



सत्यमेव जयते

**INDIAN CUSTOMS**

# **GUIDE FOR TRAVELLERS**

As on 01.03.2010



**Directorate of Publicity and Public Relations  
Customs & Central Excise  
C. R. Building, I. P. Estate, New Delhi-110 109**

## FOREWORD

I am happy to place in your hands the latest edition of the '**Guide for Travellers**', with an earnest hope that the booklet will be useful for the travelling public as well as for the departmental officers. The need for such an information booklet was felt especially considering that the Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in India in October, 2010. It is expected that lot of sports persons and visitors shall be travelling to India for attending the Commonwealth Games. Accordingly, we are planning to send sufficient copies of the information booklet to our High Commissions in all the Commonwealth Countries who are taking part in the said games.

Every care has been taken to compile this booklet with accuracy. However, it is imperative that for detailed information and changes, if any, during the intervening period, the users of this booklet may checkup with the nearest Custom House or, if abroad, with the Indian Embassy, High Commissioner or Consulate.

Following websites may also be visited for the latest information on the subject.

1. [www.cbec.gov.in](http://www.cbec.gov.in)
2. [www.customs.gov.in](http://www.customs.gov.in)

With best wishes and happy journey to India.



**(T.H.K. Ghauri)**  
Commissioner

C.R. Building  
I.P. Estate  
NEW DELHI

## **BAGGAGE RULES AT A GLANCE**

Every passenger entering or leaving Indian border has to pass through Customs check. He / She must fill up the Disembarkation Card clearly mentioning the quantity and value of goods that he has brought. On his / her arrival the passenger is first cleared by Immigration Officer, who retains the Immigration portion of the Disembarkation Card. Thereafter the passenger takes the delivery of his baggage from the conveyer belts & passes through Customs. Like all other International Airports, the passenger has the option of seeking clearance through the Green Channel or through the Red Channel subject to the nature of goods being carried.

### **GREEN AND RED CHANNELS**

For the purpose of Customs clearance of arriving passengers, a two channel system has been adopted

- (i) Green Channel for passengers not having any dutiable goods.
- (ii) Red Channel for passengers having dutiable goods.

However,

- (i) All the passengers shall ensure to file correct declaration of their baggage.
- (ii) Green channel passengers must deposit the customs portion of the disembarkation card to the custom official at the gate before leaving the terminal.
- (iii) Declaration of foreign exchange/currency has to be made before the custom officers in the following cases :
  - (a) where the value of foreign currency notes exceed US \$ 5000 or equivalent
  - (b) where the aggregate value of foreign exchange including currency exceeds US \$ 10,000 or equivalent

- **Passengers walking through the Green Channel with dutiable / prohibited goods are liable to prosecution/ penalty and confiscation of goods.**
- **Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic substances is a serious offence and is punishable with imprisonment.**

**DUTY FREE ALLOWANCES AND  
ENTITLEMENTS FOR INDIAN RESIDENTS AND  
FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN INDIA**

**A Resident** means a person holding a valid passport issued under the Passports Act,1967 and normally residing in India

- I. For passengers coming from countries other than**  
**(a) Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Hongkong or China.**  
**(b) Pakistan by Land Route**

Duty – Free Entitlements For Bonafide Baggage	For Passengers of age 10 Years & above	For Passengers of age below 10 Years
Used personal effects (excluding jewellery) required for satisfying daily necessities of life	FREE	FREE
Other articles carried in person or in accompanied baggage		
(a) if Stay abroad for more than three days	Valued upto Rs.25000/-	Valued upto Rs.6000/-
(b) if Stay abroad upto three days	Valued upto Rs.12000/-	Valued upto Rs.3000/-

**Note:**

1. The free allowance shall not be pooled with the free allowance of any other passenger.
2. The free allowance is not applicable to the following goods
  1. Fire arms.
  2. Cartridges of fire arms exceeding 50.
  3. Cigarettes exceeding 200 or cigars exceeding 50 or tobacco exceeding 250 gms.
  4. Alcoholic liquor or wines in excess of 2 litres.
  5. Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments.
3. One laptop computer (notebook computer) over and above the said free allowances mentioned above is also allowed duty free if imported by any passenger of the age of 18 years and above.
4. The goods over and above the free allowances shall be chargeable to customs duty @ 35% + an education cess of 3% i.e. to say the effective rate is 36.05%.

