

other inland waterways projects worth more than Rs. 1000 Crore during the event.

■ **UIDAI Issues Guidelines for Offline Verification of Aadhaar Numbers**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has released guidelines for Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) to improve security measures for users and increase trust in using Aadhaar voluntarily for lawful purposes. OVSEs are organisations that conduct offline verification of an Aadhaar number holder for lawful purposes. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has stated that entities have been instructed to perform verification of Aadhaar only after obtaining explicit consent from the Aadhaar number holder. These entities are also required to be respectful towards residents and assure them of the security and confidentiality of their Aadhaar while conducting offline verification. UIDAI has also recommended that OVSEs use the QR code present on Aadhaar letters, e-Aadhaar, m-Aadhaar and Aadhaar PVC cards, instead of accepting Aadhaar in physical or electronic form as proof of identity. UIDAI has also informed OVSEs that they should not collect, use, or store the Aadhaar number of the resident after conducting offline verification of Aadhaar.