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4. Immigration And Foreigners Rules 2025 – Polity

The Union Home Ministry notified amendments to the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025, tightening visa registration deadlines for foreign nationals to enhance national security and streamline border management. The most significant change removes the previous 14-day grace period after visa expiry – foreigners on visas of 180 days or less must now register for extended stay before their visa expires. These amendments come alongside Arunachal Pradesh protests demanding stricter ILP enforcement, reflecting India's broader focus on immigration control across both external borders and internal demographic protection.

1. Key Changes in Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025

Strict Registration Deadline

1. Foreigners on visa of 180 days or less wanting to extend stay must register before visa expires
2. Previous 14-day grace period after expiry removed entirely
3. Eliminates exploitation of grace period for unauthorized overstaying

Emergent Restrictions

1. Long-term visas with "180-day stay limit per visit" clause: Registration for extended stay must be done before 180 days end
2. Extension now granted only under emergent circumstances
3. Closing loophole for indefinite stay through repeated extensions

Exemption for Mixed-Citizenship Children

1. Parents no longer required to report birth of child within 30 days if one parent is Indian citizen wishing to retain child's Indian citizenship
2. Simplifying compliance for mixed-nationality families

Foreign Citizenship Declaration

1. If child born in India later chooses foreign citizenship: Parents must inform registration officer within 30 days
2. Ensuring citizenship records remain accurate

Medical Compliance

1. Revised reporting requirements for all hospitals and nursing homes providing lodging or medical care to foreign nationals
2. Strengthening institutional monitoring beyond hotels, landlords

2. About Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025

Primary Legal Framework

1. Primary legal framework regulating entry, stay, exit of foreign nationals in India
2. Administered by Ministry of Home Affairs
3. Implements statutory provisions of newly passed Immigration and Foreigners Act

Core Objective

1. Balance tourism, ease of travel with robust internal security
2. Digitalize monitoring through online portals
3. Track visa compliance, regulate foreign regional registration
4. Prevent illegal stay, overstaying

Key Provisions

1. **Mandatory Registration (FRRO Framework):** Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) as nodal authority; foreign nationals exceeding specified stay thresholds must register digitally
2. **Visa Categorization and Compliance:** Clearly defines parameters, scope, duration for tourist, business, employment, medical, student visas; strict non-compliance penalties
3. **Digitalization (M-Visa and Portals):** All immigration workflows integrated into online portal, mobile application; paperless processing for visa extensions, exit permissions, address updates
4. **Deportation and Enforcement:** Civil authorities empowered to identify, detain, penalize overstaying foreign nationals or those engaging in activities inimical to national security
5. **Institutional Reporting:** Hotels, landlords (Form C), medical institutions must electronically report accommodation of foreign nationals within strict timelines

3. About Immigration

Definition

1. Movement of individuals from home country to another nation where they are neither natives nor citizens
2. For permanent settlement, naturalization, employment, or temporary work
3. **Immigrants:** Those migrating to another country
4. **Emigrants/Outmigrants:** Same individuals from perspective of home country

Causes of Immigration

1. **Economic factors:** better jobs, wages, living standards; poverty pushing migration (Indians to Gulf for construction)
2. **Political instability and conflict:** Wars, persecution, oppressive regimes forcing flight (Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar to Bangladesh)
3. **Environmental and climate change:** Natural disasters, rising sea levels, droughts making areas uninhabitable (Satyabhama village, Kendra Para, Odisha – coastal erosion forcing migration)
4. **Globalization and connectivity:** Improved transportation, communication; expanding global job markets (Indian IT professionals to Silicon Valley)

Impact of Immigration

1. **Economic growth:** Boosts labour supply, fills skill gaps, drives entrepreneurship (Indian IT in US tech industry)
2. **Pressure on infrastructure:** Strains housing, healthcare, public services (European cities, refugee influx)
3. **Remittances and home country development:** India is world's top recipient of remittances; Indian migrants in Gulf, US sending billions annually boosting household incomes, national GDP
4. **Security and social challenges:** Concerns over crime, assimilation, national identity (US-Europe border security debates)

4. Immigration Provisions in India

Citizenship Act, 1955

1. Governs acquisition, renunciation, termination of Indian citizenship
2. **Five ways to become Indian citizen:** Birth, descent, registration, naturalization, incorporation of territory

Foreigners Act, 1946

1. Controls entry, stay, exit of foreigners in India
2. Empowers government to detect, detain, deport illegal immigrants

3. Establishes tribunals with civil court powers to determine foreigner status
4. **2019 Amendments:** District magistrates across all States, UTs empowered to set up tribunals identifying illegal foreigners

Visa Regulations (Under Passport Act, 1920)

1. Defines entry conditions for foreign nationals through visa categories
2. Regulates extensions, restrictions, violations of visa norms

Refugee Policies

1. India is NOT a signatory to 1951 Refugee Convention
2. Provides asylum on case-by-case basis: Tibetans, Sri Lankan Tamils, Rohingyas
3. No comprehensive national refugee law

5. Role of International Organizations in Immigration

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

1. Global organization dedicated to people forced to flee homes due to conflict, persecution
2. Protects, assists refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people
3. Provides emergency aid, legal support, resettlement assistance
4. Example: Led relief efforts for Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

1. Manages migration policies ensuring safe, orderly migration
2. Combats human trafficking
3. Assists with voluntary repatriation, resettlement, integration programs
4. Example: Helped Rohingya refugees relocate; humanitarian aid in Bangladesh

6. Global Practices in Immigration Laws

United States

1. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA): Immigrant = individual seeking Lawful Permanent Resident status
2. Allows judicial review of deportation orders

European Union

1. Foreigners have right to appeal deportation decisions before independent authority
2. **EU Blue Card:** Allows highly skilled non-EU nationals to work, live in member states

Australia

1. Migration Strategy includes humanitarian exceptions, due process guarantees
2. 2025 immigration changes balancing economic needs with migration fairness

7. Way Forward

1. Strengthen Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) with adequate staffing, technology
2. Expand biometric tracking at all entry points preventing fraudulent documentation
3. Formulate comprehensive national refugee policy aligning with international humanitarian standards
4. Enhance inter-agency coordination between MHA, state police, intelligence agencies for seamless enforcement
5. Develop digital overstay alert system automatically flagging expired visas
6. Fast-track bilateral agreements on deportation with key source countries

8. Conclusion

Immigration and Foreigners Rules 2025 amendments removing the 14-day grace period, mandating pre-expiry registration, tightening long-stay extensions, and strengthening hospital-reporting requirements reflect India's holistic approach to balancing ease of travel with robust national security – digitalizing enforcement through FRRO framework while addressing demographic vulnerabilities highlighted by Arunachal Pradesh's ILP protests.

Source: <https://newsonair.gov.in/mha-revises-immigration-rules-allows-flexible-registration-timeline/>