिक चूकों के लिए कारावास का प्रावधान करते थे। एक उद्यमी या नागरिक के लिए यह हमेशा भय का विषय रहता था कि एक अनजानी कागजी भूल उसे आपराधिक कटघरे में खड़ा कर सकती है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का मानना है कि एक विकसित राष्ट्र का निर्माण तभी हो सकता है जब राज्य और समाज के बीच 'विश्वास' का सेतु मजबूत हो। "न्यूनतम सरकार, अधिकतम शासन" (Minimum Government, Maximum Governance) के मंत्र के साथ, जन विश्वास सुधारों का मुख्य उद्देश्य इसी 'विश्वास' को पुनः स्थापित करना और अनावश्यक विनियामक बाधाओं को समाप्त करना है।

जन विश्वास विधेयक 1.0: एक युगांतकारी पहल

जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) विधेयक, 2023, जिसे 1.0 के रूप में जाना जाता है, ने भारत के कानूनी ढांचे में एक बड़ी सफाई प्रक्रिया की शुरुआत की। इस विधेयक के माध्यम से 19 मंत्रालयों द्वारा प्रशासित 42 अधिनियमों में लगभग 183 प्रावधानों को संशोधित किया गया। इनमें पर्यावरण, कृषि, उद्योग, संचार और स्वास्थ्य जैसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र शामिल थे। इस विधेयक की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता यह थी कि इसने कई छोटे अपराधों को 'वि-अपराधीकृत' (Decriminalize) कर दिया।

उदाहरण के तौर पर, भारतीय डाकघर अधिनियम, 1898 या सिनेमैटोग्राफ अधिनियम जैसे कानूनों में ऐसे कई प्रावधान थे जो आज के डिजिटल युग में अप्रासंगिक हो चुके थे। जन विश्वास 1.0 ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि जहाँ सुरक्षा या राष्ट्रीय हितों का गंभीर उल्लंघन नहीं है, वहाँ कारावास की सजा को हटाकर मौद्रिक दंड या प्रशासनिक जुर्माने में बदल दिया जाए। इससे न केवल अदालतों में लंबित मामलों का बोझ कम हुआ, बल्कि छोटे व्यापारियों को 'इंस्पेक्टर राज' के भय से भी मुक्ति मिली। यह विधेयक एक संदेश था कि सरकार अपने नागरिकों की ईमानदारी पर भरोसा करती है और उन्हें अपराधी के बजाय राष्ट्र निर्माण में भागीदार मानती है।

जन विश्वास विधेयक 2.0: सुधारों का विस्तार और सुदृढ़ीकरण

विधेयक के पहले संस्करण की सफलता और सकारात्मक फीडबैक के बाद, सरकार ने जन विश्वास 2.0 की रूपरेखा तैयार की। यदि 1.0 एक बुनियाद थी, तो 2.0 उस पर निर्मित एक भव्य इमारत है। जन विश्वास 2.0 का दायरा और भी व्यापक है, जिसमें अधिक मंत्रालयों और राज्य स्तर के कानूनों को समाहित करने का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य केवल केंद्र के कानूनों में सुधार करना नहीं है, बल्कि एक ऐसा 'होल ऑफ गवर्नमेंट' (Whole of Government) दृष्टिकोण अपनाना है जिससे राज्यों में भी व्यापारिक और नागरिक अनुपालनों (Compliances) को सरल बनाया जा सके।

विधेयक 2.0 में उन जटिल विनिर्माण क्षेत्रों और सेवा क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है जहाँ अनुपालन की लागत बहुत अधिक थी। यह विधेयक 'स्व-प्रमाणीकरण' (Self-certification) और 'डिजिटल अनुपालन' को बढ़ावा देता है। सरकार का लक्ष्य है कि आने वाले

समय में व्यवसायों को सैकड़ों फाइलों के बजाय एक पारदर्शी डिजिटल डैशबोर्ड के माध्यम से विनियमित किया जाए। यह संस्करण सुधारों की निरंतरता को दर्शाता है, जो यह सिद्ध करता है कि मोदी सरकार के लिए सुधार कोई एक बार की घटना नहीं, बल्कि एक सतत चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है।

वि-अपराधीकरण का ढांचा और न्यायिक प्रभाव

इन दोनों विधेयकों का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है डिजिटल इंडिफिकेशन का ढांचा, जिसके तहत प्रक्रियात्मक त्रुटियों, दस्तावेजी कमियों और छोटे अनुपालन उल्लंघनों को आपराधिक श्रेणी से हटाया गया है। अब ऐसे मामलों में जेल की सजा के स्थान पर जुर्माना या प्रशासनिक दंड का प्रावधान है। कानून के जानकारों का मानना है कि जब तक छोटे प्रशासनिक उल्लंघनों के लिए जेल की सजा का डर बना रहता है, तब तक नवाचार (Innovation) पनप नहीं सकता। इन विधेयकों ने अपराधों को श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया है। जो मामले गंभीर प्रकृति के नहीं हैं, उन्हें 'सिविल उल्लंघन' के रूप में पुनर्वर्गीकृत किया गया है।