5. Alcoholic drinks and tobacco products imported in excess of free allowance are chargeable to custom duty at the rates applicable to their commercial imports as per the Customs Tariff Act, 1962.
6. Import of Indian currency is prohibited. However, in the case of passengers normally resident of India who are returning from a visit abroad Indian currency upto Rs. 5000 is allowed.
7. In case the value of one item exceeds the duty free allowance, the duty shall be calculated only on the excess of such amount.

**II. For passengers coming from**

**(i) Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Hongkong or China, other than by land route**

**(ii) Pakistan by land route**

Duty – Free Entitlements For Bonafide Baggage	For Passengers of age 10 Years & above	For Passengers of age below 10 Years
Used personal effects (excluding jewellery) required for satisfying daily necessities of life	FREE	FREE
Other articles carried in person or in accompanied baggage		
(a) if Stay abroad for more than three days	Valued upto Rs.6000/-	Valued upto Rs.1500/-
(b) if Stay abroad upto three days	NIL	NIL

**Note:**

1. The free allowance shall not be allowed to be pooled with the free allowance of any other passenger.
2. The free allowance is not applicable to the following goods
  - (a) Fire arms.
  - (b) Cartridges of fire arms exceeding 50.
  - (c) Cigarettes exceeding 200 or cigars exceeding 50 or tobacco exceeding 250 gms.
  - (d) Alcoholic liquor and wines in excess of 2 litres.
  - (e) Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments.
3. One laptop computer (notebook computer) over and above the said free allowances mentioned above is also allowed duty free if imported by any passenger of the age of 18 years and above.
4. The goods over and above the free allowances shall be chargeable to customs duty @ 35% + an education cess of 3% i.e. to say the effective rate is 36.05%.

5. Alcoholic drinks and tobacco products imported in excess of free allowance are chargeable to custom duty at the rates applicable to their commercial imports.
6. Import of Indian currency is prohibited. However, in the case of passengers, who are resident of India and are returning from a visit abroad, Indian currency upto Rs. 7,500 is allowed.
7. In case the value of one item exceeds the duty free allowance, the duty shall be calculated only on the excess of such amount.

**III. For passengers coming from Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar or China by Land Route**

Duty Free allowance for bonafide baggage consisting of	For passengers of age	
	10 years and above	below 10 years
(i) Used personal effects (excluding jewelry) required for satisfying daily necessities of life	Free	Free
(ii) Other articles carried in person or in accompanied baggage	Nil	Nil

**SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR PROFESSIONALS RETURNING TO INDIA**

An Indian passenger who was engaged in his profession abroad shall on his return to India be allowed clearance free of duty, in addition to the aforesaid allowances, articles in his bonafide baggage to the extent as mentioned below:-

(a) Indian passenger returning after atleast 3 months	(i) Used household articles (such as linen, utensils, tableware, kitchen, appliances and an iron) upto an aggregate value of Rs.12000/- (ii) Professional equipment upto a value of Rs.20,000/-
(b) Indian passenger returning after at least 6 months	(i) Used household articles (such as linen, utensils, tableware, kitchen, appliances and an iron) an aggregate value of Rs.12000/-

	(ii) Professional equipment upto a value of Rs.40,000/-
(c) Indian passenger returning after a stay of a minimum of 365 days during the preceding two years on termination of his work and who has not availed this concession in the preceding three years.	Used household articles and personal effects (which have been in the possession and use abroad of the passenger or his family for at least six months) and which are not mentioned in Annex.I , Annex. II & Annex. III upto an aggregate value of Rs.75,000

**Notes: For the purposes of baggage rules Professional Equipment means:**

Such portable equipments, instruments, apparatus and appliances as are ordinarily required in the profession in which the returning passenger was engaged. This expression includes items used by carpenters, plumbers, welders, masons and the like; This concession is not available for items of common use such as Cameras, Cassette Recorders, Dictaphones, Typewriters, Personal Computers and similar items.

