

Turant Customs

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In a bid to enter the top 50 ranking in The **World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index**, the Customs Department has announced further reforms under the name of Turant Customs for speedy clearance of goods at air and sea ports.

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A critical component of EoDB index rankings 2019 is the '**Trading Across Borders**' category in which India is ranked 80, as compared with 146 in 2018. This was possible due to reforms like **Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade, e-Sanchit (e-Storage and computerised handling of indirect tax documents), and Direct Port Delivery**. This along with the **Authorised Economic Operator programme and RFID e-seal programme** helped in reducing the time and cost of clearance of goods in various Customs ports.

Under Turant Customs, following reforms are carried out:

- **Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange System (ICES)** 1.5 for clearance of imported goods after assessment and duty payment: The officer concerned will now have access to a fully automated queue of Bill of Entry ready for granting clearance. This **obviates the necessity of importers having to present the BoE** number and date to the officer for clearance. So, the officer will be able to immediately provide clearance on the system.
- Elimination of the need for exporters to approach customs officials with proof of export for each consignment. **Secure QR code of Shipping Bill** would be electronically sent to exporters after the Customs allows export. The changes also makes the end-to-end customs export process **fully electronic**, from the filing of the Shipping Bill to the final order to allow export.

Under the umbrella of Turant Customs, the CBIC promises the trade a **faceless, contactless and paperless Customs clearance experience**. It will reduce dwell-time by 6-8 hours. This will be critical for small operators and clients operating in just-in-time concept.