

Unique Identification Authority of India

Press Statement

11th Sept. 2018

New Delhi: Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) hereby dismisses a news report appearing in social and online media about Aadhaar Enrolment Software being allegedly hacked as completely incorrect and irresponsible. The claims lack substance and are baseless. UIDAI further said that certain vested interests are deliberately trying to create confusion in the minds of people which is completely unwarranted.

UIDAI in a statement today said that claims made in the report about Aadhaar being vulnerable to tampering leading to ghost entries in Aadhaar database by purportedly bypassing operators' biometric authentication to generate multiple Aadhaar cards is totally baseless. The report itself accepts that "it (patch) doesn't seek to access information stored in the Aadhaar database". Its further claim "to introduce information" into Aadhaar database is completely unfounded as UIDAI matches all the biometric (10 fingerprints and both iris) of a resident enrolling for Aadhaar with the biometrics of all Aadhaar holders before issuing an Aadhaar.

UIDAI said that it has taken all necessary safeguard measures spanning from providing standardized software that encrypts entire data even before saving to any disk, protecting data using tamper proofing, identifying every one of the of operators in "every" enrolment, identifying every one of thousands of machines using a unique machine registration process, which ensures every encrypted packet is tracked. UIDAI has taken full measures to ensure end-to-end security of resident data, spanning from full encryption of resident data at the time of capture, tamper resistance, physical security, access control, network security, stringent audit mechanism, 24x7 security and fraud management system monitoring, and measures such as data partitioning and data encryption within UIDAI controlled data centres.

UIDAI further clarified that no operator can make or update Aadhaar unless resident himself give his biometric. Any enrolment or update request is processed only after biometrics of the operator is authenticated and resident's biometrics is de-duplicated at the backend of UIDAI system. UIDAI said that as part of its stringent enrolment and updation process, UIDAI checks enrolment operator's biometric and other parameters before processing of the enrolment or updates and only after all checks are found to be successful, enrolment or update of resident is further processed. Therefore it is not possible to introduce ghost entries into Aadhaar database.

UIDAI said that even in a hypothetical situation where by some manipulative attempt, essential parameters such as operator's biometrics or resident's biometrics are not captured, blurred and such a ghost enrolment/update packet is sent to UIDAI, the same is identified by the robust backend system of UIDAI, and all such enrolment packets get rejected and no Aadhaar is generated. Also, the concerned enrolment machines and the operators are identified, blocked and blacklisted permanently from the UIDAI system. In appropriate cases, police complaints are also filed for such fraudulent attempts.

UIDAI said that similar allegations were also made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court during hearing of the Aadhaar case before the Constitution Bench which were then adequately responded by the UIDAI in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

UIDAI said that reported claim of "anybody is able to create an entry into Aadhaar database, then the person can create multiple Aadhaar cards" is completely false. Some of the checks include biometric check of operator, validity of operator, enrolment machine, enrolment agency, registrar, etc. which are verified at UIDAI's backend system before further processing is done. In cases where, any of the checks fails, the enrolment request gets rejected and therefore any claim of creating multiple Aadhaar and compromising the database is false.

If an operator is found violating UIDAI's strict enrolment and update processes or if one indulges in any type of fraudulent or corrupt practices, UIDAI blocks and blacklists them and imposes financial penalty upto Rs.1 lakh per instance. It is because of this stringent and robust system that as on date more that 50,000 operators have been blacklisted, UIDAI added.

UIDAI said that it keeps adding new security features in its system as required from time-to-time to thwart new security threats by unscrupulous elements.

UIDAI has also advised people to approach only the authorized Aadhaar enrolment centres in bank branches, post offices and Government offices for their enrolment/updation so that their enrolment/updation is done only on authorized machines and their efforts do not get wasted because of rejection of their enrolments or updates . (The list of authorized Aadhaar Kendra is available on UIDAI website www.uidai.gov.in).

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