

## RBI withdraws Rs 2,000 notes

The Reserve Bank of India has announced the withdrawal of Rs. 2,000 currency notes from circulation. The move to withdraw the Rs 2,000 notes is aimed at reducing reliance on high-denomination currency and promoting digital payments. As of March 2023, Rs. 2,000 notes accounted for approximately 11% of the currency in circulation. An upper limit of Rs 20,000 per person per exchange has been set. The concern behind this move is the potential hoarding of black money using the highest denomination notes.

The Rs. 2,000 notes are not commonly used for everyday transactions. Their high denomination makes them less suitable for small-value purchases, which leads to limited circulation and usage-only 10.8% of the total notes in circulation. There are concerns that the highest denomination notes, including the Rs 2,000 notes, are being used for hoarding black money, which refers to undisclosed or illegally obtained wealth. By withdrawing these notes, the RBI aims to discourage such practices and promote transparency in financial transactions. The move to withdraw these notes is part of a broader effort to reduce reliance on cash and promote digital payments in India. The Government has been actively encouraging the use of digital platforms for transactions, aiming to create a less cash-dependent economy.

It's worth noting that the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 notes differs from the demonetization exercise of 2016, where the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were invalidated overnight. In this case, the Rs 2,000 notes will remain legal tender until September 30, providing individuals sufficient time to deposit or exchange them at banks, and the other high-denomination Rs 500 notes are very much in circulation.

The withdrawal of Rs. 2000 notes is aimed at shifting the economy from a predominantly cash-based system to a more formal and transparent one. It sought to encourage the use of digital transactions, promote financial inclusion, and bring more people into the formal banking system. This will widen the tax base by bringing previously unreported or under-reported income into the tax net. The adoption of digital payment methods such as mobile wallets, online banking, and card transactions will get a further boost. India already ranks at the top in digital transactions.

The sudden withdrawal of high-value currency notes has its own challenges. Cash-dependent sectors, such as small businesses, agriculture, and the informal sector, get hit hard as they heavily rely on cash transactions. During demonetisation, people faced difficulties accessing their own money, leading to long queues at banks and ATMs. Small and medium-sized enterprises and small-time business houses with limited resources struggle to cope with the cash crunch. The informal sector, which constitutes a significant portion of India's economy, gets particularly affected. The Government should consider raising the set limit of 10 notes exchanged for business houses after proper verification of transactions.

Agriculture is another sector heavily reliant on cash transactions and, as such, must be taken care of. Some sort of banking camp in villages is needed to ensure farmers can deposit their money in one go instead of visiting banks time and again. The disruption in the rural economy had long-lasting effects on the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities.

The sudden surge in cash deposits and exchange requests overwhelms the banking system. Banks face challenges in managing the influx of cash, verifying the authenticity of deposits, and meeting the cash demands of the public. The increased workload for banks leads to inefficiencies and inconveniences for customers. The Government must ensure such a situation doesn't come up this time and all these issues are taken care of.

Citizens support this decision made in the best interest of the nation, and it is crucial for the Government to ensure that it does not adversely affect the general public or cause any undue hardship for genuine businessmen and individuals.

Arjun Singh Rathore

John Lennon in his song Beautiful Boy has wisely observed that "Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans". I've always loved this line and how astute this observation is. You can set all the goals you want for the future, but that won't change the fact that your life has to be lived moment to moment and day to day.

The desire to be a better person today more so than yesterday should intensify throughout life. It should be instinctual to improve, for most of us, at least. That urge we get to do better each day propels us and keeps moving us forward. It makes us want to get up the next day and take steps toward each goal, so that we can prove to ourselves that it is possible to do bigger and better.

We all have specific dreams, hopes and desires. Working to achieve these helps us exercise our muscles and get stronger. Even if we are just showing ourselves how much better we can do, reflecting on the mistakes from yesterday helps us to put a plan of action in place to help us focus and reach our goals along this journey.

Reaching our goals equates to a better tomorrow. When we do not reach our expectations on day one, it does not mean that we have permanently failed. We must learn to Reset our yesterdays and improve our lives for tomorrow. We should not let small Slip-ups make us give up on the promise of having a great future. Life is just like a game of cards, when you make a mistake in one game, you shuffle the deck again and start all over. It is important to not let a temporary defeat affect you permanently. If we never make mistakes, then how will we learn? Learning from the small errors we made yesterday is a necessity in order to be better tomorrow.

The wisdom of learning from failure is incontrovertible. And those who do it well, are extraordinarily rare. Failure and fault are virtually inseparable in most households, organizations, and cultures. Every child must be brought up in such a manner to learn at some point that admitting failure means not taking the blame but the desire to improve and perform more strongly.

