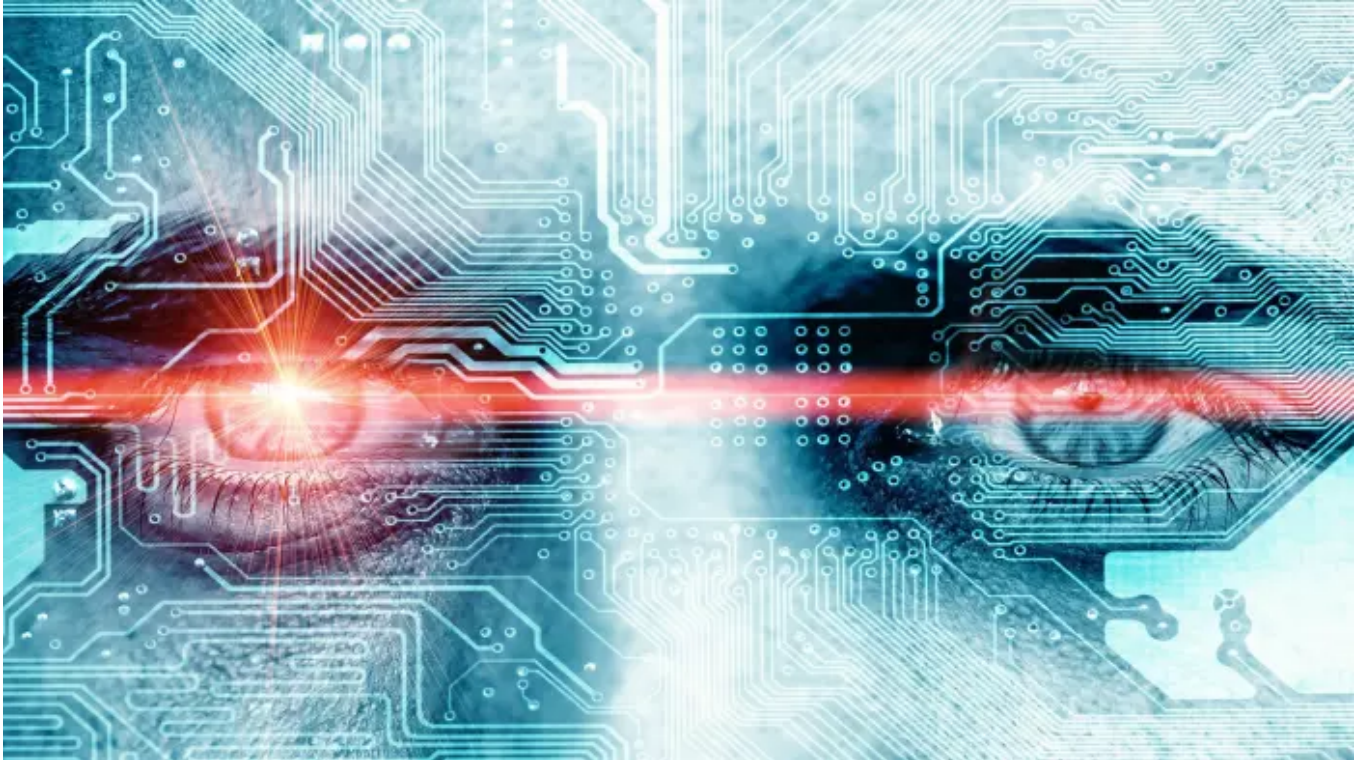


Letter

Benefits of Aadhaar will outweigh the concerns

From Yashaswini Agarwal, Alliance Manchester Business School, UK



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12 HOURS AGO

Sir, Further to Amy Kazmin's New Delhi Notebook ("Look me in the eye and reveal my secrets (<https://www.ft.com/content/46dcb248-ofcb-11e7-a88c-50ba212dce4d>)", March 28): I understand her concerns over having sensitive biometric information being stored by the government. Be it with any institution, private or public, it is a natural instinct to be cautious of the amount and type of personal information we voluntarily or involuntarily supply. While information about lifestyle patterns can lead to individuals being relentlessly pursued by targeted marketing, biometrics stand a risk of duplication and misuse that would be harder to prove, bearing in mind that they are the ultimate identification metrics.

While these risks can be eliminated by stronger and safer online data storage systems, I feel the benefits of unification that this card brings will outweigh these concerns. With a flourishing population and varying demographics, this system allows the state to maintain a central database keeping track of its nationals. Unlike the passport or any other

identification document, the Aadhaar card also supplements the running of national welfare schemes by identifying those who need them the most. The recent Supreme Court order allowing the card to be used for identification for other purposes does increase security issues, but if regulated it also helps escape the “red-tapism” that slows down procedures.

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