

**Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to Play Active Role in the Implementation of UID  
(Aadhaar Programme)**

Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Unique Identification Authority of India have agreed that the Panchayati Raj Institutions as the units of local self governments will be active partners in the UID Programme.

Inability to prove identity is one of the major barriers that prevents the poor from accessing the benefits and subsidies available under various developmental and welfare programmes. Better delivery of services through better access and inclusion of the poor, marginalised and the underprivileged is a major objective of the UID programme.

Panchayats have a role in both planning and implementing some of the major programmes. There are a total of 28,18,290 elected representatives of Panchayats at all three levels in 23 States and 6 Union Territories of which 10,39,058 are women. This large number of natural grass roots leaders is best placed to generate awareness about the UID Programme and ensure that the process of enrolment is inclusive. They can act as influencers, be introducers for people without documents and enrollers too, if they so choose. Gram Sabhas provide the forum for awareness generation as well as platform for ensuring inclusion.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Unique Identification Authority of India have agreed to work together in ensuring organic linkages of PRIs in the UID Mission on a continuing basis not only for enrolments at the initial stage but also for authentication and subsequent applications in providing better and accountable local governance.

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