

UIDAI clamps down on 50 fraud sites offering Aadhaar services

NEW DELHI: In a crackdown on unauthorised agencies offering Aadhaar-related services illegally and charging excessive money from the public, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has shut down 12 such websites and 12 mobile applications available on Google Play.

The UIDAI has ordered the authorities to shut another 26 such fraudulent and illegal websites and mobile applications.

“Some websites and mobile applications were luring citizens to share their basic information and Aadhaar numbers under the pretext of getting them Aadhaar card or offering Aadhaar-related services. We have taken strict action against them,” UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey told PTI. “We will continue to keep vigil on such websites and mobile applications and

if something comes to our notice, we will take swift action...”

At present, any Aadhaar-related demographic information can only be shared as per the procedures laid down in the Aadhaar Act. Any violation is punishable under Section 38 and Chapter VII of the Aadhaar Act.

Unauthorised services

The UIDAI said these illegal websites and mobile applications were providing unauthorised services such as downloading online Aadhaar card, providing status of Aadhaar generation and PVC Aadhaar card. In the process, these agencies were illegally obtaining the Aadhaar number and enrolment details from the residents. “The UIDAI has not authorised the owners of these applications or websites to extend any Aadhaar-related

service on its behalf,” Mr. Pandey said.

Warning websites and mobile applications against the illegal use of Aadhaar logo in violation of the Aadhaar Act and the Copyright Act, he said the UIDAI was contemplating stern action against them. “As per Section 70 of the IT Act, the Government has declared the UIDAI’s Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) facilities, Information assets, logistics infrastructure and dependencies installed at UIDAI locations to be critically protected system,” he added.

www.uidai.gov.in is the only authorised website of UIDAI, the statement said adding that for Aadhaar related services, people should visit either the official website or authorised Common Service Centres or Aadhaar Permanent Enrolment Centres. - PTI