

Google admits it is behind UIDAI number on phones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

GOOGLE on Friday said that it was behind the appearance of an outdated Aadhaar helpline number in the contact lists of phones. The US Internet major clarified that it was not an unauthorised breach of the Android devices, adding that the issue would be fixed in a few weeks.

“Our internal review has revealed that in 2014, the then UIDAI helpline number and the 112 distress helpline number were inadvertently coded into the Set-Up wizard of the Android release given to OEMs for use in India and has remained there since. Since the numbers get listed on a user’s contact list these get trans-

ferred accordingly to the contacts on any new device,” a Google spokesperson said in a statement. “We are sorry for any concern that this might have caused,” the statement said.

Earlier in the day, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues the 12-digit Aadhaar number, had clarified that it had never asked manufacturers or telecom service providers to add the number to the list of public service numbers.

“18003001947 is not a valid UIDAI toll-free number and some vested interest are trying to create unwarranted confusion in the public. UIDAI’s valid toll-free number is 1947,” functional for over two years, UIDAI said.