



RETURN OF INCOME

It is mandatory for every taxpayer to communicate the details of his income to the Income-tax Department. These details are to be furnished in the prescribed form known as return of income. In this part, you can gain knowledge about the various provisions relating to return of income.

Person required to file the return of income

The provisions relating to filing of return of income depend upon the status of the taxpayer. The position in this regard is given below:

In the case of companies:

Every person, being a company, has to file its return of income compulsorily, irrespective of its income being profit or loss. In other words, it is mandatory for every company to file the return of income irrespective of its income or loss.

In the case of partnership firms:

Every person, being a partnership firm (including Limited Liability Partnership), has to file its return of income compulsorily, irrespective of its income being profit or loss. In other words, it is mandatory for every partnership firm to file the return of income irrespective of its income or loss.

In the case of an Individual / HUF / AOP / BOI / Artificial Juridical Person :

Every individual/HUF/AOP/BOI/artificial juridical person has to file the return of income if his total income (including income of any other person in respect of which he is assessable) without giving effect to the provisions of section 10A, 10B or 10BA or Chapter VIA (i.e., deduction under section 80C to 80U), exceeds the maximum amount which is not chargeable to tax i.e. exceeds the exemption limit.

In the case of charitable or religious trusts:

Every person in receipt of income derived from property held under charitable or religious trusts/legal obligations or in receipt of income being voluntary contributions referred to in section 2(24)(ia), has to file the return of income if its total income without giving effect to the provisions of sections 11 and 12 exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax.

In the case of political parties:

The Chief Executive Officer of every political party has to file the return of income of the party if the total income of the party without giving effect to the provisions of section 13A exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax.

In the case of certain associations :





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Following entities are liable to file the return of income if their total income without giving effect to the provisions of section 10 exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to tax:

- Research association referred to in section 10(21)
- News agency referred to in section 10(22B)
- Association or institution referred to in section 10(23A)
- Institution referred to in section 10(23B)
- Fund/institution/trust/university/other educational institution/any hospital/medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iiia), (iiib), (iv), (v), (vi) or (vii) of section 10(23C)
- Mutual Fund referred to in clause (23D) of section 10
- Securitisation trust referred to in clause (23DA) of section 10
- Venture capital company or venture capital fund referred to in clause (23FB) of section 10;
- Trade union/association referred to in sub-clause (a) or (b) of section 10(24)
- Body/authority/Board/Trust/Commission referred to in section 10(46)
- Infrastructure debt fund referred to in section 10(47)

In the case of certain university, college or other institution:

Every university, college or other institution referred to in clause (ii) and clause (iii) of section 35(1), which is not required to furnish return of income or loss under any other provision of the Act, shall furnish the return of income every year, irrespective of income (or) loss.

In the case of Business Trust

Every business trust, which is not required to furnish return of income or loss under any other provision of the Act, shall furnish the return of income every year, irrespective of income (or) loss.

In the case of persons holding assets located outside India:

Every person being a resident [other than not ordinarily resident in India], has to furnish his return of income even if he is not required to furnish a return of income as per the provisions discussed above, if during the year he has any asset (including any financial interest in any entity) located outside India or signing authority in any account located outside India.

Due date of filing of return of income



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Sr. No.	Status of the taxpayer	Due date
1	Any company other than a company who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E (i.e. other than covered in 2 below)	September 30 of the assessment year
2	Any person (may be corporate/non-corporate) who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E	November 30 of the assessment year
3	Any person (other than a company) whose accounts are to be audited under the Income-tax Law or under any other law	September 30 of the assessment year
4	A working partner of a firm whose accounts are required to be audited under this Act or under any other law.	September 30 of the assessment year
5	Any other assessee	July 31 of the assessment year

Illustration

Miss Saroj is a salaried employee. Her taxable salary income for the year 2014-15 is Rs. 8,40,000 (she does not have any other income). What will be the due date of filing the return of income for the financial year 2014-15?

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In this case, Miss Saroj will be covered in Sr. No. 5 of the table discussed earlier and hence the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 will be 31st July, 2015.

