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TELANGANA BILLS

TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The following Bill was introduced in the Telangana
Legislative Assembly on 11th September, 2026.

L. A. BILL No. 28 OF 2026.

**A BILL TO AMEND AND REPEAL 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
TELANGANA.**

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of
Telangana in the Seventy-Seventh Year of the Republic of
India, as follows:-

[1]

B. 89-1

Short title and commencement. 1. (1) This Act may be called the Telangana Praja Viswasam (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 and repeal relating to different enactments mentioned in the Schedules to this Act.

Amendments of certain enactments. 2. The enactments mentioned in column (4) of the First Schedule are hereby amended to the extent and in the manner mentioned in column (5) thereof.

Repeal of the enactment. 3. The enactment mentioned in the Second Schedule is hereby repealed.

Revision of fines and penalties. 4. The fines and penalties provided under various provisions in the enactments mentioned in the First Schedule shall be increased by ten percent 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.

Savings. 5. The amendment or repeal by this Act of any enactment shall not affect any other enactment in which the amended or repeal 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 recognized 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.

FIRST SCHEDULE
(See section 2)

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	1967	1	The Telangana Forest Act, 1967.	(1) In section 25, in sub-section (2), for the expression "imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both", the expression "fine of five hundred rupees which may extend to five thousand rupees" shall be substituted. (2) In section 29, in sub-section (4), in clause (a),- (i) in item (i), for the expression "with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which shall not exceed one year and with fine which shall not exceed ten thousand rupees;", the expression "with minimum penalty of twenty-five thousand rupees or value of the produce, whichever is higher;" shall be substituted; (ii) in item (ii), for the expression "with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both;" the expression "with minimum penalty of twenty-five thousand rupees or value of the produce,

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				whichever is higher;" shall be substituted. (3) In section 43, in sub-section (2), for the expression "with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both", the expression "with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees" shall be substituted. (4) In section 55, for the expression "with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both", the expression "with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees" shall be substituted.
2.	1968	17	The Telangana Excise Act, 1968.	For section 40A, the following section shall be substituted, namely:- "40A. (1) In cases of unintentional omission of non-material facts, a penalty ranging from ten thousand rupees to twenty-five thousand rupees shall be imposed. (2) In cases of negligent omission of material facts, a penalty ranging from fifty thousand rupees to one lakh rupees shall be imposed. Additionally, the concerned declaration shall be invalidated.

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(3) In cases of willful misstatement or submission of a fraudulent affidavit, a penalty ranging from one lakh rupees to three lakh rupees shall be imposed. In addition, the concerned declaration shall be invalidated, and the individual shall face disqualification from further consideration, wherever applicable: Provided that in addition to the penalties imposed under sub-sections (1), (2) and (3), the concerned declaration or statement or affidavit shall be invalidated."
3.	1971	4	The Telangana Minor Forest Produce (Regulation of Trade) Act, 1971.	In section 15, for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:- "(a) shall be punished with a fine not less than ten thousand rupees or value of the Minor Forest Produce (MFP) involved, whichever is higher;"
4.	1974	32	The Telangana Factories and Establishments (National, Festival and Other Holidays) Act, 1974.	For section 10, the following section shall be substituted, namely:- "10. Whoever willfully obstructs an Inspector in the exercise of any power conferred on him by or under this Act, or fails to produce on demand in writing by an Inspector any register, record or notice in his custody which may be required to be kept in pursuance of this Act, or of any rule made thereunder, shall be punished with,-

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(a) a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees for the first offence; (b) a fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for a second or subsequent offence; and (c) imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month for a third or subsequent offence: Provided that any offence punishable with fine only may, on an application made by the accused person, either before or after the institution of any prosecution, be compounded by such Gazetted Officer, as the Government may, by notification, specify, for a sum equal to fifty per cent. of the such offence.”.
5.	1978	30	The Telangana Intoxicating Liquors (Prohibition of Advertisements) Act, 1978.	For section 3, the following section shall be substituted, namely:- “3. The offences shall be made compoundable as under,- (1) for advertisements published in print media, a graded penalty system shall be applied based on the number of instances of violation. In the first instance, a penalty of fifty thousand rupees shall be imposed. In the second instance, the penalty shall be