Intelligent failures at the frontier are rightly considered good,

Prof M K Bhat

The journey of Kashmir from stone pelting to hosting G-20 tourism working group meeting in itself conveys a lot about the transformation after the abrogation of article 370. Kashmir had become synonymous with hartals, stone pelting and terrorist activities, this had a negative impact on its main industry i.e. tourism. Today the change is evident and Kashmir is on its way to achieve new heights through tourism. This is apparent from more footfall of tourists and it is expected to get further boost by the bold decision of union govt to hold its G-20 summit in Kashmir despite opposition from Pakistan and China. The Union Territory of J&K will be holding its first international summit post abrogation of article370 at Srinagar.

India after getting presidency of G-20 in Dec, 2022 decided to hold 215 meetings over 55 locations and Srinagar is one of them. This has irked countries like China and Pakistan because it will expose their propaganda. Pakistan on its part has urged Saudi Arabia, Turkey, USA and China to prevent the meeting and is continuously trying its best to disturb peace in the valley. The recent terror attacks in Poonch and Rajouri are a case in point. The Government of India too does not want to take any chance with security, it has resorted to multi-tier security of Army, Border Security Force and village Defense Committees have been activated along international border and line of control, besides frisking, checking at entry points in J&K. Srinagar is being brightened to host the meeting at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center located on the banks of Dal lake. It is going to be renovated at a cost of Rs 7.5 crore for digital infrastructure and internal and exterior decoration. Fifty delegates are expected to arrive in Kashmir and they will go to Baramulla, Dachigam National Park and Ski resort of Gulmarg for sight scenes.

## Stone pelting to G-20

The first tourism meeting of G-20 was held in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. It focused on rural and archeological tourism via tours and side events. The second meeting was held in Siliguri, West Bengal featured on adventure tourism in the area. The third meeting is going to be held in Srinagar from May 22 to 24,2023 with an aim to boost film tourism in Jand K. It will go a long way in removing the wrong perception about the situation in Kashmir. It will develop confidence of people and may help tourists to understand Kashmir better. It is a chance for Kashmir to rise to the occasion by exhibiting its market prospects, ecotourism ventures, and cultural assets to the leading global nations.

The importance of tourism for the economic development of J&K can hardly be ignored. According to Economic Survey 2019-20 report, service sector mostly tourism has emerged as the biggest contributor to the State Gross Development Product (SGDP) of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is among the 10 states and union territories where service sector's contribution to SGDP is more than 58 per cent especially due to tourism. J&K ranked number eight with its service sector contributing 58.3 per cent to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) as millions of tourists are visiting J & K every year.

It may be pointed out here that for the first time in history of Jammu and Kashmir, a record 1.88 crore tourists including 20,000 overseas travellers, visited the union territory in 2022. With the launch of the new J&K film policy in 2021, the UT has emerged as the favourite shooting destination for film industry and permission has been granted for shooting of more than 150 films and web series in less than two years. It is without any question that

2022 was the best year ever for the tourism industry. The Jammu and Kashmir administration is expecting 15-20 per cent year-on-year growth in tourists visiting the Union Territory in 2023 and has developed 75 new destinations to reduce pressure from the popular places mostly visited by tourists.

The G-20 meeting will not only promote tourism of the union territory but may also expose the propaganda of Pakistan and China in post abrogation of article 370. It will convey the actual position of Kashmir to the world. Pakistan ever since 1947 tried to grab Kashmir forcefully but failed every time in its attempts and even its proxy war was declined by the people of the Union territory by participating in elections after elections. In 2019 when article 370 was abrogated Pakistan took it as an opportunity to defame India, so raised the issue in various forums but could not muster enough support from any country/organization to pressurise India. Pakistan has never been a well-wisher of Kashmir rather it always tried to exploit Kashmir for its own interests. Its claim for the good of Kashmiris for being Muslims carries no meaning because of its involvement in cross border terrorism, smuggling of drugs in Kashmir and thereby wants to annihilate the future generations of Kashmir. Had it any sympathy for Kashmiris' for being Muslims it would have raised the issue of Ulgir Muslims with China. It has only unleashed a campaign of lies in various international forums against India on Kashmir issue.

It is not only enemy countries but a miniscule section of people within valley, which thrived on the disturbances in Kashmir, too does not like to see transformation. They want to keep things boiling. They oppose abrogation of article 370 because

it provided them an ample space for an open loot. In fact, such people don't want average Kashmiri to grow because the poverty/illiteracy of people helps them to serve their own interests.

