

**AADHAAR LINKAGE**

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EXPRESS

## Residents' body files contempt petition

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THE Nagrik Chetna Manch (NCM) has filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court for violation of the court's interim orders and making Aadhaar cards mandatory. The contemnors are Cabinet Secretary, Union of India, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India.

Qaneez Sukhrani, secretary, said NCM has noticed a spurt of directives in the last few months, by both the Central and state governments, violating the orders of the Supreme Court and linking benefits to possession of Aadhaar number.

"The Department of Electronics and Communication Technology integrated Aadhaar with the newly launched Digital India Programme. The Ministry of Labour and Employment made Aadhaar card compulsory for ESI services. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy made Aadhaar mandatory for receiving capital subsidy. The Ministry of Rural Development made Aadhaar compulsory for

MNREGA services," she said.

"The Government of Maharashtra made Aadhaar compulsory for ration services at Fair Price Shops and for school admissions and the Election Commission of India issued instructions for linking Aadhaar card with Elector's Photo Identity Card," the Manch stated.

Sukhrani said in its interim order, dated 23.09.2013, passed in WP (C) 494 of 2012, the Supreme Court had directed, "... no person should suffer for not getting the Aadhaar number and when any person applies to get the Aadhaar number voluntarily, it may be checked whether the person is entitled for it under law as it should not be given to any illegal immigrant."

"In its order dated 24/03/2014 in SLP 2524/2014 filed by the Unique Identification Authority of India against the Central Bureau of Investigation and others, the Supreme Court had restrained the UIDAI from transferring any biometric information of any person to any other agency without a written consent," she said.

The Manch has been asking for prohibition of linkage of Aadhaar number to any benefits, to end discrimination of between Aadhaar and non-Aadhaar residents.

## NGO files contempt plea against RBI and other officials

Central, State govts have violated SC orders over Aadhaar card, says NGO

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**Pune:** A city-based NGO, Nagrik Chetna Manch, has filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court against various functionaries of the Union and State governments and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, for allegedly violating the Supreme Court's (SC) order on the issue of Aadhaar card.

### #IssuesWith AadhaarCards

The apex court has said that citizens cannot be deprived of government benefits due to non-availability of Aadhaar card.

The manch stated that in the petition, it has pointed out that there was a spurt of directives in the last few months by both the Central and State governments violating the orders of the Supreme Court by making it mandatory to provide Aadhaar card number to avail various benefits.

The names of Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Cabinet Secretary, Union of India, Swadheen S Kshatriya, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Raghuram Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India and Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner, were mentioned in the petition as contemnors.

Despite the Supreme Court's interim order about the linking of Aadhaar card numbers, the Department of Electronics and Communication Technology integrated Aadhaar to draw benefits in the newly launched Digital India programme.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment made Aadhaar card compulsory for ESI services. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy made Aadhaar mandatory for receiving capital subsidy. And the Ministry of Rural Development made Aadhaar compulsory for MNREGA services, the petition said.

Moreover, the Maharashtra Government has made Aadhaar card compulsory for services at Fair Price Shops and for school admissions and the Election Commission of India issued instructions for linking Aadhaar card with Elector's Photo Identity Card.

Maj Gen (ret'd) SCN Jatar, President of the Manch, said that the apex court has admitted the petition. "We have asked for prohibition of linkage of Aadhaar number to any benefits in order to end the discrimination of persons into Aadhaar and non-Aadhaar residents. We have also asked the government to restrain from transferring any biometric information of any person from or to any other agency without specific written permission," he added.

