

● NRI · TAX & INVESTMENT PRIMER

your india money, *from abroad.*

moved out of india but still have rent coming in, parents to support, and a SIP you never closed? then your money lives in two time zones. this primer is the map: **the right accounts**, the **tax window** most returning NRIs miss, and how to **invest and repatriate** without tripping a rule.

THE THREE ACCOUNTS

PICK BY WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

nre

NON-RESIDENT EXTERNAL

WHAT GOES IN

foreign earnings sent to india

TAX ON INTEREST

tax-free in india

REPATRIATION

fully free, no limit

park your foreign savings

nro

NON-RESIDENT ORDINARY

WHAT GOES IN

indian income — rent, dividends, pension

TAX ON INTEREST

taxed; **30% TDS** (less with DTAA)

REPATRIATION

up to **\$1M / year**

manage your indian income

fcnr

FOREIGN CURRENCY NON-RESIDENT

WHAT GOES IN

a deposit held in **foreign currency**

TAX ON INTEREST

tax-free in india

REPATRIATION

fully free

no rupee-fall risk

most NRIs run NRE + NRO together — foreign savings in the NRE, indian income in the NRO. and the moment you become an NRI, your old **resident savings account must be re-designated as NRO**. holding a resident account as a non-resident isn't allowed.

General education, not tax or investment advice. NRI taxation depends on your country of residence and the relevant treaty; confirm specifics with a qualified CA and your bank.

■ the 182-day line.

in india for fewer than 182 days this financial year (and you don't hit the 60-days-now + 365-over-four-years trap) → you're a non-resident for tax.

■ the ₹15 lakh / 120-day catch.

indian citizen or PIO earning over ₹15 lakh *from india*? the line tightens to 120 days. land between 120 and 182 days and you're not a full resident — you're RNOR (below).

THE WINDOW MOST RETURNING NRIS MISS

rnor — your *tax bridge home*.

come back to india for good and you don't flip to "fully taxed on worldwide income" overnight. for **2–3 years** you can be **RNOR** (resident, not ordinarily resident) — and during it, your **foreign income stays tax-free in india** (unless you receive it here). it's the window to sell foreign assets, close overseas accounts, and restructure — *before* india taxes your global income.

you usually qualify if you were an NRI in 9 of the last 10 years, **or** spent ≤ 729 days in india across the last 7 years. plan your return month with this in mind — it can be worth lakhs.

INVESTING BACK HOME — YES, YOU CAN

■ NRIs can invest in indian mutual funds.

re-do your KYC as an NRI and route investments through your NRE account (proceeds fully repatriable) or NRO (indian money, \$1M/yr cap). update your old folios — don't keep investing as a "resident."

■ the US & canada catch — FATCA.

only ~20–25 fund houses accept US/canada-based NRIs, and they'll ask for extra declarations (some need offline or in-person forms). pick an AMC that takes you *before* you fall for a particular scheme — most apps will simply block you.

■ your gains are taxed at source.

unlike resident investors, the fund house deducts **TDS** on your capital gains and dividends before paying out. budget for it; you reconcile the rest when you file.

■ DTAA is your shield against double tax.

india has tax treaties with 90+ countries. file a **Tax Residency Certificate (TRC)** from your home country to claim a lower TDS rate, or credit india's tax against your bill back home — so the same rupee isn't taxed twice.

the practical order: sort your residential status → open/convert to NRE + NRO → redo MF & demat KYC as an NRI → then invest. doing it in this order saves a year of frozen folios and reversals.

GETTING MONEY OUT – REPATRIATION

**from nre /
fcnr**

free, no cap, no forms. it was foreign money to begin with — principal and interest move back out whenever you like.

from nro

up to **USD 1 million per financial year**, with **Form 15CA** (your declaration) + **Form 15CB** (a chartered accountant's certificate confirming taxes are paid).

WHERE NRIS QUIETLY TRIP

five fixes worth *doing now.***■ still running your old resident savings account.**

re-designate it as NRO the moment you become an NRI — it's a compliance must, not optional.

■ SIPs still flagged "resident".

update your MF and demat KYC to NRI status, or folios get frozen at the worst time.

■ US/canada NRI assuming any AMC works.

FATCA limits your list — confirm the fund house accepts you first.

■ skipping the TRC, paying tax twice.

file it and let the DTAA do its job.

■ moving back without timing the RNOR window.

a month's difference in your return date can keep foreign income tax-free for longer.

two time zones, one plan? *let's sort it.*[whatsapp archita →](#)

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