

Aadhaar

important facts

- Aadhaar is a 12 digit unique-identity number issued to all Indian residents
- As of 31st march 2017 more 113 crore cards were issued by the UIDAI
- over 99% of Indians aged 18 and above had been enrolled in Aadhaar.
- 60 % of MGNREGA cards and 45% of ration cards have been linked with Aadhaar.

Safeguards provided

- Biometric information like iris, finger prints will be used only for Aadhaar enrolment and no other purpose.
- Information will not be shared with anyone and it will not be displayed publicly.
- unauthorised access to the Central Identities Data Repository, causing damaging to it or leaking the information stored on it carries a maximum penalty of 3 years
- central govt may supersede the UIDAI for a period of up to 6 months, if it fails to perform its duties or due to a public emergency.
- Two cases are mentioned where data can be shared. One is in the interest of national security and other is on the order of a court.

Benefits due to Aadhaar

- Pahal – estimated savings of Rs 14,672 cr
- Estimated savings of Rs 2500 crore due to Aadhaar linkage of PDS in 4 states
- Pensions (NSAP) – estimated savings of Rs 66 cr. across 3 states of Jharkhand, Chandigarh and Puducherry

Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016

- Every **resident** shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number
- Individuals who are applying for Aadhaar needs to be informed regarding few important things like manner in which the information will be used
- Any public or private entity can accept the Aadhaar number as a proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder, for any purpose.
- Aadhaar number cannot be a proof of citizenship or domicile
- Unique Identification Authority of India has been given statutory status.