

# India Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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FS 23942



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ISO 9001 - ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001



<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (0091) +Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT + 5.5 hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	The voltage in India is 220.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Plus Polio and tetanus if you have not had these vaccinations.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	January 26th Republic Day, August 15th Independence Day, October 2nd Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday. These are the only Government Official holidays observed nationally, together with Christmas Day and New Year's Day which are also observed nationally. Various States have a considerable number of other holidays which are too numerous to mention on this page.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	These tend to be fairly flexible, with a start time 09.00 hrs and 11.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs or 20.00 hrs. Indian Office workers do a lot of overtime hours, and in fact there average working week of about 50 hours is one of the longest in the world.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Banking hours do vary, and generally they are also open every other Saturday.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	112 for all services.
<b>BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION:</b>	Shantipath, Chanakyapuri New Delhi 110021 Tel: +91 11 2419 2100
<b>HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA IN LONDON:</b>	India House Aldwych London WC2B 4NA Tel: 02078 368 484

## Part 1 – Background Information on India

### Background

The Indus Valley civilisation, one of the world's oldest, flourished during the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. and extended into north western India. Aryan tribes from the north west infiltrated the Indian subcontinent about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. The Maurya Empire of the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. - which reached its zenith under ASHOKA - united much of South Asia. The Golden Age ushered in by the Gupta dynasty (4th to 6th centuries A.D.) saw a flowering of Indian science, art, and culture. Islam spread across the subcontinent over a period of 700 years. In the 10th and 11th centuries, Turks and Afghans invaded India and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the early 16th century, the Emperor BABUR established the Mughal Dynasty, which ruled India for more than three centuries. European explorers began establishing footholds in India during the 16th century.

By the 19th century, Great Britain had become the dominant political power on the subcontinent. The British Indian Army played a vital role in both World Wars. Years of non-violent resistance to British rule, led by Mohandas GANDHI and Jawaharlal NEHRU, eventually resulted in Indian independence, which was granted in 1947. Large-scale communal violence took place before and after the subcontinent partition into two separate states - India and Pakistan. The neighbouring nations have fought three wars since independence, the last of which was in 1971 and resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. India's nuclear weapons tests in 1998 emboldened Pakistan to conduct its own tests that same year. In November 2008, terrorists originating from Pakistan conducted a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital. Despite pressing problems such as significant overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and widespread corruption, economic growth following the launch of economic reforms in 1991 and a massive youthful population are driving India's emergence as a regional and global power.

### Geography

India is in Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan and is slightly more than one-third the size of the US. The climate varies from tropical monsoon in the south to temperate in the north. The terrain consists of upland plain (Deccan Plateau) in the south, flat to rolling plain along the Ganges, deserts in the west, and the Himalayas in the north, the lowest point: Indian Ocean 0m and the highest point: Kanchenjunga 8,586m.

Natural resources are coal (fourth-largest reserves in the world), iron ore, manganese, mica, bauxite, rare earth elements, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, diamonds, petroleum, limestone, arable land. 60 % of the land is agricultural, with 23% forest.

With the notable exception of the deserts in the north west, including the Thar Desert, and the mountain fringe in the north, a very high population density exists throughout most of the country; the core of the population is in the north along the banks of the Ganges, with other river valleys and southern coastal areas also having large population concentrations.

### Population

The population as at January 2018 is 1,347,729,900. India has the second highest population in the World.

### Language

There are 22 officially recognised languages in India of which Hindi is the most used. There is no national language as declared by the Constitution of India. Hindi, written in the Devanagari script and English are used for official purposes, such as parliamentary proceedings, judiciary, communications between the Central Government and a State Government.

### Economy

India's diverse economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of services. Slightly less than half of the workforce is in agriculture, but services are the major source of economic growth, accounting for nearly two-thirds of India's output but employing

less than one-third of its labour force. India has capitalised on its large educated English-speaking population to become a major exporter of information technology services, business outsourcing services, and software workers. Nevertheless, per capita income remains below the world average.

India is developing into an open-market economy, yet traces of its past autarkic policies remain. Economic liberalization measures, including industrial deregulation, privatization of state-owned enterprises, and reduced controls on foreign trade and investment, began in the early 1990s and served to accelerate the country's growth, which averaged nearly 7% per year from 1997 to 2017. India's economic growth slowed in 2011 because of a decline in investment caused by high interest rates, rising inflation, and investor pessimism about the government's commitment to further economic reforms and about slow world growth. Rising macroeconomic imbalances in India and improving economic conditions in Western countries led investors to shift capital away from India, prompting a sharp depreciation of the rupee through 2016.

Growth rebounded in 2014 through 2016, exceeding 7% each year, but slowed in 2017. Investors' perceptions of India improved in early 2014, due to a reduction of the current account deficit and expectations of post-election economic reform, resulting in a surge of inbound capital flows and stabilization of the rupee. Since the election, the government has passed an important goods and services tax bill and raised foreign direct investment caps in some sectors, but most economic reforms have focused on administrative and governance changes largely because the ruling party remains a minority in India's upper house of Parliament, which must approve most bills. Despite a high growth rate compared to the rest of the world, India's government-owned banks faced mounting bad debt in 2015 and 2016, resulting in low credit growth and restrained economic growth.

The outlook for India's long-term growth is moderately positive due to a young population and corresponding low dependency ratio, healthy savings and investment rates, and increasing integration into the global economy.

