

You won money on a gaming app. The I-T department wants its share.

Rule (§115BBJ Income Tax Act): 30% flat on net winnings (gross – buy-in). No deduction. No exemption. No slab benefit. Plus 4% cess = ~**31.2%**.

TDS (§194BA): Registered platforms (Dream11 etc.) auto-deduct 30% at withdrawal. Offshore/illegal apps don't deduct — *but your liability is identical*. Self-pay via **Challan ITNS-280**.

2026 update: Online money games are banned from 1 May 2026, but the tax on pre-ban winnings still applies. Remember the separate **28% GST** charged on every deposit.

At ITR filing

- Use **ITR-2** (not ITR-1).
- Schedule **OS** → row “§115BBJ online games”.
- Report **gross winnings**; reconcile TDS; attach Form 16A from each platform.

Don't

- Skip filing because “TDS was deducted” → triggers §143(1)(a) notice.
- Set off gaming losses against salary or other income — not allowed.
- Carry forward gaming losses — not allowed.
- Hide offshore-app credits — **AIS sees them**.

Missed declaring?

File **Updated Return under §139(8A)** — much cheaper than waiting for a §148 notice.

Read the full guide

righttoinformation.wiki/tax-on-online-gaming-winnings-india

RTI Wiki — May 2026. **Forward to your CA. Forward to anyone playing fantasy cricket.**

Why this matters for citizens

Issues like this are common — every year lakhs of Indian citizens face the same hurdle. The core legal frameworks are the **Right to Information Act, 2005**, the **Information Technology Act, 2000** (for online matters), and the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**. The enforcement bodies vary by issue but most start with a complaint to the relevant department PIO + a parallel CPGRAMS filing.

Citizen action steps

1. **Step 1** — file an RTI under §6 of the RTI Act 2005 to the relevant department PIO. Use AI RTI

Drafter for free.

2. **Step 2** — parallel **CPGRAMS** complaint at pgportal.gov.in for service-delivery push.
3. **Step 3** — if PIO refuses, **§19(1) First Appeal** in 30 days. Use [First Appeal Builder](#).
4. **Step 4** — for fraud / criminal matters, **FIR at local police station + cybercrime portal** (cybercrime.gov.in) + **NCRP helpline 1930**.
5. **Step 5** — for consumer issues, **Consumer Court** under Consumer Protection Act 2019 (e-filing at edaakhil.nic.in).

Citations and sources

- **Right to Information Act, 2005** — full text
- **Bhagat Singh v. CIC** (Delhi HC, 2007) — procedural objections cannot defeat RTI
- **CPGRAMS** — pgportal.gov.in (DARPG)
- **Cybercrime portal** — cybercrime.gov.in
- **National Consumer Helpline** — 1915

Related on RTI Wiki

- AI RTI Drafter
- First Appeal Builder
- AwaazRTI (voice in 11 Indian languages)
- Case-law database (300+)
- RTI Act, 2005



Right to Information Wiki

The working reference for India's Right to Information Act, 2005.



Read online

<https://righttoinformation.wiki/share/tax-on-online-gaming-winnings-india>

Main website

<https://righttoinformation.wiki/>

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