

A day after [NCRB](#) made a case for limited Aadhaar data access for the police to crack crimes, UIDAI on Friday asserted that use of [Aadhaar biometric data](#) for [criminal investigation](#) is not allowed under the [Aadhaar Act](#).

It also informed that Aadhaar data has never been shared with any crime [investigating agency](#).

The statement from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) came after National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Director Ish Kumar on Thursday made a strong pitch for the police to be provided with limited access to Aadhaar data, to aide them in catching first-time offenders and for identification of unidentified bodies.

"...the use of or access to [Aadhaar biometric data](#) for [criminal investigation](#) is not permissible under Section 29 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016," UIDAI said in a statement.

The "very limited" exception to this, said UIDAI, is allowed under Section 33 of the Aadhaar Act, which permits use of or access to [Aadhaar biometric data](#) in cases involving national security only after pre-authorisation by an oversight committee headed by the [Cabinet Secretary](#). **ALSO READ: [UIDAI delays face recognition rollout for Aadhaar verification until Aug 1](#)**

"This is also the consistent stand taken by [Union of India](#) in the ongoing Aadhaar case in the Supreme Court," UIDAI said.

It further argued that under Aadhaar Act, the biometrics data collected by UIDAI "can be used only for the purpose of generating Aadhaar and for authentication of identity of the Aadhaar holders and cannot be used for any other purpose".

Based on this legal stance, UIDAI said, it has never shared any biometric data with any crime [investigating agency](#).

"It may be underlined here that when Mumbai High Court gave orders to share biometric data with an [investigating agency](#) in a particular case, the matter was taken up to the Supreme Court which stayed that order," the Aadhaar-issuing body said.

The [NCRB](#) Director had yesterday stated that around 50 lakh cases were registered every year in the country and most of them committed by first-time offenders, who leave their fingerprints, which would not be available in police records.

"There is need for access to Aadhaar data to police for the purpose of investigation. This is essential because 80 to 85 per cent of the criminals every year are first time offenders with no records (of them available) with the police. But, they also leave their fingerprints while committing crime, there is need for limited access to Aadhaar, so that we can catch them," he said.