INTERVIEW WITH CEO, UIDAI, AAY SHAHAN PANDEY

'Telcos have stopped Aadhaar authentications as of November 20'

TWO MONTHS after the Supreme Court ruling, AAY SHAHAN PANDEY, CEO, Unique Identification Authority of India spoke to INDIAN EXPRESS about the path to full compliance and the issues that remain unclear. He said that all telecom operators have stopped Aadhaar authentications as of November 20, and that UIDAI has put on hold the contracts of Authentication User Agencies (AUA) and KYC User Agencies (KUA) that should not be using Aadhaar for authentication.

Edited Excerpts:

What will happen to the Aadhaar data that public and private entities stored earlier?

The Supreme Court order doesn't say anything on this. The fingerprints were not getting stored (by private entities), because it immediately gets encrypted and then comes to UIDAI. What (private entities) had was your KYC information: name, address, photograph, gender and date of birth. The Court hasn't said anything about what is to be done about the previously stored KYC information. As long as the bank account is operational, the underlying KYC has to be there and you can't just delete KYC. In fact, it could harm the account holder. However, I have suggested to the banks, telecom operators and other companies that in case somebody comes and says that he/she wants to delete Aadhaar KYC, let him/her provide new KYC alternatively, and delete their earlier (bank accounts).

What steps has UIDAI taken to delete the authentication logs that are more than six months old?

A major part has already been deleted. Data is lying all over the place, so we can't just go and press a button and do this. There are thousands of places, tapes and computers there. It should be completed over the next few weeks.

Will it become an automated process after that?

Yes. And we have written our own software that will delete logs older than six months.

When a minor becomes an adult and they have the option to 'opt out', what will that do?

That is a question we will have to examine very carefully. Right now the legal advice that we have received is that the Aadhaar will have to be deactivated and it will become unusable and remain blocked forever.

Will it also delete the minor's biometric information?

The Court order doesn't say anything of that kind. If you delete the whole thing then again there is the question of underlying KYC and that problem will arise.

How many opt out requests have you received?

We haven't received any.

The Supreme Court verdict, upholding Section 59, said that the UIDAI can go back to all the people who were enrolled before the Aadhaar Act was passed, seek their consent and anybody who wants can opt out. Your opinion on this...

I don't think that is there. The judgment has validated Section 59 and there is no question of re-opening that chapter as far as the previous enrollees are concerned.

Did you meet the Election Commission recently regarding the SC ruling?

Yes, and we explained two things to the Commission: if you want to use Aadhaar authentication on a voluntary basis, then you have to have a law. But physical Aadhaar card can be used anywhere by the person on a voluntary basis. Secondly, based on the opinion we took from the Attorney General, we told them that Aadhaar card in an electronic form can also be used by scanning the downloaded QR code. None of these offline methods involve authentication. Authentication means that a standing is kept in the Central Identities Data Repository, which is the UIDAI's central data server.

How many digital signatures have been downloaded till now?

People are downloading 3 to 4 lakh electronic Aadhaar everyday which has a QR code among other things. If someone downloads it today, he/she can use it several times and I (UIDAI) wouldn't know who is using it and for what.

What do you think will happen to the Aadhaar ecosystem that was being used by entities such as Fintech?

The offline verification is a viable option. It gives you the same level of identity confirmation and same level of assurance. It is only a question of deactivating from authentication to offline verification.

How are private authorities such as AUAs and KUAs still using Aadhaar-based authentication?

If it is being used for any delivery of public services or any bank related work, whether it is a private entity or state government, that is allowed. What the court has discussed is that the purpose of authentication must be sanctioned by law, and not the actors (authentication agencies) involved.

Are you reviewing your contracts with the AUAs/KUAs right now?

We are reviewing them one by one. Prima facie, we have put them on hold those that should not be using it and we are asking them, what purpose they are using it for. We have written to everyone. We don't want to take some hasty action that may lead people to suffer. We have told them, you have to use it only for purposes allowed by law. If you are using it for other purposes, then it has to stop, else they may be held in contempt.

This month Reliance Jio and Airtel have done 30 million authentications each. Is this in contempt to the SC order?

But now they have stopped. On November 20, they switched over to the new system and this is what I have been told.

Many entities are still insisting on Aadhaar. Is there a possible grievance redressal?

We haven't made it mandatory. Either the person making it mandatory should be responsible or the regulator who is regulating the sector.
‘आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस’ के जरिये फार्मी निशान से बायोमेट्रिक प्रणाली में सेव संबंध
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रेटावली
- गाली निशान फिंगर फिंगरबिट सत्तवायण की संबंधित कर सकता है
- नूतनी के विभाजित कर सकता है

बैंकिंग हेल्पलाइनों ने ‘आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस’ (ईएचआई) का एक ऐसा उपकरण विकसित किया है जो मनुष्य की अंगुलियों के फार्मी निशान से बायोमेट्रिक सत्तवायण प्रणाली में सेव
सेव करने में सहायता पूर्वोढ़ में सहायता है।

फिंगरबिट सत्तवायण प्रणाली को व्यक्तियों के बीच सत्तवायण भर्ती में सहायता पूर्वोढ़ में सहायता है जो आयात की वजह से सुरक्षित पहचान प्रणाली का सबसे अधिक संबंध में रहने वाला है।

अमेरिका की नूतनी के विभाजित कर सकता है। बैंकिंग हेल्पलाइनों ने इन प्रणालियों में भी विभाजित कर सकता है।

किस्मतीय विभाजित कर सकता है। बैंकिंग हेल्पलाइनों ने इन प्रणालियों में भी विभाजित कर सकता है।

होने के बाबत भविष्य के लिए विभाजित कर सकता है। बैंकिंग हेल्पलाइनों ने इन प्रणालियों में भी विभाजित कर सकता है।
दृष्टिबाधित अध्यापकों को बायोमीट्रिक हाजिरी से छूट

नई दिल्ली | वििशिष्ट व्याख्या

दिल्ली के सरकारी स्कूलों में पढ़ा रहे दृष्टिबाधित शिक्षकों को बायोमीट्रिक हाजिरी के नियम से छूट मिली है।

शिक्षा निर्देशालय के दो हिस्से के जी एक सरकारी अनुसूची, अब दृष्टिबाधित शिक्षक पहुँचने तय के स्कूलों में हाजिरी लगाने के लिए अपने आपार नबर प्रवासन पड़ता है। दृष्टिबाधित शिक्षकों के लिए यह कठिनाई भग था।

इससे वे एकही और अन्य के नियमों का सामना कर रहे थे। लेकिन अब नेशनल व्यार्ड युवा प्रवित्तिमंडल का एक शिक्षा निर्देशालय के दो हिस्से पहुँचने के लिए विशेष आयोजन के तहत यह छूट दी जाए।

शिक्षकों को संबंधित में होते हुए उर्ध्वश्वासन ने शिक्षकों के अनुसूची की मानवीय आधार पर नहीं ठहराई दी और सभी दृष्टिबाधित स्कूलों में दृष्टियोजन के तहत अपनी हाजिरी लगाने की छूट दी जाती है।