



The Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026

Act No. 5 of 2026

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Dated Kohima, the 29th May, 2026.

The Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 received the assent of the Governor on 18th May 2026 and is hereby published for general information.

The Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026
Act No. 5 of 2026

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Act No.

**Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions)
Act, 2026**

An
Act

to enact the Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provision) Act 2026,

Whereas it is expedient to bring an Act with the objective of decriminalizing minor, technical and procedural offences across multiple State Acts by replacing criminal penalties with civil penalties, compounding mechanisms and administrative adjudication and also to remove obsolete and redundant provisions of law, which will lead to promoting voluntary compliance, improve regulatory efficiency, reduce judicial burden, allowing enforcing agencies to focus on serious violation and induce foreign investors as well as encourage upcoming domestic entrepreneurs.

Be it enacted by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly in the Seventy Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows—

- 1. Short title and commencement.—** (1) This Act may be called the Nagaland *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026.
(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for amendments relating to different enactments mentioned in the Schedule.
- 2. Amendment of certain enactments.—** The enactments mentioned in column (4) of the Schedule are hereby amended to the extent and in the manner mentioned in column (5) thereof.

3. **Revision of fines and penalties.**— The fines and penalties provided under various provisions in the enactments mentioned in the Schedule shall be increased by ten per cent. of the minimum amount of fine or penalty, as the case may be, prescribed therefor, after the expiry of every three years from the date of commencement of this Act.
4. **Savings.**— The amendments made under this Act shall not affect any other enactment in which the amended enactment has been applied, incorporated or referred to; and this Act shall not affect the validity, invalidity, effect or consequences 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 the proof of any past act or thing; nor shall this Act 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 enactment hereby amended or repealed; nor shall the amendment or repeal by this Act of any enactment revive or restore any jurisdiction, office, custom, liability, right, title, privilege, restriction, exemption, usage, practice, procedure or other matter or thing not now existing or in force.

THE SCHEDULE
(See section 2)

SL No	Year	No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	1966	4	The Nagaland Town and Country Planning Act, 1966	(A) For section 31, the following section shall be substituted, namely:— “Penalty for violation.—31. The Authority shall have power to impose penalty not exceeding rupees fifteen thousand on any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, refuses to comply with, or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Act. Provided no such penalty shall be imposed without giving such person, firm or corporation a reasonable opportunity of being heard. If after imposition of such penalty, there is a continued violation of any provisions of this Act by such person, firm or corporation, the Authority shall be empowered to impose a penalty of rupees one thousand per day for the days after the first imposition of penalty.” (B) In section 51- (a) In sub-section (1), for the word “punishable”, the words “liable to penalty” shall be substituted. (b) For sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted, namely:- “(3) If after such time any such person under sub-section (1) continues to neglect or causes a breach of any specified provision, such person shall be liable to:—

