

UIDAI cautions against the use of plastic, laminated Aadhaar cards

Says it could render the QR code dysfunctional or even expose personal data

#NEW DELHI

The UIDAI on Tuesday cautioned the public against going for plastic or laminated Aadhaar smart cards saying their unauthorised printing could render the QR code dysfunctional or even expose personal data without an individual's informed consent.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) asserted that the Aadhaar letter, its cutaway portion, downloaded versions of Aadhaar on ordinary paper or mAadhaar are "perfectly valid".

Moreover, unauthorised printing of Aadhaar smart cards could cost between Rs 50-300, or even more, a payment that is completely unnecessary, it said.

"...the plastic or PVC Aadhaar



smart cards are often not usable as the QR code (Quick Response Code) commonly becomes dysfunctional during such unauthorised printing at some vendor/shop," UIDAI said in a statement.

It further said: "Also, there could be a possibility of sharing Aadhaar details (personal sensitive demographic information) without in-

formed consent with some devious elements".

UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the plastic Aadhaar Smart card is totally "unnecessary and a waste" as the downloaded Aadhaar card printed on ordinary paper or mAadhaar is valid for all kind of uses.

Advising people to be cautious, Pandey asked individuals not to share their Aadhaar number or personal details with unauthorised agencies for getting it laminated, or printed on plastic cards.

The nodal body also cautioned unauthorised agencies not to collect Aadhaar information from public for printing of Aadhaar cards saying collecting such information or unauthorised printing of Aadhaar card is a criminal offence.

PTI