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NOTIFICATIONS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF PANCHAYAT RAJ

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**NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT**

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**PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**(RD.2)**

GAZETTE NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE AADHAAR ACT, 2016, ENABLING AADHAAR-BASED AUTHENTICATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WELFARE SCHEMES BY THE SOCIETY FOR ELIMINATION OF RURAL POVERTY (SERP).

*[GO.Ms.No.8, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RD.2), 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.]*

*(Under Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016)*

Whereas the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) Telangana, functions under the administrative control of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, Government of Telangana and is implementing multiple welfare schemes providing subsidies, benefits, and services to rural women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by facilitating social mobilization of rural poor women and focusing on sustainable and diversified livelihoods by providing access to Government programs and initiatives through financial assistance through Banks & Other financial institutions.

Whereas the expenditure for such schemes is incurred wholly or partly from the Consolidated Fund of India and/or the Consolidated Fund of the State of Telangana; and

Whereas Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, as upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2018), empowers the State Government to require Aadhaar authentication for receipt of any subsidy, benefit, or service for which the expenditure is incurred from the Consolidated Fund, for ensuring targeted delivery and preventing duplication of benefits; and

Whereas the proviso to Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act mandates that if an Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit, or service; and

Whereas Section 4(6) of the Aadhaar Act mandates that every requesting entity shall inform Aadhaar number holders of alternate and viable means of identification and shall not deny any service to individuals refusing to, or being unable to, undergo authentication; and

Whereas SERP is registered as a Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) through APT Online Ltd., a valid AUA/KUA empanelled with UIDAI, and possesses the technical infrastructure for secure Aadhaar authentication; and

Whereas the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department is satisfied that the implementation of Aadhaar authentication for the aforesaid schemes shall facilitate efficient delivery of subsidies and benefits and prevent duplication, while ensuring that no beneficiary is denied service for refusing or being unable to undergo authentication;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, the Government of Telangana hereby notifies the following:

1. Short Title and Commencement

1.1 This Notification shall be called the Aadhaar Authentication for SERP Welfare Schemes Notification, 2025.

1.2 This Notification shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Telangana Gazette.

2. Application and Scope

This Notification applies to all welfare schemes providing subsidies, benefits, or services implemented by SERP, Telangana, for which the expenditure is incurred wholly or partly from the Consolidated Fund of India and/or the Consolidated Fund of the State of Telangana.

3. Schemes Covered Under this Notification

Aadhaar-based authentication, or in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 below, alternative identification, shall be implemented for the following welfare schemes:

| Sl. No. | Name of Scheme                                                  | Funding Pattern                                                 | Nature of Subsidy/ Benefit  | Beneficiary Category |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1       | Farm Agriculture Livelihood (Corpus Interest Fund)              | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Livelihood subsidy          | SHG Members          |
| 2       | Farm Livestock (Corpus Interest Fund)                           | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Livelihood subsidy          | SHG Members          |
| 3       | Non-Farm Livelihood (Corpus Interest Fund)                      | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Livelihood subsidy          | SHG Members          |
| 4       | Institution Building & Capacity Building (Corpus Interest Fund) | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Capacity building subsidy   | SHG Groups/ Members  |
| 5       | Bank Linkage Trainings                                          | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Training subsidy            | SHG Members          |
| 6       | Human Development Trainings                                     | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Training subsidy            | SHG Members          |
| 7       | Lakpathi Didi Programme                                         | 60% Consolidated Fund of India : 40% Consolidated Fund of State | Livelihood benefit          | SHG Members          |
| 8       | School Uniform Stitching Charges                                | 100% Consolidated Fund of State                                 | Service charges/payment     | SHG Members          |
| 9       | Paddy Procurement Commission                                    | 100% Consolidated Fund of State                                 | Service commission/ payment | SHG Members          |
| 10      | SHG Women Uniforms                                              | 100% Consolidated Fund of State                                 | Material subsidy            | SHG Members          |
| 11      | All other SHG activities                                        | 100% Consolidated Fund of State                                 | Material & Cash subsidy     | SHG Members          |

#### 4. Authentication Process and Infrastructure

- 4.1 Aadhaar-based authentication for the aforesaid schemes shall be performed through the Sub-AUA (Sub-Authentication User Agency) operated by SERP, Telangana, which is duly mapped and registered under the AUA (Authentication User Agency): APT Online Ltd., in accordance with the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021.
- 4.2 All authentication transactions shall be conducted in compliance with the Aadhaar Act, 2016, the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021, and all regulations, circulars, and guidelines issued by UIDAI from time to time.
- 4.3 SERP shall maintain secure authentication logs, transaction records, and audit trails in accordance with UIDAI requirements and data protection protocols.

