



# Process to Link DBT Accounts with Aadhaar to be Overhauled

**Airtel Payments Bank  
Fallout: No auto transfer  
of benefits to latest  
Aadhaar-linked account**

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**New Delhi:** The government is overhauling the process followed by banks for mapping Aadhaar-linked bank accounts to subsidy payments. It has also temporarily halted the provision of overwriting existing subsidy-linked bank accounts with freshly mapped Aadhaar accounts. In a meeting held at the cabinet secretariat last week, banks were di-

### Time for System Update

CURRENT PROCESS	PROPOSED REVISION	WHAT OFFICIALS SAY
Existing subsidy account is automatically overwritten with latest Aadhaar-linked bank account	<p>Process of automatic overwriting of bank accounts halted for 10 days</p> <p>Banks told to seek explicit consent before shifting customer's subsidy to new account</p>	<p>Banks will also have to key in details of previous Aadhaar-linked subsidy account</p> <p>Banks told to update banking software</p>
		<p><b>System designed in FY14, when only one bank account had to be linked to Aadhaar</b></p> <p><b>Now that all accounts are to be verified with Aadhaar, system needs to be updated</b></p>

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rected to halt the current process for the next 10 days starting Monday until their core banking software was amended to adopt the new system.

Under the prevailing system, customers linking their bank

accounts with Aadhaar meant automatically mapping them to the Aadhaar payment bridge hosted by National Payments Corporation of India. Since government departments send subsidies to the payment brid-

ge, the money was automatically transferred to the last account seeded with Aadhaar.

The overhaul comes after allegations that top telecom service provider Bharti Airtel used the electronic know-your-customer (e-KYC) verification process mandated by the Aadhaar Act to open payments bank accounts without users being aware of this. These were then alleged to have been mapped as the accounts to which subsidy payments would be directed without their informed consent. This led the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to temporarily bar Bharti Airtel and its payments bank from using Aadhaar linking for mobile verification or opening new accounts.

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