

### NATIONAL SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation will celebrate its 25th Foundation Day on 10th April in

New Delhi.

- It was **established in 2001**.
- It is a Public Sector Undertaking under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India**.
- **Objects:** To work for **socio-economic and educational upliftment** of Scheduled Tribes(STs), to provide better self-employment avenues so that they can become economically independent and self-reliant.
- **Functions of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation**
  - To generate **awareness amongst the STs** about NSTFDC **concessional schemes**
  - To **provide assistance** for **skill development** and capacity building of beneficiaries as well as officials of State Channelizing Agencies
  - To **provide concessional finance** for viable income generation scheme through SCAs and other agencies for socio-economic development of eligible Scheduled Tribes
  - To **assist in market linkage** of tribal produce
- **Composition of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation**
  - The Corporation is managed by a **Board of Directors** with representatives from
    - Central Government, **State Channelizing Agencies (SCA)**, **National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD)**, **Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)**, **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)** and three eminent persons representing Scheduled Tribes.



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### WAVES OTT PLATFORM



- Waves is a digital platform developed by Prasar Bharati.
- It aims to cater to India's growing demand for streaming services.

- It offers a wide range of content, including live TV, video on demand, games, radio streaming, and e-commerce options via the ONDC network. Its offerings include:
  - **On-demand content:** Movies, shows, ebooks, and historical visuals
  - **Live events:** Religious programmes, cricket tournaments, and other big events
  - **Games:** Suitable for all age groups
- Currently, the app provides access to around 65 live channels, including private broadcasters.

### What is Prasar Bharati?

- It is the **Public Service Broadcaster of the country.**
- It is a statutory autonomous body established in 1997 under the Prasar Bharati Act.
- **Objective:** To conduct public broadcasting services intended to inform and entertain the public.
- It comprises the **Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio**, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi

### SKILLS OUTCOMES FUND



- It is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at unlocking aspirational livelihoods for youth from low-income backgrounds.
- The fund envisages to mobilise public and private capital to scale outcomes-based financing (OBF) in India's skilling ecosystem, linking investments directly to verified employment outcomes.

- It will be anchored by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in partnership with **not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations /stakeholders**. It would build on the success of India's first outcomes-based initiative, the **Skill Impact Bond**, launched by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in 2021. A key innovation of the fund is its **employer-led, demand-driven skilling model**, ensuring alignment with industry needs. Training programs will focus on high-growth sectors including:
  - IT and IT-enabled services (IT-ITeS)
  - Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI)
  - Automotive and manufacturing
  - Healthcare
  - Logistics and supply chains
  - Electronics and semiconductors
  - Green jobs and sustainability sectors

### EMPEROR PENGUIN



- Emperor penguins are the **tallest and heaviest penguin** alive today.
- They evolved about one million years ago, and are highly adapted to life in one of Earth's harshest environments.
- **Distribution:** They are found **throughout the Antarctic continent and sub-Antarctic islands**.
- **Habitat:** It is the most **ice-adapted of any penguin species**, inhabiting pack ice and surrounding marine areas. They spend their entire lives on **Antarctic ice & in its waters**.
- **Features of Emperor Penguins:**
  - It is **flightless**, with a streamlined body, and **wings stiffened and flattened into flippers** for a marine habitat.
  - They **also huddle close together** in large groups to keep themselves and each other warm.

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- They are **capable of diving to depths** of approximately 550 metres (1,800 feet) in search of food; they are the world's deepest-diving birds.
- **Diet:** It is a **carnivore** (piscivore and molluscivore), feeding exclusively upon aquatic animals.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN Red List: Endangered.

### INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

- It is an **autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs**, Government of India.
- ICCR was **founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, independent India's first Education Minister.
- It involved in **India's external cultural relations** through cultural exchange with other countries and their people.
- It promotes, through its network of **cultural centres, Indian culture abroad**.
- **Objectives:**
  - To actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations;
  - To foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries;
  - To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people;
- It administers **various scholarship programs annually** and awards about 3000+ scholarships under **21 different schemes** to foreign students from about 180 countries.
  - Amongst these 21 schemes, **six are funded by ICCR from its grant**, and others are administered on behalf of MEA and the Ministry of Ayush.
  - The scholarships offer studies in a variety of courses from undergraduate to postdoctoral level in different leading universities and educational institutions spread all over India.

### COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

- It is one of the oldest **established organisations in the Commonwealth.**
- It was **founded in 1911.**
- It is a membership association which brings together Members, who are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms.
- The Association is **made up of over 180 Legislatures** (or Branches) divided up **between nine geographic regions of the Commonwealth.**
- Its mission is to **promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy** by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance, youth engagement in democracy, gender equality and equal representation.
- **Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom.

### **Key Facts about CPA India Region:**

- It comprises of a **total of 32 Legislatures**, after the Africa Region, India has the largest number of member Branches of the CPA.
- Administratively, the CPA India Region is **divided into 9 zones.**
  - Zone 1: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand
  - Zone 2: Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab
  - Zone 3: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura
  - Zone 4: Odisha, West Bengal
  - Zone 5: Bihar, Jharkhand
  - Zone 6: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
  - **Zone 7:** Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra
  - Zone 8: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
  - Zone 9: Kerala, Puducherry (UT), Tamil Nadu
- **The CPA India Regional Chairperson:** Lok Sabha Speaker, Parliament of India
- **Secretariat:** It is based **within the Lok Sabha** at the Parliament of India.

