

ESSENTIALS DEEP-DIVE · IMMIGRATION & FRRO

Registering Your *Stay*

The full FRRO process for foreign nationals, what triggers it, the exact deadline, the documents, the portal, and the penalties that are now criminal. We file it for you; this is so you understand every step.

180 days the trigger

Before 180d register (2026 rule)

If you are staying in India for the long term, the law expects you to **register your presence** with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and hold a **Residential Permit**, also called a Certificate of Registration. It sounds bureaucratic, and it can be, but the logic is simple: India wants a record of where long-staying foreign nationals live. This guide is the full version of that process, exactly what triggers it, the precise deadline (which now depends on your visa sticker, not a single blanket date), the documents the FRRO actually asks for, the e-FRRO portal you file on, and the penalties, which, as of 2025, are now **criminal**, not a small fee. Your IKAN consultant files the whole thing for you; this is so you understand every step and never get caught out.

180 days	e-FRRO	Free	2025 Act
THE STAY THAT TRIGGERS REGISTRATION	FACELESS, CASHLESS ONLINE PORTAL	REGISTRATION ITSELF, THE LATE PENALTY IS THE COST	IMMIGRATION & FOREIGNERS ACT, IN FORCE

DO THIS FIRST

Before anything else, complete your **e-Arrival Card**, mandatory for all foreign nationals (and OCI cardholders) arriving in India from **1 April 2026**. It is a separate, earlier step that comes before FRRO. Then make sure you have a **working Indian SIM and email**, you will need both to create your e-FRRO account. Note that international eSIM apps like **Airalo** and **Holafly** were removed from the Indian app stores in January 2024 and their sites are blocked locally, so set one up **before you land**, or, better for a relocation, get a **physical Indian SIM (Jio, Airtel or Vi)** on passport, visa and a local address (see [Staying Connected](#)). Finally, **read your visa sticker**: it states your exact registration requirement, and IKAN confirms it for you.

PART A · DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU, AND BY WHEN

THE TRIGGER

Who must register · and the deadline

Not every visitor registers. Registration is for **long-stay** foreign nationals and for certain visa classes that carry a registration endorsement. The single most important thing to understand is that there is **no one blanket deadline**, your visa sticker states your exact requirement, and getting it wrong is now a criminal matter, so this is the part to be most careful about.



Your visa sticker states your exact requirement, IKAN confirms it. As a general rule, holders of long-stay visas valid for more than **180 days** must register **before they complete 180 days** of stay in India. The **Immigration & Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026 (notified 1 June 2026)** removed the old 14-day grace period that once followed the 180-day mark, so registration must now be done **before** you reach 180 days, there is **no post-180-day buffer**, and late registration is permitted only in genuinely "emergent circumstances." Separately, some registration-bearing visa classes, student, employment, dependant, medical, research and missionary visas, carry an endorsement requiring registration within **14 days of arrival**, regardless of how long you intend to stay. Do not assume; we read your sticker and tell you the exact date.

TWO COMMON SITUATIONS

IF YOUR VISA IS...	THEN YOU TYPICALLY...
A long-stay visa (>180 days) without a registration endorsement	Register before completing 180 days of continuous stay in India.
Employment / Dependant / Student / Medical / Research / Missionary	Often carry a register within 14 days of arrival endorsement, check the sticker.
Tourist or Business, with a specific endorsement	May need to register only if continuous stay exceeds 180 days , read the conditions.



Terminology, plainly. What you receive is a **Residential Permit** (Certificate of Registration). **Aadhaar is optional** for this process, you do not need an Aadhaar number to register. And the registration itself is **generally free**; the only real cost arises if you file late, which is now serious (see below).



Where you register is your city. FRRO and FRO offices operate in major cities including **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Amritsar**, among others, and your jurisdiction is the city where you live. You file with the office for your place of stay, which is why the exact document list varies a little from city to city. We handle the right office for you.

PART B · THE LAW HAS CHANGED

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Immigration & Foreigners Act, 2025

If you have read an older guide, you may have seen the **Foreigners Act 1946**, the **Registration of**

Foreigners Act 1939, the **Passport (Entry into India) Act 1920**, and the **Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000** cited. All four are now **repealed**. They have been replaced by a single consolidated law, the **Immigration & Foreigners Act, 2025**, in force from **1 September 2025**. This matters because the new Act changed the penalties dramatically.

 **Non-registration and overstay are now criminal, this is the headline change.** Under the Immigration & Foreigners Act 2025, failing to register or overstaying is no longer a small administrative fee. It can carry **up to 3 years of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to ₹3,00,000**, plus a real risk of **blacklisting** that can bar future entry to India. Any old "USD 30 to 300 penalty" figure is obsolete, disregard it entirely. This is exactly why we file your registration on time, every time.

PART C · HOW YOU ACTUALLY FILE IT

THE PLATFORM

File on e-FRRO · online, end to end

All registration now happens on the **e-FRRO** portal, a faceless, cashless, paperless system launched under Digital India. You create an **e-FRRO User ID**, file the application, upload documents, and receive your certificate by email or post. You do not normally need to visit an office unless you are called for biometrics or an interview. The FRRO also handles **Police Clearance Certificates (PCCs)** and **passport endorsements**, in addition to visa extensions, visa conversion, address changes and Form C. An **Exit Permit (Exit Clearance)** is a separate, **case-specific** document, needed only in situations such as an overstay, a lost passport, a gap in valid visa, or a pending case, not a routine step on the way out. The 2025 Act does let the authorities **restrict departure** in specific cases (Sec 3(2)/7), which is exactly why staying compliant matters.

