TECH2

Friday, September 21, 2018 | Back to FIRSTPOST.

close

HOME
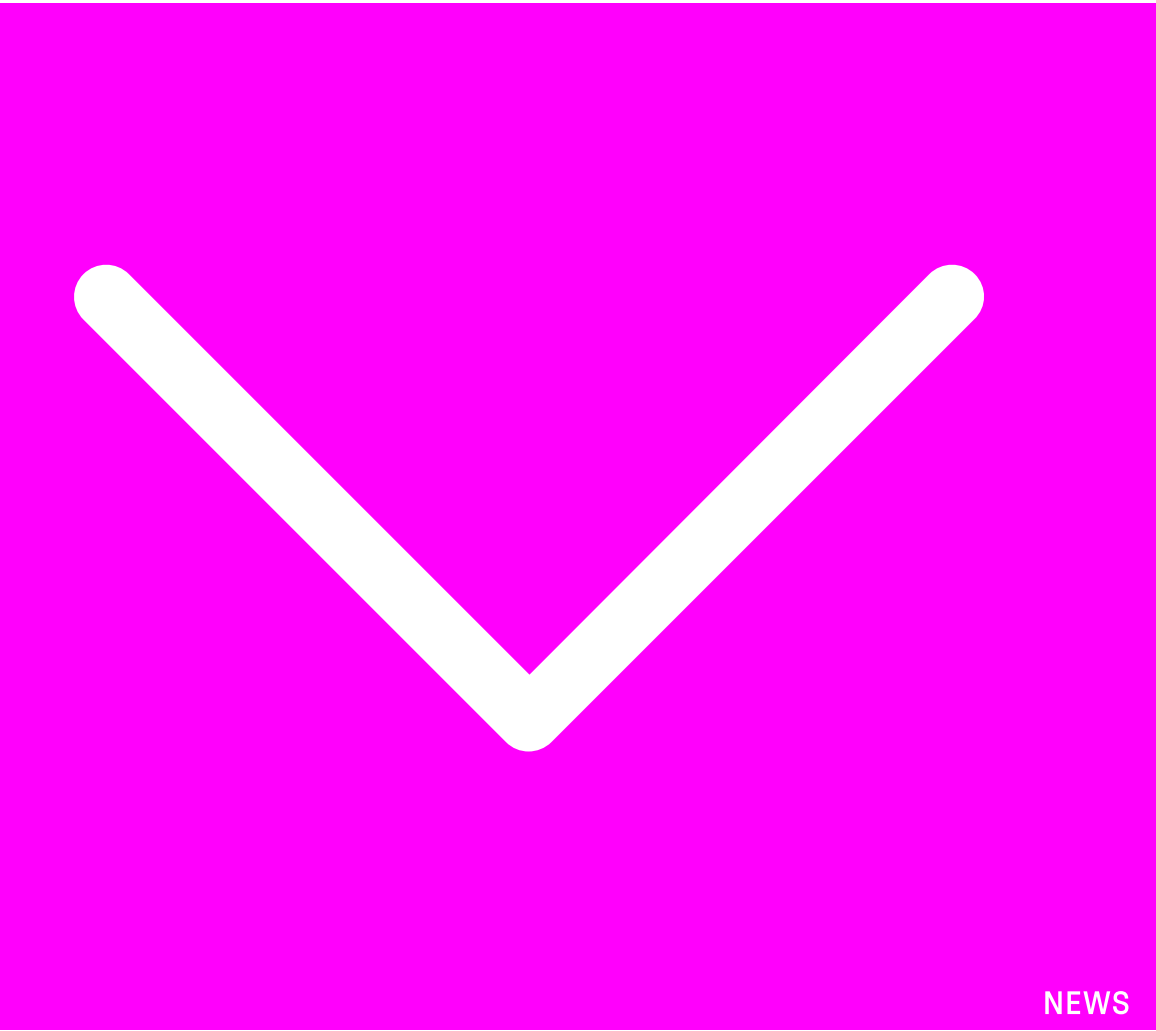
NEWS

REVIEWS ▼

SCIENCE

AUTO

GAMING

PHOTOS

APPLE 2018

VIDEOS

Technology News   /   News-Analysis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE   30 JULY, 2018 14:14 IST

RS SHARMA'S AADHAAR CHALLENGE IS A CASE OF 'MISPLACED ENTHUSIASM'

(f) (t) (...)   (💬) 0

Hackers exposed at least 14 personal details of the TRAI chairman since he revealed his Aadhaar number.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman R.S. Sharma's open Aadhaar challenge to critics and hackers is nothing but a case of "misplaced enthusiasm" which dilutes the debate on securing the Aadhaar eco-system, emphasise cyber law experts.

