Aadhaar data kept on own secure servers, says UIDAI

New Delhi: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Wednesday rejected charges that foreign firms were accessing sensitive data, saying no Aadhaar information has ever been stored or processed outside its own data centre and resides only within its fully-secured servers.

"Aadhaar data is fully safe and secure and has robust uncompromised security. The UIDAI data centre is an infrastructure of critical importance and is protected accordingly with high technology, conforming to the best standards of security," the UIDAI said in a statement. The UIDAI, which is the Aadhaar issuing body, said such data is accessible only to the biometric software provider's solution for the purpose of processing of data "within the highly secure environment of UIDAI data centre".

The Aadhaar data is stored, kept and processed only on the UIDAI severs within its data centre. Moreover, it said these servers have no linkages to the "outside world" through the Internet or any other means, including laptops and pen drives. The data centre premises are fully protected "physically", the UIDAI claimed, adding that hardware supplies are also tested twice before being put to use in the data centre. "No Aadhaar data has ever been kept, stored or processed outside the UIDAI data centre and is always on UIDAI servers," it added.

The UIDAI said the role of the biometric service providers is to offer de-duplication software which too runs on UIDAI's secure servers and data centres. AGENCIES