April 7, 2026

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Jan Vishwas Act, 2026 rewrites offenses and penalties in 80 Acts

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 amends 80 Acts, replacing many fines and prison terms with penalties imposed by adjudicating officers.

THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND Justice (Legislative Department) published the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 (No. 8 of 2026) in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1, No. 13, on April 8, 2026, a day after the President's assent. It amends the 80 Acts in its Schedule, from the Court-fees Act, 1870 to the Indian Ports Act, 2025. Many entries replace imprisonment or a fine with a penalty, imposed by an adjudicating officer after giving the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, with an appeal within thirty days. In some Acts a first contravention now draws a warning, as in the Tea Act, 1953. An improvement notice appears in one entry only, the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Section 3 raises the fines and penalties by 10% of the minimum amount after every three years from the Act's commencement, unless a scheduled Act provides its own manner of revision.

KEY FACTS

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Serial 8 amends the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. In section 27A(ii), imprisonment of up to one year, a fine of up to ₹20,000, or both, becomes a penalty of ₹1 lakh or three times the value of the cosmetics confiscated, whichever is higher. In section 28A, imprisonment of up to one year, a fine of at least ₹20,000, or both, becomes a penalty of ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh. Section 29 and section 30(1A) and (2) are omitted. A new section 30A provides for adjudicating officers not below the rank of Deputy Drugs Controller or Assistant Drugs Controller, or equivalent State officers, with an appeal to an officer at least one rank higher. Entries (H) and (I) rewrite sections 33-I(2) and 33J(c), in the Act's Chapter IVA on Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs. Contravening any other provision of that Chapter or a rule made under it, except section 24 as applied by section 33H, is punishable with up to six months' imprisonment and a fine of at least ₹10,000; contravening section 24 as applied by section 33H carries a fine of at least ₹30,000.

Serial 9 turns the fine of up to fifty rupees in section 43 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 into a penalty of up to ₹5,000, payable within ten days of the person's name being removed from the register. If it is not paid within that period and the certificate of registration is not surrendered, a further ₹1,000 applies for every day the contravention continues. Serial 62 amends the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The proviso to section 39 now says "liable to penalty" in place of "guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with fine"; in section 60, "six months" becomes "three months". Section 62 drops "resists, obstructs, or attempts to obstruct" and now covers a person who "impersonates, threatens, intimidates or assaults". Serial 4 omits section 4 of the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898, with nothing in its place, and adds section 3B: all notifications under the Act are to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Serial 65 amends the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009. "Animal" now includes, among others, poultry, bees, fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians, and a new Schedule lists 148 diseases in 13 groups. A person who contravenes the Act or its rules, orders or notifications, or obstructs the Competent Officer, is liable to a penalty of up to ₹10,000, plus up to ₹5,000 a day while the contravention continues. A person who does

not pay a penalty within ninety days is punishable with up to three months' imprisonment, a fine of up to twice the penalty, or both. Serial 17 replaces the fine of up to ₹1,000 in section 37 of the Tea Act, 1953 with a warning at the first instance and a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh for later contraventions. Under serial 37, a person who fails to produce books and records required under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972 is liable to a penalty of up to ₹10,000. Under serial 50, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985 gives a warning for a first failure to furnish a return, then a penalty of ₹10,000 to ₹50,000.

Serial 35 renames Chapter XX of the Patents Act, 1970 "PUNISHMENTS" and omits section 119; section 118 does not apply to a contravention of section 39 if, in the Central Government's opinion, the invention was "not relevant for defence purpose or atomic energy" at the time. Serial 23 omits section 67 of the Copyright Act, 1957. In the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, serial 51's new section 177 gives a recorded warning for a first contravention where no fine or penalty is provided, then a penalty of ₹500 to ₹1,500. Serial 66, on the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, came into force on May 1, 2026. The table lists the commencement notices for the Acts named here, not every notice under the Act. For serial 8, S.O. 3286(E) of June 22, 2026 appoints June 30, 2027 (printed "30st June, 2027") for "serial number 8 and the entries relating thereto". S.O. 3362(E) of June 23, 2026, from the Ministry of AYUSH, appoints July 1, 2026 for serial 8 (H) and (I). Section 3 counts its three years from the Act's commencement and does not say which date that is where Acts start on different dates.

Issued by	Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department)
Document	The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 (No. 8 of 2026)
Dated	April 7, 2026, the date of the President's assent
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1, No. 13, April 8, 2026
Applies to	The 80 Acts in the Schedule, from the Court-fees Act, 1870 (serial 1) to the Indian Ports Act, 2025 (serial 80)
Takes effect	On the date the Central Government appoints by notification; different dates may be appointed for different Acts (section 1(2))
Revision of fines and penalties	Up by 10% of the minimum amount after every three years from commencement, unless a scheduled Act provides its own manner of revision (section 3)
Serials covered on this page	4, 8, 9, 17, 23, 35, 37, 50, 51, 62, 65 and 66
Drugs and Cosmetics Act, section 28A	Penalty of ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, in place of imprisonment of up to one year or a fine of at least ₹20,000, or both

Animal diseases Act, section 32	Penalty of up to ₹10,000, plus up to ₹5,000 a day for a continuing contravention
Removing difficulties	Order by the Central Government, within two years of commencement (section 5)
Signed by	Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary to the Government of India

Commencement notices for the Acts named on this page

Act	Serial	In force from	Notification
Legal Metrology Act, 2009	66	May 1, 2026	S.O. 2103(E), April 27, 2026, Department of Consumer Affairs
Live-stock Importation Act, 1898	4	May 15, 2026	S.O. 2303(E), May 7, 2026, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Patents Act, 1970	35	June 1, 2026	S.O. 2846(E), June 1, 2026, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
Copyright Act, 1957	23	June 15, 2026	S.O. 2875(E), June 5, 2026, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
Pharmacy Act, 1948	9	Date of publication in the Official Gazette (Gazette dated June 22, 2026)	S.O. 3276(E), June 22, 2026, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985	50	June 23, 2026	S.O. 3355(E), June 23, 2026, Department of Commerce
Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972	37	June 23, 2026	S.O. 3369(E), June 23, 2026, Department of Commerce
Tea Act, 1953	17	June 24, 2026	S.O. 3375(E), June 24, 2026, Department of Commerce
Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009	65	July 1, 2026	S.O. 2531(E), May 15, 2026, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940	8 (H) and (I)	July 1, 2026	S.O. 3362(E), June 23, 2026, Ministry of AYUSH
Motor Vehicles Act, 1988	51	August 15, 2026	S.O. 4100(E), July 24, 2026, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006	62	October 1, 2026	S.O. 3274(E), June 22, 2026, Department of Health and Family Welfare
Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940	8	June 30, 2027 (printed "30st June, 2027")	S.O. 3286(E), June 22, 2026, Department of Health and Family Welfare

The act of parliament (PDF, 1.9 MB)

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