## **DUTY FREE ALLOWANCES AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR TOURISTS**

### **WHO IS A TOURIST?**

#### **A tourist is a passenger**

- a) who is not normally a resident in India;
- b) who enters India for a stay of not more than six months in the course of any twelve months period for legitimate non-immigrant purposes, such as : touring, recreation, sports, health, family reasons, study, religious pilgrimage, or business;

**A tourist arriving in India shall be allowed duty free clearance of articles in his bonafide baggage to the extent as mentioned below:-**

	<b>Articles allowed free of duty</b>
I Tourists of Indian origin other than those coming from Pakistan by land route	(i) Used personal effects and travel souvenirs, if - (a) These goods are for personal use of the tourist, and (b) These goods, other than those consumed during the stay in India, are re-exported when the tourist leaves India for a foreign destination. (ii) duty free allowances applicable to Indian Residents.
II Tourists of foreign origin other than those of Nepalese origin coming from Nepal or of Bhutanese origin coming from Bhutan or of Pakistani origin coming from Pakistan.	(i) Used personal effects and travel souvenirs, if (a) These goods are for personal use of the tourist, and (b) These goods, other than those consumed during the stay in India, are re-exported when the tourist leaves India for a foreign destination. (ii) Articles upto a value of Rs. 8000/-
III Tourists of Nepalese origin coming from Nepal or of Bhutanese origin coming from Bhutan.	No free allowance.
IV Tourists of Pakistani origin or foreign tourists coming from Pakistan or tourists of Indian origin coming from Pakistan by land route	(i) Used personal effects and travel souvenirs, if (a) These goods are for personal use of the tourist, and (b) These goods, other than those consumed during the stay in India, are re-exported when the tourist leaves India for a foreign destination. (ii) Articles upto a value of Rs.6000 for making gifts.

**DUTY FREE ALLOWANCES AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR PERSONS TRANSFERRING RESIDENCE**

- I. A person who is transferring his residence to India shall be allowed clearance free of duty, in addition to allowances applicable to Indian residents or foreigners residing in India or to passengers returning from Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar or China, other than by land route, articles in bonafide baggage to the extent and subject to conditions as mentioned below :

<b>Articles allowed Free of Duty</b>	<b>Conditions</b>	<b>Relaxation that may be considered</b>
(a) Used personal and household articles including the articles listed at Annexure-III and Jewellery upto Rs 10,000 by a gentleman passenger or Rs. 20,000 for a lady passenger but other than those listed at Annex I or Annex II.	(1) Minimum stay of two years abroad, immediately preceding the date of his arrival on transfer of residence (2) Total stay in India on short visits during the 2 preceding years should not exceed 6 months, and (3) Passenger has not availed this concession in the preceding three years.	(a) For condition (1) Shortfall of upto 2 months in stay abroad can be condoned by Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs if the early return is on account of - (i) terminal leave or vacation being availed of by the passenger, or (ii) any other special circumstances. (b) For condition (2) Commissioner of Customs may condone short visits in excess of 6 months in deserving cases. (c) For condition (3) No relaxation.
(b) Jewellery taken out earlier by the passenger or by a member of his family from India.	Satisfaction of the Assistant Commissioner of Customs regarding the jewellery having been taken out earlier from India.	-----

## **II. Rate of duty applicable on transfer of residence :-**

Concessional rate of duty is applicable to the following categories of persons transferring their residence to India:

**(a)** any person holding a valid passport under the Passport Act, 1967 and returning to India after having stayed abroad for atleast 365 days during the two years immediately preceding the date of arrival in India.

**(b)** any person on bonafide transfer of residence to India  
Such persons shall be allowed

(i) clearance of items listed in Annexure-II, whether old or new, at a concessional rate of duty of 15% ad valorem + 3% educational cess

(ii) clearance of items listed in Annexure-III free of duty

Subject to the conditions that:-

In case of (a) above:

- i) Such person has been working abroad and is returning to India on termination of such work after having stayed abroad for at least 365 days during the two years immediately preceding the date of arrival in India;
- ii) Such person affirms by a declaration that the goods have been in his possession abroad or, the goods are purchased by such person at the time of his arrival, but before clearance from customs, from the duty free shop located in the arrival hall of the International airports;
- iii) The goods (other than those purchased from the duty free shops at the time of arrival of such passenger) not accompanying such passenger were shipped or dispatched or arrived within the time limits specified in the Baggage Rules, 1998; and
- iv) in respect of such goods not more than one unit shall be permissible to such person and the total aggregate of value of such goods including other goods imported free of duty by him under Rule 5 of the Baggage Rules, 1998, shall not exceed rupees seventy five thousand.

In case of (b) above :

- i) Such person has been residing abroad for a minimum period of two years immediately preceding the transfer of residence and has not availed this concession in the preceding three years;

- ii) Such persons affirms by a declaration that the goods have been in his possession abroad or, the goods are purchased by such person at the time of his arrival, but before clearance from customs, from the duty free shop located in the arrival hall of the International airport;
- iii) The goods (other than those purchased from the duty free shops at the time of arrival of such passenger) not accompanying such passenger were shipped or dispatched or arrived within the time limits specified in the Baggage Rules, 1998;
- iv) Not more than one unit of each item of such goods shall be permissible per family and the person claiming the benefit shall affirm by a declaration that no other member of the family had availed of or would avail of such benefit in respect of that item; and
- v) The total aggregate value of such goods shall not exceed rupees five lakhs.

