



सत्यमेव जयते

महाराष्ट्र शासन राजपत्र

असाधारण भाग आठ

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असाधारण क्रमांक ९३

प्राधिकृत प्रकाशन

महाराष्ट्र विधानमंडळाचे अधिनियम व राज्यपालांनी प्रख्यापित केलेले अध्यादेश व केलेले
विनियम आणि विधि व न्याय विभागाकडून आलेली विधेयके (इंग्रजी अनुवाद).

In pursuance of clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution of India, the following translation in English of the Maharashtra Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 (L. A. Bill No. XCVI of 2025), introduced in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on the 8th December 2025, is hereby published under the authority of the Governor.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

SATISH WAGHOLE,
Secretary (Legislation) to Government,
Law and Judiciary Department.

L. A. BILL No. XCVI OF 2025.

A BILL

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

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend certain enactments for decriminalizing and rationalizing certain offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and ease of doing business in the State of Maharashtra and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto ; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

Short title. **1.** This Act may be called the Maharashtra *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2025.

Amendments of certain Acts. **2.** The Acts mentioned in column (4) of the *Schedule-I* appended herewith are amended to the extent and in the manner mentioned in column (5) thereof.

Savings. **3.** (1) The amendment to any Act by this Act shall not affect any other Act in which the amended Act has been applied, incorporated, or is referred to.

(2) This Act shall not affect the validity, invalidity, effect or consequence of anything already done or suffered, or any right, title, obligation or liability already acquired, accrued or incurred or any remedy or proceeding in respect thereof, or any release or discharge of, or from, any debt, penalty, obligation, liability, claim or demand, or any indemnity already granted or any proof of a past act or thing.

(3) This Act shall not affect any principle or rule of law, or established jurisdiction, form or course of pleading, practice or procedure, or existing usage, custom, privilege, restriction, exemption, office or appointment, notwithstanding that the same respectively may have been in any manner affirmed, or recognised or derived by, in or from any Act hereby amended.

(4) The amendment to any Act by this Act shall not revive or restore any jurisdiction, office, custom, liability, rights, title, privilege, restriction, exemption, usage, practice, procedure or other matter or thing not now existing or in force.

SCHEDULE-I

(See section 2)

Sr. No.	Year of Act	Number of Act	Short title of Act	Amendments to Act
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	1947	XI	The Maharashtra Industrial Relations Act.	(1) In CHAPTER XVI, for the heading “Penalties” the following heading shall be substituted, namely :- “Offences, Fines and Penalties”. (2) In section 101, in sub-section (3), for the letters and figures “Rs. 5000”, the words “fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted. (3) In section 102,— (i) for the letters and figures “Rs. 2,500”, the words “ five lakh rupees” shall be substituted ;

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(ii) for the letters and figures “Rs. 5,000”, the words “ten thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (iii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted. (4) In section 103,— (i) for the letters and figures “Rs. 10”, the words “ ten thousand rupees” shall be substituted; (ii) for the letters and figure “Re.1”, the words “ ten rupees” shall be substituted ; (iii) for the letters and figures “Rs.50”, the words “ five hundred rupees” shall be substituted ; (iv) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted. (5) In section 104, in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “ Fine” shall be substituted. (6) In section 105, for the portion beginning with the words “ ,on conviction,” and ending with the letters and figures “Rs.1,000.”, the following shall be substituted, namely:- “be liable to a penalty, on a complaint made by the party who gave the information or produced the document in such proceeding, which may extend to twenty thousand rupees.”. (7) In section 106,— (i) in sub-section (1), for the letters and figures “Rs. 5,000”, the words “ fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted. (8) In section 106A, for the portion beginning with the words “ ,on conviction,” and ending with the words “such failure continues”, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				“be liable to a penalty which may extend to fifty thousand rupees and in the case of a continuing failure with an additional penalty which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day during which such failure continues”. (9) In section 107,— (i) for the letters and figures “Rs. 500”, the words “ two lakh rupees” shall be substituted; (ii) for the letters and figures “Rs. 125”, the words “ two thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (iii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted. (10) In section 108,— (i) for the letters and figures “Rs. 500”, the words “ fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted. (11) In section 109,— (i) after the words “other penalty” the words “or fine” shall be inserted; (ii) for the letters and figures “Rs. 100”, the words “ ten thousand rupees” shall be substituted; (iii) for the letters and figures “Rs. 200”, the words “ twenty thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (iv) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalties” the word “ Fines” shall be substituted. (12) In section 110,— (i) after the word “fine” the words “or penalty” shall be inserted; (ii) in the marginal note, after the word “fines” the word “ , penalties” shall be inserted.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(13) In section 119A,— (i) in sub-section (1), in clause (d), for the words “one thousand rupees”, the words “ one lakh rupees” shall be substituted; (ii) in sub-section (2), for the words “five hundred rupees”, the words “ fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted.
2.	1949	XV	The Maharashtra Nursing Homes Registration Act.	(1) In section 6,— (i) for the words “ten thousand rupees” the words “one lakh rupees” shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Punishment” shall be substituted. (2) In section 9, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :— “(2) If any person refuses to allow any such officer to enter or inspect any such premises as aforesaid, or to inspect any such records as aforesaid or furnishes false information or records to any such officer or obstructs any such officer in the execution of his powers under this section, he shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both.”. (3) In section 12,— (i) after the words “other penalty” the words “or fine” shall be inserted; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted.
3.	1958	LX	The Maharashtra Stamp Act.	(1) In section 59,— (i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees” the words “imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months, or with fine which may

