

Baggage Rules, 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Economy

Why in News?

Recently, the Central Government has notified the Baggage Rules, 2026, along with the Customs Baggage (Declaration and Processing) Regulations, 2026.

- **Aim** - To update India's baggage regulations in line with changing economic conditions, increased international travel volumes, and evolving passenger expectations.
- **Amendment to - *Baggage Rules of 2016***.
- **Under** - It is formulated under the Customs Act, 1962
- **Objectives** - To simplify procedures and enhance transparency.
- To enable electronic and advanced declarations.
- To ensure smooth and faster customs clearance for passengers.
- **Key Features** -

Aspects	Provisions
Procedure & Digitisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified baggage declaration and clearance procedures. • Provision for electronic filing of baggage declaration. • Facility for <u>advanced filing to enable faster clearance</u>.
Transparency & Uniformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Customs Baggage (Declaration and Processing) Regulations, 2026. • Issue of a Master Circular consolidating all earlier circulars. • Uniform implementation of baggage rules across all Customs formations.
Duty-Free Allowances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced General Free Allowance (GFA) for eligible passenger categories. • No general duty-free allowance for passengers arriving by land border routes.

Transfer of Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It allows individuals moving back to India to import personal and household goods duty-free or at reduced duty. Single rationalised list of duty-free articles prescribed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upto 12 months - Rs. 1.5 lakh 1-2 years - Rs. 3 lakh Above 2 years - Rs. 7.5 lakh Duty-free allowance subject to overall value caps based on duration of stay abroad.
Jewellery Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty-free jewellery permitted <i>on weight basis only</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female - upto 40 grams; Other than female - upto 20 grams Removal of outdated value-based limits on jewellery.
Temporary Import	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for temporary import and re-export of baggage items. Issuance of certificates to prevent detention of goods during re-import.
Special Concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One laptop is allowed duty-free for passengers above 18 years of age. <i>Duty-free import of pets</i> is explicitly incorporated in the Rules.
Passenger Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in detention of baggage at Customs. Faster and smoother clearance through simplified procedures. Improved ease of compliance for international passengers.
Tourism Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules aligned with current travel patterns and passenger expectations. Supports India's objective of being a tourism-friendly destination.

References

[PIB | Baggage Rules, 2026](#)