

A GUIDE FOR YOUR MOVE TO INDIA

Setting Up Your *Home*

Electricity, gas, water, fibre, your housing society and household help, the practical, India-specific how-to that makes a rented home actually work, in your first week.

4 bins, by law (2026)

RO water, non-negotiable

Where expertise meets empathy.

Prepared for assignees relocating to India.

IKAN.COM

A home in India runs on a few systems that surprise newcomers, **prepaid electricity meters**, **RO water** (you can't drink the tap), **cylinder cooking gas**, and a building **society** that runs the rules. Most of it your IKAN consultant sets up with you as part of settling-in; this guide shows exactly how each works, what it costs, and what to do first, so nothing catches you out.

₹0	₹499+	4-way	₹375
PIPED-GAS (PNG) CONNECTION, TO 30 JUN 2026	HOME FIBRE, PER MONTH	MANDATORY WASTE SEGREGATION, 2026	STAFF POLICE VERIFICATION

DO THIS FIRST

Get a working **UPI / Indian debit card** before anything else, nearly every utility recharge, bill, broadband payment and AMC is paid by UPI. Then assemble the universal kit you'll reuse everywhere: **passport + visa, FRRO/residential-permit proof, your registered rent agreement, passport photos, an Indian number and a local reference**. (Card & account: the Money & Banking guide; your lease & deposit: the Renting Your Home guide.)

POWER

Electricity & prepaid meters

Your provider (the **DISCOM**) depends on the city, BSES/Tata (Delhi), Adani/MSEDCL (Mumbai), BESCOM (Bengaluru), TGSPDCL (Hyderabad), TNPDC (Chennai). As a tenant you usually **don't** transfer the meter into your name, confirm in the lease who pays and how. The big shift: **prepaid smart meters** are now common, you recharge in advance like a phone, or you're cut off.

1

Find your DISCOM & install its app

Set it up with your consumer number; this is where you'll recharge and pay.

2

Confirm the meter arrangement

Tenants rarely transfer the meter; a name transfer needs the owner's written consent + zero outstanding dues + ID/address proof.

3

If prepaid, set low-balance alerts

Turn on SMS/app alerts so you're never cut off. Recharge via the app/UPI/BBPS.

4

Check your sanctioned load

A 2BHK with AC needs ~3 to 5 kW; if breakers trip, apply for a load enhancement (extra deposit).

New connection (if ever needed): a ~₹50 to 100 processing fee, then a Demand Note (deposit + meter) of roughly ₹3,000 to 6,000 for a 1 to 2 kW load, with an engineer visit in 3 to 7 days.

COOKING GAS

PNG vs LPG • pick the right one

Piped natural gas (PNG) is a mains line billed monthly, no running out, no booking; choose it if your building has the network. **LPG** is the default elsewhere: a steel cylinder delivered and swapped when empty.

- ① **Take PNG if you can, and soon.** The National PNG Drive 2.0 (a PNGRB campaign extended to 30 June 2026) offers near-zero upfront piped-gas connections, offers vary by city gas operator and may change after the drive ends, so confirm current terms. Under the 'one household, one gas connection' policy, taking PNG means surrendering your LPG within ~30 days (or taking a transfer voucher), via the MyPNGD portal.

For LPG, the three suppliers are [Indane](#), [Bharat Gas](#) and [HP Gas](#) (~₹2,200 to 4,200 new connection). Apply with passport + rent agreement + FRRO proof. Always keep a **spare cylinder** ('double-bottle') so you never run dry mid-meal; book refills by app/WhatsApp, delivered in 1 to 3 days (tip ₹20 to 50).

WATER

Drinking water & RO

- ⚠ **Do not drink municipal tap water unfiltered.** An RO/UV purifier or 20-litre delivered cans ('bubble-top') are standard, sort this in your first few days to avoid a week-one stomach upset.

You can **rent** an RO (popular for assignees, no upfront cost, maintenance bundled, cancel on exit) or **buy** one (Kent, Aquaguard, Livpure). The hidden cost is maintenance: filters every 6 to 8 months, membrane every 12 to 18, budget an **AMC of ~₹2,000 to 6,000/year**. Confirm what water your home gets (municipal, borewell or tanker), then install/rent within days and set an AMC or filter reminder.