ENTREPRENEUR-**NXT**
EXPERIENCE-**NXT**
ECOSYSTEM-**NXT**

Representative image.

_____

Sharma, who made his **12-digit Aadhaar number open** on July 28 and created a tweetstorm — not as a government servant but "as a normal citizen of India" — can set a dangerous precedent for millions of Indians who are still not aware what privacy is all about.

"Throwing such a challenge only shows misplaced enthusiasm. He is treading a dangerous path which can be detrimental in days to come as his personal and bank details are now out in the open," Pavan Duggal, one of the leading cyberlaw experts in the country, told *IANS*.

What the TRAI Chairman has perhaps forgotten is that the central data repository at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) may be secure, but several third-party vendors are now increasingly accepting Aadhaar as a key document — and that opens it up for misuse, especially given the weak cybersecurity laws in the country.

"Several FIRs have been lodged against Aadhaar misuse across the country. People's confidence in Aadhaar is slowly being eroded and, at this juncture, rather than working extensively on securing Aadhaar, we see a top government official posting his Aadhaar number on Twitter," Duggal lamented.

Ethical hackers have exposed at least 14 personal details of the TRAI chairman since he revealed his Aadhaar number — including mobile numbers, home address, date of birth (DoB), PAN number and voter ID, among others.

Ethical hackers can't go beyond this as creating financial break-ins will land them in legal trouble.

"By the way, were you able to cause any harm to me, because now you know my Aadhaar number?" Sharma tweeted to a French security expert, who goes by the nickname Elliot Alderson and uses the twitter handle @fs0c131y, as his personal details began flying all over Twitter.

Alderson replied: "If your phone numbers, address, DoB, bank accounts and others personal details are easily found on the Internet you have no #privacy. End of the story."

According to Duggal, personal privacy breach begins with the phone number and it is a tragedy that most Indians — unlike Europeans or Americans — are still not aware what exactly constitutes privacy.

"Your phone number (becoming public knowledge) is the first hint that your private space has been breached. Would you wait for hackers to clean up your bank accounts?" asked Duggal.

As part of the European Union's **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) that came into force from May 25, EU citizens may, at any point, object to an organisation's handling of their personal data.

The regulation specifically names "direct marketing and profiling" as personal data uses to which individuals may object to.

The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee on data protection in India has also suggested amendments to the Aadhaar Act to provide for imposition of penalties on data fiduciaries and compensations to data principals for violations of the data protection law.

The 213-page report suggests amendments to the Aadhaar Act from a data protection perspective.

Jared Cohen, a former US State Department official and an expert on social media and cyber-crime issues, has also stressed there are serious concerns about the collection of biometric data for Aadhaar cards in India and these must be allayed.

TOP STORIES

ENGLISH   **HINDI**

Manipur University raids LIVE updates: Govt, varsity admin silent over midnight raids; videos show security personnel forcefully entering hostels

Manto movie review: Nandita Das' stirring portrait of a genius brings us the best that Nawazuddin Siddiqui has ever been

The Great Indian NPA Mess: How MUDRA scheme, Kisan credit cards could pose the next round of risk for banking sector

Netherlands rail collision: 4 children killed after train crashes into electric cart carrying them from daycare; probe underway

"I don't want to meddle in India's politics. But there are concerns (about collection of personal details for Aadhaar card)," Cohen told an *IANS* correspondent on the sidelines of the third annual BCTECH Summit at Vancouver, Canada, in May.

Cohen, currently the CEO and Founder of Jigsaw, a Google arm started to tackle threats to online security, conceded there are arguments on the merits of the Aadhaar system but there are also concerns that must be addressed.

