

# Updated QR code to shield Aadhaar info

## Will Reveal Non-Sensitive Details Only

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Strengthening privacy measures in usage of Aadhaar, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced an updated 'QR code' which will reveal only non-sensitive details such as name, address, photo, and date of birth, and can be used for offline user verification without disclosing the 12-digit identification number.

The move is aimed at adding an extra layer of privacy to Aadhaar after UIDAI introduced the concept of virtual identification.

As Aadhaar increasingly becoming the nationally-accepted identification for all kinds of services, the new QR code, that now comes with photo, can be used in offline mode in a way that will safeguard against any tampering of documents.

This would be especially handy for establishing the identity with non-statutory entities, such as private hotels or the likes of online shopping portals when delivering goods.

Aadhaar holders can download and print their biometric ID with the QR code from the UIDAI website or its mobile app. Users

## Imaginary fear being created against Aadhaar programme, says UIDAI

**A**rguing that certain sections are creating imaginary fear to fail the Aadhaar programme, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Wednesday dismissed concerns that it might use Aadhaar entries for data analysis in future.

In a statement, UIDAI also clarified that media reports quoting UIDAI's counsel Rakesh Dwivedi's argument in the Supreme Court that Google is trying to fail Aadhaar were not correct. "Dwivedi had submitted that as far as Google, Facebook and Twitter are concerned, they cannot be compared with Aadhaar due to the nature of information being different and also due to the difference in the nature of algorithms being used," it said.

Drawing a distinction between itself and such companies, it said Aadhaar is only matching biometrics, while the other global companies are using learning tools for analysis of data which creates knowledge. UIDAI does not permit any Requesting Entity (RE) to collect and analyse Aadhaar data and use the same for any commercial uses, it said. "It is only a certain section of people who are trying to fail Aadhaar by creating imaginary fear that such data analytics and learning tools used in the above companies might be used by UIDAI in future, which is completely unfounded," it said. **TNN**

can manually blacken the Aadhaar number and use the printout with the new QR code for establishing their identity, offline too.

For example, when a receptionist at a hotel asks for ID proof, Aadhaar holder can show her the printed QR code which when scanned (through an updated QR code reader on Aadhaar site) would read non-sensitive information.

This includes name, address, date of birth and photo, thus establishing the bonafide identity, sources said. It will also ensure that Aadhaar holder is genuine and not using any tampered ID documents.

Aadhaar number is not given out in 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, among others.

UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan said, "The offline QR code will allow everyone to establish their identity through offline verification without giving out Aadhaar number. Only in those places where Aadhaar number is required under the law including banks, telecom companies, or for availing subsidies, one will have to go through the authentication process."