

## India's Unique Identity Project (UID)-Aadhaar

### The Promise of a permanent change in benefits transfers, and so much else...

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Please don't use different size types and different fonts. Time New Roman. No more than two sizes of type. No Bold. And please Justify margins so the edges of paragraphs line up

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#### 1.0 Background of (UID)-Aadhaar:

It is easy to see why India's Unique Identity (UID) project, also known as Aadhaar, has caught the imagination of many administrators, economists and policymakers. Identity verification is a routine problem in India and Aadhaar sounds like a foolproof solution. The idea is really smart and the technology is cutting-edge.

Aadhaar is a 12 digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India on behalf of the Government of India. This number serves as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India. Aadhaar letter received via India Post and e-Aadhaar downloaded from UIDAI website are equally valid. [What is an Aadhaar letter. Do you mean a letter addressed with the id number? Why is "valid"? And what is "e-Aadhaar?]

Any individual, irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident in India and satisfies the verification process laid down by the UIDAI can enrol for Aadhaar. Each individual needs to enrol only once. There is no charge.

Each Aadhaar number is unique to an individual and remains valid for life. Aadhaar number helps provide access to services like banking, mobile phone connections and other Govt and Non-Govt services in due course.

The UID (Aadhaar) identity platform is the largest biometric database in the world and serves users ranging from Gas(LPG) consumers, Rural Reconstruction-MNREGA workers, PDS, remittance and scholarship beneficiaries, etc. – all using their Aadhaar number to obtain public benefits.

Before December 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, the Aadhaar Payment Bridge [What is this? It comes out of nowhere. Is it important? What does it have to do with Aadhaar?] saw transactions cross the INR 7.94 billion (US\$ 1.32 billion) ) [[mark across Government welfare programs such as Direct Benefit Transfer for cooking gas ( LPG), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, Tribal welfare schemes; apart from Pensions disbursement, amounting to INR 51.51 billion (US\$ 8.5 billion ).]] [I have no idea what you are talking about. Is it government payments?] Issuance of Aadhaars

crossed the 720 million mark as on Dec 12, 2014.[Does this mean 720 million people now have identity cards? If so, say that. Talk about people and the impact on their lives. 720 million now have a legal identity and you say “the number of Aadhaars passed 720 million”. Write like this is about people.]]

~~[probably]~~[probably] better at the beginning of this piece in the description of what it is]] Each Aadhaar number is unique to an individual ~~and remains~~ and remains valid for life. Aadhaar number helps provide access to services like banking, mobile phone connections and other Govt and Non-Govt services in due course.]]]

[put this paragraph up higher at the beginning. This is big news. Also, is there a database where the data is collected? Who can access it? What will it be used for by government other than identification?] Aadhaar: has been touted as an easily verifiable in an online, cost-effective way; apart from supposedly being a unique and ~~robust~~ robust tool to eliminate the large number of duplicate and fake identities in government and private databases; and in a religious, caste driven system Aadhaar is a random number generated, devoid of any classification based on caste, creed, religion and geography.

Aadhaar (UIDAI) ~~is easily~~ is easily one of the largest identification databases having the identification address including full postal address of the citizen, apart from other mandatory fields such as sex, date of birth, father's name of spouse name. Apart from the database digitized through a manual data entry process; UIDAI deploys large biometric devices in order to ensure unique identity for the citizen as follows:

## [make type smaller. No bold type] 2.0 Technologies and Biometric Devices ~~deployed~~ employed in UID:

### 2.1 Iris Scanner: [this whole section is badly organized and is a loose collection of material I tried to organize is , but it needs further work

Iris cameras perform recognition detection of a person's identity by mathematical analysis of the random patterns that are visible within the iris of an eye from some distance. It combines computer vision, pattern recognition, statistical inference and optics.



Of all the biometric devices and scanners available today, it is generally conceded that iris recognition is the most accurate. The automated method of iris recognition is

relatively young, existing in patent since only 1994. [first patented where?] [this becomes para 5 in this section, unless your editor finds a better place for it]

In general Iris cameras, ~~in general~~, take a digital photo of the iris pattern and recreating an encrypted digital template of that pattern. That encrypted template cannot be re-engineered or reproduced in any sort of visual image. Iris recognition therefore affords the highest level defence against identity theft, the most rapidly growing crime. [give some data on crime. This paragraph should come fourth n this section following "optics".]

[put this para as 3<sup>rd</sup> in this section following "enters the eye".] The imaging process involves no lasers or bright lights and authentication is essentially non-contact. Today's commercial iris cameras use infrared light to illuminate the iris without causing harm or discomfort to the subject.

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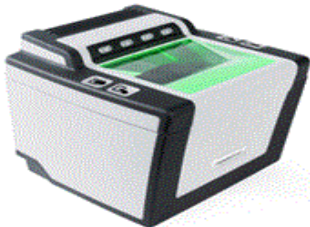
[this para should be second in this section after word "optics".] The iris is the coloured ring around the pupil of every human being and like a snowflake, no two are alike. Each ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> unique in ~~its~~ <sup>its</sup> own way, exhibiting a distinctive pattern that forms randomly in utero. The iris is a muscle that regulates the size of the pupil, controlling the amount of light that enters the eye.

Iris recognition is rarely impeded by glasses or contact lenses and can be scanned from 10cm to a few meters away. The iris remains stable over time as long as there are no injuries and a single enrolment scan can last a lifetime.

Some medical and surgical procedures can affect the overall shape and colour of an iris but the fine texture remains stable over many decades. Even blind people can use this scan technology since iris recognition technology is iris pattern-dependent not sight dependent.

