

Aadhaar data theft hasn't compromised UIDAI server: Cops

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BENGALURU: Cyber crime police officers questioning software developer Abhinav Srivastava, 31, arrested for allegedly stealing Aadhaar data, said his actions had not compromised the server of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

Srivastava, a software developer with Ola, had developed an Aadhaar e-KYC app that helped users illegally access Aadhaar data from the UIDAI server. Police discovered that around 40,000 users had downloaded the app in a span of seven months.

"Most of the downloads happened within the country. This is a relief as we had anticipated trouble if foreigners had laid their hands on Aadhaar data. We've studied around 22,000 downloads and most of them were by individuals/entities in Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru," police sources said.

Asked what would be the next step in the investigation, senior police officials said they will interact with officials from the e-hospital platform of National Informatics Centre. Srivastava's app would lead users to the e-hospital platform which had legitimate access to Aadhaar data. "We have already interacted with a few officials from UIDAI," sources said, adding, "We've been told the e-hospital server will soon be redesigned."

It may be recalled that police had on August 1 arrested Abhinav Srivastava, MSc graduate from IIT-Kharagpur, and currently employed with cab aggregator Ola as a software development engineer, for allegedly hacking and illegally accessing the UIDAI server. The arrest was made after UIDAI officials filed a complaint with police. Preliminary investigations revealed that the accused had helped internet users download demographic data -- details like address, mobile phone number, email address, age and sex -- of at least 40,000 Aadhaar cardholders.