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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil Secretariat, J&K

NOTIFICATION

Jammu, the 28th January, 2026

S.O. 20 . Whereas, the use of Aadhaar as an identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplifies the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency, and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner by obviating the needs to produce multiple documents to prove one's identity; and

Whereas, the Ministry of Electronics and information Technology, Government of India, after consultation with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), had vide its letter no. eF. No. 13(6)/2022-EG -II, dated 04.12.2025 conveyed authorization of Central Government to the Forest, Environment And Ecology Department, (hereinafter referred to as the Department), Government of Jammu and Kashmir (hereinafter referred to as the Government) for the purposes prescribed under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules) allowed the department to perform authentication and permitted the use of Aadhaar number during authentication for establishing identity of Aadhaar number holder and notify the same under rule 5 of the said rules read with sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 hereinafter referred to as the Act);

Whereas, the Aadhaar authentication is to be performed for establishing the identity of Nomadic graziers for issuance of Grazing Pass and collection of fee thereof on voluntary basis (hereinafter referred to as the said purpose) as prescribed under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the said rules and the performance of Aadhaar authentication for the said purpose shall be on voluntary basis and that the Department shall perform the Aadhaar authentication only for issuance of Grazing Pass and collection of fee thereof on voluntary basis [hereinafter referred to as the use case(s)].

Now, therefore, in pursuance of rule 5 of the said rules read with sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Act, the Forest, Ecology And Environment Department hereby notifies the following, namely:

- (1) The Forest, Environment and Ecology Department, of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir as provided in the Act, shall obtain the consent of the Aadhaar number holder for the purpose of authentication herein.
- (2) An individual availing service of the department for the purpose shall be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication.
- (3) Any individual desirous of availing benefits of a Grazing pass who does not possess the Aadhaar number or, has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall be required to make application for Aadhaar enrollment before registering with the department for the purpose provided that he is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per section 3 of the said Act and such individual shall visit any Aadhaar enrollment center or UIDAI website (www.uidai.gov.in) to get enrolled for Aadhaar.
- (4) As per regulation-12 of the Aadhaar(Enrollment and Updation) Regulations, 2016, the Department through its Implementing Agency, is required to offer Aadhaar enrollment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrollment center located in the respective block or Tehsil, the Department through its Implementing Agency shall provide Aadhaar enrollment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming a UIDAI Registrar themselves.

Provided that till the time Aadhaar is assigned to such individual(s), authentication for the purpose shall be made, subject to the production of the following documents, namely:

- a) If she/he has enrolled, her/his Aadhaar Enrollment Identification slip: and
- b) Any one of the following documents, namely:
 - i. Bank or Post office passbook with Photo; or
 - ii. Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card; or
 - iii. Passport; or
 - iv. Ration Card; or
 - v. Voter Identity Card; or
 - vi. Driving license issued by the Licensing Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988(59 of 1988); or



- vii. Certificate of Identity having photo of such person issued by a Gazetted Officer or a Tehsildar on an official letter head or
- viii. Any other document as specified by the Department.

Provided further that the above documents may be checked by an officer specifically designated by the Department for that purpose.

(5) In order to provide benefits to the beneficiaries conveniently, the Department through its implementing Agency shall make all the required arrangements to ensure that wide publicity through the media shall be given to the beneficiaries to make them aware of the said requirement.

(6) In all cases, where Aadhaar authentication fails due to poor Biometrics of the beneficiaries or due to any other reason, the following remedial mechanisms shall be adopted namely:

- a) In case of poor fingerprint quality, Iris scan or face authentication facility shall be adopted for authentication, thereby the Department through its Implementing Agency shall make provisions for Iris scanners or face authentication along with finger-print authentication for delivery of benefits in seamless manner;
- b) In case the Biometric authentication through fingerprints or Iris scan or face authentication is not successful, wherever feasible and admissible authentication by Aadhaar One Time Password or Time-based One- Time Password with limited time validity, as the case may be, shall be offered;
- c) In all other cases where Biometric or Aadhaar One Time Password or Time-based One-Time password authentication is not possible, benefits under the scheme may be given on the basis of physical Aadhaar letter whose authenticity can be verified through the Quick Response (QR) code printed on the Aadhaar letter and the necessary arrangement or QR code reader shall be provide at the convenient locations by the Department through its Implementing Agency.

(7) In addition to the above, in order to ensure that no bonafide beneficiary under the Scheme is deprived of her/his due benefits, the Department through its implementing Agency shall follow the exception handling mechanism as outlined in the Office Memorandum of DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India dated 19th December, 2017.



This notification shall come into effect from the date of its publication in the official Gazette.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

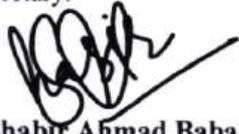
Sd/-
Sheetal Nanda, (IAS)
Commissioner/ Secretary to Government

No. FST-IT/61/2025-02 (7702058)

Dated: 28 .01.2026

Copy to the :-

1. Ld. Advocate General, J&K.
2. All Administrative Secretaries to the Government.
3. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K.
4. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
5. Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/HoFF, J&K.
7. Director General of Police, J&K.
8. Director General, J&K Institute of Management Public Administration and Rural Development.
9. Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.
10. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
11. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu.
12. Chairperson, J&K Special Tribunal.
13. All HoDs/Managing Directors.
14. All Deputy Commissioners.
15. Director Information, J&K.
16. General Manager, Government Press, J&K for publication in the Government Gazette.
17. Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museum, J&K.
18. OSD to Hon'ble Minister, for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Department, for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister.
19. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary J&K, for information of the Chief Secretary J&K.
20. Private Secretary to the Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department for information of the Commissioner/ Secretary.
21. Office File.


(Shabir Ahmad Baba)

Under Secretary to the Government