

Aadhaar Card Not Proof of Age: Madhya Pradesh HC | Madhya Pradesh | 20 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh** High Court ruled that <u>Aadhaar Card</u> can be used to establish identity but was **not** as a **proof** of date of birth.

Key Points

- Background:
 - A widow filed a petition seeking compensation under the <u>Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018</u>, for her husband's death by electrocution.
 - Her application was rejected as her husband's age, according to other documents like the <u>Voter ID</u> and ration card, exceeded the eligibility limit of 64 years.
 - The petitioner argued that the age recorded in the Aadhaar card should be considered, which would have made her eligible for the compensation.
- Legal Precedence and Supreme Court Ruling:
 - The High court referenced an October 2024, <u>Supreme Court</u> ruling stating that Aadhaar cannot be used as proof of age.
 - The ruling considered earlier judgments by various High Courts and a circular issued by <u>Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)</u> in August 2023.
- The High Court observed that any executive instruction allowing Aadhaar to be used as proof of age under state schemes cannot override Court judgments.

Aadhaar

- Aadhaar is a 12 digit individual identification number issued by the <u>Unique Identification</u>
 <u>Authority of India (UIDAI)</u> on behalf of the Government of India. The number serves as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India.
- Aadhaar card, which is a biometric document, stores an individual's personal information on a government database.
- An Aadhaar card can be issued to any person residing in the country for more than six months continuously, provided he/she submits one of the 18 listed identity cards and an address proof.
 - Foreign nationals are eligible to obtain one if they have been living in India for half a vear.
- Aadhaar number will help the residents to avail various services provided by banking, mobile phone connections and other Govt and Non-Govt services in due course.