

# Aadhaar to be pivot of payments

Minister says such a system is essential because 30 crore people still do not have smartphones

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**NEW DELHI:** “We are going to promote an Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AEPS) in coordination with the Finance Ministry. About 40 crore bank accounts have been linked to Aadhaar,” Electronics, Information Technology, Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said here on Friday.

Mr. Prasad said 99 per cent of the adult population had Aadhaar numbers at present, and moves were afoot to connect the rest of the bank accounts with the Aadhaar numbers.

## Must requirement

The Minister said AEPS was required because



**DIGITAL TRINITY:** India has the digitisation infrastructure required to leverage the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, says NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. — PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN

around 30 crore people still did not have mobile/smartphones and could not do online transactions or use mo-

bile wallets or e-wallets at any point in time. India had the digitisation infrastructure required to leverage the

Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said in an address to the annual general

meeting of industry body FICCI, stressing that if the country was to aspire to grow to a \$10 trillion economy, it would have to be prepared for disruption.

## Biggest disruptor

“Aadhaar-enabled payments are the biggest disruption in India,” Mr. Kant said.

“Nearly 30 crore people in India without mobile connections can use Aadhaar and thumb impression or iris scans for digital payments. In the next 6-7 months, every smartphone user will be able to make Aadhaar-based payments and even will allow each phone to act as an ATM using a device that can attach to the phone and scan fingerprints,” he said.