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Officially it takes 181 days since your return from abroad to get you the status of a resident Indian. I am close to it and most probably by the time you read this I would have been officially recognised as a nNRI or a resident Indian. Well it has been 6 months since I returned to India and it looks like I had never left India and I thought I will put in some bits from here and there to give a feeling of how it feels to be in India after a short stint abroad. If this intrests you read on else you could quit reading this article any further.

One of the striking difference that I encountered after my short stint abroad was that there were too many people, too much traffic, too much sunlight, too tiring, too much of noise, too much of pollution, too much of traffic violation, too much hype, too many poor people, too many people traveling by air, too many dotcoms, too many IT professional, too many US aspirants, too many flyovers, too many vehicles, ... Well the list might be endless if I think hard but I will leave it here assuming that the message is clear.

I will jot down things as they come to my mind, they are not in any logical order.

It was indeed a great feeling to be able to cross on foot the national highway. Well there was traffic but the only way to reach the railways station was to cross the NH and lo I did on foot criss crossing through the moving traffic and believe me it was a great sense of joy. I would not have tried this if it were not India, well why? Indian drivers anticipate such obstacles as myself and drive with that extra degree of caution but outside India if such a thing happened the drivers would go nuts not knowing what to do or not to do!

You are looked upon as a different species initially and then this subsides. They are exceptionally good to you whether you deserve it or not. I mean I have hardly changed either the way I dress or the way I speak or the way I walk, but still there is some difference, or may be that is what you feel.

People do not believe you that you have come for good. You go seeking employment and they ask "People join us so that they can go abroad, but you want to join us having returned from abroad". It is very hard to convince that you have come for good. They ask "Why leave all the comforts and the better earnings and come back to India? If I had a chance I would not have returned". Well I will not comment for anything I say will be criticised. Everyone has their own opinions and reasons for staying where they are!

There has been a major change in the life style. There are more people traveling by air today then before and air travel is becoming more like a bus travel. If I let my mind go a bit crazy I am not sure why there should not be standing passengers in the aircraft! There are more people shouting into their mobiles than before. There are more people carrying their laptops than before.