

Banks sans Aadhaar enrolment centres face ₹20k fine from Oct

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The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has given banks one more month to open Aadhaar enrolment centres in a stipulated 10 per cent of branches and will impose ₹20,000 as fine per uncovered branch after September 30, CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said on Tuesday. The UIDAI, in July, had asked private as well as public banks to open Aadhaar enrolment and updation facility in one out of 10 branches by August-end.

The reprieve of one month has now been granted as many banks sought additional time from the authority for setting up such facility on their premises. "Banks approached us saying they need more time, so we have given them till September 30 to set up the facility. Non-compliance after the deadline will attract a fine of ₹20,000 per uncovered branch every month," Pandey told PTI.

This means a bank with 100

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CEO OF UIDAI AJAY BHUSHAN PANDEY



branches will need to have Aadhaar enrolment facility in 10 branches. Failure to open the stipulated facility in, say, five branches even after expiry of the September 30 deadline, would mean that the bank will have to cough up penalty of ₹1 lakh in the first month itself (at the rate of ₹20,000 per uncovered branch).

Similarly, the penalty will be imposed in subsequent months, also based on the branches that are left uncovered. Aadhaar, the

12-digit biometric identity number, is required for opening of bank accounts and financial transaction of ₹50,000 and above. Existing bank account holders too are required to furnish the Aadhaar number by December 31, 2017.

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enrolment and updation facilities within the branches (10 per cent) will ensure that people do not face any difficulty," Pandey explained the rationale. Many banks have informed the authority that the process of procuring biometric devices, certification of enrolment operators and identifying enrolment agencies is still on.

"We wanted to give banks a reasonable time to set up the required infrastructure, and one month is a reasonable time," Pandey said, adding that he did not anticipate any further delay by banks to have the enrolment facilities in place.

The PSU and private banks have been informed about the extension. There are 1,20,000 bank branches in the country and with this move, 12,000 Aadhaar enrolment and updation centres will have to be set up in those branches. Many banks are already registrars, but they do not have enrolment centres inside the bank premises today.