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 Aadhaar Card 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 Jan Kalyan (Sambal) Yojana 2018, for her husband's death by electrocution.
    - Her application was rejected as her husband's age, according to other documents like the Voter ID **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, Supreme Court 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 Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) 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 Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) 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 year.**
- 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.

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