

Aadhaar just an ID: Nandan Nilekani

Bengaluru: Infosys co-founder and former Unique Identification Authority of India chairman Nandan Nilekani Monday said Aadhaar did not qualify as a tool for surveillance and privacy and it was just an ID. Defending Aadhaar, he said it never collected data on individual.

"It (Aadhaar) is a much simpler system because the privacy problem becomes more acute when there is an organisation collecting data on you. Aadhaar was never collecting data on you.

All that Aadhaar was doing was giving an ID and doing verification. So, it is not

really a great candidate for this (surveillance)," he said.

He said privacy is different from surveillance. "...Especially privacy is used in the market sense where a business is not too much about you and, therefore, you can commercialise it," Nilekani said during an interactive session at the National Executive Committee meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries here.

Nilekani said surveillance was more a state concern, in which state knows too much about the individuals and then uses it. ❧