

India Country Guide - IAM

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Country Guide: India

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: June 21, 2018



[Find a foreign embassy in India](#)

[Find India's embassies in other countries](#)

Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Original passport (copy of Passport duly certified is accepted for diplomats)
- Valued list of articles with date of purchase
- Baggage customs declaration signed by owner of the goods
- Packing list
- List of electronic items
- Authority letters (diplomats / non-diplomats, refer to agents for more information)
- Duty-free exemption certificate issued by diplomatic organization in India

- Original bill of lading (OBL) / sea waybill / copy of air waybill (AWB)
- Original residence permit (foreigners)
- Valid visa / PIO card for foreign nationals / Overseas Citizen of India card
- Employment letter / transfer letter / assignment letters

Specific Information

- The packing list must be stamped by the Consulate / the Embassy for diplomatic shipments.
- The owner of the goods must be present for Customs clearance.
- All shipments are subject to Customs examination unless a diplomatic shipment.
- All containers (except diplomat) are offloaded at the point of entry (POE) / (TOE) and reloaded into vans.
- Foreign nationals must possess a visa valid for 1 year.
- Indian nationals must have lived abroad for at least 2 years preceding transfer to India and intend to reside in India for a period of at least 1 year.
 Owner of the goods must have not must not have visited India for more than 180 days in the preceding 2 years.
- Air shipments must be dispatched from the origin airport within 15 days after the arrival of the owner of the goods in India.
- Sea shipments must be dispatched from the origin seaport within 1 month after the arrival of the owner of the goods in India.
- Shipments may arrive at the India airport / seaport 2 months prior to arrival of the owner of the goods; however, the shipment will be subject to demurrage or detention as applicable.
- Electronic items should be loaded in the front (opening side) of the container or lift-van
- A list of electronic items should be provided on a separate sheet.

IAM Note: Customs regulations are the same throughout India. However, the regulations may be interpreted differently amongst the various Customs offices.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Original passport
- Original manufacturer's invoice
- Import license (unless coming to India on a Transfer of Residence)
- Insurance policy
- Certificate of title / registration

- OBL
- Duty exemption certificate (diplomats)

IAM Note: Not all ports / terminals in India are allowed to import cars. It is advisable to check with the destination agent / branch prior to shipping.

Specific Information

- The import of motor vehicles is a detailed, conditional and complicated procedure and is not recommended.
- Duties are generally higher than 200% of the value assessed by customs
- Diplomatic motor vehicles are allowed to be imported free of duty if covered by a duty exemption certificate issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, subject to the Ministry approval.
- Individuals can bring (1) used imported car only if coming to India on ToR
- Motor vehicle must be in passengers ownership and possession for minimum 1 year prior to importation into India
- Only right-hand drive vehicles are allowed to be imported (excluding diplomats)
- Only cars that meet Euro III pollution norms are allowed (must have manufacturer's certificate)
- Used vehicles can only be imported through the Customs port at Mumbai.

Pets

Documents Required

- Vaccination record
- Veterinary health certificate
- Advance NOC from the Animal Quarantine department in India

Specific Information

Only one cat, dog or parrot may be imported by the passenger who is coming to India on Transfer or Residence

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- New items are subject to duties (invoice must be supplied).

- Customs duties are approximately 16.50% to be levied on the following items:
 - Televisions (Old technology)
 - Video home theatres
 - Dishwashers
 - Domestic Refrigerators above 300L or equivalent
 - Deep freezers
 - Video cameras
- Firearms, ammunition and weapons
 - Restricted item must be included with the household goods shipment.
 - A license must be obtained prior to import.
- Duplicate items or items in sums of excess of Rs. 150,000 (Rs. 500,000 in Delhi and Mumbai) are duties of approximately 36.01 to 61%.
- Import of foodstuffs / edibles varies between different cities throughout India. Foreign nationals may be allowed import of foodstuff up to Rs. 1,000,000 in a year. It is advisable to check with the respective destination agent and then include in the shipment.
- Plasma/LCD/LED Tvs of similar technology are dutiable at 38.5% duty whether used or new.

Prohibited Items

- Beef and beef products
- Narcotics, non-branded drugs and psychotropic substances
- Obscene literature, photographs or films
- Politically subversive literature

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Cultural and Other Information

[CIA World Factbook](#)

[Wikipedia Entry for India](#)