# IPC Section 251: Delivery of Indian coin, possessed with knowledge that it is altered.

Section 251 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) does not exist. The act of delivering an altered coin knowingly is covered under Section 250, which applies to all coins, irrespective of their origin, including Indian coins. There isn't a separate provision specifically for delivering altered Indian coins. I will therefore explain how Section 250 applies specifically to the delivery of altered Indian coins.  
  
\*\*Section 250 of the IPC and its Application to Indian Coins:\*\*  
  
While Section 250 doesn't explicitly mention "Indian coin," it applies to all coins circulating in India, including those issued by the Indian government. The section criminalizes knowingly delivering an altered coin, regardless of the coin's origin. This broad application ensures that the law protects all forms of currency used within India.  
  
\*\*Key Elements of Section 250 (as applied to Indian coins):\*\*  
  
1. \*\*"Delivery of coin:"\*\* This encompasses any transfer of possession of an altered Indian coin to another person. The method of transfer is irrelevant; it could involve direct exchange, use in a transaction, deposit into an account, or sending it through a third party. The essential element is the relinquishing of control over the altered Indian coin.  
  
2. \*\*"possessed with knowledge that it is altered:"\*\* The prosecution must prove that the accused knew the Indian coin was altered at the time of delivery. This knowledge must be definitive; mere suspicion or negligence is insufficient. The alteration could involve the weight, composition, or appearance of the Indian coin.  
  
3. \*\*"altered":\*\* This encompasses any unauthorized modification to an Indian coin's characteristics, potentially with deceptive intent. This includes:  
  
 \* \*\*Diminished weight:\*\* Filing or clipping an Indian coin to reduce its weight and precious metal content.  
 \* \*\*Altered composition:\*\* Changing the metal composition of an Indian coin, for example, replacing a portion of silver with a base metal.  
 \* \*\*Altered appearance:\*\* Modifying an Indian coin's visual features to misrepresent its value, such as plating a base metal coin to resemble silver or gold.  
  
  
\*\*Punishment under Section 250:\*\*  
  
The penalty for knowingly delivering an altered Indian coin, as per Section 250, is the same as for any other altered coin: imprisonment up to three years, a fine, or both. The court can adjust the punishment within this range based on the specific details of the offense.  
  
\*\*Why Section 250 is Important (in the context of Indian Coins):\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Safeguarding economic transactions within India:\*\* Protecting individuals and businesses from fraud involving altered Indian coins.  
\* \*\*Maintaining public trust in the Indian Rupee:\*\* Upholding confidence in the integrity and reliability of Indian currency.  
\* \*\*Deterring circulation of altered Indian coins:\*\* Discouraging the knowing use and distribution of modified Indian currency.  
  
  
\*\*Illustrative Examples (specifically involving Indian coins):\*\*  
  
\* Knowingly using a clipped or filed Indian five-rupee coin to purchase goods.  
\* Depositing a batch of plated Indian one-rupee coins into a bank account, knowing they have been altered.  
\* Giving an altered Indian commemorative coin as a gift, knowing it has been modified to appear more valuable.  
  
\*\*Evidentiary Considerations (in cases involving altered Indian coins):\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Expert analysis:\*\* Confirmation that the delivered coin is an Indian coin and assessment of the specific alterations made to it.  
\* \*\*Witness testimony:\*\* Statements from the recipient of the altered Indian coin or other witnesses to the transaction.  
\* \*\*Confession or admission:\*\* An acknowledgement by the accused of their knowledge that the Indian coin was altered.  
\* \*\*Circumstantial evidence:\*\* Possession of other altered Indian coins, past instances of delivering altered Indian coins, or attempts to conceal the alterations.  
  
\*\*Conclusion:\*\*  
  
While a dedicated Section 251 does not exist for delivering altered Indian coins, Section 250 of the IPC effectively covers this offense. By focusing on the knowledge of the alteration and encompassing all coins in circulation within India, including Indian coins, this section protects the integrity of the Indian Rupee and ensures fair economic transactions. The provision's clarity and appropriate punishment contribute to deterring the knowing circulation of altered Indian coins and maintaining public trust in the country's currency system.