इस प्रक्रिया में 'प्रशासनिक अधिनिर्णय' (Administrative Adjudication) की व्यवस्था की गई है। इसका अर्थ यह है कि अब छोटी गलतियों के लिए मामला सीधे अदालत नहीं जाएगा, बल्कि संबंधित विभाग के नामित अधिकारी (Adjudicating Officers) ही जुर्माना लगाकर मामले को निपटा सकेंगे। इससे न्यायपालिका पर पड़ने वाला अतिरिक्त दबाव कम होगा। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत की निचली अदालतों में लाखों मामले केवल तकनीकी विनियामक उल्लंघनों के कारण लंबित हैं। जन विश्वास सुधार इन फाइलों के ढेर को कम करने और जजों का समय अधिक गंभीर अपराधों की सुनवाई के लिए बचाने में सहायक सिद्ध होंगे।

क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव: उद्योग से लेकर आम नागरिक तक
जन विश्वास सुधारों का प्रभाव विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में स्पष्ट रूप से देखा जा सकता है। फार्मास्युटिकल क्षेत्र में, जहाँ पहले मामली रीबलिंग त्रुटियों के लिए भी भारी कानूनी कार्रवाई का डर रहता था, अब स्पष्टता आई है। पर्यावरण क्षेत्र में, जहाँ प्रक्रियात्मक देरी के कारण जुर्माने लगते थे, अब सुदृढ़ीकरण के माध्यम से व्यवस्था की गई है। इसी तरह, खाद्य सुरक्षा और नागरिक अधिनियम के तहत छोटे खाद्य विक्रेताओं को भी राहत मिली है।

वाणिज्य और उद्योग के क्षेत्र में, जन विश्वास भारत की वैश्विक साख को मजबूत करता है। जब विश्वीय निवेशक भारत आते हैं, तो वे यहाँ को कानूनी जटिलताओं को देखते हैं। जन विश्वास सुधार उन्हें यह भरोसा दिलाते हैं कि भारत एक 'अनुमानित' (Predictable) और 'मित्रवत' (Friendly) कानूनी वातावरण प्रदान करता है। इससे भारत का वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला (Global Supply Chain) में एक प्रमुख केंद्र बनाने में मदद मिल रही है।

MSMEs और स्टार्ट-अप्स: युवाओं के सपनों को नई उड़ान

MSMEs और स्टार्ट-अप्स के लिए ये विधेयक अत्यंत लाभकारी सिद्ध हुए हैं। पहले जटिल नियमों और कठोर दंड के कारण छोटे उद्यमों को कई कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता था, लेकिन अब



आपराधिक भय में कमी, अनुपालन लागत में गिरावट और बेहतर कारोबारी वातावरण ने उद्यमिता को नई ऊर्जा दी है। भारत आज दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम है। एक युवा उद्यमी जब अपना स्टार्टअप शुरू करता है, तो उसके पास संसाधनों की कमी होती है। यदि उसे सैकड़ों कानूनों के अनुपालन और कानूनी नोटिसों का सामना करना पड़े, तो उसकी ऊर्जा व्यवसाय बढ़ाने के बजाय फाइलों में उलझ कर रह जाती है।

जन विश्वास विधेयक ने अनुपालन बोझ (Compliance Burden) को कम करके स्टार्टअप के लिए 'बिजनेस करना' आसान बना दिया है। सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSMEs) के लिए, जो भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ हैं, ये सुधार वित्तीय राहत और मानसिक शांति लेकर आए हैं। अब उद्यमी अपनी ऊर्जा नवाचार और रोजगार सृजन में लगा सकते हैं। 'भय मुक्त उद्यम' ही विकसित भारत का आधार बनेगा।

प्रशासनिक और शासन परिणाम: एक नए युग का सूत्रपात

इन दो विधेयकों ने भारत की नौकरशाही और प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों की भूमिका को भी बदल दिया है। पहले प्रवर्तन का अर्थ 'पकड़ना और दंड देना' माना जाता था, लेकिन अब इसे 'सुधारना और सहायता करना' के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। अधिकारियों को अब केवल दंड देने वाली शक्ति के बजाय एक 'सुविधा प्रदाता' (Facilitator) के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।

