November 2, 2026

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

IWAI may use voluntary Aadhaar checks on its Jalyan portal

S.O. 5954(E) lets IWAI use voluntary Aadhaar authentication for vessel owners, crew, shipbuilders and ship designers on its Jalyan and Navic Portal.

THE MINISTRY OF PORTS, Shipping and Waterways issued notification S.O. 5954(E), dated November 2, 2026. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5722, dated November 2, 2026. The Central Government made it under 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, read with rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020. It is signed by Dr. Kamala Kanta Nath, Adviser (Statistics), under F. No. IWT-13011/3/2020-IWT.

KEY FACTS

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The notification records that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, after consulting the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), allowed the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to perform authentication, and permitted the use of the Aadhaar number during authentication, by letter e-F. No. 22(6)/2026-Cyberlaws dated April 24, 2026, for the purposes in rule 3(1) of the 2020 rules.

Authentication covers vessel owners, inland vessel crew members, shipbuilders and ship designers seeking registration in the User Module of IWAI's Jalyan and Navic Portal. It uses the Yes/No and/or e-KYC authentication facilities. The purpose is vessel registration, survey, certification, crew certification and other related services provided through the portal. The notification says authentication for this purpose is on a voluntary basis.

IWAI must get the consent of the Aadhaar number holder. It must tell the person about four other means of identification: a Passport, a Voter Identity Card (EPIC), a Driving Licence or a Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card. It may not deny any service to a person who refuses, or is unable, to undergo Aadhaar authentication.

The notification comes into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. The Gazette issue is headed November 2, 2026; its ID, CG-DL-E-06112026-277735, and its digital signature date the online copy November 6, 2026. The notification does not give the portal's web address, does not list the "other related services", and does not say how IWAI is to keep or use the details it gets through authentication.

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Document	Notification S.O. 5954(E)
Dated	November 2, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5722, November 2, 2026

Gazette ID	CG-DL-E-06112026-277735; the online copy is dated November 6, 2026
In force from	The date of publication in the Official Gazette
Authority allowed	Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
Who may be verified	Vessel owners, inland vessel crew members, shipbuilders and ship designers registering in the User Module of the Jalyan and Navic Portal
Services	Vessel registration, survey, certification, crew certification and other related services provided through the portal
Type of authentication	Yes/No and/or e-KYC; voluntary
Conditions	Consent of the Aadhaar number holder; no service denied to a person who refuses or is unable to undergo authentication
Other accepted identification	Passport; Voter Identity Card (EPIC); Driving Licence; Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card
MeitY permission	Letter e-F. No. 22(6)/2026-Cyberlaws, April 24, 2026, after consulting UIDAI
Legal basis	Section 4(4)(b)(ii), Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016; rule 5, Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020
Signed by	Dr. Kamala Kanta Nath, Adviser (Statistics)
File number	F. No. IWT-13011/3/2020-IWT

The notification (PDF, 551 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-06112026-277735.

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