**Note:** Transfer of residence entitlements are applicable to returning Indians as well as Foreigners transferring their residence to India subject to the fulfillment of prescribed eligibility conditions.

### **IMPORT OF UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE**

The passengers can also send their baggage through cargo which is treated as unaccompanied baggage. However, no free allowance is admissible in case of unaccompanied baggage which is chargeable to Customs duty @ 35% advalorem + 3% Education Cess and only used personal effects can be imported free of duty.

1. Provisions of Baggage Rules are also extended to unaccompanied baggage except where they have been specifically excluded.
2. The unaccompanied baggage should be in the possession abroad of the passenger and shall be dispatched within one month of his arrival in India or within such further period as the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs may allow.
3. The unaccompanied baggage may land in India upto two months before the arrival of the passenger or within such period, not exceeding one year as the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs may allow, for reasons to be

recorded, if he is satisfied that the passenger was prevented from arriving in India within the period of two months due to circumstances beyond his control, such as sudden illness of the passenger or a member of his family, or natural calamities or disturbed conditions or disruption of the transport or travel arrangements in the country or countries concerned on any other reasons, which necessitated a change in the travel schedule of the passenger.

4. All the unaccompanied baggage is chargeable to customs duty @ 35% advalorem + education cess @ 3%.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

#### **1. What are the Channels of Clearance?**

There are two Channels for Customs Clearance:

- i) Green Channel for passengers not having any dutiable goods
- ii) Red Channel for passengers having dutiable goods.

Passengers are advised to report at the appropriate channel for Customs Clearance.

#### **2. Who can bring Jewellery as baggage?**

An Indian passenger who has been residing abroad for over one year is allowed to bring jewellery, free of duty in his bonafide baggage upto an aggregate value of Rs. 10,000/- (in the case of a gentleman passenger) or Rs.20,000/- (in the case of a lady passenger).

#### **3. What are the norms for the import of Alcoholic drinks / Cigarettes as baggage?**

Following quantities of Alcoholic drinks and Tobacco products may be included for import within the duty free allowances admissible to various categories of incoming passengers :

- Alcoholic liquors or Wines upto 2 litres
- 200 Cigarettes or 50 Cigars or 250 gms. of Tobacco.

The rate of duty applicable on these products over and above the above mentioned free allowance is as under :

- (i) Cigarettes BCD @100%+ educational cess @ 3%
- (ii) Whisky BCD @150% + ACD @ 4% + education cess NIL.
- (iii) Beer BCD @100% + ACD NIL + 3% education cess

#### 4. Who can import gold as baggage?

Any passenger of Indian Origin or a passenger holding a valid passport, issued under the Passport Act, 1967, who is coming to India after a period of not less than six months of stay abroad; and short visits, if any, made by the passenger during the aforesaid period of six months shall be ignored if the total duration of stay on such visits does not exceed thirty days.

#### Other Conditions

- (i) The duty shall be paid in convertible foreign currency.
- (ii) The weight of gold (including ornaments) should not exceed 10 kgs. per passenger.
- (iii) The passenger should not have brought gold or other ornaments during any of his visits (short visits) in the last six months i.e. he has not availed of the exemption under this scheme, at the time of short visits.
- (iv) Ornaments studded with stones and pearls are not allowed to be imported.
- (v) The passenger can either bring the gold himself at the time of arrival or import the same within fifteen days of his arrival in India as unaccompanied baggage.
- (vi) The passenger can also obtain the permitted quantity of gold from Customs bonded warehouse of State Bank of India and Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation subject to conditions (i) and (ii) above. He is required to file a declaration in the prescribed Form before the Customs Officer at the time of arrival in India stating his intention to obtain the gold from the Customs bonded warehouse and pay the duty before clearance.

