

Your Pre-Arrival Countdown

One calm countdown from a month out to landing day: T-30, T-14, T-7, the 72-hour window and the night before. What to do, in what order, so you board with nothing hanging over you.

T-30

the countdown starts

72h

e-Arrival Card window

IN SHORT

- The month before you fly decides how calm your first month in India feels.
- The e-Arrival Card is mandatory for every foreign passport (including OCI).
- Carrying over US\$5,000 in cash (or US\$10,000 including cheques) must be declared at Customs.

The month before you fly decides how calm your first month in India feels. **This guide is the clock.** The Document Kit tells you which papers, and Your First Week takes over the moment you land; this one tells you **when** to do everything that must happen before the plane door closes: the visa and passport checks, the medicines audit, school records, the shipment, the packing, and the one task with a legal clock on it, the e-Arrival Card.

THE ONE HARD RULE, IN FORCE SINCE OCT 2025

The e-Arrival Card is 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 (a few minutes). **Save the QR code offline**; you must show it at immigration. Indian-passport holders are exempt. Everything else in this countdown is preparation; this one is law.

THE COUNTDOWN AT A GLANCE

T-30 days	Set the move in motion: passport validity, medicines audit, school records, travel-health visit, pet and shipment lead times
T-14 days	Papers, money, phone: document kit complete, banks notified, handset unlocked, photos printed
T-7 days	Pack for your city and season: adapters, hand-luggage medicines, printed copies, offline apps

T-72 hours	e-Arrival Card window opens: file it, save the QR, reconfirm your pickup
T-24 hours	The hand-luggage audit: one pouch with everything that must not be in the hold
Landing day	Hand over to Your First Week: immigration, entry stamp photographed, SIM, transfer

01 T-30 DAYS · A MONTH OUT

Set the move in motion

1 Check your passport and visa now, not at check-in

YOU

Six months' validity beyond arrival and two blank pages. Confirm the visa in your passport matches your role and employer; if anything looks off, this is the week it can still be fixed.

2 Audit your medicines

List every prescription you carry. Get a doctor's letter and enough supply for your first weeks, and check restricted ingredients with your consultant before you fly; some common ones (for example codeine-based medicines) are controlled in India. Keep everything in original packaging.

3 Book a travel-health visit

YOU

See your doctor or a travel clinic about a month out, so any recommended vaccinations have time to take effect.

4 Request school records, if you move with children

Transcripts, immunization records and recommendation letters take schools time to issue. The school search itself starts even earlier; see the Schools & Admissions guide.

5 Confirm the long-lead items

EMPLOYER

Shipment inventory, insurance and delivery windows with your mover; pet paperwork with your consultant (India's Animal Quarantine service issues an advance NOC before arrival, and the rabies shot must be given more than a month and less than a year before you fly); and your temporary accommodation for the first weeks, which IKAN arranges with your employer.

6 Start your document kit

YOU

Open the Document Kit guide and start collecting: attested copies, the employer letter, address proof. Future-you, standing at a counter in India, will be grateful.

02 T-14 DAYS • TWO WEEKS OUT

Papers, money, phone

1 Finish the document kit

Passport and visa copies, employer letter, address proof, and 6 to 8 passport photos printed. Every task in your first two weeks asks for some combination of these.

2 Tell your banks you are moving

Set travel notices so cards are not frozen on first use in India, and plan your bridge money: cards plus some cash. Carrying over US\$5,000 in cash (or US\$10,000 including cheques) must be declared at Customs. (Detail: Money & Banking.)

3 Unlock your phone

Confirm your handset is carrier-unlocked and eSIM-capable if you prefer eSIM, so the airport SIM works the hour you land. (Detail: Staying Connected.)

4 Close the home-country loops

Redirect mail, pause or cancel subscriptions and utilities, and arrange a power of attorney if someone handles affairs for you while you are away.

5 If you plan to drive, get your IDP

An International Driving Permit is far easier to obtain at home than from India. (Detail: Driving & Your Licence.)

