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# Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill 2026 and India's Virtual Elimination of Left-Wing Extremism

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# Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill 2026 and India's Virtual Elimination of Left-Wing Extremism

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## PART 1: JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2026

### Why in News

Both Houses of Parliament passed the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026**, which decriminalises **717 provisions across 79 Central Acts** administered by 23 Ministries. The bill replaces minor criminal penalties (imprisonment) with a graded civil enforcement mechanism — advisories, warnings,

and escalating monetary penalties — for regulatory and procedural violations that do not pose a public harm risk.

## Key Features

PARAMETER	DETAILS
Acts amended	79 Central Acts
Provisions decriminalised	717 out of 784 total provisions amended
Ministries covered	23 (Health, Commerce, Agriculture, Labour, and others)
Introduced in Lok Sabha	March 27, 2026
Enforcement model	Graded: advisory → warning → penalty → (jail for serious offences only)
Predecessor	Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 (amended 42 Acts)

## Graded Enforcement Mechanism

The bill replaces the binary “comply or go to jail” model with a three-step ladder:

- ❶ **Advisory** — first instance of non-compliance; no penalty, guidance issued
- ❷ **Warning** — repeated non-compliance; formal notice on record
- ❸ **Monetary penalty** — persistent violation; escalating fines

Criminal imprisonment is retained only for offences involving **deliberate fraud, public harm, or gross negligence** — not for procedural lapses or paperwork violations.

## What Was Decriminalised?

Examples of previously criminal offences that are now civil violations under the Bill:

- Failure to display required notices under labour laws
- Minor labelling non-compliance in food/pharma sector
- Late filing of returns under company/commerce laws
- Procedural violations in agricultural commodity trade
- Minor environmental reporting delays (non-wilful)



## Why It Matters

**Ease of Doing Business:** India ranked 63rd in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index (2020 — last published). Over-criminalisation of regulatory non-compliance is a major deterrent to entrepreneurship, especially for MSMEs and first-generation entrepreneurs who lack legal counsel. Replacing jail with penalties removes this chilling effect.

### Jan Vishwas 2023 vs 2026:

FEATURE	JAN VISHWAS BILL 2026	
Acts amended	42	79
Provisions decriminalised	~183	717
Ministries	19	23
Scope	Focused on MSME/trade	Broader — health, agri, labour

## Constitutional and Legal Basis

- The bill amends existing Acts — does not require new legislation for each Ministry
- Criminal law reform falls under **Concurrent List (Entry 1)** — Parliament has primacy
- Aligns with the broader shift from IPC → BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) which also reduced the scope of imprisonment for minor offences
- NITI Aayog and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had both recommended large-scale decriminalisation in their ease of doing business reports

## PART 2: INDIA VIRTUALLY FREE FROM LEFT-WING EXTREMISM

### Why in News

By **March 31, 2026** — the deadline set by Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** in 2024 — India declared itself **virtually free from Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)**. Only isolated pockets of Maoist presence remain in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. The number of LWE-affected districts has fallen from **126 in 2018** to **near zero by March 2026** — one of India’s most significant internal security achievements in decades.



## LWE District Reduction — Timeline

YEAR	LWE-AFFECTED DISTRICTS	MILESTONE
2010	180 (peak)	Maoists active in 20 states
2018	126	Baseline when MHA launched intensive SAMADHAN strategy
April 2018	90	First significant reduction
July 2021	70	Post-COVID security operations resumption
April 2024	38	Amit Shah sets March 2026 deadline
March 2026	Near zero	Virtual elimination achieved

## How Was It Achieved? — SAMADHAN Strategy

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) implemented the **SAMADHAN** doctrine — a multi-pronged approach:

LETTER	COMPONENT
<b>S</b>	Smart Leadership
<b>A</b>	Aggressive Strategy
<b>M</b>	Motivation and Training
<b>A</b>	Actionable Intelligence
<b>D</b>	Dashboard-Based KPIs and Key Performance Indicators
<b>H</b>	Harnessing Technology
<b>A</b>	Action Plan for Each Theatre
<b>N</b>	No Access to Financing

### Key operational elements:

- **Security operations:** CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) — CRPF's special anti-Naxal force — led ground operations
- **Surrender policy:** Generous rehabilitation packages for surrendered Maoists (skill training, cash, housing)



- **Road connectivity:** PM Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III extended deep into red zones — connectivity itself reduces Maoist influence
- **Mobile towers:** BharatNet and universal service obligation (USO) funds extended telecom to remote areas — reducing information isolation that Maoists exploit
- **Developmental schemes:** PM JANMAN, Aspirational Districts Programme, and tribal welfare schemes targeted LWE-prone areas

## Final Phase — March 2026

43 Maoists surrendered on March 31, 2026 across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra as the deadline arrived. Key top leaders still at large:

- **Ganapathy** (alias Mupalla Laxman Rao) — CPI(Maoist) General Secretary
- **Misir Besra** (alias Sagar) — senior Maoist politburo member

Over **90% of the Bastar region** — historically the core Maoist heartland — is now Naxal-free.

## LWE — Background

- **CPI (Maoist)** is the primary LWE organisation, formed in 2004 by merger of People's War Group (PWG) and Maoist Communist Centre (MCC)
- At peak (2010): Maoists claimed presence in 20 states; 2,258 incidents in 2009
- **Red Corridor:** The belt from Andhra Pradesh through Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha to Bihar — now largely dismantled
- LWE is classified as **domestic terrorism** under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act)
- The 5th Schedule of the Constitution governs tribal areas in LWE-prone states — Maoists exploited tribal grievances over land alienation, displacement, and lack of development

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 2 — Polity & Governance

- Jan Vishwas Bill: legislative reforms, ease of doing business, decriminalisation of minor offences
- LWE: internal security, federalism, MHA role, CRPF/CoBRA

### GS Paper 3 — Internal Security

- SAMADHAN doctrine: components and outcomes
- LWE elimination: developmental vs. security approach debate



- Aspirational Districts Programme in LWE areas

### Prelims Fast Facts:

- Jan Vishwas Bill 2026: **717 provisions** decriminalised across **79 Acts** under **23 Ministries**
- Jan Vishwas Act 2023: predecessor — **42 Acts** amended
- LWE districts (2018): **126**; (March 2026): **near zero**
- SAMADHAN: **MHA's** anti-LWE doctrine
- CoBRA: **CRPF's** specialised anti-Naxal force
- CPI(Maoist) formed: **2004** (merger of PWG + MCC)
- Amit Shah's deadline for LWE elimination: **March 31, 2026** ✓

## FACTS CORNER

- The **Bastar region** of Chhattisgarh — comprising 7 districts — was once called the “liberated zone” by Maoists; it is now over 90% Naxal-free
- **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action)** has 10 battalions specifically trained for jungle warfare and anti-Naxal operations — they operate on foot in deep forest terrain where vehicles cannot enter
- The **Aspirational Districts Programme** (now renamed PM Gati Shakti Districts initiative) covered 112 districts — of which 35+ were LWE-affected — and brought measurable improvements in health, education, and financial inclusion metrics
- India's LWE challenge peaked in **2009-10** when over 1,000 civilians and security personnel were killed annually; annual LWE-related deaths in 2025 were below 30 — a 97% reduction
- The **Jan Vishwas approach** is modelled on Singapore's regulatory philosophy — where compliance is incentivised through graduated civil penalties rather than criminalisation, which Singapore credits for its ease of doing business ranking
- **UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967, amended 2019)** designates CPI(Maoist) as a terrorist organisation — individual members can be prosecuted under UAPA regardless of state borders

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