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				extend to one lakh rupees, or with both" shall be substituted; (ii) in sub-section (2), for the words "five hundred rupees" the words "fifty thousand rupees" shall be substituted ; (iii) in the marginal note, for the word "Penalty" the word "Punishment" shall be substituted. (2) In section 60,- (i) for the words "rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees" the words "imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both" shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word "Penalty" the word "Punishment" shall be substituted. (3) In section 61,- (i) for the words "one hundred rupees" the words "twenty-five thousand rupees" shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word "Penalty" the word "Punishment" shall be substituted. (4) In section 62,- (i) in clause (c), for the words "five thousand rupees" the words "five times the deficient portion of the stamp thereof" shall be substituted; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word "Penalty" the word "Punishment" shall be substituted. (5) In section 63A, in sub-section (2), for the words "rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months and with a fine which may extend to five thousand rupees" the words "imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months, or

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.”. (6) In section 68A, for the words “imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month, but which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to rupees five thousand” the words “imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month, but which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both” shall be substituted.
4.	1965	XLVI	The Maharashtra Medical Council Act, 1965.	In section 29,- (i) for the words “five thousand rupees” the words “twenty thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted.
5.	1972	I	The Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Unions and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act, 1971.	(1) In CHAPTER IX, for the heading “PENALTIES” the heading “OFFENCES” shall be substituted. (2) In section 47,- (i) for the words “one thousand rupees” the words “twenty-five thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted. (3) In section 48,- (i) in sub-section (1), for the words “five thousand rupees” the words “fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted; (ii) in sub-section (2), in clause (d), for the words “one thousand rupees” the words “one lakh rupees” shall be substituted ; (iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “five hundred rupees” the words “one lakh rupees” shall be substituted.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(4) In section 49,- (i) for the words “five hundred rupees” the words “fifty thousand rupees” shall be substituted ; (ii) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalty” the word “Fine” shall be substituted.
6.	1975	XVI	The Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act, 1975.	Sections 20, 21 and 23 shall be deleted.
7.	2017	LXI	The Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017.	(1) In section 7, in sub-section (3), for the words “punishable with a fine of rupees one thousand” the words “liable to penalty of one thousand rupees” shall be substituted. (2) In section 29,- (i) in sub-section (1),- (a) for the portion beginning with the words “punishable with fine” and ending with the words “such contravention continues” the following shall be substituted, namely :- “ liable to penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of continuing contravention, with an additional penalty which may extend to two thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues”; (b) in the proviso, for the word “fine” the word “penalty” shall be substituted; (ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :- “(2) If any person is found to have committed second or subsequent contraventions under sub-section (1), then he is liable to penalty which may extend to two lakh rupees for such contravention:

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				Provided that, the total amount of penalty shall not exceed two thousand rupees per worker employed.”. (3) In section 31,- (i) in sub-section (1), for the words “shall, on conviction, be punished with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees” the words “shall be liable to penalty which may extend to two lakh rupees” shall be substituted; (ii) in sub-section (2),- (a) for the words “shall, on conviction, be punished with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees” the words “shall be liable to penalty which may extend to two lakh rupees” shall be substituted; (b) in the proviso, for the word “fine” the word “penalty” shall be substituted. (4) After section 31, the following sections shall be inserted, namely :- “31A. Adjudication.- (1) The State Government, for the purposes of determining and imposing penalties under any provisions of this Act, or any rules made thereunder, may appoint an officer not below the rank of Government Labour Officer to be the adjudicating officer, to hold an inquiry and impose a penalty in the manner as may be prescribed: Provided that, the State Government may appoint as many adjudicating officers as may be required. (2) The adjudicating officer may summon and enforce the attendance of any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case to give evidence or to produce any document, which in the opinion of the adjudicating officer, may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject matter of the inquiry and if, on such inquiry, he is satisfied that the person concerned has failed to comply with

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				any provisions of this Act, or any rules, made thereunder, he may impose a penalty: Provided that no such penalty shall be imposed without giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard. 31B. Appeal.- (1) Whoever is aggrieved by the order, passed by the adjudicating officer under section 31A, may prefer an appeal to an officer not below the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Labour, to be an appellate authority, specially authorised by the State Government in this behalf, within sixty days from the date of receipt of order, in such form and manner as may be prescribed. (2) An appeal may be admitted after the expiry of the period of sixty days if the appellant satisfies the appellate authority that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within that period. (3) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such an order as he may think fit. (4) An appeal under sub-section (1) shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of filing. (5) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if the person fails to comply with the order of the adjudicating officer under section 31A or the order of the appellate authority under this section, as the case may be, within ninety days of such order, he shall, in addition to the penalty, be punishable with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with both.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

A core element of *Viksit Maharashtra Vision* is the reform of the regulatory framework to shift from a punitive, compliance-heavy regime to a trust-based, facilitative model of governance. Excessive regulation, offences of minor and technical nature and offences of procedural non-compliances impose a significant cost on businesses, citizens and the State. Such provisions not only deter entrepreneurship and hinder the ease of doing business and the ease of living, but also place an undue burden on the judicial system and reduce administrative efficiency.

The Government of Maharashtra has consistently sought to advance the principle of '*Minimum Government, Maximum Governance*' by streamlining and redefining the regulatory framework under the broader Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business reforms. Towards this, easing the compliance burden and decriminalising minor contraventions of provisions of the Acts have been key policy priorities.

2. The Central Government has also enacted Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Acts decriminalising various penal provisions of the Central Acts. The Central Government has also circulated an advisory along with the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, to all States and Union Territories in 2023, to review their legislative landscape and to adopt and implement the decriminalisation strategy at the State level.

3. The Government of Maharashtra has undertaken a comprehensive review of its regulatory legislative framework to identify and amend provisions that criminalise minor contraventions. The State Government seeks to replace punishments for such minor contraventions with civil penalties for reducing burden on Courts and also for increasing administrative efficiency. Offences involving serious threats to public order, public health, life, or safety have been retained, while those relating to minor non-compliances, procedural lapses, and outdated regulatory requirements have been decriminalised. Further, punishments such as fines have been revised and rationalised.

The Government has earlier amended the penal provisions contained in the Maharashtra Police Act (XXII of 1951) and the Maharashtra Cinemas (Regulations) Act (XI of 1953) by the Maharashtra Act No. XI of 2023 and five State Labour Laws by the Maharashtra Act No. XX of 2023, respectively.

4. It is now proposed to amend the Maharashtra Industrial Relations Act (XI of 1947), the Maharashtra Nursing Homes Registration Act (XV of 1949), the Maharashtra Stamp Act (LX of 1958), the Maharashtra Medical Council Act, 1965 (Mah. XLVI of 1965), the Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Unions and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act, 1971 (Mah. I of 1972) the Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Act, 1975 (Mah. XVI of 1975) and the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017 (Mah. LXI of 2017), suitably.

5. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Nagpur,

Dated the 3rd December 2025.

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS,

Chief Minister.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

The Bill involves the following proposals for delegation of legislative power, namely :—

Clause 2.— Under this clause, in *SCHEDULE-I*, in entry at Serial No. 7, in paragraph (4),—

- (1) which seeks to insert section 31A in the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017 (Mah. LXI of 2017), power is taken to the State Government to prescribe the manner to hold an inquiry and impose a penalty under the said Act by the adjudicating officer ;
- (2) which seeks to insert section 31B in the said Act, power is taken to the State Government to prescribe the form and manner for filing an appeal to an officer not below the rank of the Deputy Commissioner of Labour under the said Act.

2. The above-mentioned proposals for delegation of legislative power are of normal character.