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About 180 children go missing on an average every day, according to CRY. Photo: Indranil Bhounik/Mint

About 500 missing children traced through Aadhaar: UIDAI

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PTI

Kids found in orphanage underwent Aadhaar enrolment and it was found that his or her 12-digit biometric identifier had already been made

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New Delhi: As many as 500 missing children have been traced over the last few months through Aadhaar, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Ajay Bhushan Pandey, said on Friday.

“Over the last few months, more than 500 missing children have been identified through Aadhaar,” he said addressing a session at the Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS) 2017. Explaining this, he said this happened in instances where a child found in an orphanage underwent Aadhaar enrolment and it was found that his/her 12-digit biometric identifier had already been made. “...through that we are able to trace,” Pandey said.

On a lighter note, he said the script of classic Bollywood potboilers about siblings separating and re-uniting after decades would now have to be re-worked with Aadhaar in the picture. India is among the nations with the largest number of children in the world, with about 40% of the 1.2 billion population being below the age of 18, according to 2011 Census.

According to Child Rights and You (CRY), an NGO working for child rights, the number of children who went missing and remain untraced across the country increased by about 84% between 2013 and 2015. It quoted government data to say about 180 children go missing on an average every day.

Speaking at the session on Digital Identity for All: Global Best Practices, Pandey further said the total saving so far on account of Aadhaar was over \$10 billion as its

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Simon, Pandey said adding that 77% of adults have Aadhaar.

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