The summit will market Kashmir globally and thereby will increase employment and income of the Union Territory. It can make a good market for Kashmiri handicrafts, cuisines, winter sports etc. The effect on its economy will be multi fold if we can get more visitors from the developed countries. Countries like USA, UK, Germany and France have in the past designated Kashmir as no zone area due to disturbances. The G-20 meeting will go a long way in removing this impression from their minds. Kashmir can be easily promoted for film tourism, religious tourism, cultural tourism, adventure tourism besides scenic beauty.

Tourism industry provides good opportunity for investors to invest in building of hotels and restaurants at tourist places like Dal lake, Pahalgam and Sonamarg. They bear a great potential to yield high profits as millions of tourists visit these places every year and face accommodation issues especially during peak tourist season. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir supports the investment in the tourism sector and welcomes Multinational National Companies (MNCs) to invest in it. It has given several contracts to different companies to establish parks and amusement parks at places like Nishat Bagh, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam. Recently a Chinese company was given a big contract to clean Wular Lake to attract more tourists.

Tourism is a lifeline for the welfare of people of Kashmir on the one hand and on the other much of it still remains unexplored. It is no doubt that G-20 meet will act as a catalyst in this direction provided there is peace.

(The author is Professor (MAIT) Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi)

## My love affair with radio waves

Squadron Leader Anil Sehgal

Let me take you back to the last four decades of the last century. Those were the times radio waves dominated the world of knowledge, information and entertainment.

It was considered a privilege and an honour to broadcast from the portals of the state owned radio. It brought to you great fame and recognition, besides a honorable amount of money. This was more noticeable in a small city like Jammu. Broadcasters were local celebrities with definite fan following. Today, in the current era of television and internet boom, and the instant gratification by social media, it is difficult, or shall I say impossible, to even comprehend the dimensions of name, fame and star status the broadcasting fraternity enjoyed in olden days.

My earliest memories of listening to the All India Radio are from my student days in Meerut where my father was posted. We used to stay in Topkhana Bazar, Kothi No 1. We would wake up with the All India Radio playing its legendary signature tune in the morning broadcasts.

I recall the afternoons that were spent listening to the radio as we changed out of the school uniform and enjoyed the afternoon snacks at home.

These hours were followed by early evenings when we returned from the playgrounds, and went around the home attending to various chores and simultaneously listening to the songs coming from the radio broadcasts.

These were the songs that were in current vogue, mainly from the popular Hindi movies running in the theatres. Those days we youngsters were not fond of the classical music or the news, which were enjoyed by the elders in the family. By and large that was the routine in all houses my friends came from.

I vividly recall songs of Mukesh that I used to enjoy during my schooling at Meerut. I recall the songs from films like Chhaila, Kanhaiya, and Asli Naqli.

In our school functions, a senior named Harish Vakil would invariably regale us with popular songs. He had a very melodious voice.

I particularly used to like his rendition of a song from the film *Dil Bhi Tera, Hum Bhi Tere* that goes like this: *Mujhko Is Raat Ki Tanhaai Mein Awaz Na Do / Jiski Awaz Rula De Mujhe Who Saaz Na Do!*

Whenever and wherever I heard this song, I was mesmerised. Even today, it is one of my favorite songs from the Hindi movies. As I hear this song on the Vividh Bharati service of All India Radio, I am transported back to my younger days at Meerut.

As students we were great fans of the game of cricket and listening to the running commentary of the test matches on the radio was a real treat.

Many a time, we would miss the school, on one pretext or the other, and stay back at home so that we could enjoy the live cricket commentary without any distraction or interruption!! We used to be glued to the radio and ball-by-ball commentary coming from the radio was nothing short of the sacred chants in a temple.

All the friends would religiously gather around the radio and with rapt attention we all will try to

make out what was being belted out by the commentators.

Those were the days of leisure. In markets too, you will find the radio loudly playing the cricket commentary and many customers will gather at a corner paan shop or a wayside tea stall to catch up with the latest score.

This practice of listening to the radio commentary was later centred around the transistors that could easily be carried around with you anywhere you roamed about : on your bicycles, scooters or in the car, bus, train or the cycle rickshaw!

The radios were heavy and big in size, and these could not be carried with you as you travelled. Moreover, it played on electricity.

Therefore, arrival of the transistors was nothing short of a technological revolution. It gave us the great convenience. It could be carried with you wherever you went, and you did not require electricity to play it. It played on battery cells. It is almost impossible to appreciate this great convenience in the modern times where at the click of a button on your smartphone you can have a video call with a friend thousands



### JAMMU JOTTINGS

of kilometres away.

