



Aadhaar 2.0 Workshop

Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity)** inaugurated a 3-day workshop titled '**Aadhaar 2.0- Ushering the Next Era of Digital Identity and Smart Governance**'.

- The Workshop aims to analyze the reach of **Digital Identity** in major reforms and schemes launched by the Government.
- It also aims to look into **various futuristic aspects of Digital Identity** to achieve universal inclusion, both social as well as financial.

Key Points

▪ About:

- It will provide a **platform to share and exchange ideas with Government and Industry leaders**, Eminent Academicians and Scientists, Innovators and Practitioners working on Digital Identity in India and abroad.
- The workshop will **provide an opportunity to feed into the regional and global debates**, while reflecting on India-specific challenges and opportunities to share best practices in terms of people, processes, technology, research, regulatory framework, legal policy and governance.

▪ Major Discussions:

- **Expanding Use of Aadhar:** Aadhaar can continue itself as one of the main enablers of identity verification in both on-line as well as offline mode in light of the **SWIK rules (Social welfare, Innovation and Knowledge)**.
 - For example, Aadhaar can deliver on e-gov; e-commerce and e-banking and finance in particular.
- **Aadhaar as an International Digital Identity Standard:** Aadhaar to be developed as a framework for creating International standards for digital identity, a roadmap for International digital identity standards and across borders interoperability.
- **Strengthening Privacy Framework:** Aadhar's legal framework is settled with the Aadhaar Act, [Supreme Court judgement](#), but for addressing privacy aspects [Data Privacy Law](#) needs to be enacted.
- **Use of Critical Technologies:** Biometrics in Aadhar, can be improved using [Artificial Intelligence](#) and [deep learning techniques](#).
 - [Blockchain-based technologies](#) and applications as well as the impact of Aadhaar and these new technologies in the Banking sector should be explored.

Aadhar

▪ About

- Aadhaar number is a **12-digit random number** issued by the [Unique Identification](#)

[Authority of India \(UIDAI\)](#) to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority.

- Any individual, **irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident of India**, may voluntarily enrol to obtain an Aadhaar number.
- Person willing to enrol has to provide minimal **demographic and biometric information** during the enrolment process which is totally free of cost.
- An individual needs to enrol for Aadhaar only once and after **de-duplication** only one Aadhaar shall be generated, as the **uniqueness is achieved through the process of demographic and biometric de-duplication**.
- **Legal Framework:** The Parliament has passed the [Aadhaar and Other Laws \(Amendment\) Act, 2019](#) which allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity.
- **Benefits of Aadhaar:**
 - **Promoting Transparency and Good Governance:** Aadhaar number is verifiable in an online, cost-effective way.
 - It is **unique and robust enough to eliminate duplicates and fake identities** and thus used as a basis/primary identifier to roll out several Government welfare schemes thereby promoting transparency and good governance.
 - **Helping Bottom of the Pyramid:** Aadhaar has **given identity to a large number of people** who did not have any identity earlier.
 - It has been **used in a range of services and has helped in bringing financial inclusion**, broadband and telecom services, [direct benefit transfers](#) to the bank account of citizens in a transparent manner.
 - **Neutral:** Aadhaar number is **devoid of any intelligence** and does not profile people based on caste, religion, income, health and geography.
 - The Aadhaar number is a proof of identity, however, **it does not confer any right of citizenship or domicile** in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.
 - **People-Centric Governance:** Aadhaar is a strategic policy tool for social and financial inclusion, public sector delivery reforms, managing fiscal budgets, increasing convenience and promoting hassle-free people-centric governance.
 - **Permanent Financial Address:** Aadhaar can be used as a **permanent Financial Address and facilitates financial inclusion of the underprivileged and weaker sections** of the society and is therefore a tool of distributive justice and equality.
 - Thus, the Aadhaar identity platform is one of the **key pillars of 'Digital India'**.

[Source: IE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/aadhaar-2-0-workshop>