

India to be a cashless society, says Prime Minister

29th November, 2016



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined his controversial plan to make India a cashless society. Indians are already up in arms following his recent and sudden decision to ban the old 500 and 1,000 rupee banknotes. They ceased to be legal tender in India from the 9th of November, although the old 500-rupee note was replaced by an updated version. The government claimed the move was an effort to stop the banknotes being used to fund terrorism, as well as being a crackdown on counterfeit money in India. The ban means 80 per cent of the country's currency has been withdrawn from circulation and business has been brought to a virtual standstill. It is very unpopular among most Indians.

Mr Modi went a step further on Sunday when he called for a cashless society. He said in a televised speech: "I want to tell my small merchant brothers and sisters, this is the chance for you to enter the digital world." He added: "Learn the different ways you can use your bank accounts and Internet banking. Learn how to effectively use the apps of various banks on your phones. Learn how to run your business without cash. Learn about card payments and other electronic modes of payment...A cashless economy is secure, it is clean." He addressed India's more tech-savvy people by declaring that: "All the youth of India can do it very quickly and within a month, the world can see a modern India."

Sources: gizmodo.com / independent.co.uk / khaleejtimes.com

Writing

What are the pros and cons of a cashless society? Would you prefer one? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

controversial / cashless / society / banknote / legal / terrorism / counterfeit / currency / speech / merchant / the digital world / bank accounts / electronic / payment / youth

True / False

- India has already abandoned all forms of cash. T / F
- There are now no 500 rupee notes in circulation in India. T / F
- India's government said ending banknotes was an anti-terrorism measure. T / F
- The withdrawn banknotes represents 80% of India's currency. T / F
- Mr Modi said he wanted all small merchants to enter the digital world. T / F
- Mr Modi advised his brothers and sisters to stop using bank accounts. T / F
- Mr Modi said a cashless economy was clean and secure. T / F
- Mr Modi called on all the older people to make India modern. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. outlined | a. safe |
| 2. controversial | b. form |
| 3. up in arms | c. trader |
| 4. version | d. halt |
| 5. standstill | e. sketched out |
| 6. merchant | f. ways |
| 7. effectively | g. problematic |
| 8. modes | h. clever |
| 9. secure | i. successfully |
| 10. savvy | j. angry |

Discussion – Student A

- Which is better, cash or credit card?
- What are the pros and cons of having only digital money?
- What do you think of the digital world?
- How could you use banking services more effectively?
- How tech-savvy are you?
- Why is a cashless economy secure?
- How would a cashless society make India more modern?
- What questions would you like to ask Narendra Modi?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. outlined his controversial | a. of payment |
| 2. Indians are already up | b. standstill |
| 3. a crackdown on counterfeit | c. business without cash |
| 4. currency has been withdrawn from | d. speech |
| 5. business has been brought to a virtual | e. plan |
| 6. He said in a televised | f. savvy people |
| 7. effectively use the | g. circulation |
| 8. run your | h. in arms |
| 9. other electronic modes | i. apps of various banks |
| 10. He addressed India's more tech- | j. money |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think about a cashless society?
- What are the pros and cons of cash?
- What do you know about the history of cash?
- When was the last time you were up in arms over money?
- What is your favourite banknote and why?
- How would a cashless society deter funding of terrorism?
- What do you think of your country's banknotes?

Spelling

- outlined his toecsrovniral plan
- They acdsee to be legal tender
- replaced by an updated eosinvr
- a crackdown on terutofneci money
- currency has been withdrawn from olrtnuaciic
- brought to a iurltav standstill
- in a eeltievds speech
- my small tcahnmre brothers and sisters
- how to feceiftlvye use the apps
- uisoary banks
- other ecctleionr modes of payment
- more tech-avsyv people

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. g	3. j	4. b	5. d
6. c	7. i	8. f	9. a	10. h

Role Play

Role A – ATMs

You think ATMs are the best thing about banks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): savings accounts, loans or Internet banking.

Role B – Savings Accounts

You think savings accounts are the best thing about banks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): ATMs, loans or Internet banking.

Role C – Loans

You think loans are the best thing about banks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): savings accounts, ATMs or Internet banking.

Role D – Internet Banking

You think Internet banking are the best thing about banks. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): savings accounts, loans or ATMs.

Speaking – Banks

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about banks at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Bill payment | • ATMs |
| • Cheque book | • Saving accounts |
| • Loans | • Credit cards |
| • Internet banking | • Financial advice |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.