#### RATE OF DUTY

Sl.No.	Description of Goods	Rate
1.	Gold bars, other than tola bars, bearing manufacturer 's or refiner 's engraved serial number and weight expressed in metric units and gold coins	Rs. 300 per 10 gms.+ 3% Edu. Cess
2.	Gold in any form other than at Sl.No. 1 above including tola bars and ornaments, but excluding ornaments studded with stones or pearls	Rs. 750 per 10 gms.+ 3% Edu. Cess

**Note:-** The Jewellery which is in addition to the jewellery otherwise allowed without payment of duty, only is liable to payment of duty under the above mentioned scheme of import of gold

**5. Who can import silver as baggage?**

- (a) Any passenger of Indian origin (even if a foreign national).
- (b) Any passenger holding a valid passport issued under the Passport Act, 1967.

**Conditions**

- (i) The weight of silver (including ornaments) should not exceed the quantity of 100 kgs. per passenger.
- (ii) Such passenger is coming to India after a period of not less than six months of stay abroad. However, short visits during these six months shall be ignored if the total duration of such short visits does not exceed 30 days and the passenger has not availed of the exemption under this scheme, at the time of such short visits.
- (iii) The duty at the rate of Rs.1,500 per kg. + 3% Education Cess is paid by the passenger in convertible foreign currency.
- (iv) Ornaments studded with stones and pearls will not be allowed to be imported under the scheme.
- (iv) The passenger can either bring the silver himself at the time of arrival or import the same within fifteen days of his arrival in India.
- (v) The passenger can also obtain the permitted quantity of silver From Customs bonded warehouse of State Bank of India and Metal and Mineral Trading Corporation subject to conditions (i) and (iii). He is required to file a declaration in the prescribed Form before the Customs Officer at the time of arrival in India stating his intention to obtain the silver from the Customs bonded warehouse and pay the duty before clearance.

**6. What are the norms for Import of Foreign Exchange / Currency?**

Any person can bring into India from a place outside India foreign exchange without any limit. However, declaration of foreign exchange/currency is required to be made in the prescribed Currency Declaration Form in the following cases:-

- (a) Where the value of foreign currency notes exceeds US\$ 5000/- or equivalent
- (b) Where the aggregate value of foreign exchange (in the form of currency notes, bank notes, traveler cheques etc.) exceeds US\$ 10,000/- or its equivalent

**7. What are the norms for the Import of Indian Currency?**

**Import of Indian Currency is prohibited.** However, in the case of passengers normally resident in India who are returning from a visit abroad, import of Indian Currency upto **Rs. 7,500** is allowed.

**8. While coming into India how much foreign exchange can be brought in by NRIs?**

An NRI coming into India from abroad can bring with him foreign exchange without any limit provided if foreign currency notes, travellers cheques, Forexplus Card exceed US\$ 10,000/- or its equivalent and/or the value of foreign currency exceeds US\$ 5,000/- or its equivalent, it should be declared to the Customs Authorities at the Airport in the Currency Declaration Form (CDF), on arrival in India.

**9. What are the norms for the Import of firearms?**

- **Import of firearms is strictly prohibited.**
- Import of Cartridges in excess of 50 is also prohibited.

However, in the case of persons transferring their residence (as per conditions specified in the rules) to India for a minimum period of one year, one firearm of permissible bore can be allowed to be imported subject to the conditions that:

- 1) the same was in possession and use abroad by the passenger for a minimum period of one year and also subject to the condition that such firearm, after clearance, shall not be sold, loaned, transferred or otherwise parted with, for consideration or otherwise, during the lifetime of such person;
- 2) the passenger has a valid arms licence from the local (Indian) authorities;
- 3) the customs and other duties as applicable shall be paid.

#### **10. What are the norms for the Import of Pet Animals?**

Domestic pets like dogs, cats, birds etc. are permitted to be imported. Import of pets (dog and cat only) upto two numbers per passenger are allowed at one time subject to production of required health certificate from country of origin and examination of the said pets by the animal quarantine officer.

Imports of pets over and above this quantity shall be allowed only against an Import sanitary permit issued by the department of animal husbandry and dairying or against an import licence issued by the DGFT.

#### **11. What are the norms for the Import of Baggage of Deceased Person?**

Used, bonafide personal and household effects belonging to a deceased person are allowed to be imported free of duty subject to the condition that a Certificate from the concerned Indian mission (Embassy / High Commission) is produced at the time of clearance regarding the ownership of the goods by the deceased person.

#### **12. What are rules & regulations for the import of Un-accompanied Baggage?**

The passengers can also send their baggage through cargo which is treated as unaccompanied baggage. However, no free allowance is admissible in case of unaccompanied baggage which is chargeable to Customs duty @ 35% advalorem + 3% Education Cess and **only used personal effects can be imported free of duty.**

Provisions of Baggage Rules are also extended to unaccompanied baggage except where they have been specifically excluded.

