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Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003

Dated 19 June 2023

Office Memorandum

Subject: Authentication/verification of Aadhaar

Aadhaar is being used by the Ministries, Departments, secretariats and offices of the Central Government and their entities for the purpose of establishing identity of individuals as a condition for receipt of subsidy, benefit or services for which expenditure is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India or the State concerned. Further, entities permitted by Central law, such as telecom service providers, banks and Certifying Authorities licensed to issue Electronic Signature Certificates and other entities authorised under section 4(4)(b)(ii) of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other. Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 for the purpose of good governance, social welfare benefits, innovation and spread of knowledge also use Aadhaar.

2. With Aadhaar becoming integral to delivery to residents of subsidies, benefits and services, performance of certain functions mandated by law and, where authorised, for the aforesaid purposes, it has become increasingly necessary that Aadhaar-using entities ensure the authenticity of Aadhaar being used by them, and not rely simply on Aadhaar cards or other secondary sources purporting to represent Aadhaar data.
3. The authenticity of Aadhaar may be established either by online authentication of the identity of the Aadhaar number holder or doing offline verification of the digital signature of UIDAI on the QR code, e-Aadhaar or Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC (XML).
4. Under the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021, online authentication is available to Requesting Entities appointed by UIDAI. Such authentication may be done through UIDAI's eKYC or Yes/No authentication services, using the fingerprint, iris or face biometrics of the Aadhaar number holder.
5. Offline Verification Seeking Entities may make use of any of the offline verification procedures provided for in the regulations to verify UIDAI's digital signature against—
 - (a) the secure QR code, which is printed on the Aadhaar Letter issued to residents upon enrolment or the Aadhaar PVC card and may also be scanned by "Aadhaar QR Scanner" application available on Google Play Store and iOS Appstore;
 - (b) eAadhaar (password-protected electronic copy of Aadhaar), which is downloadable from the UIDAI website or accessible using the mAadhaar app; and

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(c) Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC (XML) (a secure, sharable document), which is downloadable from the UIDAI website or accessible using the mAadhaar app.

6. In this regard, it is also pertinent that regulation 16C of the said regulations provides that no Offline Verification Seeking Entity shall accept Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form (without authentication) as a proof of identity without first verifying UIDAI's digital signature.

7. For more details, the Headquarters or Regional Offices of UIDAI may be contacted.

8. Against this background, it is advised that suitable directions may be issued to all Aadhaar-using entities under the Ministry/Department/secretariat/office and any State-level counterparts to not accept Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form (without authentication) as a proof of identity without first verifying UIDAI's digital signature, and to carry out online authentication where the Aadhaar-using entity is a Requesting Entity appointed by UIDAI.



19/6/2023

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