Illustration

Mr. Rupen is a doctor. Gross receipts for the year 2014-15 came to Rs. 18,40,000. What will be the due date for filing of return of income by Mr. Rupen for the financial year 2014-15?

**

The gross receipts for the year are less than Rs. 25,00,000 and hence Mr. Rupen will not be liable to get his accounts audited i.e. he is not covered by audit. He will be covered in Sr. No. 5 of the table discussed earlier and, hence, the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 will be 31st July, 2015.

Illustration



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Mr. Rahul is running a garments factory. Turnover of his business for the year 2014-15 amounted to Rs. 1,84,00,000. What will be the due date for filing of return of income by Mr. Rahul for the financial year 2014-15?

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The turnover for the year is more than Rs. 1,00,00,000 and hence Mr. Rahul will be liable to get his accounts audited i.e. he is covered by audit. Mr. Rahul will be covered in Sr. No. 3 of the table discussed earlier and, hence, the due date of filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 will be 30th September, 2015.

Illustration

Mr. Kaushal is a partner in Essem Trading Company. The turnover of the firm for the financial year 2014-15 amounted to Rs. 1,84,00,000. Apart from remuneration, interest and share of profit from the firm, Mr. Kaushal is not having any other source of income. What will be the due date for filing the return of income by the partnership firm and by Mr. Kaushal for the financial year 2014-15?

**

The turnover of the firm exceeds Rs. 1,00,00,000 and, hence, the firm will be liable to get its accounts audited. Thus, the firm as well as Mr. Kaushal will be covered in Sr. No. 4 of the table discussed earlier and, hence, the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 (in case of the firm as well as Mr. Kaushal) will be 30th September, 2015.

Illustration

Mr. Kiran is a partner in SM Enterprises. The turnover of the firm for the financial year 2014-15 amounted to Rs. 84,00,000. The firm has declared income @ 8% on presumptive basis under section 44AD of the Act. Apart from remuneration, interest and share of profit from the firm, Mr. Kiran is not having any other source of income. What will be the due date of filing of return of income by the partnership firm and by Mr. Kiran for the financial year 2014-15?

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The turnover of the firm is below Rs. 1,00,00,000 and, hence, it will not be liable to get its accounts audited. Thus, the firm as well as Mr. Kiran will be covered in Sr. No. 5 of the table discussed earlier and, hence, the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 (in case of firm as well as Mr. Kiran) will be 31st July, 2015.

Illustration

Essem Minerals Pvt. Ltd. is a company engaged in trading of minerals. What will be the due date for filing the return of income for the financial year 2014-15?

**

In this case Essem Ltd. will be covered in Sr. No. 1 of the table discussed earlier and, hence, the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 will be 30th September, 2015.





Illustration

Essem Minerals Pvt. Ltd. is a company engaged in trading of minerals and liable to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E. What will be the due date for filing the return of income for the financial year 2014-15?

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In this case Essem Ltd. will be covered in Sr. No. 2 of the table discussed earlier and, hence, the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 will be 30th November, 2015.

Belated return

If the person fails to file the return of income within the time-limit prescribed in this regard, then as per section 139(4) he can file a belated return. A belated return can be filed within one year from the end of the relevant assessment year or before completion of assessment, whichever is earlier.

Illustration

Mr. Raja is a trader of agricultural products. Turnover of his business for the previous year 2014-15 amounted to Rs. 84,00,000. He has not opted for the presumptive taxation scheme of section 44AD i.e. declaring income at 8% of sales. What will be the 'due date' for filing his return of income for the financial year 2014-15? If he fails to file the return of income by the due date then by what date he can file a belated return?

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In this case, as Mr. Raja had not opted for presumptive taxation scheme of section 44AD, he will be required to get his accounts audited under section 44AB and, hence, he is covered in Sr. No. 3 of the table discussed earlier. Hence, the due date for filing the return of income of the year 2014-15 will be 30th September, 2015.

