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UIDAI to Launch School-Based Biometric Update Drive for Children Nationwide

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In a major step toward strengthening Aadhaar data accuracy and preventing deactivation of child Aadhaar numbers, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) will soon roll out a nationwide program to conduct biometric updates for children directly through schools. The initiative is expected to begin within the next 45 to 60 days.

The biometric updates, mandatory for children after the age of five, will include fingerprint scans, iris recognition, and updated photographs. UIDAI has confirmed that the move aims to cover more than 7 crore children who are yet to complete the required biometric updates.

UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar said, “The project is currently in the testing phase and is expected to be rolled out across districts soon. Aadhaar is crucial for accessing many government schemes. Through this school-based approach, we want to make it easier for families to complete the necessary biometric updates.”

As per UIDAI guidelines, Aadhaar enrollment before the age of five does not capture biometric data. Children must complete their first biometric update between the ages of 5 and 7, and again at 15. Failure to do so can lead to Aadhaar deactivation, impacting access to government benefits such as scholarships, mid-day meals, and other welfare schemes.

To implement the program, UIDAI will deploy mobile biometric kits to districts, which will rotate among schools. The updates will be conducted free of charge for children aged 5–7 and 15. After the age of 7, updates will cost ₹100. Parental consent will be required for the biometric process.

The initiative is being developed in coordination with school authorities and state education departments. SMS alerts are also being sent to parents to remind them of pending biometric updates for their children.

The school-based rollout is expected to significantly increase compliance rates and simplify the process for millions of families across India. Officials also confirmed that a similar system may be extended in the future to colleges to support the second mandatory update at age 15.