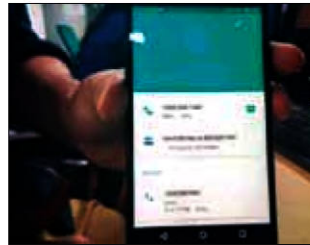# After Google admits to 'inadvertent' error, Aadhaar officials slam rumour-mongers

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Mumbai: Days after Aadhaar helpline number was found pre-installed in many phones resulting in massive outrage, the UIDAI has come out with a detailed statement. Initially, UIDAI was blamed for the installing the number before Google came out with a clarification that it was an error on their part and they had hard-coded the number in Android phones.

The UIDAI issued a statement on Sunday saying: "In view of the attempts by few Aadhaar opponents to spread

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■ It emphasised that data cannot be stolen by merely having a helpline number in mobile's contact list

■ It also stressed Aadhaar data is completely secure

rumours and scare mongering against Aadhaar in the backdrop of appearance of an old Aadhaar helpline number in mobile phones, it may be noted that the Google has clarified that UIDAI's old contact number 18003001947 was added by it "inadvertently" along with

police/fire number 112 in 2014 and has since been continuing through sync mechanism".

Google has assured that it will fix this inadvertent error in their next release and stated that the users may, if they wish, can delete the number. UIDAI had earlier clarified

and emphasised that it had not asked any agency whatsoever to include its helpline number in the mobile phones.

The UIDAI urged Google to be cautious so that such incidents don't happen in the future. But at the same time, UIDAI hit out at 'vested interests who tried to misuse Google's "inadvertent" act as an opportunity to spread rumours against Aadhaar. It reiterated that deleting the number from contact list won't do any harm. "There should be no panic to delete the number. Rather people may update it with UIDAI's new helpline number 1947".