

Philippines keen to learn from Aadhaar project

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NEW DELHI: Visiting Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte showed keen interest in Aadhaar, India's unique identity number programme, in a bilateral meeting with PM Narendra Modi on Thursday, an official from the external affairs ministry said.

Duterte has approved 2 billion Philippine pesos in funding for his country's statistics authority to proceed with an Aadhaar-like project. A team from The Philippines was in India last week to study the Aadhaar programme, Preeti Saran, secretary east in the external affairs ministry, said.

CONTINUED ON P 8

Aadhaar

The system was also praised by the Singapore prime minister.

"India's Aadhaar system creates many new opportunities, for instance, to harmonise India-Asean Fintech platforms or connect e-payment systems," Lee Hsien Loong wrote in a newspaper article ahead of the summit.

The thumbs-up comes at a time when the Supreme Court is hearing a slew of petitions about whether Aadhaar violates right to privacy and personal freedom.