

A GUIDE FOR YOUR MOVE TO INDIA

Registering Your *Stay*

The registration every long-stay foreigner must complete, within 14 days of arrival on most employment and dependant visas, plus the new 2026 e-Arrival Card before you fly. Here's what it is, what we need from you, and the permit you receive. We file it for you.

72h e-Arrival Card

14 days to FRRO (most visas)

Where expertise meets empathy.

Prepared for assignees relocating to India.

IKAN.COM

If your visa carries a **registration endorsement** (employment, dependant, student, medical, research and missionary visas usually do), India asks you to **register with the FRRO within 14 days of arrival**. Other long-stay visa holders (visas over 180 days) must register **before completing 180 days** in India; the old blanket 14-day rule was replaced by the June 2026 amendment. And from 2026 there's a new pre-flight step too, the **e-Arrival Card**. It sounds daunting; it isn't, because your **IKAN immigration team prepares and files everything** through the government portal. Your job is to hand us the right documents. Here's the whole arc, and the Residential Permit you receive at the end.

72_h E-ARRIVAL CARD, BEFORE LANDING	14_{days} TO FRRO, MOST WORK VISAS	1-3_{wk} TYPICAL PROCESSING	₹10k₊ LATE-FILING PENALTY (TIERED)
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DO THIS BEFORE YOU FLY, NEW FOR 2026

The **e-Arrival Card** is now mandatory for every foreign passport (including OCI). Submit it free, online, **within 72 hours before landing** at indianvisaonline.gov.in or the Su-Swagatam app (~5 minutes). **Save the QR offline**, you show it at immigration. It's separate from FRRO registration, which happens after you arrive.

FRRO AT A GLANCE



Who must register

Anyone on a visa over 180 days, employment, business, student, project, X



When

Within 14 days of arrival on endorsed visas; before 180 days of stay otherwise



Where

Online via the e-FRRO portal, faceless, cashless, paperless



What you get

A Residential Permit (RP), your proof of legal residence

OCI cardholders and children under 16 are exempt from FRRO registration; Pakistani nationals must register within 24 hours.



Your visa sticker states your exact deadline. If it carries a registration endorsement (employment, dependant, student, medical, research and missionary visas usually do), the **14-day clock starts the day you land** (from your entry-stamp date). Other long-stay visa holders must register **before completing 180 days** in India; the old blanket 14-day rule was replaced by the June 2026 amendment. When in doubt, treat 14 days as your deadline. Late registration draws **tiered fines** (from about ₹10,000, rising steeply for longer delays), and non-registration or overstay is a **criminal offence** under the Immigration & Foreigners Act 2025 that can escalate to **up to 3 years' imprisonment and/or a fine up to ₹3,00,000, plus blacklisting**. We track the deadline and prepare your application in advance, so registration happens comfortably within the window.

FROM YOU

The documents we'll need



Passport & visa

With your India arrival stamp



Passport photos

Recent, white / plain background



Proof of residence

Registered lease, or a Form C from your hotel/host



Employer papers

Contract + undertaking / bona-fide letter (work visas)

Dependents on X visas register too, we prepare the whole family's applications together.



About Form C, your host files it, not you. Whoever houses you, a hotel or your landlord, must report your stay on a **Form C** to the Bureau of Immigration within **24 hours** of check-in (Section 8, Immigration & Foreigners Act 2025), and again when you leave. Most private landlords have never heard of it, so remind yours and ask for a copy. It's a duty on the host, separate from your own registration. (Full detail: the **Renting Your Home** guide.)

THE STEP-BY-STEP

How e-FRRO works

It's handled entirely online at the government's [e-FRRO portal](#), there's normally no office visit. We do each step with you:

1

Create the e-FRRO account

On indianfrro.gov.in/eservices using your passport details and email.

2

Complete the Registration application

We fill the form and upload your documents (passport, visa, photo, proof of residence, employer letter).

3

Pay the fee online

Registration is often nil-fee; any charge is paid on the portal.

4

Receive your Residential Permit

The Bureau of Immigration reviews and dispatches your Residential Permit by post, typically within ~1 to 3 weeks. We monitor the status and answer any query for you.

AFTER YOU'RE REGISTERED

Staying compliant

**Form C on the move**

Hotels & landlords report your stay; keep copies

**Change of address**

Tell FRRO online if you move home

**Visa extension**

Renew before expiry, also via e-FRRO

**Exit permit**

May be needed when your assignment ends

OFFICIAL RESOURCES**e-Arrival Card**

Bureau of Immigration, before landing

e-FRRO portal

Registration, extension, exit permit

Bureau of Immigration

Requirements reference

YOUR SUPPORT

How IKAN helps

- ✓ Our **immigration team prepares and files** your entire e-FRRO application
- ✓ We **pre-advise the exact documents** and collect employer & landlord papers for you
- ✓ We **track your exact registration deadline** and monitor your application to approval
- ✓ We handle **extensions, address changes and exit permits** through your assignment

FRRO · quick checklist

- ☐ Submit your **e-Arrival Card** before you fly (save the QR)
- ☐ Carry your **passport, visa & 2 photos** (white background)
- ☐ Provide your **lease or hotel Form C + employer letter**
- ☐ Register **by your deadline**, 14 days on most work visas. Your consultant schedules it
- ☐ Keep your **Residential Permit** safe once it arrives

GO DEEPER

The full step-by-step

Want every form, fee, document and pitfall? These deep-dive guides carry the complete detail.

FRRO Registration →

The deadline, documents & penalties

Form C, the host's duty →

The 24-hour report on your stay

Registration is the one hard deadline of your move, and the one we most reliably take off your plate. Questions any time.

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 2026 e-Arrival Card, FRRO and e-FRRO practice; rules and timelines change, your consultant will confirm current specifics for your visa and city.