

UIDAI: Trai Chief's Personal Details Not Fetched from Aadhaar Database

Our Bureau

New Delhi: No data could be fetched by any hacker from UIDAI or any other website using TRAI chairman Ram Sewak Sharma's Aadhaar number that he voluntarily disclosed on Twitter on Saturday, the UIDAI said on Sunday.

Sharma had put out his Aadhaar number on Twitter, throwing a challenge to people to show him one concrete example of how his unique identity could be used to harm him. Many hackers subsequently put out Sharma's mobile number, PAN number and details like his date of birth, residential address and profile pictures online, claiming they traced this from his Aadhaar number. "UIDAI emphatically states that any information published on Twitter about the said individual, RS Sharma was not fetched from Aadhaar database or UIDAI's servers. In fact, this so-called 'hacked' information was already available on Google and various other sites by a simple search without Aadhaar number," UIDAI said in a statement, condemning such "malicious attempts to malign Aadhaar".

UIDAI said Aadhaar has built the digital trust among people at large and these devious elements are trying to spread misinformation. "Aadhaar database is totally safe and its security robustness has been proven over last eight years. Some people boasted that they had got Sharma's aforesaid personal details by hacking Aadhaar database. This claim is a farce and people should not believe such fraudulent elements active on social and other media. This is merely cheap publicity by these unscrupulous elements who try to attract attention by creating such fake news," the UIDAI added.

UIDAI said Sharma's mobile number is available on NIC website as he was once secretary IT. "His date of birth is available in the civil list of IAS officers and his address is on TRAI website. Similarly, his email ID may be available in public domain. They clubbed all these inputs and claimed that they have managed to breach Aadhaar database and got his personal details, which is completely false," the UIDAI said.

The organisation said in today's digital world through various search engines such as Google, personal data can be picked from different sources without Aadhaar and a profile can be made. "People usually give PAN or mobile number at many places. Someone can pick other personal data from different websites as he gets to know his PAN/mobile number. Can anyone demand on this basis that PAN number is unsafe and should be abolished?" UIDAI said