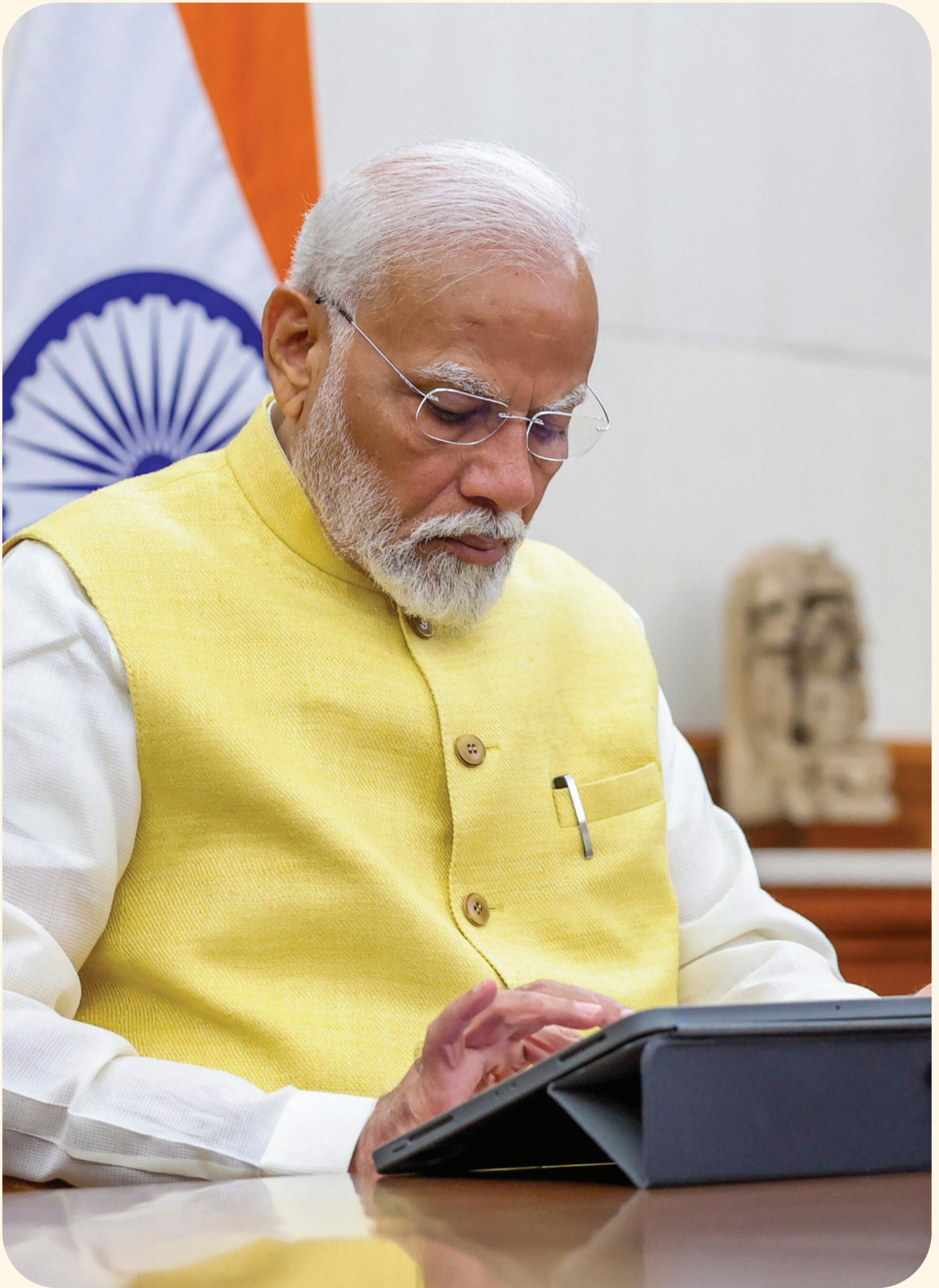
शासन में यह बदलाव एक 'विश्वास-आधारित' समाज का निर्माण कर रहा है। जब सरकार अपने नागरिकों पर भरोसा करती है, तो नागरिक भी अधिक जिम्मेदारी के साथ करों का भुगतान करते हैं और नियमों का पालन करते हैं। यह लोकतंत्र की जड़ों को गहरा करता

