



NEWS ARTICLES

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Revised Customs Baggage Rules

From April 1st 2016

An Indian national or a foreigner residing in India or a tourist of Indian origin, arriving from any country other than Nepal, Bhutan or Myanmar, will be allowed articles like travel souvenirs, used personal items, and articles other than the prohibited ones, up to the value of Rs 50,000. These will have to be carried in the baggage of the passenger.

passenger. For this, the limit has been increased from Rs 35000 to Rs 50000. The allowance for tourists of foreign origin has also been increased to Rs 15,000 from the existing Rs 8000.

There is also a major change in the amount of duty-free jewellery that can be carried by an Indian passenger who has stayed abroad for over a

The Union Finance Minister recently announced changes to the Customs Baggage Rules during the 2016 budget speech. As per the new rules, international passengers who are carrying goods beyond the newly set free allowance are required to fill the customs declaration form.

However, the free allowance of one passenger cannot be pooled with the free allowance of another

year. The weight cap for a male passenger has now been fixed at 20gms of gold jewellery with a value cap of

Relaxation in dutiable goods



The Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley in his budget speech for 2016-17 had announced that the customs procedure for Baggage Rules for international passengers will be simplified in order to increase the free baggage allowance. The finance minister also announced that the filing of baggage declaration (customs declaration form) will be required only for those passengers who carry dutiable goods outside of the permissible free allowance. Therefore, international passengers who do not carry any dutiable goods or carry goods within the permissible free allowance will not be required to fill the declaration form from 1st April, 2016.

Rs 50,000 and the weight cap for female passengers has been fixed at 40gms of gold jewellery with a value cap of Rs 1,00,000. Previously, rules only had a value cap and not on weight.

For those people who are transferring their residence to India, the value of the duty-free personal and household items will depend upon their duration of stay abroad. This value ranges from a minimum of Rs 60,000 to a maximum of Rs 5,00,000.

Passengers who carry goods within the allowance will not be required to fill the customs declaration form that is given by various airlines.

The Customs Allowance is as follows:

Eligible Passenger	Origin Country	Duty Free Allowance
Passengers of Indian origin and foreigners residing in India, excluding infants	Other than Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar	Rs 50,000
Tourists of foreign origin, excluding infants	Other than Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar	Rs 15,000
Passengers of Indian origin and foreigners residing in India, excluding infants AND Tourists of foreign origin, excluding infants	Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar	Rs 15,000 (By Air) NIL (By Land)
Indian passenger who has been residing abroad for over one year	Anywhere	Gold jewellery: Gentleman- 20 gms with a value cap of Rs. 50,000/- Lady - 40 gms with a value cap of Rs. 1,00,000/-
All Passengers	Anywhere	Alcohol liquor or wine: 2 litres
All Passengers	Anywhere	Cigarettes: 200 numbers or Cigars up to 50 or Tobacco 250 grams
Passenger of 18 years and above	Anywhere	One laptop computer (notebook computer)

The Customs Declaration form is also modified to include 'Drones' in the list of items. The earlier list contained prohibited articles, Gold Jewellery over the free allowance, Meat & Meat products, Satellite Phones etc.

10. **Are you bringing the following items into India?** (please tick Yes or No)
- | | |
|---|----------|
| (i) Prohibited Articles | Yes / No |
| (ii) Gold jewellery (over Free Allowance) | Yes / No |
| (iii) Gold Bullion | Yes / No |
| (iv) Meat and meat products/dairy products/fish/poultry products | Yes / No |
| (v) Seeds/plants/seeds/fruits/flowers/other planting material | Yes / No |
| (vi) Satellite phone | Yes / No |
| (vii) Indian currency exceeding Rs. 10,000/- | Yes / No |
| (viii) Foreign currency notes exceed US \$ 5,000 or equivalent | Yes / No |
| (ix) Aggregate value of foreign exchange including currency exceeds US \$ 10,000 or equivalent. | Yes / No |

Please report to Customs Officer at the Red Channel counter in case answer to any of the above question is 'Yes'.

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