				(i) penalty which may extend to rupees fifty thousand; and, (ii) if the breach, neglect or failure continues after imposition of such penalty as prescribed in clause (i), to a further penalty which may extend to rupees two thousand for every day during which the breach, neglect or failure continues after imposition of the penalty in clause (i)." (C) In section 54, in sub-section (3), for the words "shall be liable upon conviction, to a fine which may extend to rupees thirty", the words "shall, after being afforded an opportunity of being heard, be liable to a penalty which may extend to rupees two thousand" shall be substituted. (D) In section 56, in clause (b), for the words "shall be punishable with fine which may extend to rupees five hundred or with or without simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two months", the words "shall, after issuance of a public notice under section 66 and upon hearing by the Authority, be liable to a penalty which may extend to rupees fifty thousand." shall be substituted. (E) After section 56, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:- "Adjudication of penalties.- 56A. (1) The authority shall by a written notice require the person against whom a complaint has been made for alleged violation of the provisions of this Act to show cause and attend before him and to give
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				evidence or produce document or submit a written reply, as the case may be, for the purpose of adjudging the penalties provided under this Act. (2) Such person shall on such requisition be legally bound to attend and give evidence or produce documents, if in his power and possession, as the case may be, at the place and time specified in such notice, and whoever is required to produce a document may either attend and produce it or cause it to be produced. (3) The authority may on its own or otherwise summon and examine any person to give evidence or produce document, as the case may be, for the purpose of inquiry and imposition of penalty under sub-section (1). (4) The authority shall, after affording a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the concerned person, pass a reasoned order imposing such penalty. Appeal.— 56B. Any person aggrieved by the imposition of penalty under sections 31, 51(3), 54 or 56 may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority as provided under Chapter VIII of this Act. Provided that no appeal shall be entertained by the Appellate Authority unless he is satisfied that the penalty imposed under the foregoing sections has been deposited with the Authority or such other officer as may be prescribed. Provided further that if the penalty imposed is set aside by the Appellate Authority, the penalty so deposited shall be refunded.
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				Recovery.—56C. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if penalty imposed under the provisions of this Act is not deposited, the amount shall be deemed to be declared a public demand and shall be recoverable as a public demand under the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913 (Bengal Act 3 of 1913) and shall proceed to realise the amount due as such."
2. \	1967	9	The Nagaland (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation Act, 1967	(A) In section 41, (a) In sub-section (1), in clause (a), for the words "one thousand rupees", the words "fifty thousand rupees" shall be substituted. (b) In sub-section (1), for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:- "(b) in any other case, including any of the offences prescribed under section 26 except for the offences appearing under clauses (6) and (9), a sum of money not exceeding fifty thousand rupees in addition to the tax recoverable."
3.	1967	10	The Nagaland Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1967	(A) In section 31, (a) In sub-section (1), in clause (a), for the words "one thousand rupees", the words "fifty thousand rupees" shall be substituted. (b) In sub-section (1), for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:- "(b) in any other case, including any of the offences prescribed under section 28 except for the offences appearing under clauses (6) and (9), a sum of money not exceeding fifty thousand rupees in addition to the tax recoverable."

4.	1968	5	The Nagaland Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1968	(A) In section 40, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:- “(1) Any offence punishable under sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, and 35 may be compounded by the Controller or any officer as may be authorized under section 39 on payment of such sum not exceeding one lakh rupees by the offender.”
5.	1969	14	The Societies Registration (Nagaland First Amendment) Act, 1969	(A) After section 22, the following section with marginal heading shall be inserted, namely:- “Compounding of offences.-22A. (1) The Registrar of Societies may accept from any person against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed any offence punishable under section 21 or against whom a prosecution under that section has been instituted, a sum of money by way of composition fee not exceeding ten thousand rupees for the offence which such person is suspected or accused to have committed. (2) On the payment of such composition fee the suspected person, if in custody, shall be discharged and no further proceedings shall be taken against him, and if prosecution of such person had been instituted, the composition shall have the effect of acquittal.”
6.	1970	5	The Nagaland Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1969	(A) For section 7, the following shall be substituted, namely:- “Penalties for contravention of this Act.—7. (1) If the owner in charge of cinematograph uses the same or allows it to be used, or if the owner or occupier of any place permits that place to be used in contravention of the provisions of this Act and Rules made thereunder or of the conditions and restrictions upon or subject to which any license has been given under the Act, the Licensing

				Authority shall have the power to impose penalty not exceeding fifty thousand and in the case of a continuing violation, with a further penalty which may extend to five thousand rupees for each day during which the violation continues. Provided no such penalty shall be imposed without giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard." (B) In section 8, for the words "his conviction of an offence", the words "imposition of penalty" shall be substituted. (C) In section 10, in sub-section (2), the following shall be inserted after clause (e), namely:- "(f) the manner of holding inquiry and imposing penalty under section 7."
7.	1985	5	The Nagaland Shops and Establishments Act, 1982	(A) In section 29, (a) In sub-section (1), for the words "two hundred and fifty rupees", the words "three thousand rupees" shall be substituted, and for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "five thousand rupees" shall be substituted. (b) In sub-section (2), for the words "may exceed to fifty rupees", the words "may extend to one thousand rupees" shall be substituted. (c) In sub-section (3), in clause (b), for the word "inspection", the word "inspector" shall be substituted. (B) After section 29, the following section with marginal heading shall be inserted, namely:-

