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	• SimSimplified baggage declaration and clearance procedures. • Provision for electronic filing of baggage declaration. • Facility for ***advanced filing to enable faster clearance.***
Transparency & Uniformity	• 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	• Enhanced General Free Allowance (GFA) for eligible passenger categories. • No general duty-free allowance for passengers arriving by land border routes.

Transfer of Residence	• 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. - **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	• Duty-free jewellery permitted ***on weight basis only.*** - **Female -** upto 40 grams; - **Other than female -** upto 20 grams • Removal of outdated value-based limits on jewellery.
Temporary Import	• Provision for temporary import and re-export of baggage items. • Issuance of certificates to prevent detention of goods during re-import.
Special Concessions	• One laptop is allowed duty-free for passengers above 18 years of age. • *Duty-free import of pets* is explicitly incorporated in the Rules.
Passenger Facilitation	• Reduction in detention of baggage at Customs. • Faster and smoother clearance through simplified procedures. • Improved ease of compliance for international passengers.
Tourism Orientation	• Rules aligned with current travel patterns and passenger expectations. • Supports India's objective of being a tourism-friendly destination.

References

PIB | Baggage Rules, 2026

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