

F.No.7/98/2024-BOA-I
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services

Jeevan Deep Building, 3rd Floor,
Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001

Dated: 1st September, 2025

To:

1. The Reserve Bank of India
2. All Public Sector Banks
3. All Private Banks
4. All Foreign Banks
5. All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)
6. All Cooperative Banks
7. All Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
8. All NBFC- Micro Finance Institutions
9. All Regional Rural Banks
10. All Housing Financial Companies registered with National Housing Bank
11. All Credit Information Companies
12. All Local Area Banks
13. All Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks

Subject: Feature of Aadhaar QR code for offline verification of Aadhaar cards.

Madam/Sir,

Please find enclosed DO letter no. 13079/55/2021-AUTH-II HQ/C-6074/2011, dated 16.7.2025 of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) along with FAQs on Aadhaar secure QR code.

2. In this regard, it is requested to disseminate the information mentioned in the aforementioned DO letter and to make use of the feature of Aadhaar QR code for offline verification of Aadhaar cards.

Encl.: As above.


(Jitendra Asati)

Director BoA 1

Email: boa1-dfs@nic.in

Ph: 011-23748755

Copy for information to: CEO, UIDAI

भुवनेश कुमार, मा.प्र.से.
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी
Bhuvnesh Kumar, I.A.S.
Chief Executive Officer



4534177/2025
18/07/2025

भारत सरकार
Government of India

भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

बंगला साहिब रोड, काली मंदिर के पीछे,
गोल मार्केट, नई दिल्ली-110 001
Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir,
Gole Market, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 16 July 2025

DO No. 13079/55/2021-AUTH-II HQ/C-6074 /2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

The acceptance of Aadhaar as a proof of identity in India is very widespread and is continuously expanding. Some instances have been reported where Aadhaar cards submitted by individuals have been found to be fake or manipulated. It is extremely important to build and sustain trust in the Aadhaar, which is a digital identity system that supports both online authentication as well as offline verification.

While most of the entities are aware about the system of online authentication through Aadhaar number, the knowledge about offline verifiability of Aadhaar is lacking both within the government and outside.

Therefore, I want to draw your attention towards the **Secure QR Code**, which is incorporated in every Aadhaar letter, PVC card or downloaded e-Aadhaar. This QR code is temper-proof and digitally signed by UIDAI and is in the form of a data capsule that contains the essential demographic details & photograph of the Aadhaar number holder. Unlike other data, which can be manipulated, this QR code cannot be altered without invalidating the digital signature issued by UIDAI.

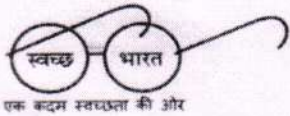
This QR code can be scanned by using the official **Aadhaar QR Code Scanner** app, which is available in the app stores for both the Android and iOS devices. Since the information is embedded in the QR code itself, it does not redirect to any web link and hence can be used completely offline - instantly verifying the authenticity of the Aadhaar. This QR code cannot be read by scanning through generic QR code scanner apps available otherwise.

The older Aadhaar cards may not have the QR code or there may be an older version of the QR code printed on those Aadhaar cards. Such Aadhaar number holders may be advised to download the latest Aadhaar by using the **m-Aadhaar App**, available in both the app stores.

The verification of Aadhaar by scanning the QR code will help in safeguarding the systems from the risks of fabricated and manipulated Aadhaars. All relevant authorities, especially with scenarios of higher risks, may be advised to use this feature for continued trust in the Aadhaar for identity verification.

Additional information on this topic has been compiled in the form of "**Frequently Asked Questions on Aadhaar secure QR Code**" and is being annexed herewith. This FAQ should be able to provide answer to most of the queries in this regard. If there are any more question, we would be happy to respond.

Contd...2



Tel. : 23746211
Website : www.uidai.gov.in e-mail : ceo@uidai.net.in



A combination of technology, awareness, and better implementation of verification tools can ensure that Aadhaar remains what it is meant to be: a **trusted identity for every Indian**.

