

‘Can’t profile Aadhaar user from authentication history’

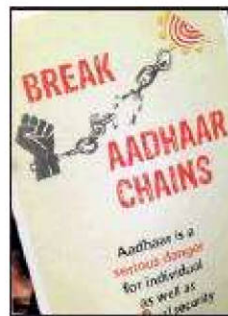
**Mahendra Singh and
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New Delhi: Profiling an Aadhaar user is near impossible even if authentication record is known as information revealed is minimal as compared to a person’s credit card history, an analysis carried out by UIDAI has shown.

An authentication history can lead to some guesswork but is short of profiling as the record only mentions ‘KUA’ (KYC User Agency, which could be bank, mobile company) or AUA (Authentication User Agency) where authentication was done, modality of authentication (OTP or biometric) and date and timing of the authentication.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) sources said profiling was not possible from the authentication history. UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey submitted his transaction log to Supreme Court and officials said the submission was to demonstrate what a transaction log looked like.

The UIDAI analysis using content willingly shared by some users showed that data could not be accessed without the con-



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sent of the person concerned. Trying to access data without authorisation is a criminal offence punishable under the Aadhaar Act.

The analysis showed that a bank statement could reveal much more, right from purchasing history, purchasing power, stay in hotels, eating habits, mobiles phones, electricity bills, TV channel, liabilities on a monthly basis, credit worthiness and children’s school or college.

In case of Aadhaar authentication history, the log has details of who authenticated and when and on what device but not details or location or type of transaction. UIDAI can know about the AUA which in this case was a bank. UIDAI will also know date and time of authentication and also if it succeeded or failed.

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the user did the authentication to link bank account to Aadhaar or for e-KYC at the bank. But UIDAI can’t know location of bank account, details and balance.

As per record, another authentication with a mobile services provider shows AUA name, date and time of authentication and success. One could make a guess by studying the history that authentication was done for SIM purchase or KYC or SIM port from prepaid to post-paid or vice versa.

However, the record didn’t tell anything about the SIM card or number. It also didn’t reflect the location of the transaction. In an earlier transaction AUA was directorate of income tax. It could be guessed that this was for filing of income tax return but history shows nothing about tax amount or salary details.