If he cannot file the return of income by the due date, i.e., by 30th September, 2015, then he can file a belated return within one year from the end of the relevant assessment year or before completion of assessment, whichever is earlier.

In other words, he can file a belated return upto 31-3-2017. If the assessment is completed before 31-3-2017, then he can file a belated return at any time before the completion of assessment.

Consequences of delay in filing the return of income

Delay in filing the return of income may attract certain adverse consequences. Following are the consequences of delay in filing the return of income:

- Loss (other than loss under the head "Income from house property") cannot be carried forward.
- Levy of interest under section 234A.





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- Penalty of Rs. 5,000 under section 271F can be levied if return is filed after the end of the assessment year.
- Exemptions/deductions under sections 10A, 10B, 80-IA, 80-IAB, 80-IB, 80-IC, 80-ID and 80-IE are not available.
- Belated return cannot be revised under section 139(5).

Revision of return

Sometimes the taxpayer may omit to include certain information in the return or may commit any mistake at the time of filing the return of income. In such case any unintentional mistake or error or omission in the return of income filed by the taxpayer can be corrected by filing a revised return.

A revised return can be filed within a period of one year from the end of the relevant assessment year or before completion of assessment, whichever is earlier. It should be noted that only a return filed under section 139(1) [i.e., return filed before the due date] or return filed in pursuance of a notice under section 142 can be revised. In other words a belated return cannot be revised.

Defective return

Section 139(9) provides the list of situations in which the return of income filed by the taxpayer can be treated as defective return. If the Assessing Officer finds the return of income to be defective under section 139(9), then he may intimate such defect to the taxpayer and may give an opportunity to him to rectify such defect.

The taxpayer shall rectify such defect in the return of income within a period of 15 days of such intimation or within such further period as the Assessing Officer may allow.

If the defect is not rectified within the period of 15 days or the further period so allowed (as the case may be), then, notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of the Act, the return shall be treated as an invalid return and the provisions of the Act shall apply as if the taxpayer had failed to furnish the return.

A return of income shall be regarded as defective, unless all the following conditions are fulfilled:

- The annexures, statements and columns in the return of income relating to computation of income chargeable under each head of income, computation of gross total income and total income have been duly filled in.
- The tax together with interest, if any, payable in accordance with the provisions of section 140A, has been paid on or before the date of furnishing of the return.
- The return is accompanied by a statement showing the computation of the tax payable on the basis of the return.
- The return is accompanied by the report of the audit referred to in section 44AB, or, where the report has been furnished prior to the furnishing of the return, by a copy of such report together with proof of furnishing the report.





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- The return is accompanied by proof of the tax, if any, claimed to have been deducted or collected at source and the advance tax and tax on self-assessment, if any, claimed to have been paid. Where the return is not accompanied by proof of the tax, if any, claimed to have been deducted or collected at source, the return of income shall not be regarded as defective if :
 - (1) A certificate for tax deducted or collected was not furnished under section 203 or section 206C to the person furnishing his return of income.
 - (2) Such certificate is produced within a period of two years specified under sub-section (14) of section 155.
- Where regular books of account are maintained by the taxpayer, the return is accompanied by copies of :
 - (1) Manufacturing account, trading account, profit and loss account or, as the case may be, income and expenditure account or any other similar account and balance sheet.
 - (2) In the case of a proprietary business or profession, the personal account of the proprietor; in the case of a firm, association of persons or body of individuals, personal accounts of the partners or members and in the case of a partner or member of a firm, association of persons or body of individuals, also his personal account in the firm, association of persons or body of individuals.
- Where the accounts of the taxpayer have been audited, the return is accompanied by copies of the audited profit and loss account and balance sheet and the auditor's report and, where an audit of cost accounts of the taxpayer has been conducted under section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956 [now Section 148 of Companies Act, 2013], also the report under that section.
- Where regular books of account are not maintained by the taxpayer, the return is accompanied by a statement indicating the amounts of turnover or, as the case may be, gross receipts, gross profit, expenses and net profit of the business or profession and the basis on which such amounts have been computed, and also disclosing the amounts of total sundry debtors, sundry creditors, stock-in-trade and cash balance as at the end of the previous year.