				“Power to compound.— 29A. (1) The employee or as the case maybe the inspector may accept from any person, against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed any offence punishable under section 29 or against whom a prosecution under that section has been instituted, a sum of money by way of composition fee for the offence which such person is suspected or accused to have committed. (2) On the composition of the offence the suspected person, if in custody, shall be discharged and no further proceedings shall be taken against him, and if prosecution of such person had been instituted, the composition shall have the effect of acquittal.”
8.	1997	3	The Nagaland Health Care Establishments Act, 1997	(A) After section 18, the following section with marginal heading shall be inserted, namely:- “18A. Power to compound:— (1) The Authority or such other person as may be authorized under section 18 may compound any of the offences under sections 14, 15 and 16 by accepting a sum of money not exceeding ten thousand rupees. (2) The composition of an offence under this section shall have the effect of an acquittal.”
9.	2000	6	The Nagaland Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 2000	(A) In part VI, for the marginal heading “Offences and Penalties”, the marginal heading “Penalties” shall be substituted. (B) For section 28, the following shall be substituted, namely:- “28. Penalty for default in registration— Any person carrying on the business of a dealer, hotel-keeper or travel agent without a proper

				registration under this Act or in violation of the provisions of this Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable to penalty by the prescribed authority which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, and if the breach is a continuing one, with a penalty of five hundred rupees for each such day. (C) In section 29, for the words and figures "punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine not exceeding Rs. 1000 or with both", the words "penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees." shall be substituted. (D) In section 30, for the words and figures "punishment with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine not exceeding Rs. 2000 or with both", the words "penalty not exceeding ten thousand rupees." shall be substituted. (E) In section 31, in sub-section (2), for the words and figures "punishment with fine not exceeding Rs. 500", the words "penalty not exceeding two thousand rupees." shall be substituted. (F) In section 32, for the words and figures "punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine not exceeding Rs. 1000 or both", the words "penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees." shall be substituted. (G) In section 33, for the words and figures "punishment with imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine not exceeding Rs. 100 or with both", the words "penalty not exceeding five hundred rupees." shall be substituted. (H) Section 34 and 35 shall be omitted <i>[Notes: Part VI deals with 'Offences and Penalties'. However, as the offences</i>
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				<i>therein have been decriminalized with the introduction of administrative adjudication for violation of the provisions of the Act, sections 34, 35 and 38 are omitted for being rendered redundant.]</i> (I) For section 36, the following shall be substituted, namely:- “36. Institution of proceedings.- No proceeding shall be instituted against any person for the imposition of penalty except on a complaint made to the prescribed authority.” (J) For section 37, the following shall be substituted, namely:- “37. Adjudication of penalties.— (1) The prescribed authority shall by a written notice require the person against whom a complaint has been made for alleged violation of the provisions of this Act to show cause and attend before him and to give evidence or produce document or submit a written reply, as the case may be, for the purpose of adjudging the penalties in any of the foregoing sections under this Part. (2) Such person shall on such requisition be legally bound to attend and give evidence or produce documents, if in his power and possession, as the case may be, at the place and time specified in such notice, and whoever is required to produce a document may either attend and produce it or cause it to be produced. (3) The prescribed authority may on its own or otherwise summon and examine any person to give evidence or produce document, as the case may be, for the purpose of
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				inquiry and imposition of penalty under sub-section (1). (4) The prescribed authority shall, after affording a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the concerned person, pass a reasoned order imposing such penalty. (K) After section 37, the following shall be inserted, namely:- "37A. Recovery.— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if penalty imposed under the provisions of this Act is not deposited within thirty days of the order, the amount shall be deemed to be declared a public demand and shall be recoverable as a public demand under the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913 (Bengal Act 3 of 1913) and shall proceed to realise the amount due as such. (L) Section 38 shall be omitted. (M) In section 47, (a) In the marginal heading, for the word "offences", the word "violations" shall be substituted. (b) In sub-section (2), for the words "punished with a fine", the words "liable to penalty" shall be substituted. (c) In sub-section (3), for the word "offence", the words "any violation" shall be substituted.
10.	2016	3	The Nagaland Prohibition of Gambling and Promotion and Regulation of Online Games of Skill Act, 2015	(A) After section 12, the following shall be inserted, namely :- "12A. Power to compound:- (1) The Licensing Authority may, at any stage of the prosecution, compound any of the offences under section 12

