

Stranger dug up online intimate data on me, wife, kids, says UIDAI counsel

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New Delhi: Allaying the Supreme Court's apprehensions about possible privacy violations through Aadhaar, UIDAI's counsel Rakesh Dwivedi made a startling disclosure on Wednesday that secretive foreign websites were amassing a huge amount of intimate data on individuals, but were unable to hack the Aadhaar database.

Arguing before a bench of CJI Dipak Misra and Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan on April 17, the senior advocate had thrown an open challenge to the petitioners to hack his personal data from the Aadhaar database while claiming that it was stored in the safest manner possible with no connection to the internet. The pet-



itioners have alleged that Aadhaar data was prone to misuse and posed a threat to citizens' privacy.

On Wednesday, Dwivedi, assisted by advocate Sansriti Pathak, told the SC that an anonymous person took up the challenge and dug out his personal details "using the website Pastebin". He handed over two pages listing 77 counts of personal information about him, his wife,

UIDAI's counsel Rakesh Dwivedi had thrown an open challenge to the petitioners to hack his personal data from the Aadhaar database. An anonymous person took up the challenge and dug out his personal details "using the website Pastebin"

daughters and son, brothers and sister:

The details included the legal fee he had charged the Akhilesh Singh Yadav government, his family members' voter ID card numbers, that he played Ranji Trophy in 1972 when his father was an SC judge, as also the name and nationality of the woman his son intends to marry. However, the data sheet did not contain any information he had

given for Aadhaar, not even the Aadhaar numbers of his family members. The anonymous sender of the private details about Dwivedi and his family also left him a message, "A humble response to the open challenge by Rakesh Dwivedi in the Supreme Court on April 17, 2018. This is a little bit I know of you with a few searches on Google (didn't check your Facebook profile, which sure will have a lot more 'private' information, or any other website that requires a login)."

If the court had peppered the Centre and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for two weeks with questions relating to possible privacy violations because of Aadhaar, it was Dwivedi's turn on the day he concluded his arguments to make the five judges sit back and take note.