### PUDUCHERRY'S UT STATUS VS DELHI AND J&K: KEY DIFFERENCES

- Union Territories (UTs) are governed under **Part VIII** of the Constitution (Articles 239–242), where administration is vested in the President through appointed administrators.
- Most UTs, such as Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep, do not have elected legislatures.
- **Puducherry's Unique Legislative Status**
  - Puducherry was granted a legislature under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, reflecting its historical and political context.
  - The **Treaty of Cession** (1956) formalised the transfer of territories from France, though legal ratification occurred in 1962.
  - India had exercised administrative control since 1954. The continuation of a representative assembly followed earlier French practices.
- **Constitutional Provision for Legislature**
  - Puducherry's special status is provided under Article 239A, which allows for a local legislature and a council of ministers.
  - Additionally, the President has the power to nominate members to the Assembly, influencing its political dynamics.
  - Apart from Puducherry, only **Delhi (since 1992)** and **Jammu & Kashmir (since 2019)** have legislatures among Union Territories, making them exceptions within the broader UT governance framework.

### **Delhi vs Puducherry: Governance, Powers, and Constitutional Framework**

- Delhi was granted NCT status through the **69th** Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991, introducing **Article 239AA**.
- It provides for a legislative assembly with powers over State and Concurrent List subjects, except public order, police, and land.
- Judicial and legislative developments since 2015 have seen shifting control over “services,” with the balance of power alternating between the elected govt. and Centre.

- On the other hand, Puducherry's legislature enjoys relatively **broader** powers without specific subject exclusions, but remains subject to Parliament's overriding authority under Article 246(4), meaning central laws prevail in case of conflict.
- **Role of Lieutenant-Governor (LG)**
  - While Delhi's LG has defined discretionary powers under Article 239AA, Puducherry operates under **Article 239A and the 1963 Act**, which do not clearly define such powers.
  - The Supreme Court in *K. Lakshminarayanan v. Union of India (2019)* clarified that Puducherry's LG is **bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, except in exceptional cases.
- **Key Difference in Governance Structure**
  - Delhi's governance involves greater central oversight and defined LG discretion, while Puducherry's system, though subject to parliamentary supremacy, grants greater operational authority to the elected government in routine administration.

### Jammu & Kashmir as a Union Territory: Limited Legislative Autonomy

- In 2019, the abrogation of Article 370 led to the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act**, bifurcating the former state into two UTs—Jammu & Kashmir (with a legislature) and Ladakh (without a legislature).
- The J&K Assembly can legislate on **State List subjects**, but public order and police remain under the Lieutenant-Governor (LG), limiting its autonomy compared to other UTs like Puducherry.
- The LG holds significant discretionary authority, including control over the bureaucracy and All India Services, extending beyond the Assembly's legislative scope.
- Under Section 36, any bill involving financial obligations requires prior LG approval, giving the LG substantial control over financial and administrative functioning.
- In practice, Jammu & Kashmir operates with **greater central control and reduced legislative independence**, making it less autonomous than UTs like Puducherry and even Delhi.

### JAN VISHWAS BILL: DECRIMINALISING LAWS TO IMPROVE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

India's regulatory system has traditionally been **highly punitive**, where even minor procedural lapses or technical defaults could lead to criminal penalties, including imprisonment.

The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025-26** aims to shift from punitive regulation to trust-based governance, reducing unnecessary criminalisation.

It builds on the 2023 Act, which had already decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central laws, continuing efforts to make business regulations more facilitative.

#### **Rationale Behind the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026**

- **Expanding Decriminalisation and Ease of Living** - The Bill proposes amendments to 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts, with 717 provisions set for decriminalisation, guided by the principle of proportionality in regulation.
- **Separating Serious Offences from Procedural Lapses** - It aims to distinguish between serious crimes like fraud and threats to public safety, and minor procedural non-compliance, ensuring that only genuinely harmful conduct attracts criminal penalties.
- **Promoting Equity for MSMEs** - The Bill seeks to reduce the disproportionate burden on small businesses and MSMEs, which often struggle with compliance due to limited capacity, by simplifying regulatory requirements.
- **Reducing Judicial Burden** - With over 4.8 crore pending cases, many involving minor regulatory issues, decriminalisation will help ease pressure on courts and allow focus on more serious cases.
- **Principle of Proportionality in Regulation** - Overall, the Bill emphasises that the State's response should match the severity of the offence, promoting a more rational and fair regulatory framework.

#### **Key Features of the Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026**

- **Shift from Criminal to Civil Penalties** - The Bill replaces criminal liability for minor procedural lapses with civil and administrative measures, substituting imprisonment with monetary penalties based on the severity of violations.
- **Graded and Proportionate Response** - For minor or first-time defaults, the Bill introduces warnings and advisory notices instead of prosecution, ensuring a more proportionate and less punitive regulatory approach.
- **Faster Resolution through Compounding** - Expanded compounding provisions allow quicker settlement of cases without full legal proceedings, improving efficiency and reducing litigation burden.
- **Strengthened Adjudication Mechanism** - Adjudicating officers are empowered to decide cases within fixed timelines, supported by appellate mechanisms to ensure fairness and accountability.
- **Dynamic Penalties and Simplified Procedures** - Penalties will be periodically revised to maintain deterrence, while digitisation and procedural simplification aim to reduce inconsistencies and improve ease of doing business and living.

### Institutional Impact of the Jan Vishwas Bill

- The Bill is expected to bring significant relief to the judiciary by diverting minor regulatory cases away from criminal courts, allowing them to focus on more serious and substantive matters.
- At the same time, it places greater responsibility on regulatory agencies, as administrative adjudication requires strong institutional capacity, clear guidelines, and effective oversight to prevent arbitrariness, with appellate mechanisms playing a crucial role in ensuring fairness.
- For businesses, especially MSMEs, the reduction in criminal liability lowers the fear of prosecution for technical lapses, thereby encouraging greater formalisation, transparency, and engagement with the formal economy.