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# CoWIN Data Leak - Aadhaar, PAN Card Info, On Covid Portal, Made Public By Telegram

## Why In The News?

- Claims Of A **Massive Data Breach** Emerged On Monday With The Government Later Promising To Investigate The Matter. The Purported Breach Has Affected All Indian Citizens - Including **High-Profile Political Leaders** - Who Had Uploaded Their Information On The **Cowin Vaccination Portal**.
- Personal Information Of Indian Citizens, Including Their **Aadhaar Card, And PAN Card Details** Are Available On Messaging Platform Telegram. The Development Was Also Flagged By Opposition Leaders Including **TMC's Saket Gokhale** Who Tweeted His Interactions With The Telegram Chatbot.



**mint**

**CoWIN Data leak! Aadhaar, PAN Card info, shared on Covid vaccination portal, made public by Telegram: Report**

## What Do We Know?

- The Report Said That When A Mobile Number Registered With The Cowin Portal Is Entered, The Telegram Bot Discloses **The Number Of The ID Card Used For Vaccination Along With Gender, Birth Year, And Name Of The Vaccination Centre, And His/Her Doses**.
- The **Developers Of The Telegram Bot** That Exposed The Sensitive Information From The Leaked Co-win Database **Are Disabled Now**. The Developers Of The Bot Took The Step After Manorama Broke The Story.
- **Government Officials Have Also Rejected The Hacking Of The Cowin App** But Added They Are Probing If There Was Any Unauthorized Access To The Cowin App.



## Earlier Such Cases:

- In 2021, Reports Emerged That Cowin Portal Got Hacked, And Resulted In The Sale Of The Database Of 15 Crore People.
- However, Cyber Security Researchers Denied The Claim. In Fact, In January This Year, **RS Sharma, Chief Executive Officer Of The National Health Authority** Vouched For The Cowin Portal.



Dr. RS Sharma  
@rssharma3 · Follow

#CoWIN has state-of-the-art security infrastructure and has never faced a security breach. Data of our citizens on CoWIN is absolutely #safe and #secure. Any news about data leaks from CoWIN holds no merit.

## How Govt Responded?

- The Government Has Responded To The Claims Of Cowin Data Leak, Saying That The Reports Of A Breach Are **"Mischievous In Nature"**. The Government Has Also Maintained That The Data Is **"Completely Safe"**.
- In A Press Release, The Government Said, "It Is Clarified That All Such Reports Are Without Any Basis And Mischievous In Nature. Cowin Portal Of Health Ministry Is **Completely Safe With Adequate Safeguards For Data Privacy.**"
- "Only OTP Authentication-based Access Of Data Is Provided. **All Steps Have Been Taken And Are Being Taken To Ensure Security Of The Data** In The Cowin Portal," It Said.

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