

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 5TH DECEMBER, 2025

Bill No. XXXV of 2025

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROMOTION OF
SCIENTIFIC TEMPER BILL, 2025

A

BILL

*to provide for the establishment of a National Commission for the
promotion of scientific temper in the country and
for matters connected therewith
or incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of
India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the National Commission for the Promotion of
Scientific Temper Act, 2025.

Short title and
commencement.

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- (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by
notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government;

(b) "Commission" means the National Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Temper established under section 3; 5

(c) 'educational institutions' means all schools, colleges, professional institutions that impart education and learning;

(d) 'Fund' means the Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Temper 10

(e) constituted under section 10;

(f) 'humanism' means a rational outlook that attaches prime importance to human potential and reason rather than religious dogmas and superstitions;

(g) "scientific temper" means a way of life which focusses on the search for truth and new knowledge, the refusal to accept anything without testing and trial, the capacity to change previous conclusions in the face of new evidence and the reliance on observed fact and not on pre-conceived theory; 15

(h) "member" means a Member of the National Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Temper established under section 3; and 20

(i) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Constitution
of the
National
Commission
for the
Promotion of
Scientific
Temper.

3. **(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, there shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, a Commission, to be known as the National Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Temper, to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to, it under this Act.** 25

(2) The Commission shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued. 30

(3) **The head office of the Commission shall be at New Delhi and the Commission may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, establish offices at other places in the country as it may deem necessary, for the efficient discharge of the duties assigned to it under the Act.** 35

(4) **The Commission shall consist of the following persons, namely—**

(a) **a Chairperson, having specialised knowledge, outstanding contribution and eminence in the field of scientific enquiry, critical thinking, technological innovation and related areas to be appointed by the Central Government, in such manner as may be prescribed;** 40

(b) **three Members, to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed, from amongst the persons of eminence, ability, integrity and standing who have extensive professional experience in,—** 45

(i) **the application of science and critical thinking in education, curriculum, media, work place and related fields;** 50

- (ii) organisations and institutions working for the promotion of science policy, scientific temper, science education, popular science and grassroot level innovations;
- (iii) conceptualising and developing innovative programmes for popularising science, development of critical thinking and rational approach; or
- (iv) formulating and implementing science and technology policies of the State and Central Governments.
- (c) one Member-Secretary who shall be a senior member of the Indian Civil Service, having at least ten years of professional experience in the management and administration of matters related to formulation or implementation of science policy, to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.

(5) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

4. (1) The Chairperson and members of the Commission shall hold office for such period not exceeding four years from the date on which they assume office, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government in this behalf.

Term of office and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

(2) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and members shall be such as may be prescribed.

5. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 4, the Chairperson or a member other than the Member-Secretary, appointed under clause (3) of sub-section (4) of section 3, may by writing under his hand to the Central Government resign from his office at any time;

Resignation or removal.

- (2) The Central Government may, by order, remove from office, the Chairperson or any member of the Commission, if the Chairperson or as the case may be, such other member—

- (a) has been adjudged insolvent; or
- (b) is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or
- (c) becomes of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or
- (d) refuses to act or has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member; or
- (e) has, without obtaining leave of absence from the Commission, remained absent from three consecutive meetings of Commission;
- (f) has acquired such financial or other interest which is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as Chairperson or a member; or
- (g) has, in the opinion of the Central Government, so abused his office as to render his continuance in office detrimental to the interest of the office or public interest.

Provided that no persons shall be removed from office under this clause until that person has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

(3) A vacancy caused under sub-sections (1) and (2) or otherwise shall be filled by fresh appointment or nomination, as the case may be:

Provided that the Chairperson or any other member appointed or nominated against any casual vacancy in the Commission shall hold office only for the remainder of the term of the Chairperson or member in whose place he has been appointed or nominated. 5

Vacancies,
etc., not to
invalidate
proceedings
of the
Commission.

6. No act or proceeding of the Commission shall be questioned or shall be invalid on the ground merely by reason of:

(a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of the Commission; 10

(b) any defect in the appointment of a person as Chairperson or member of the Commission; or

(c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Commission not affecting the merits of the case.

