

## **HS Code for GI-Tagged Rice Exports**

## Source: BL

India has amended the <u>Customs Tariff Act</u>, <u>1975</u>, and became the first country to introduce an Harmonised System (HS) code for <u>Geographical Indication (GI)</u> tagged rice varieties.

- Announced in the <u>2025-26 Budget</u>, the amendment includes HS Code 1006-30-11 (parboiled rice) and 1006-30-91 (white rice) for exports.
  - The **HS Code allows uninterrupted exports of GI-tagged rice**, even during general rice export bans, without requiring special government notifications.
- **HS Code:** The **HS** managed by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** and updated every **five years**, is a global standard for **classifying traded goods** using **six-digit codes**, with countries adding extensions for further classification.
  - It helps in identification, duties, and trade statistics.
- Recognized GI Rice Varieties: The Indian Patent Office has given a GI tag to 20 rice varieties including Navara, Palakkadan Matta, Pokkali, Wayanad Jeerakasala, and others.
- Pending GI Applications: 20 rice varieties, including Seeraga Samba, Jammu and Kashmir Red Rice, and Wada Kolam Paddy, await GI recognition.
- WCO: Founded in 1952, is an intergovernmental body enhancing customs efficiency worldwide. It represents 183 customs administrations (including India) handling 98% of global trade. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

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