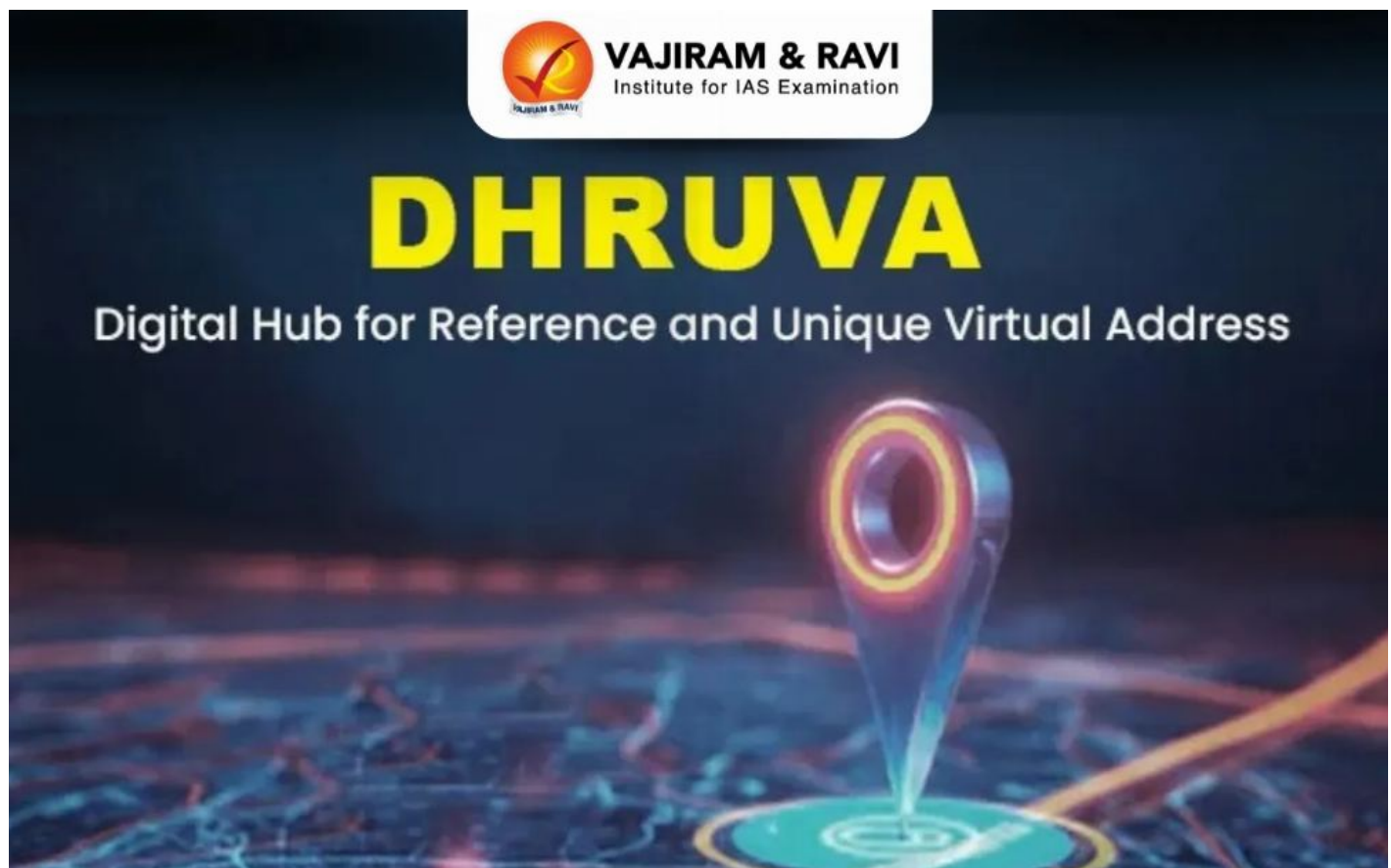


Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address

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Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA) Latest News

The Department of Posts recently released a draft amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023, aimed at introducing an interoperable, standardised, and user-centric addressing system called the Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address, or DHRUVA.

About Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA)

- **Developed by the Department of Posts**, DHRUVA sets the foundation for a **nationwide Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.
- It envisions a **standardized, interoperable, and geocoded digital addressing system** that supports **secure, consent-based, and seamless sharing of address** information.
- **At its core** is the concept of **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** — the array of services associated with address data management to support **secure and efficient interactions between users, government entities,**

and **private** sector organizations.

- **The AaaS Framework Ensures:**

- **Interoperability across different address systems** used by various sectors.
- **Standardization of address formats** and **geolocation tagging**.
- **Consent-based sharing** to empower **user control and privacy**.
- **Public-private integration** for seamless adoption and innovation.

- **By recognizing digital addresses as core infrastructure, akin to Aadhaar** and Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**), DHRUVA sets out to streamline everything from e-governance and online commerce to urban planning and emergency services.
- The policy also places emphasis on **user-centric design**, ensuring that **citizens have meaningful control over how their address data is used** and shared.
- **Citizens will retain full control over their digital address identity**, with **options to manage access, update details, and share** their verified address securely for various use cases.
- The DHRUVA platform will also feature **multilingual support, mobile-first access, and integration with identity systems like Aadhaar**, thereby improving usability and accessibility for all demographics.
- The DHRUVA policy **builds upon the earlier launch of the Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN)**—the **National Addressing Grid** introduced by the **Department of Posts**.

Key Facts about DIGIPIN

- It is an **open-source nationwide geo-coded addressing system developed by the Department of Posts in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and NRSC, ISRO**.
- It **divides India into approx. 4m x 4m grids** and **assigns each grid a unique 10-character alphanumeric code based on latitude and longitude** coordinates.
- The DIGIPIN system is **publicly accessible** and supports improvements in emergency response, logistics efficiency, and citizen service delivery.

Source: TH

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