The unaccompanied baggage should be in the possession abroad of the passenger and shall be dispatched within one month of his arrival in India or within such further period as the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs may allow.

The unaccompanied baggage may land in India upto two months before the arrival of the passenger or within such period, not exceeding one year as the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs may allow, for reasons to be

recorded, if he is satisfied that the passenger was prevented from arriving in India within the period of two months due to circumstances beyond his control, such as sudden illness of the passenger or a member of his family, or natural calamities or disturbed conditions or disruption of the transport or travel arrangements in the country or countries concerned on any other reasons, which necessitated a change in the travel schedule of the passenger.

### **13. What are Detained Baggage?**

A passenger may request the Customs to detain his baggage either for re-export at the time of his departure from India or for clearance subsequently on payment of duty.

The detained baggage would be examined and full details will be inventorised.

Such baggage are kept in the custody of the customs.

### **14. What am I supposed to do in case of Mishandled Baggage?**

In case the baggage has been lost or mishandled by the Airlines, a simplified procedure is in place for clearance of such baggage which allows the passenger to have delivery of his baggage at his door step by the Airlines.

There is no need to handover the passport or the keys of the baggage to the airlines. The passenger has to first file a property irregularity report (PIR) with the airlines for the missing baggages. At the same time, he has to file a declaration indicating contents in the missing baggages. The passenger is required to obtain a certificate to that effect from the airlines and get it countersigned by Customs indicating specifically the unutilized portion of the free allowance. This would enable the passenger to avail the unutilized portion of the duty free allowance when his baggage is delivered by the airlines. Finally, the passenger is required to submit all these documents with the concerned airlines for clearance and delivery of goods on his behalf.

The examination of the mishandled baggage would be carried out in the presence of the passenger.

### **15. What are the norms for Airlines / Vessel Crew members?**

Crew members are required to submit the correct declaration before Custom authorities with respect to the currency gold ornaments and electronic goods etc. in their possession on arrival as well as departure.

Crew member is allowed to bring items like chocolates, cheese, cosmetics and other petty gift items for their personal or family use upto a value of Rs. 600 only at the returning of the Aircraft from foreign journey. However, a crew member on final pay off or at the termination of his engagement with the Airline shall be eligible for allowances as a common passenger.

### **OUT GOING PASSENGERS**

#### **1. What should you do when you leave India for abroad?**

All the passengers leaving India are subject to clearance by Custom Authorities. Only bonafide baggage is allowed to be cleared by passengers. There is a procedure prescribed whereby the passengers leaving India can take the **export certificate** for the various high value items such as camera, video camera, as well as jewellery from the Customs authorities. Such an export certificate comes handy while bringing back the things to India so that no duty is charged on such goods exported by the passenger. The advantage of having the Export Certificate is that the concessions you are entitled to, when you return, are not affected.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

1. Export of most species of wild life and articles made from wild flora and fauna, such as ivory, musk, reptile skins, furs, shahtoosh etc. is prohibited.
2. Trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is prohibited.
3. Export of goods purchased against foreign exchange brought in by foreign passengers are allowed except for prohibited goods.
4. Carrying of Indian currency notes in the denomination of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 to Nepal is prohibited.
5. **Export of Indian Currency is strictly prohibited.** However Indian residents when they go abroad are allowed to take with them Indian currency not exceeding Rs. 7,500.

6. Tourists while leaving India are allowed to take with them foreign currency not exceeding an amount brought in by them at the time of their arrival in India. As no declaration is required to be made for bringing in foreign exchange / currency not exceeding equivalent of U.S. \$ 10000, generally tourists can take out of India with them at the time of their departure foreign exchange/currency not exceeding the above amount.
7. Indian residents going abroad are permitted to take with them foreign currency without any limit so long as the same has been purchased from an authorized foreign exchange dealer.

### **EXPORT OF GOLD JEWELLERY**

There is no value limit on the export of Gold jewellery by a passenger through the medium of baggage so long as it constitutes the bonafide baggage of the passenger. A passenger may request the Customs for issue of an **Export Certificate** at the time of his/her departure from India, in respect of jewellery carried by him / her, to facilitate its re-import subsequently.

### **EXPORT OF INDIAN CURRENCY**

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### **EXPORT OF FOREIGN CURRENCY**

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Indian residents going abroad are permitted to take with them foreign currency without any limit as long as the same has been purchased from an authorized foreign exchange dealer.

