

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
Press Statement
22nd June 2018

New Delhi: Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) today said that as per Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act, the biometrics data collected by UIDAI can be used only for the purpose of generating Aadhaar and for authentication of identity of the Aadhaar holders and cannot be used for any other purpose.

UIDAI was referring to some reports published in certain section of media about purported use of Aadhaar biometric data for the purpose of crime investigation and in that regard it has clarified that the use of or access to Aadhaar biometric data for criminal investigation is not permissible under Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.

UIDAI further said that Section 33 of the Aadhaar Act however allows a very limited exception and permits use of or access to Aadhaar biometric data in cases involving national security only after pre-authorization by an oversight committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. This is also the consistent stand taken by Union of India in the ongoing Aadhaar case in the Supreme Court.

It may be noted that based on this legal position, UIDAI has never shared any biometric data with any crime investigating agency. It may be underlined here that when Mumbai High Court gave orders to share biometric data with an investigating agency in a particular case, the matter was taken up to the Supreme Court which stayed that order.

####