

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 |
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| 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. |

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| 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 - Female - upto 40 grams; - Other than female - upto 20 grams • Removal of outdated value-based limits on jewellery.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](#)