May I request you to direct all the relevant authorities under your administration for dissemination of this information and to make use of the feature of Aadhaar QR code for offline verification of Aadhaar cards.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Bhuvnesh Kumar)

Encl:- As above

To:

1. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories (As per list attached)
2. The Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments of Government of India
3. The Director General of Police/Deputy Inspector General of Police/Commissioner of Police of States/Union Territories (As per list attached)

Copy to:

1. The Union Home Secretary
2. The Secretary MeitY
3. All DDGs, HO & Regional Offices, UIDAI

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Aadhaar Secure QR Code

1. What is the Aadhaar Secure QR Code?

The Aadhaar Secure QR Code is a tamper-proof, digitally signed code printed on Aadhaar letters, PVC cards, and e-Aadhaar documents. It contains the resident's essential demographic and photograph data in an encrypted format, which can be securely read only using UIDAI's official QR code scanner application. No other generic QR scanner app can read this secure QR code.

2. What information is contained in the Secure QR Code?

The Secure QR Code contains:

- Name
 - Gender
 - Date of Birth
 - Address (partial or full, depending on Aadhaar format)
 - Photograph (as captured during Aadhaar enrolment/update)
 - Last 4 digits of Aadhaar number (in some cases)
-

3. How does the Secure QR Code safeguard Aadhaar information?

The information inside the Secure QR Code is:

- Digitally signed by UIDAI: ensures that it cannot be tampered with or recreated.
 - Encrypted: only UIDAI's official scanner can decrypt and validate it.
 - Read-only: no one can modify the data embedded in the code.
 - Photograph-verified: the photograph in the QR code can be compared against the person presenting it.
-

4. Why is QR code verification important?

Visual copies of Aadhaar documents can be easily edited using photo editing tools. QR code verification:

- Reveals the original UIDAI-issued data instantly
- Flags any mismatch between printed details and actual records

- Prevents fraud, impersonation, and misuse of fake/altered documents
- Builds trust and enables foolproof identity verification

5. How can I verify an Aadhaar Secure QR Code?

You can verify the Secure QR Code using either of the following tools:

UIDAI QR Code Scanner (Desktop)

- Download from UIDAI official website:
<https://uidai.gov.in/en/ecosystem/authentication-devices-documents/qr-code-reader.html>
- Works offline, does not need internet connection to work
- Ideal for bulk or institutional verification (e.g., banks, telecom, government offices)

Aadhaar QR Scanner Mobile App (Android/iOS)

- Download from Play Store or App Store
- Open the app → Select “Aadhaar QR Scanner” → Point at the QR code
- The verified details (name, DOB, photo, etc.) will appear, if genuine
- Works offline, does not need internet connection to work

6. What happens if the Aadhaar card does not have a QR code or the QR code printed on it is from an older version?

The Aadhaar number holder may be advised to download the latest Aadhaar by using the My Aadhaar portal (<https://myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in/>) or m-Aadhaar mobile app. The downloaded Aadhaar will have the updated details of the Aadhaar number holder as well as the secure QR code.

7. What happens if the Aadhaar document is fake or altered?

If someone presents an Aadhaar document with manipulated text or photograph, the QR code scan will fail to validate or show mismatched details. In such cases:

- The scanner will either not display any data, or
- The data displayed from the QR code won't match with the information printed on it
- This acts as a red flag for forgery or misuse

This makes Secure QR Code an effective deterrent against fraudulent Aadhaar use.

8. Can the Secure QR Code be faked or forged?

No. The Secure QR Code uses UIDAI's digital signature and advanced cryptographic techniques. Any attempt to generate or modify a QR code without UIDAI's private key will render the code invalid and unverifiable. It is impossible to fake this secure QR code.

9. Who should use QR Code verification?

Every individual and institution that accepts Aadhaar should verify its authenticity using the Secure QR Code including the following:

- Banks, NBFCs, Insurance companies
 - Telecom service providers
 - Government departments
 - Employers and landlords during KYC
 - Notaries, advocates, and document verifiers
 - Even citizens, for their own assurance
-

10. What are UIDAI's recommendations on using QR code verification?

- Never accept an Aadhaar document without scanning the QR code.
 - Always compare the photograph shown on the scanner with the person presenting it.
 - Use only UIDAI-approved scanners and apps.
 - Educate staff and stakeholders to adopt QR-first verification processes.
-

11. What should I do if I suspect a manipulated Aadhaar?

- Do not accept the document if information and photograph on the Aadhaar card does not match with the information and photograph obtained through scanning the QR code
- Report the incident to UIDAI via help@uidai.gov.in or call 1947
- Alert local authorities and police, if fraud is suspected