## 5. Mandatory Alternative Identification and Non-Denial of Service

### 5.1 Compliance with Section 4(6) and Section 7 Proviso:

In compliance with Section 4(6) and the proviso to Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016:

- (a) **No Denial of Service:** No beneficiary shall be denied any subsidy, benefit, or service under any of the schemes listed in Section 3 above for refusing to undergo, or being unable to undergo, Aadhaar authentication, provided that such beneficiary establishes identity through acceptable alternative means of identification as specified in Clause 5.2 below.
- (b) **Mandatory Intimation:** SERP and all its implementing agencies shall inform every beneficiary of the availability of alternative means of identification and shall prominently display such information at all beneficiary touchpoints including Community Resource Persons (CRPs), Mandal offices, and District Project offices.
- (c) **Individuals Not Assigned Aadhaar:** Individuals to whom Aadhaar numbers have not been assigned shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification as detailed in Clause 5.2 below, and shall be permitted to avail subsidies and benefits along with their Aadhaar Enrollment ID (EID) slip until such time as Aadhaar is assigned.

### 5.2 Acceptable Alternative Means of Identification:

For beneficiaries unable or unwilling to undergo Aadhaar authentication, or for beneficiaries not assigned Aadhaar numbers, SERP shall accept the following alternative identification documents for establishing identity and enabling delivery of subsidies, benefits, or services:

- (a) Voter Identity Card (EPIC) issued by the Election Commission of India;
- (b) Passport issued by the Government of India under the Passports Act, 1967;
- (c) Driving License issued by the Competent Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;
- (d) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes;
- (e) National Population Register (NPR) Smart Card issued by the Registrar General of India;
- (f) Photographs and identity cards issued by the State Government or Central Government Departments/Undertakings;
- (g) Pensioner Card with photograph issued by the Accountant General;
- (h) Health Insurance Smart Card (RSBY/AarogyaSri) issued under State or Central health insurance schemes;
- (i) MGNREGA Job Card issued by Gram Panchayat;
- (j) **Community Verification:** In cases where none of the above documents are available, SERP may accept community verification by the Sarpanch and Village Revenue Officer (VRO) or Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO), accompanied by photographic identification and biometric records maintained at the village level under the supervision of District Project Managers.
- (k) **Aadhaar Enrollment ID (EID) Slip:** For individuals who have applied for Aadhaar but not yet received an Aadhaar number, the EID slip along with any one of the above alternative identification documents shall be accepted.

### 5.3 Offline Verification:

In areas with inadequate digital connectivity, or in cases where online Aadhaar authentication is not feasible due to technical reasons, SERP shall implement offline verification mechanisms using:

- (a) Aadhaar Offline e-KYC XML files downloaded by beneficiaries;
- (b) QR code-based verification from e-Aadhaar or Aadhaar PVC cards;
- (c) Paperless offline e-KYC as per UIDAI guidelines.

### 5.4 Authentication Failures:

In cases where Aadhaar authentication fails due to technical errors, biometric mismatch, connectivity issues, or any other reason beyond the control of the beneficiary, the beneficiary shall not be denied the subsidy, benefit, or service, and SERP shall immediately resort to alternative identification as specified in Clause 5.2 above.

## 6. Informed Consent and Voluntary Participation

### 6.1 Informed Consent:

Prior to any Aadhaar authentication, SERP shall obtain informed written consent from each beneficiary in Telugu or any other language understood by the beneficiary. The consent form shall clearly communicate:

- (a) The purpose of authentication;
- (b) The specific schemes for which authentication is sought;
- (c) The identity of SERP as the requesting entity and APT Online Ltd. as the AUA;
- (d) The availability of alternative means of identification as specified in Section 5;
- (e) The beneficiary's right to refuse authentication without denial of service;
- (f) Data protection safeguards and the limited retention period for authentication records;
- (g) Grievance redressal mechanisms.

### 6.2 Consent Records:

All consent documents shall be retained by SERP for a minimum period of three years and shall be made available for audit by UIDAI and the State Government as required.

### 6.3 Special Protection for Children:

In accordance with Section 3A(3) of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, no child shall be denied any subsidy, benefit, or service under the schemes listed in Section 3 in case of:

- (a) Failure to establish identity by undergoing authentication; or
- (b) Failure to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number; or
- (c) Non-assignment of Aadhaar number; or
- (d) Producing only an application for Aadhaar enrolment.

## 7. Data Protection, Privacy, and Security Safeguards

### 7.1 Data Minimization and Purpose Limitation:

SERP shall collect and process only such demographic and biometric information as is strictly necessary for authentication and service delivery. Data collected shall be used solely for the purpose of delivering the subsidies, benefits, or services under the schemes listed in Section 3.

### 7.2 Non-Storage of Aadhaar Numbers:

SERP shall not store or retain Aadhaar numbers or authentication records beyond the period necessary to deliver the subsidy, benefit, or service, in accordance with Regulation 29 of the Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2021.