Iris scanning is an ideal way of biometric identification since the iris is an internal organ that is largely protected by damage and wear by the cornea. This makes it more attractive than fingerprints which can be difficult to recognize after several years of certain types of manual labour.

## 2.2 Fingerprint Scanner:



A fingerprint ~~scanner captures~~ scanner captures a digital image of the fingerprint pattern. This scan is digitally processed to create a biometric template which is stored and used for matching. Stored where? Used by whom and where? Is the print put on the card?

## 2.3 Face Camera:



Face detection is used in biometrics, often as a part of (or together with) a facial recognition system. It is also used in video surveillance, human computer interface and image database management. A face camera is a webcam with 2 Mpx or above [what is this?] which can take a clear crisp photograph of the face. Some recent digital cameras use face detection for autofocus. [[[Also, face detection is useful for selecting regions of interest in photo slideshows that use a pan-and-scale Ken Burns effe~~effect~~effect [what is that?]t. That is, the content of a given part of an image is transformed into features, after which a classifier trained on example faces decides whether that particular region of the image is a face, or not.]]] I don't see what this has to do with the card. And justify your margins, please. Square the paragraphs.

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## 2.4 Biometric Device Certification & Standardized procedures adopted from the ground level [what does that mean?] for UID issuance to final storage in the database: [no bold, smaller type face.]

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Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate is an attached office of the Department of Information Technology(DIT), Government of India, provides quality assurance services in the area of Electronics and IT through countrywide network of laboratories and centres.

The biometric devices [provisionally certified] This raises serious questions. Why "provisionally"? Don't they trust the Directorate? by STQC for use in Aadhaar project, this certification scheme provides confidence that certified devices are reliable, safe, secure and meet the requirements,

### 3.0 Key milestone in delivery of government welfare schemes with the help of UID:

A major milestone in Government's Digital India mission has been ~~reached~~ ~~crossed~~ with 100 million Aadhaar numbers having been linked to bank accounts of Aadhaar holders, enabling these individuals to ~~digitally~~ receive government welfare subsidies and other payments directly into their bank accounts, ~~in a hassle-free manner~~. Establishing a link between an Aadhaar number and a bank account makes it easy for the government to identify genuine beneficiaries and route welfare payments and subsidies directly into their bank accounts. The individual can benefit from this system as it is portable across ~~all banks any bank~~ in the country and ~~the recipient~~ ~~he/she~~ can access these subsidies even ~~if the person moves to/from~~ another part of the country, making the whole process ~~simple and direct~~ ~~hassle-free~~. ~~As of recently~~ ~~Till date~~, 333 banks are live on this platform.

To link ~~their~~ Aadhaar number to their bank account, residents need to provide a copy of their Aadhaar letter or their e-Aadhaar to the ~~ir~~ bank branch, ~~in which he/she holds the account~~. ~~One~~ ~~Once~~ the account is seeded ~~[identified?]~~, ~~the account will be used by~~ Government departments ~~will to~~ transfer subsidies directly into ~~it~~ ~~this bank account~~.

~~The~~ ~~By~~ linking ~~of the~~ Aadhaar (UID) number to the legitimate bank account holder ~~s and genuine~~ citizens of India ~~by~~ ~~helps~~ ~~eliminate~~ ~~helps~~ ~~eliminate~~ ~~ing~~ fake identities and bank accounts. ~~As a result~~ ~~of~~ ~~with the help of the~~ Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) ~~scheme~~ ~~the~~ ~~scheme~~ the Govt. of India is already seeing massive savings ~~due to fraud elimination~~ ~~running into trillions of dollars~~. UID has managed to control leakages and wastages in the distribution of the subsidies, ~~to undeserving people~~, and ~~in~~ the process ~~the government has been enabled to provide more health and education benefits~~ ~~enabling Govt. of India to use saved taxpayers money for providing better health care and education~~ ~~benefits~~ to millions of very poor and impoverished Indians.

**भारतीय पहचान आयोग**  
**भारत सरकार**  
 Unique Identification Authority of India  
 Government of India

**ALWAYS CARRY YOUR AADHAAR WITH YOU**  
**and avail benefits of various services**

**Cut this portion of Aadhaar letter**  
**and carry it with you.**  
 (You may get it laminated too)

**Aadhaar : your proof of identity and proof of address for**

- opening a bank account
- getting a Mobile connection
- getting a LPG connection
- Aadhaar based biometric ID linking for train travel
- ...and many more services

**AADHAAR**  
 Aam Aadmi Ka Aadhaar  
[www.uidai.gov.in](http://www.uidai.gov.in)

size 24 x 17 cms

[www.uidai.gov.in](http://www.uidai.gov.in)

**Second Phase of AADHAAR Enrolment has started**  
**ENROL NOW!**

**A few good reasons to enrol for AADHAAR**

- New Mobile Connection**
- New LPG Connection**
- Opening a Bank Account**
- ID Proof for Rail Travel**

**Aadhaar enables you to avail these important services**

- Free of cost for all services, including address, biometric and the different states
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**Largest Biometric Database in the world**

Notification: 1. Opening of Aadhaar enabled Bank A/c of beneficiaries. No. UID/SE/04/02/2011-43 dated September 16, 2011. 2. Link of Aadhaar to PGD for new mobile connection. No. UID/02/01/04/11 dated January 14, 2011. 3. Link of Aadhaar to PGD for new LPG Connection. 200/11/SE dated September 28, 2011. 4. Aadhaar as ID Proof for Rail Travel. No. UID/11/04/01/11 dated January 15, 2011.

Article Sources : Secondary and Primary Research including Research of the UIDAI – Aadhaar website.

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