03 T-7 DAYS • THE FINAL WEEK

Pack for your city and season

1 Pack by season, not by suitcase size

Monsoon (roughly June to September): quick-dry clothing and a solid umbrella. North-India winter (roughly November to February): real layers, and plan for air-quality days in Delhi NCR. South and coastal cities: breathable cotton year-round. Your consultant will tell you what your city is doing the week you land.

2 Pack the load-bearing items

Power adapters for India's Type C, D and M sockets (230 V), your passport photos, and prescription medicines with their paperwork in **hand luggage**, never the hold.

3 Print the paper backups

Two copies each of visa, employer letter and hotel or address proof. Paper still wins at Indian counters.

4 Load your phone for landing

Uber or Ola, Google Maps with your city downloaded offline, WhatsApp, your airline's app and Su-Swagatam, all installed while you still have easy connectivity.

5 Send IKAN your final flight details

Flight number, arrival time, terminal. Your airport pickup and welcome plan are set to it, and your consultant tracks the flight. (What happens at the kerb: Your Airport Transfer.)

04 T-72 HOURS · THE WINDOW THAT MATTERS

File, confirm, check in

1 Submit your e-Arrival Card

The window opens 72 hours before landing. File it at indianvisaonline.gov.in or in Su-Swagatam, then **save the QR offline**: screenshot it and email it to yourself. One per family member on a foreign passport.

2 Reconfirm your pickup and first nights

A one-line message to your consultant: flight unchanged, pickup confirmed, accommodation address in hand (you will reuse that address on forms).

3 Check in online and weigh the bags

Boring, decisive, and the difference between a calm airport evening and a frantic one.

05 T-24 HOURS · THE NIGHT BEFORE

The hand-luggage audit

1 Build the one pouch

Passport with visa, e-Arrival QR (printed or offline), passport photos, medicines with paperwork, adapters, some cash, and the printed copies. If the hold luggage vanished for three days, this pouch would carry you.

2 Charge everything, save every number

Phone, power bank, headphones. Screenshot your consultant's number, your hotel address and your e-Arrival QR so none of it depends on airport Wi-Fi.

3 Read tomorrow's two hours once

Skim the landing-day sequence in Your First Week: immigration, photograph the entry stamp, SIM kiosk, money bridge, transfer. Knowing the order is most of the calm.

IMPORTANT

The three pre-flight mistakes to avoid: leaving the e-Arrival Card "for the airport"; packing prescription medicines in the hold without their paperwork; and discovering at check-in that the passport has less than six months' validity.

06 LANDING DAY

Hand over to Your First Week

From the jet bridge onward you are in Your First Week in India territory: immigration with your e-Arrival QR, **photograph the entry stamp** (its date starts the FRRO clock, 14 days on work, dependant and any visa valid for more than 180 days), the SIM kiosk, the money bridge, and your pre-arranged transfer. This countdown's job is done the moment you board; that guide's job begins the moment you land.

07 YOUR SUPPORT

What IKAN does for you

- ✓ Your consultant **runs this countdown with you**, one check-in per milestone, so nothing rests on your memory
- ✓ We **arrange your airport pickup and temporary accommodation**, and track your flight on the day
- ✓ We **watch the clocks**: the 72-hour e-Arrival window before you fly and the 14-day FRRO deadline after you land
- ✓ Medicines, pets, shipments, schools: we **confirm the current rules for your case** before you commit to anything

Ready to board? • one-screen check

- ☐ **Passport** valid 6+ months, visa checked, two blank pages
- ☐ **e-Arrival Card** filed inside 72 hours & QR saved offline
- ☐ **Document kit** complete, with 6 to 8 passport photos
- ☐ **Medicines** in hand luggage with prescriptions and doctor's letter
- ☐ **Banks notified**, phone unlocked, adapters packed
- ☐ **IKAN has your flight details** and your pickup is reconfirmed

Board with the pouch in your bag and the QR on your phone, and the hard part of arriving is already done. We are waiting on the other side.

YOUR IKAN RELOCATIONS TEAM

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Where expertise meets empathy, supporting your move to India, every step of the way. Reflects 2026 arrival and e-Arrival Card practice; rules and timelines change, and your consultant will confirm current specifics for your visa, city and airline. This guide is web-first; it joins the downloadable pack at the next pack rebuild, and prints cleanly from this page meanwhile.