### **Education**

Education in India is provided by the public sector as well as the private sector, with control and funding coming from three levels; central, state and local. Under various articles of the Indian Constitution, free and compulsory education is provided as a fundamental right to children between the ages of 6 and 14.

People who can afford it send their children to private or international schools, although the curricula, learning environments and teaching philosophies at these institutions vary widely.

Some public schools in India teach in English.

Indian private schools have a good reputation but the emphasis on results and rote learning can be challenging. Students are incredibly competitive and are pushed to perform by their families.

International schools are ideal for those who want their children to continue with their home-country curriculum, and teaching language.

### **Religion**

Religion in India is characterised by a diversity of religious beliefs and practices. The Indian subcontinent is the birthplace of four of the world's major religions; namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Throughout India's history, religion has been an important part of the country's culture. Religious diversity and religious tolerance are both established in the country by the law and custom; the Constitution of India has declared the right to freedom of religion to be a fundamental right.

### **Healthcare**

India's constitution states free healthcare for all its citizens. All government hospitals are required to provide free of cost healthcare facilities to the patients. Each district headquarters in most states have one or more Government hospital where everything from diagnosis to medicine is given for free. The private healthcare sector is responsible for the majority of healthcare in India. Most healthcare expenses are paid out of pocket by patients and their families, rather than through insurance.

Public healthcare is free for those below the poverty line.

## Currency

The currency of India is the Rupee (₹) divided into Paisa and in circulation are the following:-

Notes

Frequently used:- Rupees, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 2000

Rarely used:- Rupees 1, 2, 5, 200

Coins

Frequently used:- Rupees 1, 2, 5, and 20.

## Part 2 – India Import Customs Regulations

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into India.**

### General Information

Indian nationals, foreign nationals (including those of Indian origin), transferring their residence to India or coming to India on employment can import their personal and household effects into India under Transfer of Residence subject to the following conditions:-

- You must have lived overseas for at least 2 years prior to transferring your residence to India
- You must not have visited India for more than 180 days in the preceding two years
- Foreign nationals must have a resident permit/business/work/entry visa or a PIO card
- An appointment letter/assignment letter stating minimum two years stay in India
- Foreign nationals coming to India for executing projects/contracts, will need to have an employment visa
- Effects must be shipped out of the UK within one month of your arrival in India for sea freight and fifteen days for airfreight. If there is a delay, effects can only be cleared if Indian customs condone the delay. Each case is decided on merit
- In Bangalore and Chennai you do have to be present at customs clearance. For other Cities you may be asked to be present and therefore you must be in the Country at the time of customs clearance
- To receive tax and duty concessions you must have owned and used the effects for at least one year prior to exporting the items
- Foreign Nationals (including those of Indian origin) need to get registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer FRRO
- Please note your household and personal effects cannot be delivered to your residence in the shipping container (this is relaxed for Diplomats)

### Documentation Required

- Original passport will be needed for the duration of customs clearance (Bangalore will also need the original passport of any spouse)
- Authority Letter (sample will be provided by our partner company in India)
- Baggage Declaration Form (provided by our partner company in India)
- Inventory with valuation of each item
- Indian Customs Declaration Form (provided by our partner company in India)
- Copy of Employment Letter or Transfer Letter
- FRRO Registration

## **Diplomat's Removals**

### **Documents Required:**

- Authority Letter (sample provided by our partner company in India)
- Baggage Declaration Form (provided by our partner company in India)
- Copy of Passport duly attested / certified and Duty free Exemption Certificate issued by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India through Diplomatic Mission in India
- Inventory List/Packing List, Passport and the Bill of Lading (provided by ourselves) must be sealed and signed by your Embassy/Consulate
- Alcohol can be imported in limited quantity (allowance depends on Diplomatic Mission/Embassy) but must be mentioned on the packing list and the Duty Exemption Certificate

## **All Motor Vehicles**

We do not recommend importation. There are a considerable number of restrictions, and also second-hand cars can only be imported into Nhava Sheva. Taxes and duties on motor vehicles are very high, and it takes about two months at the port of entry for the vehicle to clear customs resulting in very high port storage costs.

## **Food Stuffs**

Although Foreign passport holders are allowed to import food items up to a certain value, we do not encourage this, and if you do wish to include food items, please contact us.

## **Prohibited Items**

- Firearms, ammunition of any type
- Narcotics
- Obscene Literature, Pornographic material
- Wine and Liquor

## **Dutiable Items**

Whilst the following items can be imported as part of your household and personal effects consignment they will attract duty whether new or old:-

- Stereo System
- DVD
- Microwave Oven
- Video Camera
- A.C
- Refrigerator of capacity over 300 litres
- Dishwasher
- Fax Machine
- Copier

At present duty on the above is about 16% provided the value of the item is below the nominated value. If you have more than one of the above, then the second item will attract duty at about 36%.

All flat screen TVs attract duty at about 36%.

New items attract duty at about 36%.





### **Fumigation of imported and exported wooden crates**

The Indian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15). Guidelines for Regulating wood packaging material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.

### **Baggage Imports (non transfer of residence)**

These shipments are dutiable on all items except personal clothing, and the current duty is at 36% of the depreciated value of the goods. The only requirement is that the owner should have travelled and the unaccompanied baggage belongs to him or her.

### **Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)**

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to India.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*