

You can check SIMs linked to your Aadhaar

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

THE UNIQUE Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has directed all telcos to provide a facility that will allow subscribers to check

the mobile SIMs which are linked to their Aadhaar number. The step has been taken to safeguard against any unauthorised linking.

The decision was taken after the UIDAI came to know about some retailers or agents of telecom companies allegedly misusing Aadhaar authentication facility to issue new SIMs or to re-verify mobile numbers other than that of the Aadhaar holder.

The UIDAI has now instructed telcos to ensure that their retailers or agents do not indulge in fraudulent activities related to unauthorised authentication transactions. It also asked the operators to have sufficient supervision to avoid any unauthorised authentication transactions.

UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said a March 15 deadline has been fixed for all telecom

Telcos get March 15 deadline to provide facility to customers

operators to enable customers to know which mobile number is linked to their Aadhaar card.

The telcos have been asked to provide a mechanism, including SMS-based facility that will not only allow their subscribers to check whether their mobile number is linked with Aadhaar but also be informed about other mobile numbers issued or verified against their Aadhaar card.

The telecom service providers will have to be provide a facility to their subscribers through channels such as customer care number, email, web portal, SMS or app to report any unauthorised mobile number linked with their Aadhaar number.

The telcos have been directed to invalidate unauthorised linkings and initiate action in such matters.

A senior official said that instances had come to UIDAI's

notice where multiple successful authentication transactions were being performed under the guise of failed authentication and the same was being misused for issuing new mobile SIMs or reverifying subscribers other than the Aadhaar number holder.

UIDAI has now issued orders to telecom service providers to immediately take note of such misuse and curb the malpractices.

With over 1.2 billion residents already enrolled for the Aadhaar -- the unique 12-digit number backed by fingerprints, iris scans and certain demographic details -- the programme today is the world's largest biometric database.

Aadhaar is required as an identity proof of residents by various government and non-government entities.

The government has made it Aadhaar mandatory for verify-



ing bank accounts and PANs to rein in the black money menace that has been plaguing the economy.

The use of Aadhaar for cell-phone SIMs has been made mandatory to establish the identity of mobile phone users. Against the 142.9 crore active mobile subscribers, in 85.7 crore cases the mobile connections have already been linked with Aadhaar.

UIDAI has passed the order as there were complaints of misuse of Aadhaar by agents of telecom companies