

UIDAI tags new code to Aadhaar for privacy

By Mail Today Bureau
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IN ORDER to ensure an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a new 'QR code' that holds non-sensitive details like name, address, photo, and date of birth, and can be used for offline user verification without the 12-digit ID number.

The new QR code, that now comes with a photo, can be used in offline mode for establishing a person's identity with non-statutory entities such as online shopping portals when delivering goods in a way that will safeguard against any tampering of documents.

Aadhaar holders can download and print their biometric ID with the QR code from the website of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) or its mobile app. A QR code is a form of barcode label which contains machine-readable information. Users can manu-

12-digit code can be held back

ally blackout the Aadhaar number and use the printout with the new QR code for establishing their identity, offline as well.

For instance, when an online shopping delivery arrives and the courier asks for an ID, the Aadhaar holder can show him the printed QR code which when scanned (through an updated QR code reader on the Aadhaar site) would read only non-sensitive information such as address, date of birth and photo, thus establishing the bona fide identity, a senior official said.

It will also ensure that the Aadhaar holder is genuine and not using any tampered ID documents. The Aadhaar number is not given out in the entire process, nor are biometrics, thus ensuring that privacy is maintained throughout the verification process. This new feature is available through Aadhaar downloads. Sensitive information would include details like bank accounts or biometrics.