To

All AUA/KUAs/ASAs

Sub: Phase out of existing fingerprint L0 Registered Devices from Aadhaar authentication ecosystem.

Dear Partners,

Please refer: (i) UIDAI letter No. HQ-13021/1/2021-Auth-I HQ dated 25.04.2022 and 31.05.2022
(ii) Letter No. HQ-13023/1/2020-Auth-I HQ/2084 dated 20.06.2022 and 23.12.2022
(iii) Letter No. HQ- 13029/1/2021-Auth-I-HQ dated 23.12.2022

In order to enhance the security levels of finger print based authentication transaction, UIDAI takes several security measures from time to time to ensure security of authentication transactions and end to end encryption during the authentication process. In this regard, fingerprint devices being used in Aadhaar authentication ecosystem have been upgraded from the currently used fingerprint L0 RD to the next generation fingerprint L1 RD. First batch of devices have already been certified on 30.10.2022 (website   link: https://uidai.gov.in/en/ecosystem/authentication-devices-documents/biometric-devices.html). The key features of fingerprint L1 Registered Devices (RD) were communicated in details vide letters at reference (i) to all authentication ecosystem partners and also during various Central/State government level workshops organised by UIDAI since notification.

2.   Roll out of fingerprint L1 RD

Since at present all fingerprint devices in the authentication ecosystem are of L0 standards, the fingerprint biometric authentication transactions shall for the time being continue both in L0 RD and Ll RD. However, to avoid any disruptions in the system, all the existing deployed fingerprint L0 RD would be phased out of the authentication ecosystem in a gradual manner. To provide sufficient period for this transition, it has been decided that use of all the existing fingerprint L0 RD will be discontinued by 30.06.2024 and thereafter only fingerprint L1 RD will be allowed to perform Aadhaar based authentications. Therefore, all AUA/KUAs may like to procure fingerprint L1 RD for use in their authentication ecosystem.

3.   Phase out of fingerprint L0 RD

(a)   UIDAI vide letters No. HQ-13023/1/2020-Auth-I HQ/2084 dated 20.06.2022 and 23.12.2002 has issued directions to all AUA/KUAs regarding removal of old and deployed L0 RD. The devices whose STQC certification has not been renewed and on which there were nil or fewer transactions reported have already been hot listed w.e.f 01.01.2023. The devices reporting higher authentication transactions would be hot listed on 31.03.2024.
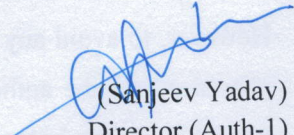
(b)   UIDAI vide letter No. HQ- 13029/1/2021-Auth-I-HQ dated 23.12.2022 has also asked all AUA/KUA to identify the L0 registered devices having low authentication success rate (below 30%) or are more than five years old vintage and to remove such devices from the authentication ecosystem in a phased manner.

(c)   Timelines for phase out of fingerprint L0 Registered devices are as follows:

Date	Roll out Plan of fingerprint L1 compliant Registered Device	Remarks
31/03/2023	Fingerprint L0 RD deployed before 31.12.2014	AUA/KUA to give self declaration, that no fingerprint L0 RD deployed are of before 31.12.2014
30/06/2023	Fingerprint L0 RD deployed before 31.12.2016	AUA/KUA to give self declaration, that no fingerprint L0 RD deployed are of before 31.12.2016
31/12/2023	Fingerprint L0 RD deployed before 31.12.2019	AUA/KUA to give self declaration, that no fingerprint L0 RD deployed are of before 31.12.2019
30/06/2024	Sunset of fingerprint L0 RD	No authentication transaction will be passed through fingerprint L0 RD

4.   As the iris devices are relatively more secure, all the Iris L0 RD will continue to function as present.

5.   This issues with the approval of competent authority.

(Sanjeev Yadav)
Director (Auth-1)

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2. All Chief Secretaries of States/UT
3. DG, STQC
4. All DDGs, UIDAI (Head Quarters, Tech Centre, Regional offices)