

I-T notifies form for Aadhaar-PAN linking

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THE INCOME TAX (I-T) department has introduced a one-page form for taxpayers to manually apply for linking their Aadhaar with Permanent Account Number (PAN), apart from the available online and SMS facilities.

An individual will have to mention both the PAN and Aadhaar numbers, the spelling of the names mentioned on them and give a signed declaration that the Aadhaar number provided has "not been provided" by them for the purpose of linking it with "any other PAN".

They will also have to undertake a declaration stating they have "not been allotted any other PAN than the one mentioned" on the form.

"I understand complete security and confidentiality shall be ensured for my personal identity data provided for the purpose of Aadhaar-based authentication," the taxpayer will state as part of his declaration.

"The form is just another procedure, via the paper medium, to link the Aadhaar with the PAN database. The SMS and online modes are also available," a tax department official said.

The department has also formally notified, under a

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CBDT notification of June 29, the procedure and format for "intimating Aadhaar number to the I-T Department by PAN holder and quoting the same in PAN applications".

Taxpayers can link their Aadhaar-PAN using a mobile-based SMS service (formatted message to be sent to 567678 or 56161), by logging on to the website of PAN service providers such as NSDL and UTIITSL, by personally visiting a PAN service centre or, over the e-filing website of the department.

Similarly, the department has specified in detail the procedure for quoting of Aadhaar in new PAN application and for changes or correction in PAN data. It has specified to the PAN and e-filing service providers that they "shall ensure that the identity of information of Aadhaar holder, demographic and biometric, is only used for submission to the central identities data repository of the

UIDAI for Aadhaar authentication purpose".

"Any deviation will be treated as non-compliance to the security and confidentiality clause, or similar clause of their respective agreements/contracts and may lead to applicable penalty as per their respective agreements/contracts," the notification said.

The I-T department has made it clear that taxpayers without Aadhaar number or its enrolment ID will not be able to e-file their income tax return (ITR) from Saturday, even as it has said that in "no case" any PAN will be invalidated.

The Supreme Court had last month upheld the validity of an I-T Act provision (section 139AA) making Aadhaar mandatory for allotment of PAN cards and ITR filing, but had put a partial stay on its implementation till a Constitution bench addressed the issue of right to privacy.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had said on June 10 the SC's order had only given a "partial relief" to those who do not have an Aadhaar or an Aadhaar enrolment ID, and the taxman, hence, "will not cancel" the PAN of such individuals.

The department, as per latest data, has linked over 2.62 crore Aadhaar numbers with its PAN database.