Transistors enjoyed celebrity status because in the world of information and entertainment, radio was the king.

Can you imagine that we needed a ration card to book a transistor for a princely sum of ninety nine rupees in Jammu & Kashmir in the year 1968!! And mind you, it was a fashion statement to carry a transistor in your hands or hanging it from the handlebars of your bicycle!!

Radio and transistors required a license to own and run them. These licenses were given by the government for an annually payable fee.

I remember back in the sixties going to the post office located in the Leader Press, Allahabad to renew our radio license for a princely fee of seven rupees and fifty paise for one year!!

This license permitted us unhindered use of the radio. We could tune in to any station from anywhere in the world that our radio was capable of catching, twenty-four hours a day and all the three sixty five days in a year!! The cost was simply two paise per day!! The fee was later revised to fifteen rupees.

I was back in Jammu after completing my High School in Allahabad. I was fourteen and bubbling with energy, enthusiasm and dreams. I wanted to explore the numerous possibilities that lay before me.

I had great passion for the performing arts. I began devoting less time to cricket and started par-

ticipating in debates and dramas. But the most popular and enticing possibility was provided by the radio.

Those days, radio announcers, speakers and the radio drama artists were the local heroes. They were popular in the city and were recognised with respect as they came across us in the streets. They enjoyed a celebrity status and we were all envious of them!!

Soon, I found my way into the radio and started broadcasting wherever I could fit myself. But the real breakthrough came my way when I got through the drama audition in the very first attempt. That gave me lots of confidence and I started participating in various discussions, debates, and the radio plays.

I was a lover of the books and fond of writing. So, when I got a chance to give a talk on the radio, I grabbed the opportunity and never looked back. In fact, except singing, I have done everything on the radio; even produced features.

In those days, there were no computers, no internet and no concept of googling to gather infor-

ation. Books and scholars were the only sources.

Giving the radio talks and discussions requires thorough preparations. So, it made me read more and also to interact with persons who had knowledge and intelligence on a particular subject. These habits benefitted me to great extent in other spheres of life.

Radio has been a great teacher to me. Besides books, I have learnt the most from the radio. My exposure to Indian classical music is a gift from the All India Radio. So is my learning of immaculate Urdu language.

I religiously tuned in to the interviews that were broadcast from the Urdu Service of All India Radio. Especially, I enjoyed the interviews conducted by K K Nayyar.

The felicity with which K K Nayyar would conduct the interview was always fascinating to me. I learnt the great art of interviewing by listening to his interviews that ran up to one hour in time. Later, I met him in person, made friends with him and enjoyed his love and blessings.

Towards his last years in the mortal world, his family had organised an evening of ghazals written by him. The occasion was his birthday. I had the pleasure and honour to put together this special musical programme in Lucknow. I spoke from the stage as an anchor as the great K K Nayyar himself sat in the auditorium!

Similarly, I learnt about the various raagas of the Indian classical music by listening to the late night

broadcast of All India Radio.

I used to put on the radio and study late into the nights. Radio never distracted us. In fact, it worked as a stimulant. Even today, I put the music on and keep doing my daily chores at home with great ease. The fact is that I did all my studies listening to my favourite programmes on the All India Radio!!

The television disturbs you, it distracts you; but not the radio. The television makes you a couch potato as you sit glued to the tv screen and stop moving around. But, that is not the case with radio.

You just switch on the radio and you can easily continue doing what pleases you. You can go around the house arranging the flowers or cook delicious food in the kitchen or run on the treadmill or continue reading your favourite author in a cosy place. That is the magic of the radio.

Television restricts your visualization. It restricts your imagination. But, the radio gives you the freedom to imagine and travel all over the universe in your imagination.

For example, if you are watching a cricket match on the television, you see only that what is shown to you. Nothing less and nothing more. But, if you are listening to the commentary of the same cricket match, you start imagining about the game, the players, the atmosphere in the stadium and also recall your personal experiences as you listen to the commentary being relayed on your radio sets. You are free to visualize as you please. And this is a great blessing, if you care to understand.

My wife is a radio artiste. Her association with the radio started when she was just eight years old. Today, she enjoys the coveted status of being the TOP Graded artiste of All India Radio.

Seema Anil Sehgal, my better half, credits her great success to the opportunities that came across her by way of recording for the radio in their studios and also by performing live for the radio concerts before the invited audience, all across the length and breadth of the country.

