Trai chief's data not from Aadhaar database: UIDAI

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The UIDAI today said that the personal details of Trai chief R S Sharma being put out on Twitter are not from the Aadhaar database or its servers, and that "so called hacked information" is easily available with a simple search on Google and other sites, without using the 12-digit unique identity number.

The UIDAI jumped into the debate following a full blown war of words on Twitter between Trai chairman RS Sharma and some users over the potential of the Aadhaar number being misused.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) chairman yesterday shared his Aadhaar number publicly, challenging anyone to show how mere knowledge of the number can be misused to harm him. The move had triggered a tsunami of tweets with Twitterati claiming to have obtained Sharma's personal details – from PAN to mobile number.

In a statement today, the UIDAI said: "...any information published on Twitter about the said individual...RS Sharma was not fetched from Aadhaar database or UIDAI's servers.

"In fact, this so-called 'hacked' information (about Sharma's personal details such as his address, date of birth, photo, mobile number, e-mail, etc.) was already available in the public domain as he (was) a public servant for decades and was easily available on Google and various other sites by a simple search without Aadhaar number."

Rubbishing all claims that Sharma's personal details were dug up using his Aadhaar number, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) said it "condemns such

malicious attempts by few individuals to malign the world's largest unique identity project - Aadhaar".

Many users had claimed that they got Sharma's personal details "by hacking Aadhaar database", but the UIDAI said such a claim was "farce" and that no such information about Sharma has been fetched from either its servers or Aadhaar database. The Aadhaar database is safe, the UIDAI added.

"This is merely cheap publicity by these unscrupulous elements who try to attract attention by creating such fake news," it said.

Anyone can google or tap other sources and find out Sharma's personal details without Aadhaar, UIDAI said, pointing out that the Trai chief's mobile number is available on the NIC website as he was, at one point, the IT secretary.

Similarly, other details like date of birth are available in the civil list of IAS officers kept in public domain, while his address is on Trai website given his current role. The email id may be available in public domain too, it added. "They clubbed all these inputs and claimed that they have managed to breach Aadhaar database and got his personal details, which is completely false," the statement said.

The UIDAI said that given the connected digital world, various search engines such as Google, can throw up personal data "without Aadhaar" and a profile can be made.