Note : As per the current norms prescribed by CBDT vide Income-tax Rules, 1962 for filing return of income, no documents shall be attached along with the Return of Income. Hence, documents like computation of income, balance sheet and accounts, audit report, TDS certificate, tax payment challan, proof of investment, etc., are not to be attached along with the return of income. No penalty will be levied for non-submission of these documents along with the return of income and the return will not be treated as defective due to non-attachment of aforesaid documents, statements, etc.

Return to be verified by whom

As per section 140, the return of income is to be verified by:



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- a) **In the case of an individual -**
- i) By the individual himself;
 - ii) Where, for any unavoidable reason, it is not possible for the individual to sign the application, the application can be signed by any person duly authorised by the individual in this behalf. However, in such a case, the person signing the application holds a valid power of attorney from the individual to do so, which shall be attached to the application.
- b) **In the case of a Hindu Undivided Family –**
- i) By the karta thereof, and
 - ii) Where, for any unavoidable reason, it is not possible for the Karta to sign the application, by any other adult member of such family.
- c) **In the case of a company –**
- i) by the Managing Director thereof, or where for any unavoidable reason such Managing Director is not able to sign and verify the application, or where there is no Managing Director, by any Director thereof;
 - ii) Where, for any unavoidable reason, it is not possible for the Managing Director or the Director to sign the application, by any person duly authorised by the company in this behalf. However, in such a case, the person signing the application holds a valid power of attorney from the company to do so, which shall be attached to the application.
- d) **In the case of a firm –**
- i) by the managing partner of the firm.
 - ii) Where for any unavoidable reason such managing partner is not able to sign and verify the application or where there is no managing partner as such, by any partner of the firm other than a minor.
- e) In case of an association of persons, the application should be signed by any member of the association or the principal officer thereof.
- f) In case of any other person, the application should be signed by that person or by some person competent to act on his behalf.

Filing the return through Tax Return Preparers

For the purpose of enabling any specified class or classes of persons (*) in preparing and furnishing returns of income, the Board has notified the Tax Return Preparers Scheme providing that such persons may furnish their returns of income through a Tax Return Preparer (TRP)* authorised to act as such under the Scheme

In other words, a specified person**can file his return of income through Government authorised return preparers i.e. TRPs.

*“Tax Return Preparer” means any individual, [not being a person referred to in section 288(2)(ii)/(iii)/(iv) or an employee of the “specified class or classes of persons”], who has been authorised to act as a Tax Return Preparer under the Scheme framed in this behalf.

**“Specified class or classes of persons” means any person, other than a company or a person, whose accounts are required to be audited under section 44AB or under any other





law for the time being in force, who is required to furnish a return of income under the Act.

Form of return and mode of filing the return

The provisions relating to form of return and mode of filing the return are discussed in separate topic under heading “Filing the return of Income”.

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MCQ ON RETURN OF INCOME

Q1. Every person, being a company, has to file its return of income only if it has any positive income or if it wants to carry forward the loss (if any).

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

Every person, being a company, has to file its return of income compulsorily, irrespective of its income being profit or loss. In other words, it is mandatory for every company to file the return of income irrespective of its income or loss.

Thus, the statement given in the question is false and hence, option (b) is the correct option.

Q2. Every person, being a partnership firm (including Limited Liability Partnership), has to file its return of income compulsorily, irrespective of its income being profit or loss.

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (a)

Justification of correct answer :

Every person, being a partnership firm (including Limited Liability Partnership), has to file its return of income compulsorily, irrespective of its income being profit or loss. In other words, it is mandatory for every company to file the return of income irrespective of its income or loss.

Thus, the statement given in the question is true and hence, option (a) is the correct option.

