

Deadline for providing Aadhaar to avail govt subsidised services extended till June 30

The government has extended the deadline for providing Aadhaar to avail of various services under section 7 of the Aadhaar Act by three months to June 30, 2018. These schemes are mainly subsidised government services and government funded welfare schemes such as LPG and kerosene, and even scholarships. A notification extending the deadline was issued by the ministry of electronics and information technology on March 28. The earlier deadline to provide Aadhaar to avail of these schemes was March 31.

The Supreme Court in a ruling last month, had said that the deadline to mandatorily link Aadhaar with various services and products will stand extended indefinitely till judgement on the petitions pending before it is pronounced. The ruling had also made it clear that this extension would not apply to welfare/subsidised services under section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.

What is section 7?

Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act states that Central or State Governments can make possession of an Aadhaar number or Aadhaar authentication mandatory for receipt of subsidies, benefits or services funded out of the Consolidated Fund of India. At the same time, the section also states that an individual who has not been assigned an Aadhaar number, shall be enrolled for Aadhaar and offered an alternate and viable means of identification for receipt of subsidy, benefit or service till 12-digit biometric number is assigned to him.

What is exempt from mandatory linking?

Here is a list of services and documents that are exempt from Aadhaar linking and where you would still need it.

Aadhaar linking not must as of now:

- Existing bank accounts
- Mobile SIM cards
- Passports
- PAN Card, as per UIDAI tweet

Where you need still Aadhaar as per UIDAI:

- Opening a new bank account
- Availing government subsidies
- Applying for tatkal passports

(Economic Times)