

# Don't pay attention to helpline buzz: UIDAI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Unique Identification Authority of India has asked people not to pay heed to rumours over its helpline number appearing in mobile phone software and said Aadhaar data remains absolutely safe.

In a statement, UIDAI said Google had accepted the error of the defunct UIDAI helpline being part of the software supplied to phone manufacturers, and opponents of Aadhaar were attempting to scare people.

"It may be noted that Google has clarified that UIDAI's old contact number 18003001947 was added by it inadvertently along with police/fire number 112 in 2014 and has since been continu-



ing through sync mechanism. It has also expressed its regret for the same. Google has also assured that it will fix this inadvertent error in their next release," the UIDAI said.

The authority expected that Google, a large digital platform provider, would exercise due care so that such mistakes were not repeated in future.

"Rumours are being floa-

ted in some social media that this number has mysteriously popped up on mobile devices and will be harmful. This is not correct," UIDAI said. It added that merely having a helpline number, that too an outdated one, on a mobile/smartphone could not cause harm and should be simply deleted. No data could be stolen.

UIDAI said Aadhaar was a credible and secure identity which could be freely used anywhere, any time and online. People were able to get their rightful entitlements directly into their bank accounts without any middlemen, it added.

It also helped curb tax evasion, money launderers, benami accounts and shell companies, UIDAI said.