				by accepting such sum of money specified as fines under section 12(1) or 12(2), as the case may be. (3) The composition of an offence under this section shall have the effect of an acquittal."
11.	2020	4	The Nagaland Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017	(A) In section 119, in sub-section (2), in clause (vi), after the word "thereunder" the words "and for compounding offences." shall be inserted. (B) After section 122, the following shall be inserted, namely:- "122A. Compounding of offences. (1) The Managing Director may, at any stage of the prosecution, accept from any person who has contravened or is reasonably suspected of having contravened any provision of this Act, Rules or Bye-laws or order issued thereunder a sum of money not exceeding ten thousand rupees by way of compounding such offence. (2) The composition of an offence under this section shall have the effect of an acquittal."
12.	2023	9	The Nagaland Municipal Act, 2023	(A) In section 134, in sub-section (1), after the word "Act", the words "by accepting such sum of money as may be specified in this behalf by the State Government" shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

(For Introduction of the Nagaland Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026 in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly)

1. The Government of Nagaland is committed to fostering a governance ecosystem that is transparent, trust-based, citizen-centric, and facilitative of economic growth. In recent years, both at the Union and State levels, there has been a conscious shift from a regime of excessive criminalisation and procedural rigidity towards one that emphasizes compliance through trust, technology, and proportional accountability.
2. Several existing State enactments administered by various Departments contain provisions that criminalise minor, technical, or procedural lapses. Such provisions, though originally intended to ensure compliance, often result in avoidable litigation, administrative burden, and hardship to citizens, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and community institutions, without necessarily improving regulatory outcomes.
3. The proposed Nagaland Jan Vishwas Bill seeks to review and rationalise such provisions across identified State laws by:
 - Decriminalising minor and technical offences that do not involve moral turpitude, public safety, environmental damage, or financial fraud;
 - Substituting criminal penalties with civil penalties, compounding mechanisms, and administrative adjudication;
 - Introducing graded and proportionate monetary penalties linked to the nature and gravity of the default;
 - Enabling digital compliance, transparent processes, and time-bound adjudication; and
 - Reducing regulatory uncertainty and improving ease of doing business in the State.
4. The Bill aims to promote a culture of voluntary compliance based on trust rather than fear of prosecution, while retaining stringent penal provisions for serious offences affecting public order, health, safety, or revenue.
5. By simplifying compliance frameworks and reducing the burden on courts and enforcement agencies, the legislation is expected to:
 - Enhance the State's attractiveness for investment and enterprise;
 - Encourage formalisation of businesses, especially MSMEs and local entrepreneurs;
 - Improve administrative efficiency; and
 - Strengthen citizen-government trust.
6. The Bill does not dilute regulatory oversight. Instead, it modernises enforcement architecture by introducing administrative adjudication mechanisms, appellate safeguards, and transparent penalty structures consistent with principles of natural justice.
7. The proposed legislation is aligned with the broader objective of promoting good governance, responsive administration, and sustainable economic development in Nagaland.
8. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Kohima

Dated:, 2026

Sd/-

YANTHUNGO PATTON

Deputy Chief Minister & Minister-in-charge.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026; if enacted and brought into force, shall not entail any additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Nagaland.

Sd/-

YANTHUNGO PATTON

Deputy Chief Minister & Minister-in-charge

THE NAGALAND JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2026.

(As passed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on Friday, the 27th March, 2026)

This Bill was passed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 27.03.2026.

Kohima,
The 27th March, 2026.

Sd/-
SHARINGAIN LONGKUMER
SPEAKER
Nagaland Legislative Assembly

I assent to this Bill

Kohima,
The 18th May, 2026.

Sd/-
NAND KISHORE YADAV
GOVERNOR