

Aadhaar rivals growth of Windows, Android, Facebook: Nadella

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INDIA'S aadhaar identity system rivals the growth of other platform innovations like Windows, Android or Facebook, Microsoft chief executive officer Satya Nadella has said. Nadella, in his book 'Hit Refresh', which was released during the ongoing Microsoft Ignite 2017 conference, has praised India's leap forward in the digital and technological arena. "Aadhaar has scaled to over one billion people, rivaling the growth of other platform innovations such as Windows, Android or Facebook," the 50-year-old wrote in his book that hit bookstores on Tuesday.

He praised the creation of the new digital ecosystem IndiaStack. IndiaStack is a set of APIs (application programming interface) that allows governments, businesses, startups and developers to utilise a unique digital infrastructure to solve India's hard problems towards presence-less, paperless, and cashless service delivery.

"China strategically used the global supply chain and their own

domestic market to amplify their comparative advantage and bootstrap their economic growth," the India-born CEO noted.

"The combination of industrial policy, public sector investment, and entrepreneurial energy is what many other countries will also look to replicate from China's success. I see the beginnings of this in India with the creation of the new digital ecosystem known as IndiaStack," Nadella said.

"India is leapfrogging from once being an infrastructure-poor country to now leading in digital technology. IndiaStack ushers in a presence-less, cashless, paperless economy for all its citizens," said the Indian American CEO.

In his book, Nadella wrote that on a trip to Bangalore he engaged in a conversation with Nandan Nilekani about IndiaStack and its future road map. "Nandan is the legendary founder of Infosys, who went on to create a new startup working with the Indian government – aadhaar – the identity system that is at the centre of IndiaStack," he said.

Nadella has also mentioned



about Enlightiks, a startup that was acquired by Practo, a leading e-health firm in India. "I met the founder of Enlightiks on the same trip to Bangalore. They are using the latest cloud technology and AI from Microsoft to create a state-of-the-art health care diagnostics service that can, for example, detect an Atrial fibrillation event before it happens because of the rich data going from the personal device of the patient directly to the cloud," he said.

"In turn, this cloud service can be made available to hospitals in smaller towns or rural areas in India. Enlightiks also has plans to

take advantage of IndiaStack to authenticate the user, accept payment, create portal medical records, and much more. This Indian innovation is now looking to expand in the US, Africa and everywhere else," he wrote.

According to Nadella, this dynamic is not unique to China or India. "I saw this across Chile, Indonesia, and Poland, and also in France, Germany, and Japan. Reflecting on my earlier visit to Egypt, it's clear they are investing in human capital," he said.

Asserting that every piece of technology should help "embellish the capability of human beings", Nadella underscored the need for technology to provide new levels of inclusiveness.

"As we talk about technology, what we in particular as technologists and decision-makers will have to keep in mind are the timeless values that drive what we do. How are we going to use technology to empower people?", Nadella said in his key note address at the Ignite conference, here on Monday.

"Every piece of technology should help embellish the capabili-

ty of human beings. We definitely want more productivity and efficiency, but we do not want to degrade humanity," he said. "We want technology to provide new levels of inclusiveness. In fact, I'm most excited about accessibility," he said. "How can we bring more people into as full participants in our society, in our economy, using technology? How can we make sure that there's no bias built into technology?" he said.

"Technology also needs to build the trust. Trust in how we secure data, how we ensure privacy, and the control and transparency that we build all around.

"These timeless values and this opportunity of digital transformation is what grounds us at Microsoft in our mission – our mission to empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more," he said.

This is something that Microsoft takes very seriously – each word in this mission, he said. "The ability to really make sure that we're not only thinking about the person, but the institutions people build," he added.

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