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				one lakh rupees. For the third and subsequent instances, the penalty shall be two lakh rupees; (2) for advertisements published through electronic media, the penalty shall be determined based on the duration of the advertisement,- (i) in cases where the advertisement lasts for less than ten seconds, a penalty ranging from one lakh rupees to five lakh rupees shall be imposed; (ii) in cases where the advertisement lasts ten seconds or more, the penalty shall range from five lakh rupees to ten lakh rupees.”.
6.	1987	34	The Telangana Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1987.	(1) For section 25, the following section shall be substituted, namely,- “25. Any person who willfully obstructs an Inspector in the exercise of his powers or discharge of his duties under this Act or fails to produce for inspection on demand by an Inspector any register, record or other document maintained in pursuance of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder or to supply to him on demand true copies of any such document shall, on conviction, be punished, -

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(a) with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees for the first offence; (b) with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for a second or subsequent offence; and (c) with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month for a third or subsequent offence: Provided that any offence punishable with fine only may, on an application made by the accused person, either before or after the institution of any prosecution, be compounded by such Gazetted Officer, as the Government may, by notification, specify, for a sum equal to fifty per cent. of the maximum fine prescribed for such offence.”. (2) For section 30, the following section shall be substituted, namely,- “30. Any person who willfully fails to produce any document required by the Board or to furnish any information called for by the Board or willfully fails to comply with any direction issued by the Board under section 29 shall, on conviction, be punished with,- (a) a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees for the first offence;

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				(b) a fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for a second or subsequent offence; and (c) imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month for a third or subsequent offence: Provided that any offence punishable with fine only may, on an application made by the accused person, either before or after the institution of any prosecution, be compounded by such Gazetted Officer, as the Government may, by notification, specify, for a sum equal to fifty per cent. of the maximum fine prescribed for such offence."
7.	1988	20	The Telangana Shops and Establishments Act, 1988.	In section 61, (i) in sub-section (1), for the words "one hundred rupees", the words "one thousand rupees" shall be substituted; (ii) for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted, namely,- "(2) Any employer who contravenes any of the provisions of the sections 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 to 12, 13, 15 to 32, 34 to 47, 49, 68 and 69 shall be punishable for a first offence with a fine which may extend to two thousand

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				rupees, for a second offence with a fine which shall not be less than five thousand rupees but which may extend to ten thousand rupees and for a third or subsequent offences with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month: Provided that where any employer fails to possess a valid certificate of registration in contravention of the provisions of sections 3, 4 and 5, he shall, on conviction be punishable, in the case of a continuing offence with a further fine which may extend to rupees two hundred and fifty for each day during which the offence continues: Provided further that any offence punishable with fine only, may, on an application made by the accused person, either before or after the institution of any prosecution, be compounded by such Gazetted Officer, as the Government may, by notification, specify, for a sum of fifty per cent. of the maximum fine provided for such offence.”; (iii) for sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				“(3) Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 8 shall be punishable for a first offence with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, and for a second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.”; (iv) in sub-section (4), for the words “rupees fifty”, the words “one hundred rupees” shall be substituted; (v) in sub-section (5), for the words “rupees fifty”, the words “one hundred rupees” shall be substituted.
8.	2005	5	The Telangana Value Added Tax Act, 2005.	For section 58, along with marginal heading, the following section shall be substituted, namely:- “58. Punishment for violation of the provisions of the Act - Any dealer or person who attracts the provisions sub-section (2) of section 16 and sub-section (5) of section 21 of the Act shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine or with both.”.

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act No.	Short Title	Amendments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
9.	2014	3	The Telangana Industrial Project Approval and Self Certification System (TG-iPASS) Act, 2014.	In section 19, for the words "shall be punishable with fine as prescribed", the words "shall be levied a penalty as may be prescribed" shall be substituted.

