

## **Long-awaited demand of people of Ladakh met, Aadhar now reflects 'Ladakh' instead of 'Jammu & Kashmir'**

***Following L-G VK Saxena's intervention, records of UT Ladakh residents updated by UIDAI***

***L-G says hassle-free correction will strengthen identity accuracy and ease of access to services***

**Leh, April 10:** In a significant development addressing the long-pending public demand, residents of Ladakh can now see their rightful identity reflected in Aadhaar records, with "Ladakh" replacing "Jammu & Kashmir" in the State field, following the intervention of the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena.

Despite the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2019, after being carved out of Jammu & Kashmir, the Aadhaar records of the people of Ladakh continued to reflect the erstwhile State name – J&K, instead of Ladakh - causing widespread concerns and hassles. The Lieutenant Governor, taking a serious note of prolonged pendency in this important matter, directed the UT Administration to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Subsequently, the Administration took up the matter with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), at higher levels. This long-awaited correction has now been successfully implemented, ensuring that Ladakh's distinct regional identity is accurately represented in Aadhaar.

The continued reflection of "Jammu & Kashmir" in Aadhaar records of Ladakh residents had been causing considerable inconvenience to the people. Residents were facing difficulty in using Aadhaar as a valid document for identity and address, while availing various services, as the "State" field in Aadhaar, did not correspond to the post-reorganisation status of Ladakh. The issue not only created hardship for citizens but also affected the proper representation of the Union Territory in Aadhaar-linked records and progress reports.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the development would greatly benefit the residents of Ladakh by removing procedural hurdles and enabling seamless access to services. "Ensuring that the identity of Ladakh is accurately reflected in official records, is not only an administrative necessity, but also a matter of the identity and convenience for our people. The successful resolution of this long-pending issue, reflects the UT Administration's commitment to responsive governance, ease of living, and ensuring that the unique identity of Ladakh is properly represented across all official platforms," Shri Saxena said.

To resolve the issue, the UT Administration, in coordination with UIDAI, devised an innovative mechanism to update the State field centrally. Instead of requiring each resident to individually visit Aadhaar centres for correction, the updation of records was carried out on the basis of PIN codes specific to Ladakh. These PIN codes were verified in coordination with the Department of Posts and shared with UIDAI.

This development has brought significant relief to the people of Ladakh, as they no longer need to visit Aadhaar centres individually for updating their records. Residents can now easily download their updated e-Aadhaar from the official UIDAI portal, and those wishing to obtain a PVC Aadhaar card may order it online by paying a nominal fee.