

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (B)
PRESS RELEASE**

Dated Shillong, the 26th August, 2025

No.GAB-163/2016/808. *Ensuring Trust in Aadhaar: Offline Verification Now Easier and More Secure with UIDAI's Secure QR Code*

The General Administration Department, Government of Meghalaya, wishes to bring to the attention of all concerned departments and the general public an important feature provided by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) — **the Aadhaar QR Scanner App**, which allows for **offline verification of Aadhaar**.

This is particularly important in light of increasing instances of Aadhaar misuse, where fake or visually manipulated Aadhaar cards have been used as proof of identity. To combat such fraud, UIDAI has embedded a **Secure QR Code** in every Aadhaar letter, PVC card, and downloaded e-Aadhaar. This code is digitally signed and contains key demographic information and a photograph of the Aadhaar holder.

Unlike regular QR codes, the Secure QR Code **cannot be tampered with or altered** without invalidating the digital signature, making it a **reliable tool for offline authentication**.

Key Features of the Secure QR Code:

- **Tamper-proof and digitally signed** by UIDAI
- **Encrypted and readable only** using UIDAI-approved scanners or the official Aadhaar QR Code Scanner App
- **Functions entirely offline** – no internet or web redirection required
- **Instantly detects mismatches** or fake Aadhaar documents

How to Verify Aadhaar Using the Secure QR Code:

1. Download the **Aadhaar QR Scanner App** from the Play Store or App Store
2. Open the app → Select **“Aadhaar QR Scanner”** → Scan the QR code on the Aadhaar document
3. The verified details such as **name, date of birth, and photograph** will be displayed instantly

This tool is ideal for use in **remote areas with limited connectivity**, as it functions without an internet connection.

Who Should Use This Feature?

- Government departments and field-level staff for KYC and document verification
- Banks, NBFCs, insurance companies, and telecom service providers
- Employers and landlords for tenant or employee verification, Hotels, Guest house.
- Notaries, advocates, and document verifiers
- General public for **self-verification of Aadhaar authenticity**

In Case of Suspected Manipulated Aadhaar:

- Do not accept the document if printed details do not match the QR-scanned details
- Report such incidents to UIDAI via **help@uidai.gov.in** or call **1947**
- Notify the **Deputy Commissioner's Office** if fraud is suspected

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The General Administration Department urges **all offices, agencies, and citizens** to adopt the Aadhaar QR code verification process and remain vigilant against the use of fraudulent documents.

For further information, please refer to UIDAI's "**Frequently Asked Questions on Aadhaar Secure QR Code**" available at <https://gad.meghalaya.gov.in> or visit www.uidai.gov.in or the Deputy Commissioners offices.

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
General Administration Department(B)

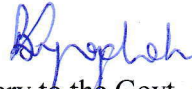
Memo.No.GAB-163/2016/ 808-A

Dated Shillong, the 26th August, 2025

Copy to:-

1. The Commissioner & Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, & State Nodal Officer, (Aadhaar), for favour of information.
2. The Director, Govt. of India, UIDAI Regional Office, Guwahati, Block – V, 1st Floor, Housefed Complex Dispur, Guwahati – 781006 for favour of information.
3. All Deputy Commissioner for information and publication at District website
4. The State Informatics officer for publication on this department's website <https://gad.meghalaya.gov.in>
5. The Director, Information and Public Relation to kindly publish in local daily newspapers for creating wide publicity
6. The Nodal Officer General Administration Department (B) for information.

By order etc.,



Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
General Administration Department (B)

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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

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- 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 (www.aadhaar.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