SECOND SCHEDULE

(See section 3)

Sl. No.	Act Year	Act Number	Short Title	Repeal	Extent of Repeal
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	1998	24	The Telangana Industrial Workers (Representation, Participation in Management and Relief) Act, 1998.	Repealed	The Whole

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Government of Telangana is committed to promoting trust-based governance, improving ease of living for citizens, and ease of doing business in the State. It has been observed that several State enactments contain criminal provisions prescribing imprisonment for procedural, technical and regulatory defaults. Such provisions, though intended to ensure compliance, often result in avoidable litigation, burden on courts, and deterrence to investment and economic activity.

The Government of India has enacted the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 to decriminalize and rationalize minor offences under various Central enactments with a view to fostering greater trust in governance. On similar lines, it is considered necessary to review certain State enactments and substitute provisions of imprisonment with monetary penalties, enhance fines commensurate with present day economic realities, and provide for compounding of specified offences and to repeal obsolete and redundant Laws.

Accordingly, it has been decided to make amendments to certain provisions of the following Acts, namely:-

- (1) The Telangana Forest Act, 1967 (Act No.1 of 1967);
- (2) The Telangana Excise Act, 1968 (Act No.17 of 1968);
- (3) The Telangana Forest Produce (Regulation of Trade) Act, 1971 (Act No.4 of 1971);
- (4) The Telangana Factories and Establishments (National, Festival and other Holidays) Act, 1974 (Act No.32 of 1974);
- (5) The Telangana Intoxicating Liquors (Prohibition of Advertisements) Act, 1978 (Act No.30 of 1978);
- (6) The Telangana Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1987 (Act No.34 of 1987);
- (7) The Telangana Shops & Establishments Act, 1988 (Act No.20 of 1988);

- (8) The Telangana Value Added Tax Act, 2005 (Act No.5 of 2005);
and
(9) The Telangana Industrial Project Approval and Self Certification
System (TG- iPASS) Act, 2014 (Act No.3 of 2014).

Further, it has been decided to repeal the Telangana Industrial
Workers (Representation, Participation in Management and Relief)
Act, 1998 (Act No.24 of 1998), as it is obsolete and redundant.

The proposed amendments broadly seek to,-

- (i) decriminalize minor offences by replacing imprisonment with
monetary penalties;
- (ii) introduce administrative adjudication mechanisms;
- (iii) provide for graded penalties based on the severity and duration
of default;
- (iv) compound certain offences to reduce litigation;
- (v) improve regulatory efficiency and transparency; and
- (vi) Repeal of obsolete and redundant laws.

The Bill aims to strike a balance between effective regulatory
enforcement and promotion of a facilitative, non-adversarial regulatory
framework, thereby strengthening investor confidence and citizen
trust in governance.

This Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

DUDDILLA SRIDHAR BABU,
Minister for Information Technology,
Electronics & Communications, Industries &
Commerce and Legislative Affairs.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clauses 1(2) and 4; and in the First Schedule, -

(a) in serial number 4;

(b) clauses 1 and 2 in serial number 6;

(c) in serial number 7; and

(d) in serial number 9 of the Bill empowers the Government to make rules and issue notifications in respect of matters specified therein and generally to carry out the purposes of the Act and which are intended to cover matters mostly of procedure in nature and administrative detail and it is not practicable to provide for them in the Bill itself.

The above provisions of the Bill regarding delegated legislation are thus of normal type and are mainly intended to cover matters of procedure.

DUDDILLA SRIDHAR BABU,

Minister for Information Technology,
Electronics & Communications, Industries &
Commerce and Legislative Affairs.

**MEMORANDUM UNDER RULE 95 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE AND THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE
TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

The Telangana Praja Viswasam (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, after it is passed by both the Houses of State Legislature, may be submitted to the Governor for his assent under Article 200 of the Constitution of India.

DUDDILLA SRIDHAR BABU,
Minister for Information Technology,
Electronics & Communications, Industries &
Commerce and Legislative Affairs.

RENDLA THIRUPATHI,
Secretary to Legislature
(Legislative Assembly).