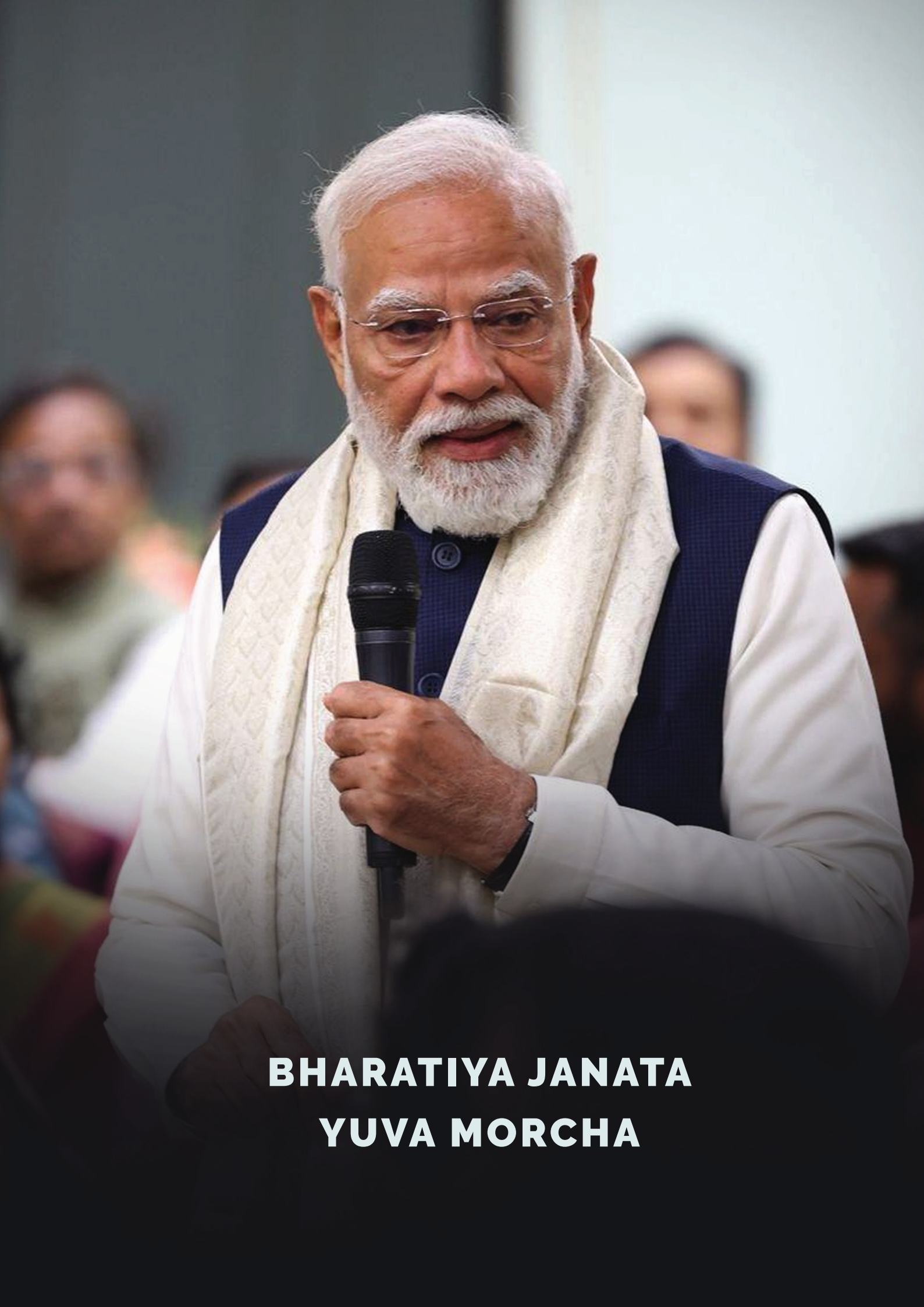
है। जन विश्वास विधेयक केवल कानूनों का पुलिंदा नहीं है, बल्कि यह सरकार की नियत का परिचायक है।

निष्कर्ष: विकसित भारत की ओर बढ़ता विश्वास

जैसे-जैसे भारत 2047 के अपने लक्ष्य विकसित भारत की ओर बढ़ रहा है, जन विश्वास विधेयक 1.0 और 2.0 जैसे सुधार हमारे आर्थिक विकास के इंजन को गति प्रदान करेंगे। ये सुधार यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि भारत का विकास केवल आंकड़ों में नहीं, बल्कि लोगों के जीवन की सुगमता में झलके।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में 'जन विश्वास' केवल एक नारा नहीं, बल्कि शासन का एक जीवंत दर्शन बन गया है। जन विश्वास विधेयक सरकार और नागरिकों के बीच विश्वास को मजबूत करते हैं और एक ऐसे भारत की नींव रखते हैं जहाँ कानून डर का नहीं, बल्कि सहयोग और सशक्तिकरण का माध्यम बनता है। विकसित भारत के लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ते हुए, ये सुधार देश को एक अधिक सक्षम, पारदर्शी और आत्मनिर्भर राष्ट्र बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएंगे। हम, भारत के युवा, इन सुधारों के वाहक हैं। यह हमारी जिम्मेदारी है कि हम इन बदलावों के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाएं और यह सुनिश्चित करें कि इनका लाभ समाज के अंतिम छोर पर बैठे व्यक्ति तक पहुंचे। आइए, विश्वास के इस नए युग में अपनी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करें और भारत को 'विश्वगुरु' बनाने के संकल्प को सिद्ध करें।





**BHARATIYA JANATA
YUVA MORCHA**