Bal Aadhaar initiative

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In news– The Unique Identification Authority has enrolled more than 79 lakh children in the 0 – 5 age group under Bal Aadhaar initiative during April – July of the current financial year.

About the initiative-

- Bal Aadhaar **works as a facilitator in availing several welfare benefits**, and also works as a digital photo identity for children right from birth.

- **Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued Bal Aadhaar.**

- **Collection of biometric (fingerprints and iris) is a key feature in issuing Aadhaar** as the same is required to establish uniqueness based on de-duplication of these biometrics.
- However, for Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years, these biometrics are not collected.
- **Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years are carried out based on facial image of the child,** and biometric authentication of the parent/guardian (having a valid Aadhaar).
- **A proof of relationship document (preferably birth certificate)** is collected at the time of enrolment for Bal Aadhaar.
- **To differentiate the Bal Aadhaar from normal Aadhaar, it is issued in blue colour, with a remark that this is valid till the child attains the age of 5 years.**
- On attaining the age of 5, the child is required to furnish his or her biometrics at an Aadhaar Seva Kendra to complete a process calle**d mandatory biometric update** (MBU).
- **The MBU process goes through a de-duplication process**. After completion of this process, the child is issued a

normal Aadhaar without any change in the Aadhaar number.

- Bal Aadhaar registration is progressing very well, with increased speed across the country.
- Overall, Aadhaar saturation at present is around 94%. Aadhaar saturation among adults is almost 100%.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)-

- It is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- UIDAI was created to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
- It is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and performing authentication and the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.