NRI COME BACK PLAN · STARTER CHECKLIST

Coming back to India after years abroad

A one-page checklist for NRIs and families planning a return to India. Tick what is done; the rest is your agenda for a Come Back Plan. General guidance only, as at November 2026; your own position depends on your days in each country and your documents.

1. Decide and fix (now)

- ☐ Agree the likely year of return, and a second "fallback" year, for each spouse
- ☐ List every account, investment, pension, policy and property abroad and in India, for each spouse
- ☐ Check past tax filings in India and abroad; regularise anything missed before you leave
- ☐ Collect days in India for each of the last ten tax years (passport stamps or travel history)

2. Residence and arrival date (12 to 24 months before)

- ☐ Model your NR, RNOR and resident years under section 6 of the Income-tax Act, 2025
- ☐ Choose the arrival month: a later arrival can keep the first year non-resident
- ☐ Check deemed residency if your Indian income exceeds ₹15 lakh and you pay no tax abroad
- ☐ Decide immigration status abroad (for example a US Green Card) with your adviser there

3. Pensions, investments and estate tax abroad

- ☐ For each pension or retirement account: where it is taxed under the DTAA, and when to withdraw
- ☐ US 401(k)/IRA, UK and Canadian accounts: consider the election under section 158 (earlier 89A), Form 40 (earlier 10-EE)
- ☐ Plan sales of foreign shares and funds for the RNOR years, when gains received abroad are generally outside Indian tax
- ☐ Check US estate tax (US assets above USD 60,000) and the UK inheritance tax tail; review fund domicile
- ☐ Sell a foreign home while its main-residence exemption still applies

4. Banking and FEMA on arrival

- ☐ Tell your banks: redesignate NRE and NRO accounts as resident accounts
- ☐ Let FCNR deposits run to maturity; then move to an RFC or resident account
- ☐ Keep foreign assets abroad if it suits you (FEMA section 6(4)); bring money in as capital
- ☐ Update residential status with depositories, fund houses, insurers and on your PAN records

5. Property, family and succession

- ☐ Time any Indian property sale: TDS is far lower once you are resident
- ☐ Make or update wills that work in India and abroad; align nominations
- ☐ Review assets held for you in parents' names; plan for children who stay abroad
- ☐ Plan the family side: a spouse's career, schooling, care for parents, and what you will do in the years ahead

6. After you land

- ☐ File Indian returns for the RNOR and resident years on time
- ☐ From the first fully resident year: Schedule FA, Schedules FSI and TR, and foreign tax credit in Form 44 (earlier Form 67)
- ☐ Keep the asset register up to date every calendar year
- ☐ Review the plan once a year until you are settled

Regi Tom Antony & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Kochi (est. 1997). 250+ NRI Come Back Plans in the last 10 years. Led by Regi Tom Antony, FCA, Certified Organizational Development Coach, author of NRI Tax Blueprint, who returned to India himself after around 20 years abroad.
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