

Aadhaar-PAN link helps track dodgy deals worth ₹33,000cr

Officials See Through False Declarations

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New Delhi: Linking Aadhaar and permanent account number or PAN has helped the tax department track high-value transactions of Rs 33,000 crore, which were sought to be suppressed by individuals who now face the risk of action if the department finds evidence suggesting transactions do not match disclosed income.

The income tax department is pushing individuals to link PAN with Aadhaar and so far 17.4 crore individuals of the 37 crore with PAN have complied. The number of taxpayers who have linked Aadhaar in the PAN database and filed income tax returns adds up to almost 4.4 crore. The idea was to catch those



People lining up outside a bank issuing Aadhaar cards in Vishakapatnam in April 2018

who had multiple PANs, ostensibly to avoid paying taxes and mask transactions.

But the exercise has come in handy to also detect transactions which would have earlier escaped scrutiny. Several transactions such as purchase of vehicles, sale of immovable property or opening bank fixed deposits require an individual without a PAN to fill up what is called Form 60 or 61. Thanks to the linking of the two numbers, false declarations by people claiming that they did not have a PAN was

detected as in many cases, the unique identification number which was shared was matched with the number issued by the I-T department, sources told TOI.

This analysis for 2016-17 and 2017-18 identified 1.65 crore non-PAN transactions reported through Form 61 (used by those who have agricultural income but no PAN) where the individual had the number issued by the I-T department but had not mentioned it while undertaking the transaction.

A matching of the data-

Despite SC order, univ mandates Aadhaar

Despite Supreme Court's interim stay on Aadhaar's requirement for entrance exams, Lucknow University is insisting on its aspirants having Aadhaar for postgraduate admission. Despite assurances that lack of Aadhaar would not deny applicants admission, the form on the university website cannot be submitted without Aadhaar details. **IAN S**

base has also helped populating PAN in over 1.1 lakh non-PAN transactions, including large cash deposits and FD investments.

While several people have questioned the rationale for linking of the UID with PAN, officials argued that it had become a handy tool for detection of un-reported transactions at a time when income tax authorities are keen to deepen the tax base by getting businessmen, professionals and those with agriculture income to report their income accurately.