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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.