

# Cannot share Aadhaar details for crime inquiry, UIDAI tells HC

'Biometric details need to be protected'

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The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has told the Delhi High Court that it cannot share Aadhaar details such as core biometrics information with investigating agencies to match chance prints and photographs from crime scenes.

The UIDAI said the objective of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, is to empower the people with a unique identity and digital platform only for the purpose of 'identity proof'.

## Against the law

"There is clear prohibition under the law against sharing or using core biometrics for any reason whatsoever," the UIDAI said in an affidavit filed in response to a petition by the State prosecution seeking to match the chance prints and photographs of unknown accused, who allegedly committed robbery and murder in 2018, with data of Aadhaar.

The UIDAI said it does not collect biometric information such as iris scan and fingerprints based on technologies, standards or procedures suitable for forensic purposes.

"Therefore using the biometric data for random matching purposes may not



Clear prohibition under the law against sharing or using core biometrics, says UIDAI

be technologically feasible and shall be beyond the purview of the Act," it said.

Additionally, the UIDAI submitted that as per the mandate of the Aadhaar Act and the direction of the Supreme Court, such information cannot be provided without giving an opportunity of hearing to the Aadhaar cardholder in question.

"Biometric information is unique to an individual and therefore is sensitive information and needs to be protected to thwart any possibility of misuse," the UIDAI said.

It explained that for Aadhaar-based authentication in all cases, it is essential that both the 'live biometric' and the Aadhaar number is made available for a proper response.

The High Court will hear the case on May 18.