

# 'Citizens must be always vigilant'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** Shyam Divan, one of the counsels for petitioners in the Aadhaar case in which the Supreme Court recently gave a verdict, participated in an open house organized at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) on Saturday. Divan said in his speech that Aadhaar is de-fanged but not destroyed. He said that corporates and the government are bound to come roaring back with new legislations and strategies. "It is the eternal task of citizens to remain vigilant," he said.

"Though it (Aadhaar) is a seemingly well-organized system, the troubling aspect is the electronic tracking of a person as he progresses through life," he said. "The tracking will eventually usher in a surveillance state. The collection of data will enable the state to build profiles of individuals." He said that profiles will give the state and its organs tremendous power over individuals.

Divan pointed to two affidavits from the petitioners that in-



Shyam Divan at GNLU

dicated the dangers of Aadhaar. "Surely our Constitution is not a charter of a totalitarian state," he said. "The necessary linking of all services with the Aadhaar manifests a deep distrust of the state towards the citizenry. The

state regards us as a nation of knaves, a tragic distortion of a republican govern-

## AADHAAR VERDICT

ment."

Divan said that the apex court has dramatically scaled down the 'Aadhaar monster,' leaving a shrunken and relatively skeletal creature. "The dissenting judgement gives us hope and it is the principles in this that will endure," he said.