



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

Jan Vishwas 2.0 — Export Decriminalisation and the Long Road to a Business-Friendly India



30 March 2026

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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

GS PAPERS

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotesFree UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →

ADVERTISE

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

Jan Vishwas 2.0 — Export Decriminalisation and the Long Road to a Business-Friendly India

 Business Standard

30 March 2026

GS3

GS2

 Business Standard

3 tags



INTERVIEW ANGLE

"Is decriminalising regulatory violations sufficient to make India a competitive export economy, or does the real problem lie in the complexity and unpredictability of export compliance procedures rather than the penalties attached to them?"

WHY IN NEWS

Parliament passed an amendment extending the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023** to cover export violations in the Textiles, Handlooms, and APEDA sectors — converting imprisonment for minor regulatory non-compliance into graduated financial penalties.

PROPORTIONALITY AS PRINCIPLE

The **Jan Vishwas Act, 2023** — which amended 42 central Acts and decriminalised 183 offences — embodied a simple but transformative principle: **criminal law must be proportionate to the harm caused**. An MSME exporter who fails to submit a timely compliance report, or whose product labelling contains a technical error, has not defrauded customers, damaged the environment, or committed violence. Imprisoning such a person — putting them through arrest, bail, criminal record, and the destruction of their business and reputation — is not justice. It is regulatory cruelty.

The 2026 extension of Jan Vishwas to export violations addresses a gap. India's export ecosystem includes approximately **8 lakh registered MSME exporters** across textiles, handicrafts, agricultural products, engineering goods, and chemicals. These exporters operate in a highly regulated environment — DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade), APEDA, customs, quality councils, and multiple state-level agencies all have inspection and compliance authority. The cumulative compliance burden is significant.

When one of these regulatory actors found a violation, the consequence could be criminal prosecution — disproportionate, slow, and destructive. The Jan Vishwas approach replaces this with warnings and fines — maintaining regulatory discipline while eliminating the existential threat.

THE EXPORT CHALLENGE — BEYOND DECRIMINALISATION

Business Standard's editorial position on Jan Vishwas 2.0 is one of qualified support. The direction is correct. The ambition, however, must be larger.

India has targeted **\$2 trillion in total exports** (merchandise + services) by 2030 under Foreign Trade Policy 2023. As of FY26, India's merchandise exports stand at approximately \$430 billion. Reaching \$2 trillion by 2030 requires a step-change in both volume and value — not incremental growth.

Decriminalisation addresses one constraint: the **fear cost** of regulatory non-compliance. But the larger constraints on India's export competitiveness are structural:

1. Compliance Complexity

The number of regulatory requirements for a single export consignment — from APEDA certification for agri-products to DGFT RCMC (Registration-Cum-Membership Certificate), to pre-shipment inspection, to port clearance — involves multiple agencies, overlapping jurisdictions, and time delays. Decriminalisation does not simplify the compliance architecture; it only reduces the punishment for failing to comply.

2. Logistics Cost

India's logistics cost as a percentage of GDP (~14%) is among the highest in the world, compared to 6–8% in advanced economies. The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the Logistics Policy 2022 address this, but gains take years. High logistics costs erode India's price competitiveness particularly in bulk-commodity exports.

3. Trade Finance Access

MSME exporters face a credit gap in trade finance — working capital needed between production and export realisation. Banks, particularly after the NPA crisis, have tightened MSME lending norms. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) scheme provides partial cover, but reach remains limited.

4. Market Access Barriers

Indian exporters face non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in key markets — EU pesticide residue standards for agricultural goods, US FDA compliance for food and pharma, quality certification requirements in the Middle East. Decriminalisation helps with domestic compliance costs; it does not address foreign market access barriers.

WHAT JAN VISHWAS GETS RIGHT

The compounding mechanism — allowing exporters to extinguish criminal liability by paying a fee — is a world-class best practice. The graduated penalty (warning → fine → enhanced fine for repeats) is proportionate and intelligently designed. The explicit coverage of elected representatives and private sector employees in the Telangana Elderly Bill (a parallel reform on the same day) suggests a government willing to apply reform principles uniformly.

For small handloom exporters in Varanasi, Pochampally, or Kancheepuram — whose products are artisanal, individually priced, and exported in small consignments — the elimination of imprisonment risk for procedural violations is genuinely transformative. These exporters are often first-generation businesspeople without legal resources to defend criminal prosecutions. The Jan Vishwas amendment removes a structural inequity in how regulatory risk is distributed.

CONCLUSION

Jan Vishwas 2.0 is welcome. It should be followed by a comprehensive simplification of export compliance architecture — single-window clearance across all agencies, digital-first compliance verification, and risk-based inspection rather than mandatory pre-export inspection for every consignment. The goal should not merely be to make non-compliance less punishing — it should be to make compliance so easy that penalties are rarely needed. India's export ambition requires both the carrot of simplified procedures and the stick of proportionate enforcement. Jan Vishwas provides the latter; the former remains work in progress.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Jan Vishwas Act 2023 — 42 Acts, 183 offences; APEDA (Ministry of Commerce); DGFT; RCMC; FTP 2023.

MAINS GS-3 (ECONOMY):

Export policy; ease of doing business; MSME ecosystem; regulatory reform; FTP 2023 targets.

MAINS GS-2 (GOVERNANCE):

Decriminalisation; criminal law reform; proportionality.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

EXPORT SECTOR REFERENCE:

India merchandise exports (FY26): ~\$430 billion

FTP 2023 target: \$2 trillion exports (merchandise + services) by 2030

MSME exporters: ~8 lakh registered

APEDA Act: 1985; under Ministry of Commerce and Industry; covers 14 agri-product groups

DGFT: Directorate General of Foreign Trade; issues Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) and RCMC

Jan Vishwas 2023: 42 Acts, 183 offences decriminalised

LOGISTICS AND TRADE FINANCE:

India logistics cost as % of GDP: ~14% (vs 6–8% in OECD countries)

PM GatiShakti: National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity; launched October 2021

ECGC: Export Credit Guarantee Corporation — provides credit risk cover for exporters

RCMC: Registration-Cum-Membership Certificate — required for many export incentives

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India's WTO Doing Business rank: 63 (2020, from 142 in 2014) — World Bank discontinued this index after 2021 methodology controversy

Foreign Trade Policy 2023: Released March 31, 2023 (after 2-year extension of FTP 2015-20)

Jan Vishwas advisory body: Advisory Committee on Decriminalisation of Offences (2019, Ministry of Finance and Commerce)

Sources: [Business Standard](#), [Ministry of Commerce](#)

📰 RELATED DAILY ARTICLES

1 Apr [Current Affairs Today — April 1, 2026](#)

1 Apr [Income Tax Act, 2025 — India's New Tax Code Replaces...](#)

1 Apr [India's CCTV Certification Mandate — Digital Security...](#)

1 Apr [Keynes OSAT Plant — India's Semiconductor...](#)

← PREVIOUS EDITORIAL

**FY2025-26 in Review — India's Economic Year:
Real Gains,...**

NEXT EDITORIAL →

**RBI Payments Vision 2028 — Account
Portability and the...**



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujyari](#) →<https://ujyari.com/editorials/2026/03/jan-vishwas-export-decriminalisation-ease-business/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](http://bharatnotes.com) → bharatnotes.com

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujyari.com · bharatnotes.com