**The export of foreign currency is otherwise prohibited.**

## **PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED GOODS**

Certain goods are prohibited (banned) or restricted (subject to certain conditions) for import and/or export. These are goods of social, health, environment, wild life and security concerns. While it is not possible to list all the goods, more common of these are :

### **PROHIBITED GOODS**

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances.
- Pornographic material
- Counterfeit and pirated goods and good infringing any of the legally enforceable intellectual property rights.
- Antiquities.

### **RESTRICTED GOODS**

- Firearms and ammunition.
- Live birds and animals including pets.
- Plants and their produce e.g. fruits, seeds.
- Endangered species of plants and animals, whether live or dead.
- Any goods for commercial purpose: for profit , gain or commercial usage.
- Radio transmitters not approved for normal usage.
- Gold and Silver, other than ornaments (For import only)
- Indian and foreign currency in excess of prescribed limits:
  - foreign currency in excess of US\$ 5, 000 in the form of currency notes or equivalent US\$ 10, 000 or equivalent in the form of currency notes, bank notes or travellers cheque is required to be declared on arrival.
  - foreign currency in excess of amount legally obtained or in the case of tourists in excess of the amount declared on arrival or in excess of the exempted limit of declaration at the time of departure.

- **Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs like Heroin, Charas, Cocaine or in Psychotropic substances is a serious offence and is punishable with imprisonment.**
- **Export of most species of wild life and articles made from flora and fauna such as Ivory, Musk, Reptile skins, Furs, Shahtoosh etc. is prohibited. For any clarifications passenger should approach the Regional Deputy Director (Wildlife Preservation) Govt. of India or the Chief Wildlife Wardens of State Governments posted at Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.**
- **Export or Import in prohibited and restricted goods commonly leads to arrest.**

### **PENAL PROVISIONS**

Please note that “non-declaration, misdeclaration and concealment of imported goods is an offence under the Customs Act which may result in confiscation, fine, penalty and even prosecution”.

The Indian Customs Act empowers imposition of heavy penalties for those passengers who:

- attempt to walk through the Green Channel with prohibited, restricted or dutiable goods.
- misdeclare their goods at the Red Channel
- attempt to export prohibited or restricted goods.
- abet the commission of any of the above offences.

**The Penal Provision may lead to:**

- absolute confiscation of goods, or
- imposition of heavy fine in respect of the concerned goods if these are released;
- imposition of penalty on individual or concerned entities
- Arrest and prosecution including invocation of preventive detention in serious cases.

### **Annexure I**

1. Fire arms.
2. Cartridges of fire arms exceeding 50.
3. Cigarettes exceeding 200 or cigars exceeding 50 or tobacco exceeding 250 gms.
4. Alcoholic liquor or wines in excess of 2 litres.
5. Gold or silver, in any form, other than ornaments.

### **Annexure II**

1. Colour Television or Monochrome Television.
2. Digital Video Disc Player.
3. Video Home Theatre System.
4. Dish Washer.
5. Music System.
6. Air Conditioner.
7. Domestic refrigerators of capacity above 300 litres or its equivalent .
8. Deep Freezer.
9. Microwave Oven.
10. Video camera or the combination of any such video camera with one or more of the following goods, namely:-
  - (a) Television Receiver;
  - (b) Sound recording or reproducing apparatus;
  - (c) Video reproducing apparatus.
11. Word Processing Machine.
12. Fax Machine.
13. Portable Photocopying Machine.
14. Vessel.
15. Aircraft.
16. Cinematographic films of 35 mm and above.
17. Gold or Silver, in any form, other than ornaments.

### **Annexure III**

1. Video Cassette Recorder or Video Cassette Player or Video Television Receiver or Video Cassette Disk Player.
2. Washing Machine.
3. Electrical or Liquefied Petroleum Gas Cooking Range
4. Personal Computer( Desktop Computer)
5. Laptop Computer( Notebook Computer)
6. Domestic Refrigerators of capacity up to 300 litres or its equivalent.

## VALIDITY

The information in this booklet is valid as on 01/03/2010. However, for exact and detailed information, please check up with the nearest Custom House (please see list below) or if you live abroad, with the Indian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate, for any changes.

