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## NGO files contempt plea against RBI and other officials

Reporters Name | Sakal Times | Sunday, 12 July 2015 AT 11:20 PM IST

[Nagrik Chetna Manch, RBI](#)



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.

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 contemnners.

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 (retd) 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.