

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### **What is the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (the "Authority"/ "UIDAI") has been constituted and notified as an attached office under the aegis of Planning Commission of India and it has been given the responsibility to lay down the plan and policies to implement UID scheme by notification dated January 28th, 2009. The Government appointed Shri. Nandan Nilekani as Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, on July 2, 2009 in the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister for an initial tenure of five years. On July 30th, 2009, the Prime Minister's Council on Unique Identification Authority of India was constituted to advise the UIDAI on programme, methodology and implementation to ensure co-ordination between Ministries/Departments, various stakeholders and partners. On August 12th, 2009 the first meeting of the Prime Ministers Council was held to approve the broad UIDAI approach. The cabinet committee on UIDAI was constituted on October 22, 2009 it is headed by the Honourable Prime Minister and consists of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Law and Justice, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Tourism. The Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and Chairman UIDAI are special invitees. The Cabinet Committee oversees all All issues relating to the Unique identification Authority of India including its organisation, plans, policies, programmes, schemes, funding and methodology to be adopted for achieving the objectives of the Authority. It is proposed that the UIDAI should be set up as a statutory authority and be named the National Identification Authority of India, the draft bill is available on [www.uidai.gov.in](http://www.uidai.gov.in).

### **What is the problem the UIDAI seeks to address?**

A universally acceptable proof of identity is a challenge in India, the singular problem that the UIDAI seeks to solve is that of establishing "identity" by providing ever individual a unique identification number (called Aadhaar) and streamlining the process of enrolment and setting uniform standards to be followed for enrolment for the number. Once a person has Aadhaar , their basic identity linked to their biometrics is established. An AADHAAR number will be proof of identity of a person acceptable anywhere in India.

### **What will the UIDAI do?**

- Issue a unique identity number (aadhaar) to a resident based on basic demographic information and biometric information of the person; and
- Authenticate the identity of a person based on the unique identity number.

### **What is Aadhaar?**

Aadhaar, which means 'foundation' in many Indian languages, is the term for the unique identity number issued by the UIDAI. No resident can have a duplicate number since it is linked to their individual biometrics;

thereby identifying fake and ghost identities which result in leakages today. Savings from eliminating duplicates and fakes through Aadhaar-based identification will further enable governments to expand benefits to other eligible residents.

#### What are the features and benefits of Aadhaar?

- **One Aadhaar: 1 beneficiary:** Aadhaar is a unique number, and no resident can have a duplicate number since it is linked to their individual biometrics; thereby identifying fake and ghost identities which result in leakages today. Savings from eliminating duplicates and fakes through Aadhaar-based identification will further enable governments to expand benefits to other eligible residents.
- **Portability:** Aadhaar is a universal number, and agencies and services can contact the central Unique Identification database from anywhere in the country to confirm a beneficiary's identity.
- **Inclusion of those without any existing identity documents:** A problem in reaching benefits to poor and marginalized residents is that they often lack the identification documents they need to receive State benefits; the 'Introducer' system which has been approved for data verification for the UIDAI will enable such residents to establish an identity.
- **Electronic benefit transfers:** The UID-enabled-Bank-Account network will offer a secure and low cost platform to directly remit benefits to residents without the heavy costs associated today with benefit distribution; the leakages in the current system will also be stemmed as a result.
- **Aadhaar-based authentication to confirm entitlement delivered to the beneficiary:** the UIDAI will offer online authentication services for agencies who wish to validate a resident's identity; this service will enable confirmation of the entitlement actually reaching the intended beneficiary.
- **Improved services through increased transparency:** Clear accountability and transparent monitoring would significantly improve access and quality of entitlements to beneficiaries and the agency alike
- **Self-service puts residents in control:** Using Aadhaar as an authentication mechanism, residents should be able to access up-to-date information about their entitlements, demand services and redress their grievances directly from their mobile phone, kiosks or other means. In the case of self-service on the resident's mobile, security is assured using two-factor authentication (i.e. by proving possession of the resident's registered Mobile Number and knowledge of the resident's Aadhaar PIN). These standards are compliant with the Reserve Bank of India's approved standards for Mobile Banking and Payments.

#### Will getting Aadhaar be compulsory?

Any person can choose to apply for AADHAAR. Similarly, agencies providing benefits and services may choose to use AADHAAR in their systems and may require that their beneficiaries or customers provide their AADHAAR numbers for these services.

#### What information is required to be provided by an individual to get an AADHAAR number?

Demographic information required:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Address
- Parent/Guardian details (required for children, adults may provide)
- Contact details phone and email (optional)

Biometric Information required:

- Photo
- 10 finger prints
- Iris

#### **Who can get an Aadhaar?**

Any person usually residing in India in the area demarcated by the Registrar General of Citizenship for the purpose of the National population register is entitled to and can choose to apply for AADHAAR by providing their demographic and biometric information in the manner specified by the UIDAI.

#### **Who is a resident? Will this include illegal migrants and also visitors (with visas) to India?**

It will include all residents who are in India and who may want to avail services. The decision on the legal status of immigrants is the role of other Government Departments.

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#### **What are the benefits for the resident? Why should a person get on the Aadhaar database and get a Aadhaar?**

Once a person is on the Aadhaar database the person will be able to establish identity easily. Aadhaar will become the single source of identity verification. Residents would be spared the hassle of repeatedly providing supporting identity documents each time they wish to access services such as obtaining a bank account, passport, driving license and so on. By providing a clear proof of identity, Aadhaar will also facilitate entry for poor and underprivileged residents into the formal banking system and the opportunity to avail services provided by the government and the private sector. Aadhaar will also give migrants mobility of identity.

#### **Will there be a card issued? How will the resident know what his/her number is?**

No card will be issued by the UIDAI, but the resident will receive a letter from the UIDAI giving the person the Aadhaar and the information of the person that was collected. If there are any inaccuracies in the information, the person can get them corrected. There will be a tear away portion in the letter that can act as a card for referencing the number. The Registrar may issue a card for their purpose in which they may include the Aadhaar.

#### **What is the information that the UIDAI will seek from the resident?**

Name, Date of Birth, Gender, Fathers/Spouse/Guardian's name, Mother/Spouse/Guardians name and Address.

Photograph, all ten fingerprints and both iris scan

**What are the privacy protections in place to protect the right to privacy of the resident?**

The information being sought from the person is basic information which is currently available with several government and private agencies. The information that is unique to UIDAI is the biometric information. In order to protect the right to privacy of the individual the information on the database will not be shared with anyone; all queries will get a 'Yes' or 'No' response. The UIDAI will also put in place regulations and protocols which have to be followed by the Central Identification Data Repository (CIDR), Registrar and Enrolling Agencies to protect the right to privacy.

**Person appears as himself hoping for a second UID number.**

De – duplication process returns the application and the, person will be sent a response with reasons for rejection and be informed about the existing Aadhaar existing number and warning against misuse. If all the details given are the same, *the person can be sent one more letter informing the person about his/her Aadhaar.*

**Person appears to get second card in another person's name.**

De – duplication process returns the application and the, person will be sent a response with reasons for rejection and warning against misuse.

**De-duplication works incorrectly and throws up a false positive on the biometric**

There will be a process defined for resolving such false rejection and the person concerned could also access the grievance redressal mechanism.

**How will de-duplication be done for children?**

For children below 5 years no biometrics will be captured. Their UID be processed on the basis of demographic information and facial photograph linked with the UID of *their parents. These children will need to be re-enrolled with biometrics of ten fingers, iris and facial photograph, when they turn 5. Their biometrics will be updated once they turn 15. Intimation to this effect will be mentioned in the original Aadhaar letter.*