Subject: Authentication/verification of Aadhaar

Aadhaar is being used by the Ministries, Departments, secretariats and offices of the Central Government and their entities for the purpose of establishing identity of individuals as a condition for receipt of subsidy, benefit or services for which expenditure is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India or the State concerned. Further, entities permitted by Central law, such as telecom service providers, banks and Certifying Authorities licensed to issue Electronic Signature Certificates and other entities authorised under section 4(4)(b)(ii) of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 for the purpose of good governance, social welfare benefits, innovation and spread of knowledge also use Aadhaar.

2. With Aadhaar becoming integral to delivery to residents of subsidies, benefits and services, performance of certain functions mandated by law and, where authorised, for the aforesaid purposes, it has become increasingly necessary that Aadhaar-using entities ensure the authenticity of Aadhaar being used by them, and not rely simply on Aadhaar cards or other secondary sources purporting to represent Aadhaar data.

3. The authenticity of Aadhaar may be established either by online authentication of the identity of the Aadhaar number holder or doing offline verification of the digital signature of UIDAI on the QR code, e-Aadhaar or Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC (XML).

4. Under the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021, online authentication is available to Requesting Entities appointed by UIDAI. Such authentication may be done through UIDAI’s eKYC or Yes/No authentication services, using the fingerprint, iris or face biometrics of the Aadhaar number holder.

5. Offline Verification Seeking Entities may make use of any of the offline verification procedures provided for in the regulations to verify UIDAI’s digital signature against—
   (a) the secure QR code, which is printed on the Aadhaar Letter issued to residents upon enrolment or the Aadhaar PVC card and may also be scanned by “Aadhaar QR Scanner” application available on Google Play Store and iOS Appstore;
   (b) eAadhaar (password-protected electronic copy of Aadhaar), which is downloadable from the UIDAI website or accessible using the mAadhaar app; and
(c) Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC (XML) (a secure, sharable document), which is downloadable from the UIDAI website or accessible using the mAadhaar app.

6. In this regard, it is also pertinent that regulation 16C of the said regulations provides that no Offline Verification Seeking Entity shall accept Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form (without authentication) as a proof of identity without first verifying UIDAI’s digital signature.

7. For more details, the Headquarters or Regional Offices of UIDAI may be contacted.

8. Against this background, it is advised that suitable directions may be issued to all Aadhaar-using entities under the Ministry/Department/secretariat/office and any State-level counterparts to not accept Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form (without authentication) as a proof of identity without first verifying UIDAI’s digital signature, and to carry out online authentication where the Aadhaar-using entity is a Requesting Entity appointed by UIDAI.

To:

1. Secretaries to Government of India (as per list)
2. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board
3. Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog

Copy to:

Chief Executive Officer, Unique Identification Authority of India
List of addresses

1. Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, 513, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
2. Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, First floor, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
3. Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, 7th floor, Block-2, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
4. Secretary, Department of Commerce, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 011
5. Defence Secretary, Department of Defence, 101-A, South Block, New Delhi – 110 001
6. Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi – 110 011
7. Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, C Wing, 4th floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
8. Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, E Block, Raisina Hill, New Delhi – 110 011
9. Secretary, Department of Space, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bangalore – 560 231
10. Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Mahasagar Bhawan, Block - 12, C.G.O Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
11. Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
12. Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
13. Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
14. Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, H Wing, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
15. Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi – 110 049
16. Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi - 110 001
17. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
18. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
19. Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
20. Secretary, Legislative Department, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
21. Secretary, Department of Justice, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
22. Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Udyog Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110 011
23. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, A Wing, 3rd floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
24. Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, 11th floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
25. Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Block no. 14, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
26. Secretary, Department of Official Language, NDCC-II Bhawan, A Wing, 3rd floor, Jai Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
27. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
28. Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare, 514, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
29. Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
30. Secretary, Ministry of Power, 2nd floor, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
31. Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
32. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110 016
33. Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110 016
34. Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2nd floor, Shivaji Stadium Annex, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
35. Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
36. Secretary, Department of Sports, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
37. Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 418, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
38. Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
39. Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shastri Bhawan, A Wing, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
40. Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Room No. 1, C Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
41. Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
42. Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Ayush Bhawan, B Block, GPO Complex, Barapullah Road, INA Colony, New Delhi – 110 023
43. Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, 236A, A Wing, 2nd floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
44. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Block B, Jor Bagh, Safdarjung Airport Area, New Delhi – 110 003
45. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
46. Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 011
47. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001
48. Secretary, Department of Posts, Dak Bhawan, Patel Chowk, New Delhi – 110 001
49. Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
50. Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, 2nd floor, Atal Akshya Urja Bhawan, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi – 110 003
51. Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
52. Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
53. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003
54. Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
55. Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, A Wing, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 011
56. Secretary, Department of Health Research, 1, Red Cross Road, Gokul Nagar, New Delhi – 110 001
57. Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
58. Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Nirman Bhawan, C Wing, Dr Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi – 110 011
59. Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
60. Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Parliament House, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
61. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
62. Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110 001
63. Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110 001
64. Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001
65. Secretary, Department of Land Resources, NBO Building, G Wing, Nirman Bhavan, Dr Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi – 110 011
66. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
67. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
68. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Transport Bhavan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110 001
69. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, B Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
70. Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001
71. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, North Block, New Delhi - 110 001
72. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, North Block, New Delhi - 110 001
73. Secretary, Department of Revenue, North Block, New Delhi - 110 001
74. Secretary, Department of Financial Services, 3rd floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 1
75. Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, Block-14, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
76. Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, 4th floor, Block No. 11 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi - 110003
77. Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi
73. Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, North Block, New Delhi - 110 001
79. Secretary, Department of Defence Production, South Block, New Delhi - 110 011
80. Secretary, Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare, South Block, New Delhi - 110 011
81. Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, South Block, New Delhi - 110 011
82. Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 011
83. Secretary to President, President’s Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, Raisina Hill, New Delhi - 110 011
84. Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110 001