Aadhaar is a must for MGNREGS work

Why in news?

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- From April 1, workers in rural areas enrolled under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), must have an Aadhaar card.
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- The EPFO has also made it mandatory for 50 lakh pensioners and four crore subscribers to provide either the Aadhaar number or proof that they have applied for it.
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What the cabinet secretariat said?

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- Those who have registered under the scheme will be required to give furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar or undergo the enrolment process till March 31.
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- However, till an Aadhaar card is obtained, ration card, driving licence, voter identity card, Kisan passbook with photo, job card issued under the MGNREGS and a certificate issued by a gazetted officer or a tehsildar will be admissible as proof of identity.
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- Those who have applied for Aadhaar can produce their enrolment slip or a copy of the application for getting the 12-digit unique identification number.
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What is Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act?

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- Section 7 – mandates that when the government gives subsidy, benefit or

service from the Consolidated Fund of India, **an individual can be asked to undergo authentication or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar.**
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- The expenditure for the MGNREGS is met from the Consolidated Fund of India. A sum of Rs. 38,500 crore has been allocated for the MGNREGS in the current fiscal.
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How the move will help? It will **prevent leakages of subsidies and ensure that the beneficiaries get their due.**

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What is DBT scheme?

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- The DBT scheme, aimed at checking leakages of welfare funds, was launched on January 1, 2013 to cover 24 schemes of eight Ministries.
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- Under the DBT, all cash benefits are transferred to the beneficiary's bank account.
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- The Centre has asked its departments and the State governments to **widen the scope of the DBT scheme to include all monetary and in-kind transfers.**
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- To spread the scheme further, it was shifted to the Cabinet Secretariat last year, and its implementation is being monitored by the PMO.
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Source: The Hindu

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