### (A) Chief Commissioner of Customs

	Tel. No.
(i) Ahmedabad Zone	079-2754-2678
(ii) Bangalore Zone	080-2286-7990
(iii) Chennai Zone	044-2526-8925
(iv) Chennai (Prev.) Zone	044-2524-9955
(v) Delhi Zone	011-2565-4160
(vi) Delhi (Prev.) Zone	011-2565-6040
(vi) Kolkata Zone	033-2242-1173
(vii) Mumbai-I Zone	022-2262-0091
(vii) Mumbai-II Zone	022-2724-2393
(vii) Mumbai-III Zone	022-2682-8900
(viii) Patna (Prev.) Zone	0612-250-4043

### (B) Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise

Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad	079-2754-4630
Commissioner of Customs, Amritsar.	0183-250-6408
Commissioner of Customs, Bangalore	080-2286-4739
Commissioner of Customs, (Airport), Chennai.	044-2256-0406
Commissioner of Customs, (Port-Import), Chennai.	044-2523-1207
Commissioner of Customs, Cochin.	0484-266-8068

Commissioner of Customs, (Import and General) Delhi	011-2565-2970
Commissioner of Customs, Jodhpur, at Jaipur	0141-238-5414
Commissioner of Customs, (Admn./Airport), Kolkata.	033-2210-5099
Commissioner of Customs, (Port), Kolkata.	033-2243-6493
Commissioner of Customs, (Prev.), Kolkata. (For Bagdogra Intl. Airport)	033-2230-8658
Commissioner of Customs, Lucknow.	0522-232-9372
Commissioner of Customs, Mangalore.	0824-240-8164
Commissioner of Customs, (C.S.I. Airport), Mumbai.	022-2850-0606
Commissioner of Customs, (Import), Mumbai.	022-2682-8131
Commissioner of Customs, (Port-Import), Nhava Sheva.	022-2724-2411
Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), Patna.	0612-250-4998
Commissioner of Customs, Pune.	020-2605-1851
Commissioner of Customs, Tiruchirapalli.	0431-241-0672
Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin.	0461-235-2964
Commissioner of Customs, Visakhapatnam.	0891-256-4552
Commissioner of Customs & Central Excise, Panaji, Goa	0832-243-7057

## CITIZENS' CHARTER

### Our Commitment

We shall carry out our tasks with

- Integrity and judiciousness
- courtesy and understanding
- objectivity and transparency
- promptness and efficiency

We shall encourage and assist voluntary tax compliance by our clients

### Our Expectation

We expect you to be prompt and reasonable in fulfilling your duty and legal obligations and be true and honest in furnishing information to us. We also expect you to be cooperative and forthright in inquiries and verifications.

### Our Standards

#### We Shall

- acknowledge declarations, intimations, applications, returns and all communications on the spot and in any case within 7 days of their receipt.
- respond to all communications within 15 working days of its receipt.
- settle any disputes relating to declarations or assessments within 10 working days of receipt of your written or oral explanation.
- refund amounts due to you within 30 working days of receiving a valid claim.
- in case of likely or inevitable delay in decision making or when an issue is disputed, we shall promptly communicate the reasons on our own initiative.

### We Further Commit That

- all uniformed officers who deal with the public will wear name badges and carry an Identity Card.

*Contd. next inside cover*

- personal and business information disclosed to us will be kept confidential subject to the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.
- passengers can walk through Customs expecting courtesy, fairness and consideration.
- baggage of international passengers will be opened only after explaining the reasons and in their presence.
- clearance will be withheld only after explaining the reasons for the same and we will give you full opportunity to explain before passing any final order.
- we will help in repacking baggage if we have made the passenger unpack them.
- we will explain the reasons if we need to search the passenger and will offer our own search before it.
- investigations and penalty proceedings will be initiated only after senior officers of the Department are satisfied that prima facie evidence exists.
- the investigating officer will explain the legal provisions and your rights and obligations.
- no seized document will be withheld beyond 60 days except where they are to be relied upon in departmental proceedings.
- we will provide full information about appeal procedures and the authorities with whom appeals can be filed.
- every possible assistance will be rendered by the Public Relations Officer (PRO). The name and telephone number of the PRO shall be prominently displayed.
- our performance will be measured against these standards and independent surveys of clients' perception and assessment of our performance and the results will be published through the media.

### **Complaints and Grievances**

We will promptly acknowledge your complaints and grievances within 30 working days of their receipt and provide final replies. If you have a complaint or grievance you may also take up the matter with the Public Grievances Committee headed by the Commissioner and / or the Zonal Grievances Committee headed by the Chief Commissioner. Their addresses are given in this booklet.