

# Aadhaar to do away with witnesses for property registration from next month

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**C**ome February, homebuyers will be able to register their properties simply through Aadhaar verification, without bothering about witnesses. The department of registration and stamps issued a notification last week allowing verified Aadhaar credentials for property deals from next month.

The state would be the first in the country to allow Aadhaar verification for property registration, said an official of the

department. The decision was pending for the past year, said the official.

"An amendment was made to Section 32A of the Registration Act, 1908, to introduce the new system. Aadhaar verification will fulfil the requirements of Section 32A of the Registration Act, 1908, which relates to compulsory affixing of photograph," said an official at the state inspector-general of registration (IGR) office.

The official said the new system would reduce crowding at registration offices.

"With about 90% adults having Aadha-

ar cards, the process would be simpler and transparent," said the official at the IGR office, adding that the consent-based Aadhaar authentication service would be cost-effective and fully auditable.

The online Aadhaar verification was on for leave and licence registration. "The same will be done for the registration of new properties," said a senior official in the IGR's office.

More than 7,000 documents are registered across the state daily and about 24 lakh registrations take place in a year.