Officers,
experts and
other
employees of
the
Commission.

7. (1) The Central Government shall appoint such number of officers and staff including experts to the Commission, as may be considered necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act. 15

(2) The method of recruitment of officers and staff including experts, the salary and allowances payable to them, and other terms and conditions of their service, shall be such as may be prescribed. 20

Members,
officers and
staff of the
Commission
to be public
servants.

8. The Chairperson, Members, officers and staff including experts of the Commission shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, to be public servants within the meaning of sub-section (2) of section 28 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. 45 of 2023.

Functions of
the
Commission.

9. The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:— 25

(a) promote and encourage scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of enquiry in all educational institutions- both public and private, workplaces and other spheres of society in which people interact with each other; 30

(b) cultivate curiosity-driven approach, critical thinking, questioning, logic and rational decision making amongst students, work force and the general public;

(c) foster, promote, and sustain, by all appropriate means, the cultivation of science, critical thinking and reasoning in all its aspects - pure, applied, and educational; 35

(d) encourage individual initiatives for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, and for the discovery of new knowledge, in an atmosphere of academic freedom;

(e) promote scientists and innovators in all realms of societal life and offer proper recognition of their achievement; 40

(f) promote the concept of 'scientific temper' as a compulsory part of the school curriculum and encourage students to understand the practical and applied aspects of the concept in everyday life;

(g) trigger changes in the mindset and value systems to recognise, respect and reward performances which create wealth from science and technology derived knowledge; 45

(h) strive for building a strong scientific workforce and developing educational programs to train scientists and technicians;

(i) formulate a comprehensive national policy for promoting 50

scientific temper in the country, and design a strategic action plan, and guidelines for the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation activities based on the national policy framework;

5 (j) perform such functions regarding the formulation and implementation of schemes for the promotion of scientific temper and critical thinking as may be assigned to it by the appropriate Government;

10 (k) coordinate with various Government departments, both of the Central and State Governments, as may be required, for creating technological tools, educational materials and awareness techniques for the promotion of scientific temper including audio and video records and interviews of Nobel Laureates;

15 (l) **conduct in-depth research to suggest to the appropriate Government better ways for ensuring the fostering of scientific temper in the country;**

(m) support the institutions, organisations and individuals who are engaged in the promotion of popularising science and scientific thinking in the country;

20 (n) enquire into any complaints concerning the promotion of science in the country and to recommend to the appropriate Government the action to be taken in such matters;

(o) act as a national-level grievance redressal mechanism in matters related to the propagation of superstitions and dangerous beliefs among the society;

25 (p) advise the appropriate Government in any other matter as may be referred to it, from time to time;

(q) present to the Central Government, annually as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon its working; and

(r) such other matters, as may be prescribed.

30 **10. The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in clauses (n) and (o) of section 9, have all the powers of a Civil Court trying a suit and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:—**

Commission to have powers of a Civil Court.

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

35 (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;

40 (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and

(f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

11. The appropriate Government shall consult the Commission on all policies related to the promotion of scientific temper in the country.

Appropriate Government to consult the Commission.

45 **12. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Special Fund to be known as the Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Temper, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Temper.

(2) The Central Government and the State Governments shall, from time to time, after due appropriation made in this behalf by the

Parliament or the respective State Legislature by law, contribute such sums of money to the Fund, in such ratio as may be prescribed.

(3) The Fund shall be administered and maintained by the Commission, in such manner as may be prescribed.

Accounts and
audit.

- 13.** (1) The Commission shall, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, maintain proper accounts and other relevant records including the administration of the Fund and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form and manner, at such time of each financial year, and such intervals, as may be prescribed. 5
- (2) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Commission to the Comptroller and Auditor-General. 10
- (3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the National Commission under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and the authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General generally has in connection with the audit of Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Commission. 15 20
- (4) The accounts of the Commission, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government by the Commission. 25

Annual
Report.

