

# ‘SC’s judgement on privacy protects Aadhar’

**WASHINGTON:** The recent Supreme Court order on the right to privacy lays down the correct exemptions which protects Aadhar, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has said.

Jaitley, who is in the US to attend the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, was responding to a question at the prestigious Columbia University on how the government is planning to handle Aadhar after the recent Supreme Court decision on the right to privacy.

In its judgement in August, a nine-judge bench decreed that that right to privacy is part of the fundamental rights to life and liberty enshrined in the Constitution.

The judgement has been interpreted by many as a setback to the Aadhar card, under which the government collects vital personal information of the citizens.

“I do believe that the Supreme Court judgement on the privacy matter in accordance with the current timing is a correct judgement. It lays down the correct exceptions which protects Aadhar,” Jaitley told students.

“Article 21 reads that no person can be deprived of his right to life and liberty without procedures established by the law. That procedure has to



be fair and just,” he said.

Jaitley said that some of the judges also went into what would be the exceptions to the law of privacy.

“The first exception they say is national security. The second exception they say is detection and prevention of crime. And the third exception judges say is distribution of socio-economic benefits,” he said.

He said the third exception had been carved out specifically to protect Aadhar.

“For instance, nobody can see that I spent Rs 1 crore in cash and you can’t ask me the source, because it violates my privacy...So I think, these exception have been well brought out in the judgement itself,” he said.

There is a chapter in the Aadhar law which deals with certain aspects like the manner in which data is to be protected and the consequences of violation, he said.

“So all those safeguard provisions have been brought into the law,” he asserted. **AGENCIES**