According to Duggal, "Not just cosmetic changes, there is an urgent need for addressing newly-emerging legal and cyber-security challenges concerning the Aadhaar ecosystem on an urgent basis."

"There is a need for a more comprehensive legal framework to protect and preserve data and the privacy of individual Aadhaar account holders in particular, and the Aadhaar ecosystem stakeholders in general," he noted.

TAGS

| AADHAAR ACT | DOB | TRAI | UIDAI | UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY OF INDIA |

.

0 Comments   Sort by   Oldest

Add a comment...

Facebook Comments plugin

ALSO SEE

AADHAAR

Congress claims Aadhaar enrolment software hack jeopardised sanctity of UIDAI

🕐 Sep 11, 2018

UIDAI

UIDAI dismisses reports about the alleged hack of Aadhaar enrolment software

🕐 Sep 12, 2018

TRAI

TRAI slaps fine on Vodafone, Jio, Airtel for not meeting service quality norms

🕐 Sep 09, 2018

JIO

Reliance Jio leads 4G download speed while Idea tops upload speed in August 2018

🕐 Sep 14, 2018

NEWSTRACKER

Reliance Jio dominates telecom sector, adds 10 times more subscribers than rest of the players in

🕐 Sep 19, 2018

NEWSTRACKER

Daily Bulletin: Narendra Modi to address BJP national executive meet; Djokovic, Del Potro in US

🕐 Sep 09, 2018

SCIENCE

AI IN INDIA

Indian healthcare AI startup SigTuple wins Judges' Choice at Google's Demo Day

🕐 Sep 21, 2018

PALEONTOLOGY

Fat molecules reveal earliest-known animal in records from 558 million-year-old

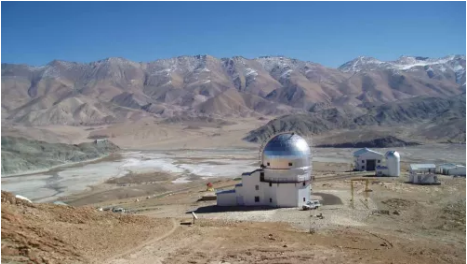🕐 Sep 21, 2018

NANOTECHNOLOGY

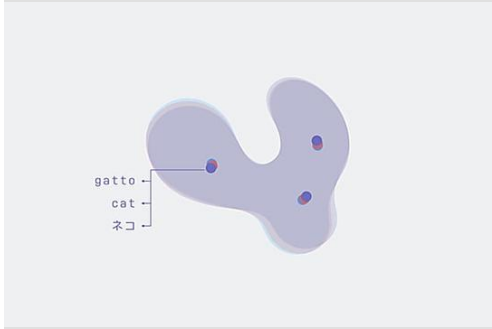## New nanofilter cleans water hundred times faster than current tech: Researchers

🕐 Sep 21, 2018

ASTRONOMY

New gamma ray telescope coming up in Ladakh to observe exploding stars, black

🕐 Sep 21, 2018

You Might Also Like

⌄ Site Index

TECH2

T & C

Policy

Contact Us

हिंदी फर्स्टपोस्ट

FIRSTPOST.

हिंदी फर्स्टपोस्ट

About Firstpost

RSS

Twitter

Facebook

SECTIONS

Front Page

Politics

Sports

India

World

Business

Life

Entertainment

F.Cricket

Tech

Photos

Videos

PLUS

F.Cricket

Apple Iphone 2018

Budget 2018

Tax Calculator

Pro Kabaddi 2017

IPL 2018

FIFA U17 WC

Laureus World Sports Awards 2017

New Delhi

Mumbai

Photos

F. Pedia

Videos

FP Exclusives

Video Room

Weather

NETWORK 18 SITES

In.com

Moneycontrol

Burrp

TopperLearning

Clear Study Doubts

Overdrive

IBN Live

News18

Sample Papers Online

Business Technology News

MTV India

Online Shopping in India

CAprep18

F. Shows

E-Learning Franchise Opportunity

GST Rate List India

TOOLS

RSS Feeds

APPS

iOS

Android