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ET ANALYSIS - PRIVACY & INCONVENIENCE ISSUES

ADDRESSED - There's No Need to See Ghosts in Linking Your Mobile with Aadhaar

Edited for main points for exams :

There are two concerns: privacy and inconvenience.

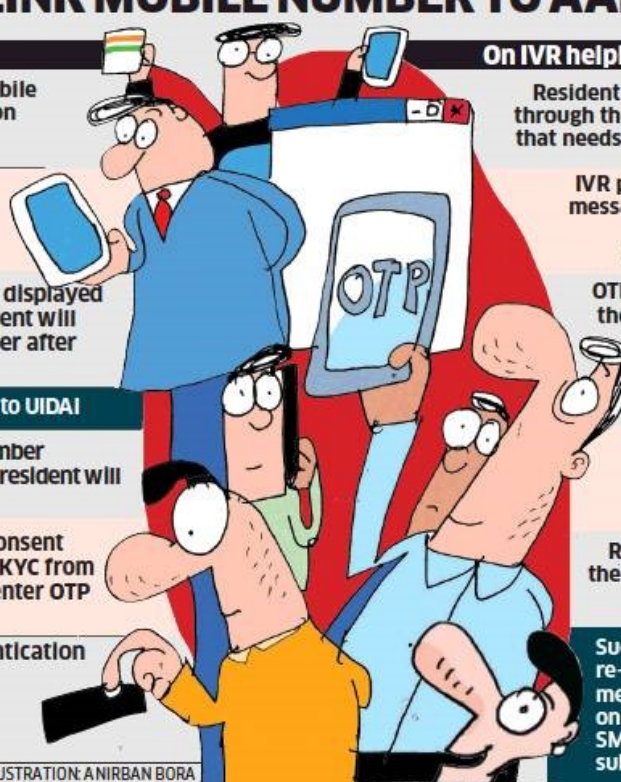
1. Activists question whether a Supreme Court order of February 2017, has been deliberately misread by the government to force citizens to link their mobile numbers to Aadhaar. For the record, a majority of Indians have already divulged their mobile number to the government while taking an Aadhaar. This is the “registered mobile number” in Aadhaar records. The government is simply seeking to re-verify the mobile number with the Aadhaar to weed out fake identities used while getting a SIM connection.
 - 1.1 [The Indian Telegraph Act](#) requires fulfilment of know-your-customer norms before issue of SIM cards. That is why people were required to give proof of identity such as a passport, voter ID card or a PAN card for SIM cards. Because of Aadhaar biometric authentication, there will be nearly no possibility in the future of somebody else taking a SIM card in the name of another person. And if someone already has, the reverification exercise will expose it and lead to the disconnection of connection.
2. The other concern was over the inconvenience to millions who would need to queue up at a service centre to get their connections re-verified through Aadhaar by giving their biometrics there.

The government has now stipulated that those having their mobile numbers registered with Aadhaar or having a second phone connection (not registered with Aadhaar) to link and re-verify same using Aadhaar through an OTP. This is the same way bank accounts are linked to Aadhaar.




3. A related concern is that an agent could see the e-KYC details of a subscriber while re-verifying or issuing new SIM to a subscriber has been addressed. The latest order says this will not be allowed.

In short, privacy and convenience have been addressed by the government in the SIM Aadhaar linkage process.




HOW TO LINK MOBILE NUMBER TO AADHAAR



On TSP's website

-  Resident to enter the mobile number (to be verified) on website
-  TSP will generate an OTP on the entered mobile number which resident will then enter on the website
-  Consent message will be displayed on the website and resident will enter the Aadhaar number after checking the consent box

TSP will generate an OTP request to UIDAI

-  If there is any mobile number registered with Aadhaar, resident will receive the OTP on it
-  Resident will receive a consent message for receiving e-KYC from UIDAI and resident will enter OTP after providing the consent
-  Successful e-KYC authentication and confirmation to resident that mobile has been re-verified

On IVR helpline







-  Resident calls the TSP IVR through the mobile number that needs to be re-verified
-  IVR plays the consent message and resident provides the Aadhaar number
-  OTP request sent to UIDAI if there is Aadhaar registered mobile number otherwise error message is played to the resident
-  OTP is received on the Aadhaar registered mobile and consent message is played
-  Resident enters the OTP on the IVR and e-KYC details are fetched from UIDAI
-  Successful mobile re-verification message is given on IVR as well as SMS notification on subscriber's mobile

ILLUSTRATION: ANIRBAN BORA

Graphic taken from The Economic Times Delhi November 2017