Aadhaar Integration with Passport Seva

1. Background: Aadhaar is a 12 digit individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Government of India. This number will serve as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India. As per UIDAI, Aadhaar letter received via India Post and e-Aadhaar downloaded from UIDAI website are equally valid. Any individual, irrespective of age and gender, who is a resident in India and satisfies the verification process laid down by the UIDAI can enrol for Aadhaar. Each individual needs to enrol only once, which is free of cost.

2. Value Proposition of Aadhaar in Passport Seva:

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has successfully integrated Passport data validation with Aadhaar database. As part of Aadhaar integration, applicants applying for Passport related services would be encouraged to provide Aadhaar number as part of their online application registration process. Passport application form has a provision to capture Aadhaar number during online registration process. Passport Seva system has now been enabled to validate Aadhaar number and fingerprints of the applicants with Aadhaar database. Following are the value propositions which would benefit the Passport applicants as well as MEA officials in passport issuance :-

I.   **Validation of applicant's Aadhaar number and bio-metrics (fingerprints) with Aadhaar database,** will doubly assure MEA officials for taking verification and granting decision as regards the **identity of the applicant** ensuring efficiency in service delivery.

II.   As part of validation with Aadhaar database, the eKYC screen received from Aadhhar also helps MEA officials in ensuring its **demographic and facial match.** This also adds value in validating applicant's address proof.

III. **The citizens** providing Aadhaar number as identity and address proof are **benefitted by** ensuring their **identity matching in real-time** in front of MEA officials.

IV.   In addition to above, MEA may provide value added benefits in due course to the applicants furnishing Aadhaar number as part of Passport application form e.g. relaxation in pre-police verification for re-issue of Passports and Acceptance of Tatkaal cases based on 3 documents provided one of them is Aadhaar letter/card.

3. Status of Aadhaar integration roll-out: Ministry has successfully integrated Passport Seva with Aadhaar system and the pilot is running at seven locations since April-May 2015. Country-wide roll-out of Aadhaar integration is expected in two – three months.

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