Vishwas 2026

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Vishwas 2026 Latest News

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recently launched VISHWAS, 2026 to facilitate amicable settlement of disputes relating to levy of damages and penalty-related disputes.

About Vishwas 2026

- It was launched by the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**, under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- It is a **one-time dispute resolution initiative** to facilitate amicable **settlement of disputes relating to levy of damages** and **penalty-related** disputes.
- The scheme **provides employers** with an opportunity to **settle eligible cases** through a **transparent, fully digital and time-bound process.**
- It has been introduced with the objective of **promoting voluntary compliance, reducing litigation**, and enabling **speedy resolution** of long-pending disputes relating to penalty/damages while safeguarding the interests of employees.

- The VISHWAS scheme came into effect on June 29, 2026. It will remain **operational for six months** from the date of notification.
- The scheme will broadly **cover four categories of cases,** including:
    - **Cases where orders** for penalty or damages are **under challenge before a judicial forum.**
    - **Final damages or penalty orders** where **recovery is pending** or only partly made, including Recovery Certificate (RRC) cases.
    - Cases where **notices have been issued but final orders** for damages or penalty are **yet to be passed.**
    - Cases where **notices for penalty** or damages are **yet to be issued.**
- **Exclusion:**
    - Cases where **damages or penalties** have already been **fully recovered**.
    - Cases involving **fraud, misappropriation or deliberate falsification of records.**
    - Cases where the **applicable statutory interest has not been fully deposited.**
- Eligible employers with pending disputes can **apply through the EPFO Employer Portal** using a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) or e-Sign.
- **Applicants must also furnish** an **undertaking** that **no further appeal will be pursued** in respect of the dispute settled under the scheme.
- **Benefits:**
    - It enables eligible **employers to settle dispute**s by offering **substantially reduced rates for historical defaults** (prior to 14 June 2024), subject to payment of the applicable statutory interest and compliance with prescribed conditions.
    - **For employers**, the scheme presents a valuable **opportunity to regularise legacy EPF compliance issues** at a significantly **lower financial cost.**
    - Although the scheme is primarily directed at employers, **employees** stand to **benefit through quicker resolution** of long-pending EPF disputes and **improved compliance by establishments.**

News: NOA
