

# 99% of Indians over 18 now have Aadhaar

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**New Delhi:** Over 99% of Indians aged 18 and above now have Aadhaar cards as more than 111 crore residents have enrolled themselves for the unique identification number.

The increase in enrolments will come as a boost to the government's drive to make India a less-cash society as it is encouraging the use of AadhaarPay, a merchant version of Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AEPS).

TOI had reported on January 23 that the government was nudging the banks to encourage merchants to use AadhaarPay.

Backed by the Aadhaar Act and 91.7% coverage of the total population, the govern-

## LINKED TO 39 CR A/Cs

► Aadhaar enrolment  
**111 crore+**

► Coverage (18+ yrs)  
**99%** of population

► Linked to no. of bank a/cs  
**38.51 crore**

► A/Cs opened using  
Aadhaar as e-KYC  
**4.47 crore**

Figures as of Jan 15, 2017

ment is set to accelerate the use of unique identification numbers in its social welfare schemes for disbursing entitlements and subsidies as it will help check duplication and pilferage.

► 'Rise after note ban', P 16

## 'Generation of Aadhaar, its use see jump after noteban'

► Continued from P1

The government saved Rs 36,000 crore in two years even though the use of Aadhaar was restricted to a handful of schemes like PDS, household LPG supply and MGNREGA.

"We all know Aadhaar was started by the previous government but at that time, it was only a digital identity. Under the government led by PM Modi, it has become a powerful tool of financial and future transformation," IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

"Aadhaar is also becoming a powerful instrument to bridge the digital divide," he added.

Sources said after the government banned high-value notes, Aadhaar generation and its use for financial transactions saw a substantial jump.

Aadhaar enrolment between March 2014 and May 2014 was 3-4 lakh per day and went up to around 5-6 lakh per day by October 2016. Since demonetisation, Aadhaar enrolment and update requests have been in the range of 7-8 lakh per day.

Upbeat with the figures, Prasad said, "With demonetisation and Digital India drive towards less-cash economy, Aadhaar is all set to become a game-changer with AadhaarPay where customers don't need card, PIN, password or mobile."

He said the BHIM app was linked with Aadhaar so that transactions could be carried out in a simpler and transparent manner. The minister said around 119 banks were connected with the AEPS and around 33.87 crore transactions had taken place through this platform.