 **You need a working Indian SIM and email to even start.** Creating your e-FRRO User ID requires verification by an **Indian mobile number** and an email address. International eSIM apps like **Airalo** and **Holafly** were pulled from the Indian app stores in **January 2024** and their sites are blocked locally, so either set one up **before you land** or, better, carry a working **physical Indian SIM (Jio, Airtel or Vi)**; sort your **connectivity** before you try to register.

The e-FRRO registration process

1

Complete your e-Arrival Card first

From **1 April 2026** this is mandatory for all arrivals, including OCI holders. It is a **separate, earlier step**, do it before you touch the FRRO portal.

2

Create your e-FRRO User ID

On indianfrro.gov.in/eservices, register the principal applicant (the primary visa holder). A working **Indian mobile number and email** are essential for verification.

3

Fill the registration application, one per person

Complete a **separate application for each applicant**, including every dependant. Enter your details exactly as they appear in your passport to avoid a mismatch.

4

Upload your documents

Passport, your Indian visa, the India **arrival stamp page**, proof of residence, a white-background passport photo, and any employer or sponsor letters. The full checklist is in the table below.

5

Submit Form C (your residential details)

Form C reports where you are staying. If you are in a hotel or serviced apartment, the property files it; in a rented home, it goes with your **lease agreement**.

6

Attend biometrics or an interview, if called

You may be asked to visit the FRRO for a **biometric appointment or short interview**. Bring your originals. We brief you on what to expect and the logistics so it is painless.

7

Receive your Residential Permit

The Certificate of Registration arrives by **email or post**, usually within **1 week and up to 3 weeks** depending on the local FRRO. Save it, it is a key Indian address proof.



No international travel while your application is being processed. From the moment you file until your certificate is granted, you must remain **physically present in India**, leaving the country mid-process can invalidate the application. Plan any trips around this window, and tell us your dates so we time the filing well.



Expect the odd portal hiccup. The e-FRRO portal can suffer **server delays and technical snags**, save your application as you go and keep screenshots of every submission and reference number, so nothing is lost if a page times out.

WHAT TO UPLOAD

The document checklist

The list below is what an **employment or dependant** applicant typically needs. Requirements vary by visa category and by local FRRO jurisdiction, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru each ask for a few extras, so treat this as the core set and let us confirm the exact list for your city.

DOCUMENT	THE DETAIL THAT TRIPS PEOPLE UP
Passport + Indian visa	Clear copies of the photo, address and visa pages, plus your India arrival stamp page .
Employment contract	A copy of your employment contract , the FRRO asks for it alongside the employer letters for employment-visa applicants.
Proof of residence	Lease agreement + Form C for a rented home; a stay-confirmation letter + Form C for a hotel or serviced apartment.
Passport-sized photo	Recent, in colour, on a plain white background .
Employer / sponsor letters	Cover and undertaking letters, a salary declaration covering both monthly and annual figures , and an experience certificate. Some FRROs want extras (a salary affidavit in Chennai; a PF declaration in Hyderabad/Bengaluru).
Company documents	Certificate of incorporation and ID + address proof of the authorised signatory. Aadhaar is optional for you, the applicant.
For dependants	Marriage certificate for a spouse; a birth certificate for each child.

Your Residential Permit is ID

The Certificate of Registration is a recognised Indian address proof, keep a copy in your document kit the moment it arrives, for banking and beyond.

One application per person

Each family member files their own application under the principal applicant's User ID, including children. Missing a dependant is a common slip.

Form C is your host's job

Form C is the accommodation report your landlord or hotel files about your stay. It feeds your registration but is not something you hold as ID.

Registration is free

There is no government fee to register. The only money at stake is the criminal penalty for filing late, which is exactly what filing on time avoids.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES

indianfrro.gov.in/eservices

e-FRRO portal, create User ID & file

Immigration & Foreigners Act, 2025

The law in force from 1 Sep 2025

Bureau of Immigration · e-Arrival Card

Mandatory arrival step from 1 Apr 2026

Staying Connected (SIM & email)

Needed for your e-FRRO account

YOUR SUPPORT

How IKAN helps

- ✓ We **read your visa sticker** and tell you the exact deadline, 14 days, or before 180 days, so you never guess
- ✓ We **create your e-FRRO User ID** and file the application for you and every dependant, on the current 2025 Act rules
- ✓ We **assemble the right documents** for your city's FRRO and coordinate Form C with your landlord or hotel
- ✓ We **handle your biometric appointment** logistics and chase the certificate so it lands on time, every time

FRRO registration · quick checklist

- ☐ Complete your **e-Arrival Card** on arrival (mandatory from 1 Apr 2026)
- ☐ Get a **working Indian SIM + email** before you start (set up any eSIM before you land, or carry a physical Jio/Airtel/Vi SIM)
- ☐ Read your **visa sticker** for the exact deadline, IKAN confirms it
- ☐ Create your **e-FRRO User ID** at indianfrro.gov.in/eservices
- ☐ File **one application per person**, including every dependant
- ☐ **No international travel** from filing until your certificate is granted
- ☐ Save your **Residential Permit** in your document kit as Indian address proof

Register on time and your stay in India is on solid legal footing, the penalties only bite the people who leave it late, and we make sure that is never you. We file the whole thing for you.

Your IKAN Relocations team

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ikan talent
mobility
Where expertise meets empathy

Where expertise meets empathy, supporting your move to India, every step of the way. Reflects the Immigration & Foreigners Act 2025 and 2026 FRRO practice; deadlines, documents and rules vary by visa and jurisdiction, your consultant confirms the current specifics for your case.