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Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill 2025 Withdrawn from Lok Sabha

18 March 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**POLITY****ECONOMY****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator •

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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18 March 2026 · 4 min read

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✎ WHY IN NEWS

The Union Government withdrew the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 from the Lok Sabha on March 18, 2026, citing the need to incorporate recommendations of a Select Committee — a significant step in India’s ongoing decriminalisation-of-minor-offences reform agenda.

BACKGROUND: THE JAN VISHWAS ACT 2023

The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023** was a landmark legislation that amended **42 central Acts** to **decriminalise 183 provisions** — replacing imprisonment clauses with fines for minor, technical, or procedural violations.

KEY ACTS AMENDED

Industries spanning agriculture (Seed Act), environment (Environment Protection Act), food safety (FSSAI Act), IT (IT Act), and trade (Drugs and Cosmetics Act) — reducing criminalisation in areas where imprisonment was seen as disproportionate.

CORE PHILOSOPHY

“**Jan Vishwas**” = “People’s Trust” — governance should be based on trust, not fear

Decriminalising minor offences reduces litigation burden on courts

Encourages compliance over punishment; promotes **ease of doing business**

Reduces harassment of honest businesses by removing imprisonment risk for technical defaults

THE AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Following the 2023 Act, the government introduced the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025** to extend decriminalisation further — covering additional Acts and strengthening adjudication mechanisms.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Bill was referred to a **Select Committee** for detailed examination. Select Committees:

- Consist of members from the House where the Bill originated

- Examine provisions clause-by-clause

- Can call expert witnesses, stakeholders

- Submit a report with recommended amendments

The Select Committee suggested significant modifications — prompting the government to withdraw the Bill for revision.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: WITHDRAWAL OF A BILL

Who moved the withdrawal: Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal**

Procedure:

- A Minister moves a motion to withdraw the Bill

- The motion must be approved by the **same House** (here, Lok Sabha)

- Approval was by **voice vote** — indicating no significant opposition

- The government can reintroduce a revised Bill in a future session

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

Article 70 of the Constitution deals with discharge of the President's functions in contingencies — it does **not** govern Bill withdrawal. Withdrawal of a Bill is governed by **Rule 110** of the **Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**. A member-in-charge may move for leave to withdraw a Bill at any stage, provided it has **not yet been passed** by the House. If such leave is granted, no further motion can be made on that Bill.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECRIMINALISATION REFORM

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

India climbed to **rank 63** on the World Bank's Doing Business Report **2020** (published October 2019) from 142 in 2014 — a jump of 79 ranks in 5 years. Decriminalisation of minor regulatory offences is a key structural reform alongside GST, IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code), and FEMA simplification.

JUDICIAL PENDENCY

India has **over 5.5 crore pending cases** across all courts (as of early 2026, per National Judicial Data Grid). Decriminalising technical violations reduces case inflows at the magistrate level.

GLOBAL COMPARISON

Most developed economies use **civil penalties** (fines, licence revocations) rather than criminal law for regulatory non-compliance. India's Jan Vishwas approach aligns with this global best practice.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

The government will incorporate the Select Committee's recommendations and **reintroduce a revised Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill** in a subsequent Parliamentary session. The original 2023 Act remains in force — this is a supplementary enhancement exercise.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Jan Vishwas Act 2023 (42 Acts, 183 provisions), Piyush Goyal, Select Committee procedure, Parliamentary Rules.

MAINS GS-2:

Parliamentary procedures; decriminalisation policy; ease of doing business.

GS-3:

Business regulatory reforms; judicial pendency; economic governance.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA
JAN VISHWAS ACT 2023 — CORE DATA:

Full name: **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023**

Acts amended: **42 central Acts**

Provisions decriminalised: **183**

Ministry: Commerce and Industry (lead); multiple ministries involved

Meaning: “Jan Vishwas” = “People’s Trust”

AMENDMENT BILL 2025:

Purpose: Further extend decriminalisation; strengthen adjudication mechanisms

Withdrawn by: Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal**

Reason: Incorporate **Select Committee** recommendations

Approval method: **Voice vote** in Lok Sabha

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE:

Select Committee: Examines Bill clause-by-clause; recommends amendments; members from originating House

Bill withdrawal: Governed by **Lok Sabha Rule 110**; requires leave of the House where pending

Joint Committee: Alternative — members from both Houses (for major national interest Bills)

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS:

World Bank Doing Business Report 2020 (published Oct 2019): Rank **63** (up from 142 in 2014)

Related reforms: GST (2017), IBC (2016), FEMA simplification, DPIIT reforms

Pending court cases in India: **~5.5 crore** across all courts (NJDG, early 2026); reducing through decriminalisation + ADR

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Original Jan Vishwas Bill introduced in Lok Sabha on **December 22, 2022**; passed by Lok Sabha **July 27, 2023**; passed by Rajya Sabha **August 2, 2023** (Monsoon Session)

Decriminalisation ≠ deregulation — offences still carry fines/civil penalties, not imprisonment

IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) 2016 is a complementary ease-of-business reform

Article 70 of Constitution: Refers to discharge of President’s functions in contingencies — has nothing to do with Bill withdrawal

Bill withdrawal procedure: Governed by **Rule 110** of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha

Jan Vishwas Act 2023 amended Acts across **19 Ministries/Departments**

Sources: [PIB](#) , [Lok Sabha](#) , [The Hindu](#)

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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