# IPC Section 253: Possession of Indian coin by person who knew it to be altered when he became possessed thereof.

Section 253 of the Indian Penal Code does \*not\* exist. The offense of knowingly possessing an altered coin, whether Indian or foreign, is covered under Section 252 of the IPC. There's no separate provision specifically for possessing altered Indian coins. Therefore, I will explain how Section 252 applies specifically to the possession of altered Indian coins.  
  
\*\*Section 252 of the IPC and its Application to Indian Coins:\*\*  
  
Although Section 252 doesn't explicitly mention "Indian coin," its scope encompasses all coins in circulation within India, including those issued by the Indian government. It criminalizes the knowing possession of any altered coin, irrespective of its origin.  
  
\*\*Key Elements of Section 252 (as applied to Indian Coins):\*\*  
  
1. \*\*"Possession of coin:"\*\* This refers to having conscious control and dominion over an Indian coin that has been altered. Both physical and constructive possession are covered.  
  
2. \*\*"by person who knew it to be altered:"\*\* The prosecution must prove the accused was aware of the alteration to the Indian coin \*at the time\* they acquired possession. Later discovery of the alteration doesn't fall under this section.  
  
3. \*\*"when he became possessed thereof:"\*\* This emphasizes the contemporaneous nature of the knowledge. The awareness of the alteration must coincide with the moment of acquiring possession of the Indian coin.  
  
4. \*\*"altered":\*\* This encompasses any unauthorized modification to the characteristics of an Indian coin. This could involve:  
 \* \*\*Diminishing weight:\*\* Reducing the weight, and therefore the value, of an Indian coin, often by clipping or filing.  
 \* \*\*Altering composition:\*\* Changing the metallic composition of an Indian coin, potentially substituting a precious metal with a base metal.  
 \* \*\*Altering appearance:\*\* Modifying the visual features of an Indian coin to deceive, such as plating it with a different metal.  
  
\*\*Punishment under Section 252:\*\*  
  
The penalty for knowingly possessing an altered Indian coin, as covered by Section 252, is the same as for possessing any other altered coin: imprisonment up to one year, a fine, or both.  
  
\*\*Why Section 252 is Important (in the context of Indian Coins):\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Deterring possession of altered Indian coins:\*\* Discourages individuals from acquiring and holding altered Indian currency.  
\* \*\*Protecting economic transactions within India:\*\* Helps prevent fraudulent transactions involving modified Indian coins.  
\* \*\*Maintaining public trust in the Indian Rupee:\*\* Contributes to preserving confidence in the integrity of Indian currency.  
  
\*\*Illustrative Examples (Specifically Involving Indian Coins):\*\*  
  
\* Knowingly keeping a bag of clipped or filed Indian ten-rupee coins.  
\* Acquiring a collection of altered Indian commemorative coins, aware of their modifications.  
\* Receiving altered Indian coins as change and intentionally retaining them, despite knowing they are not genuine.  
  
\*\*Evidentiary Considerations (in cases involving altered Indian coins):\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Expert analysis:\*\* Confirmation that the possessed coin is an Indian coin and detailed analysis of the alterations.  
\* \*\*Witness testimony:\*\* Statements from individuals who provided the altered Indian coins to the accused or witnessed the acquisition.  
\* \*\*Confession or admission:\*\* Acknowledgement by the accused of their knowledge that the Indian coin was altered at the time they received it.  
\* \*\*Circumstantial evidence:\*\* Possession of a large quantity of altered Indian coins or evidence of prior dealings in altered Indian currency.  
  
  
\*\*Conclusion:\*\*  
  
While a separate Section 253 doesn't exist for possessing altered Indian coins, Section 252 of the IPC effectively addresses this offense. By focusing on the knowledge of the alteration and covering all coins circulating in India, this section protects the integrity of the Indian Rupee and maintains a level playing field for economic transactions. The provision's clarity and appropriate punishment contribute to deterring the knowing possession of altered Indian coins and preserving public trust in the Indian monetary system.