

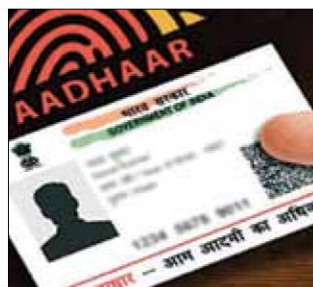
# Virtual ID & UID token both to be accepted as Aadhaar

UIDAI clarifies in a gazetted notification that they be used for authentication

**New Delhi:** Virtual ID system and UID token are different forms of Aadhaar number, and those should be deemed as the 12-digit biometric number for identity verification and to satisfy regulatory compliance, the UIDAI said.

Virtual ID system and UID token — the two-tier security system introduced on July 1 to address privacy concerns — are meant to be used by authentication agencies like telecom firms that are classified as 'local AUAs (authentication user agencies)'.

The twin features are "different forms of Aadhaar number", and "will be deemed as the Aadhaar number for the purposes of compliance" of regulations, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has clarified. Accord-



## SECURITY UPGRADE

The UIDAI had announced that its virtual ID mechanism is "operational" with its various authentication agencies from July 1. The authority, however, gave banks time until August 31 to deploy the new feature.

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**Unique Identification Authority of India**

ing to a recent gazette notification, the entities classified as local AUAs have been directed to make stipulated changes in their systems for use of Vir-

tual ID (VID) and UID token as substitute of Aadhaar number and limited eKYC.

The Aadhaar-issuing body rolled out the VID feature,

which an Aadhaar-card holder can generate and produce for various authentication purposes, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric ID. The VID is a temporary 16-digit, randomly-generated number that can be shared for KYC services in lieu of the Aadhaar number.

The UID token, on the other hand, allows authentication agencies to uniquely identify their customers within their systems — in other words ensuring uniqueness of customers in the system — without having to store the Aadhaar number.

The freshly minted twin features are aimed at strengthening the security of Aadhaar data, in the face of increasing concerns over collection of personal and demographic details of individuals. —PTI