### 7.3 Security Measures:

SERP shall implement comprehensive data security measures including:

- (a) End-to-end encryption of all authentication data;
- (b) Role-based access controls and audit trails;
- (c) Secure storage with logging and monitoring;
- (d) Regular security audits and vulnerability assessments;
- (e) Compliance with Information Security Management System (ISMS) standards.

### 7.4 Compliance with Data Protection Laws:

All beneficiary data shall be handled in strict compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and other applicable data protection and privacy laws.

### 7.5 Data Protection Officer:

SERP shall designate a Data Protection Officer responsible for overseeing compliance with data protection requirements and addressing beneficiary concerns regarding data handling, privacy, and security.

## 8. Operational Procedures and Beneficiary Support

### 8.1 Standard Operating Procedures:

SERP shall prepare and communicate detailed operational guidelines to all District Project Managers, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), field workers, and implementing agencies covering:

- (a) Aadhaar authentication procedures;
- (b) Informed consent collection in local languages;
- (c) Alternative identification verification processes;
- (d) Offline authentication and verification mechanisms;
- (e) Procedures for handling authentication failures;
- (f) Documentation and record-keeping requirements;
- (g) Grievance redressal and escalation procedures.

## 8.2 Training and Capacity Building:

SERP shall conduct comprehensive orientation and training programs for all relevant personnel to ensure consistent and compliant implementation of Aadhaar authentication and alternative identification procedures across all schemes and districts. Training shall specifically emphasize the mandatory obligation not to deny service for refusal or inability to authenticate.

## 8.3 Beneficiary Awareness and Communication:

SERP shall undertake extensive beneficiary awareness campaigns through CRPs, Village Organizations (VOs), Mandal Samakhya, and District Project offices to inform beneficiaries of:

- (a) The implementation of Aadhaar authentication;
- (b) The availability and acceptability of alternative identification;
- (c) Their right to refuse authentication without denial of service;
- (d) Procedures for authentication and alternative identification;
- (e) Grievance redressal mechanisms.

## 8.4 Grievance Redressal:

SERP shall establish a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism with clear escalation channels for beneficiaries to raise concerns regarding:

- (a) Authentication failures;
- (b) Denial of service;
- (c) Data privacy and security issues;
- (d) Alternative identification verification difficulties.

Grievances shall be resolved within 15 working days, and a monthly report of grievances and resolutions shall be submitted to the PR & RD Department and UIDAI.

## 9. Coordination, Oversight, and Compliance

### 9.1 Administrative Oversight:

The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department shall provide administrative oversight and policy coordination regarding the implementation of this notification.

### 9.2 Implementation Responsibility:

SERP shall be responsible for:

- (a) Day-to-day implementation of authentication and alternative identification procedures;
- (b) Beneficiary enrollment, verification, and service delivery;
- (c) Compliance with UIDAI regulations, circulars, and guidelines;
- (d) Reporting to UIDAI, PR & RD Department, and ITE & C Department.

### 9.3 Reporting to UIDAI:

SERP shall submit quarterly compliance reports to UIDAI detailing:

- (a) Total number of authentications conducted (scheme-wise and district-wise);
- (b) Number of beneficiaries utilizing alternative identification methods;
- (c) Authentication success and failure rates;

- (d) Grievances received and resolved;
- (e) Data protection and security audit outcomes;
- (f) Any challenges or systemic issues requiring UIDAI guidance.

#### 9.4 Audits and Inspections:

SERP shall facilitate and cooperate with audits, inspections, and assessments conducted by:

- (a) UIDAI or UIDAI-authorized auditors;
- (b) State Government audit authorities;
- (c) MeitY or other Central Government agencies;
- (d) Any other competent authority under applicable law.

SERP shall maintain and provide upon request detailed records of all authentications, consents, alternative identification verifications, and related documentation.

#### 10. Review, Amendment, and Withdrawal

10.1 This notification may be reviewed periodically by the Government of Telangana to assess its effectiveness, compliance, and impact on beneficiary welfare.

10.2 This notification may be amended or withdrawn at any time by the Government of Telangana by issuing a subsequent notification, with due notice to UIDAI. Any amendment or withdrawal shall be published in the Telangana Gazette and communicated to UIDAI within 7 days of such publication.

#### 11. Interpretation and Clarification

11.1 Any doubt or dispute regarding the interpretation of any provision of this notification shall be resolved by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department in consultation with the ITE & C Department and UIDAI.

11.2 In case of any conflict between the provisions of this notification and the Aadhaar Act, 2016, or regulations issued thereunder, the provisions of the Aadhaar Act and regulations shall prevail.

#### 12. Severability

If any provision of this notification is declared invalid, void, or unenforceable by a competent court of law, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect and shall not be affected by such declaration.

**N. SRIDHAR,**

*Special Chief Secretary to Government (FAC).*