She is a grateful singer and composer and never refuses an invitation from the All India Radio to perform even if it means losing out on more lucrative singing assignments. That is the respect she holds for the All India Radio.

Let us remember and understand that, after the Independence, it is the All India Radio that has kept the Indian classical music alive and kicking through her various broadcasts and numerous live concerts all around the country during the past about seven decades.

I am a grateful listener of All India Radio. To me, the All India Radio is a great teacher of art, culture and music.

A privately owned company called Indian Broadcasting Company Ltd (IBC) started the first radio station of undivided India at Mumbai, on 23 July 1927. The IBC was later acquired by the government of India and rechristened first as All India Radio & later as Akashvani.

As All India Radio celebrates 96 years of its glorious service to the nation, I celebrate the diamond jubilee of my uninterrupted association with the radio. This is an affair that I celebrate with much love. And, with gratitude.

## Woh Subah Hamin Se Ayegi'

because they provide valuable new knowledge that can help to leap ahead of the competition and ensure future growth. They occur when experimentation is necessary: when answers are not knowable in advance because this exact situation hasn't been encountered before and perhaps never will be again.

Parents, teachers, friends, colleagues and even leaders can create and reinforce a culture in the society, that counteracts the blame game and makes people feel both comfortable with and responsible for surfacing and learning from failures. They teach and develop a clear understanding of what happened, not of "who did it" when things go wrong. This requires consistently reporting and discussing failures, small and big; systematically analyzing them; and proactively searching for opportunities to experiment and improve for future. Because we are in discovery business, and the faster we fail, the faster we will learn to succeed.

Making mistakes is a guarantee in life. You can't avoid them entirely, no matter what you do. What matters more than any blunder or its magnitude is your response afterward. Most, if not all, of our mistakes, can be excellent learning opportunities. So, rather than perceiving mistakes inversely proportional to opportunities, we ought to make them directly proportional to learning outcomes; capitalize on them, turn them into learning experiences and

eventually improve outcomes and produce excellent results. Having said this, I must emphasize that no words could have better put and explained it than "Fail faster, succeed sooner", the inspiring axiom attributed to David Kelley, renowned expert on innovation design.

A mistake is normally an error in judgment, misunderstanding, or misguided action. You won't always have poor intentions when making mistakes, in fact, many mistakes are accidents. They can occur because you simply didn't know better, whether in your personal or professional life. Alternatively, failure usually comes from a lack of success, or an inability to meet expectations. Several consecutive mistakes could lead to failure, but the terms aren't synonymous. Fear of failure is natural. But since humans aren't perfect, errors are inevitable, and both mistakes and failure are great learning experiences.

Self-reflection is difficult but crucial to the learning journey. Similar to ownership, you can't take steps to change things if you don't know what you did. Ask yourself the hard questions, Take the time to consider what led up to the mistake, including errors you made along the way.

Change is perhaps one of the only constant things about our world. Everything around us, technology, our careers, where we live, whom we love, and what we value, is constantly shifting. Change leads to unfamiliar territory, and with unfamiliar territory comes mistakes. It is impossible to anticipate everything that will happen; all we can do is try our best, ask for help, and support others. Rest assured, you aren't alone in whatever it is you are dealing with.

The quote of Walt Disney "Ah yes, the past can hurt. But the way I see it, you can either run from it or learn from it" will always be inspirational and guaranteed to put a smile on the face and give a spark one needs, who at any given point of time in their life might be feeling down.

When both of my children were toddlers, I occasionally spilled milk and food items and also sometimes pencil shavings from sharpener and eraser/rubber dust in front of them during meal and study times. "Oops, oh well, no big deal, let's clean it up!!" I would say in my high-pitched, goofy voice.

Before they could speak, I sensed that they were wired for perfectionism (something very familiar to me), so I attempted to normalize day-to-day mistakes and to show them how easy it was to bounce back from them.

We all as kids as well as elders are in the thick of the spilled-milk journey, learning to accept and embrace mistakes on a larger scale. Now both my kids are grownup adults, and I am all the more sensitized to how they respond to mistakes in their lives in particular and how they enhance or detract from their learnings.

If teachers and parents can help their students and children, focus on skills and strategies that enhance resilience, they will learn to cope better, recover more quickly, or at least start heading in that direction. There are always good reasons to rethink our approach to mistakes so that we can help our children to ultimately benefit, both academically and emotionally. It's okay to mess up and spill the milk. There is even beauty in vulnerability for it gives us space to find our strength.

Yeh subah hamin se ayegi, Uss subah ko hum hi layenge, Woh subah hamin sey ayegi.