CONNECTIVITY

Fast home internet

Providers: **ACT Fibernet**, **Airtel Xstream**, **JioFiber** (wired), plus fixed-wireless **JioAirFiber** / **Airtel AirFiber** where fibre isn't wired, availability is pincode-specific.

1

Check availability & pick a plan

Entry fibre ~₹499 to 599/mo (40 to 100 Mbps), mid ~₹700 to 1,500 (200 to 500 Mbps), gigabit ~₹3,999, most bundle OTT apps.

2

Apply on the app/site or via an agent

With photo ID + your registered rent agreement; pay the first month upfront by UPI.

3

Book the install

Wired technician in ~1 to 3 days; AirFiber often same/next day. Install fee ~₹0 to 1,000.

Need internet **today**, or the building has no wired fibre? Choose **AirFiber**. For the best price-per-Mbps and rock-solid video calls, choose **wired fibre**, and add a small UPS so it survives power cuts.

YOUR BUILDING

The society / RWA

The **Resident Welfare Association (RWA)** runs security, lifts, water, parking and amenities, effectively your building's government. **Maintenance** is charged monthly/quarterly (per sq ft or flat); your lease should say whether you or the landlord pays. Move-in usually needs an **NOC/intimation**, a refundable move-in deposit, resident registration at the security desk and vehicle stickers.



Know your rights. A society **cannot** legally charge you more maintenance just for being a tenant, in Maharashtra, extra 'non-occupancy' charges on a let-out flat are capped at 10% of the service charges, and maintenance hikes should go through general-body approval. You must register your domestic staff and their police verification with the society.

HOUSEHOLD HELP

Hiring a cook, maid & driver

Most homes employ part-time help, it's normal and budget-friendly. Find trustworthy staff via neighbours, your society manager, a registered agency, or vetted apps. Typical 2026 pay (metro; adjust for expat areas):

Part-time maid (per task)		₹2-5k/mo
Cook		₹6-15k/mo
Full-time maid		₹15-25k/mo
Driver		₹18-30k/mo



Police-verify every staff member, expected, and often required by your city/society. Do it via your state police portal (e.g. Karnataka's Seva Sindhu, ~₹375 for antecedents, ~₹750 with address; other states have their own portals and fees). Keep a copy of their Aadhaar + photo + a reference.

Pay norms: monthly cash/UPI salary, one paid day off a week, and a **Diwali bonus of ~one month's pay** is strongly expected. Give fair notice both ways when your assignment ends.

NEW FOR 2026

Waste & the four-bin law

The **Solid Waste Management Rules 2026** (in force 1 April 2026) make **four-way segregation mandatory** nationwide, superseding the 2016 rules, which required three streams (wet, dry, domestic-hazardous); now sanitary waste is separated too. Buy a colour-coded bin set on day one and learn your area's pickup schedule.

STREAM	WHAT GOES IN
Wet (green)	Kitchen, food, peels, composted
Dry (blue)	Plastic, paper, metal, glass, recycling
Sanitary	Diapers, sanitary products, wrapped separately
Special / hazardous	Batteries, e-waste, chemicals, to a collection point

Non-compliance can attract fines (commonly ₹1,000+, varies by city), and some areas refuse to collect unsegregated waste. Bonus: the **kabadiwala** (scrap dealer) buys newspapers, bottles and old electronics by weight for cash.

YOUR SUPPORT

How IKAN helps

- ✓ As part of **settling-in**, your consultant gets your **utilities, gas, water and internet** working
- ✓ We handle the **society move-in**, NOC, registration, stickers and the rules
- ✓ We help you **find and police-verify domestic staff** at fair local rates
- ✓ Anything we don't do directly, we set up the right vendor and show you how

Home setup • first-week checklist

- ☐ Confirm **electricity** account/bill responsibility; learn prepaid recharge
- ☐ Arrange **drinking water** (RO rental or cans) on day one
- ☐ Sort **cooking gas** (PNG if available, else LPG + spare cylinder)
- ☐ Apply for **internet** (AirFiber for speed, wired for value)
- ☐ Register with the **society**; hire & **police-verify** help; set up the **4 bins**

Your home is where the move becomes real. We'll have it working for you, questions any time.

Your IKAN Relocations team

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Where expertise meets empathy, supporting your move to India, every step of the way. Reflects 2026 utility, gas, water, broadband and waste-segregation practice; costs and rules vary by city and change, your consultant will confirm the current specifics.