- 14.** (1) The Commission shall prepare every year, in such form and within such time as may be prescribed by the Central Government, an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Central Government.
- (2) The Central Government shall cause to be laid before each House of Parliament, along with a memorandum on the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the Commission relating to the Union and the reasons for non-acceptance, if any, of such recommendations, within a period of one year from the date of receipt of such report. 30
- (3) Where the report or any of its part is related to any issues connected with the State Government, a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the Governor of that State who shall in turn cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State concerned, along with an explanatory memorandum on the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations related to the State, and reasons for non-acceptance if any, of such recommendations within a period of one year from the date of receipt of such report. 35 40

Act to have
overriding
effect.

- 15.** The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Act not in
derogation of
any other law.

- 16.** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force. 45

Power to
remove
difficulties.

- 17.** (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty.
- (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament. 50

18. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Power to make
rules and
regulations.

5 (2) The Commission may, with the approval of the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, to provide for all matters for which provision is necessary or expedient for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

10 (3) Every rule and regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be
15 made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Promoting scientific temper is crucial for societal progress, personal development, and creating a more rational world. It encourages evidence-based decision-making, challenges superstitions, and fosters a spirit of inquiry that ultimately leads to a more informed and open-minded society. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of the country, who popularised the concept of scientific temper in India. According to Nehru, scientific temper points out the way along which man should travel. It is the temper of a free man. Scientific temper, in essence, *'is the search for truth and new knowledge, the refusal to accept anything without testing and trial, the capacity to change previous conclusions in the face of new evidence, and above all, the reliance on observed fact and not on pre-conceived theory'*.

Scientific temper is not merely about scientific knowledge, but also about a way of approaching the world with curiosity, scepticism and a quest for deeper understanding. India is the first and only country that adopted the concept of 'Scientific Temper' in the constitution. The 42nd amendment to the Constitution of India in 1976 added Article 51-A(h) Part IVA on Fundamental Duties, which states that: *"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform"*.

Although scientific temper enjoys constitutional sanctity for almost half a century, the Indian society hasn't recognised it as a way of life. In order to foster a culture of rational decision-making that questions religious dogmas and superstitions, we need serious effort from the Government to popularise the concept of scientific temper. By empowering individuals with the tools to understand and appreciate scientific concepts, we can pave the way for a more informed and rational society. In this era of religious dogmas, witchcraft, honour-killing and black-magic, there is an urgent need to foster a mindset that values evidence, reason, and critical thinking. The role of the Government in fostering scientific temper is critical. Therefore, creation of a specialised National Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Temper is required to empower the children and common man in order to make them active stakeholders in the scientific process.

Hence, this Bill.

SANDOSH KUMAR P.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the establishment of the National Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Temper and for the appointment of the Chairperson and other Members of the Commission. Clause 4 *inter alia* provides for the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. Clause 7 provides for the appointment of officers and staff including experts of the Commission, as may be considered necessary, and for the salaries and allowances payable to them as well as the terms and conditions of their service. Clause 9 lays down the functions of the Commission, which *inter alia*, provides for the conduct of in-depth research to suggest to the appropriate Government better ways of ensuring the fostering of scientific temper and to support institutions, organisations and individuals engaged in the promotion and popularisation of science and scientific thinking in the country. Clause 12 of the Bill provides for the constitution of a Fund for the Promotion of Scientific Temper to be utilised for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act, to which the Central and State Governments shall contribute in such ratio, as may be prescribed.

The Bill, therefore, if enacted, will involve expenditure, both of recurring and non-recurring nature, from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, it is difficult at this stage, to estimate the exact quantum of expenditure likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 17 empowers the Central Government to make such provisions through an order for removing any difficulty that might arise in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill., whereas Clause 18 empowers the Central Government to frame rules and the National Commission for the Promotion of Scientific Temper to frame regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

As the rules or orders will relate to matters of procedure and administrative detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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BILL

to provide for the establishment of a National Commission
for the promotion of scientific temper in the
country and for matters connected
therewith or incidental thereto.

(Shri Sandosh Kumar P., M.P.)