Q3. Every individual/HUF/AOP/BOI/artificial juridical person has to file the return of income if his total income (including income of any other person in respect of which he is assessable) without giving effect to the provisions of section 10A, 10B or 10BA or Chapter VIA (i.e., deduction under section 80C to 80U), exceeds _____

- (a) Rs. 2,00,000 (b) Rs. 2,50,000
(c) Rs. 5,00,000 (d) The maximum amount not chargeable to tax

Correct answer : (d)

Justification of correct answer :

Every individual/HUF/AOP/BOI/artificial juridical person has to file the return of income if his total income (including income of any other person in respect of which he is assessable) without giving effect to the provisions of section 10A, 10B or 10BA or Chapter VIA (i.e., deduction under section 80C to 80U), exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to tax i.e. exceeds the exemption limit.

Thus, option (d) is the correct option.

Q4. Every person in receipt of income derived from property held under charitable or religious trusts/legal obligations or in receipt of income being voluntary contributions





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referred to in section 2(24)(iia), has to file the return of income if its total income after giving effect to the provisions of sections 11 and 12 exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax.

(a) True

(b) False

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

Every person in receipt of income derived from property held under charitable or religious trusts/legal obligations or in receipt of income being voluntary contributions referred to in section 2(24)(iia), has to file the return of income if its total income without giving effect to the provisions of sections 11 and 12 exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax.

Thus, the statement given in the question is false and hence, option (b) is the correct option.

Q5. The Chief Executive Officer of every political party has to file the return of income of the party if the total income of the party without giving effect to the provisions of section _____ exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax.

(a) 11

(b) 12

(c) 13

(d) 13A

Correct answer : (d)

Justification of correct answer :

The Chief Executive Officer of every political party has to file the return of income of the party if the total income of the party without giving effect to the provisions of section 13A exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax.

Thus, option (d) is the correct option.

Q6. What is the due date of filing the return of income in case of a company other than a company who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E?

(a) September 30 of the assessment year

(b) November 30 of the assessment the year

(c) July 31 of the assessment year

(d) June 30 of relevant assessment the year

Correct answer : (a)

Justification of correct answer :

The due date of filing the return of income in case of a company other than a company who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E is September 30 of the assessment year.

Thus, option (a) is the correct option.

Q7. What is the due date of filing the return of income in case of a person who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E?

(a) September 30 of the assessment year

(b) November 30 of the assessment the year

(c) July 31 of the assessment year

(d) June 30 of relevant assessment the year





Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

The due date of filing the return of income in case of a person who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E is November 30 of the assessment year

Thus, option (b) is the correct option.

Q8.What is the due date of filing the return of income in case of a person other than a company whose accounts are not required to be audited under the Income-tax Law or under any other law?

- (a) September 30 of the assessment year (b) November 30 of the assessment the year
(c) July 31 of the assessment year (d) June 30 of relevant assessment the year

Correct answer : (c)

Justification of correct answer :

The due date of filing the return of income in case of a person other than a company whose accounts are not required to be audited under the Income-tax Law or under any other law is July 31 of the assessment year.

Thus, option (c) is the correct option.

Q9.What is the due date of filing the return of income in case of a person whose accounts are to be audited under the Income-tax Law or under any other law (other than a person who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E)?

- (a) September 30 of the assessment year (b) November 30 of the assessment the year
(c) July 31 of the assessment year (d) June 30 of relevant assessment the year

Correct answer : (a)

Justification of correct answer :

The due date of filing the return of income in case of a person whose accounts are to be audited under the Income-tax Law or under any other law (other than a person who is required to furnish a report in Form No. 3CEB under section 92E) is September 30 of the assessment year.

Thus, option (a) is the correct option.

Q10.If a person fails to file the return of income within the time-limit prescribed in this regard, then as per section 139(4) he can file a belated return. A belated return can be filed within two year from the end of the relevant assessment year or before completion of assessment, whichever is earlier.

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

If the person fails to file the return of income within the time-limit prescribed in this regard, then as per section 139(4) he can file a belated return. A belated return can be filed within **one** year from the end of the relevant assessment year or before completion of assessment, whichever is earlier.





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Thus, the statement given in the question is false and hence, option (b) is the correct option.

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