ITR-1 Excel Template – System Requirements and Troubleshooting

Nov 10, 2026 · @Advocate Dr SB Rathore

The ITR-1 Excel workbooks run on any ordinary Windows laptop with licensed desktop Microsoft Excel 2010 or later. Most reported trouble comes from three settings on the computer, not from the hardware.

For teachers running the DSC 5.1 ITR-1 practical with the workbooks on taxclasses.in (tab SEM-5 (I.TAX)); all of them share the same macro code.

What a computer needs

Item	Requirement
Operating system	Windows 10 or 11
Excel	Desktop Microsoft Excel 2010 or later, licensed and activated. 32-bit and 64-bit Excel both work. The workbook uses no newer Excel functions, so Excel 2021 or 365 is not needed.
Hardware	Any ordinary laptop: i3 or better, 4 GB RAM, screen 1366 × 768 or larger. Each file is only 3–4 MB.
Will not work	Mac Excel (see below), WPS Office, LibreOffice, Google Sheets, Excel Online, Excel on phones or tablets. Unactivated Office opens the file read-only.

Three common problems and their fixes

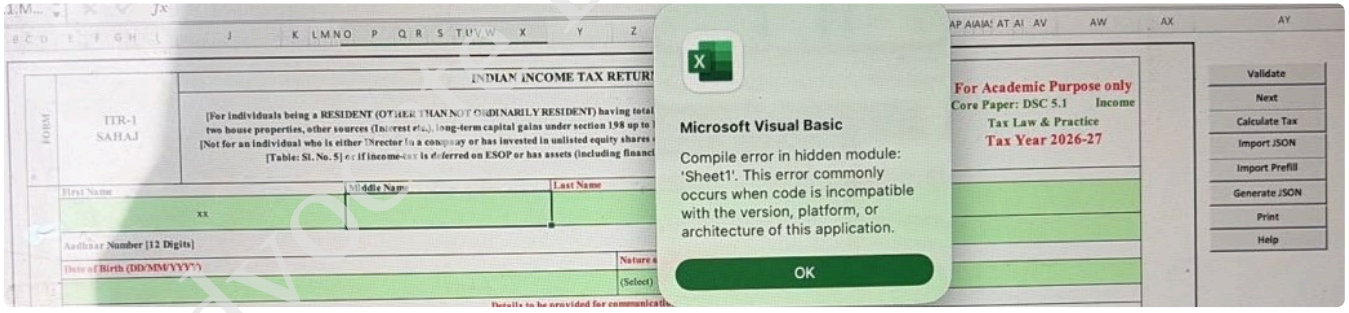
1. **The Windows date format must be Indian (dd/mm/yyyy).** The workbook stores dates as text such as "01/04/2027" and converts them using the computer's own date setting. Many laptops come set to "English (United States)", which reads that date as 4 January. Students then get wrong date messages, such as "Date of deposit can't be after…", or the verification date is rejected.
    - **Fix:** Control Panel → Region → Format: English (India), or set Short date to dd/MM/yyyy.

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2. **The JSON is saved in the same folder as the workbook.** The file is named ITR1_<PAN>.json. If the save fails, the student still sees "Json is saved in the path…", but no file exists. The save fails when the workbook:
   - was opened directly from a ZIP, from WhatsApp, or from a browser download preview;
   - sits in a OneDrive-synced Desktop or Documents folder (common on new Windows 11 laptops);
   - sits in a folder the lab account cannot write to.
   - **Fix:** copy the file to a plain local folder such as C:\ITR first, then open it from there.
3. **Macros are blocked on downloaded files.** Every file downloaded from taxclasses.in carries Windows' "downloaded from the internet" mark, so the buttons do nothing until the file is unblocked.
   - **Fix:** right-click the file → Properties → tick Unblock → OK, then open it and click Enable Content if asked.
   - In some college labs the IT administrator has disabled macros for everyone. Only IT can allow them, or add the working folder as a Trusted Location.

Error on a MacBook: "Compile error in hidden module: 'Sheet1'"

This appears when the workbook is opened in Mac Excel (MacBook, iMac). The workbook uses Windows-only components that Mac Excel lacks, so the buttons do not work and no tax or JSON is produced. No Mac setting can fix it. What to do:



The error as it appears on a MacBook Air when the ITR-1 workbook is opened in Mac Excel.

1. Use a Windows computer: Windows 10 or 11 with Microsoft Excel 2010 or later.
2. Or a Mac running Windows (Parallels or Boot Camp) with Excel installed in Windows.
3. With no Windows computer, students can do the case on the paper ITR-1 form (New or Old Regime) and submit it.

Help: if a problem persists, send the message on screen or a screenshot to Advocate Dr. S. B. Rathore: 9811116835 · rathore_incometax@yahoo.co.in

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