



Indian Currency

Sher Shah Suri was responsible for the Rupee, his version of 1 Re in 1540 AD weighed 11.5 grams of silver and was divided into 40 copper pieces or paisa.

Despite many attempts to bring the Sterling Pound to India, the Rupee grew in popularity and was even exported as a currency to other British colonies. When the British government took over the Company territories after the 1857 revolt, the Rupee became the official currency of colonial India with the head of the king George VI featuring prominently on banknotes and coins.

In 1947 India became an independent nation. The currency kept the name but changed visually to account for the birth of this new nation. The head of the king was replaced with India's national symbol- the Ashoka lion pillar from Sarnath.

There are 4 mints that produce legal tender in India. They are in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Noida. Indian banknotes are made of a balsam wood pulp. Cotton fibres are added to the pulp to make it more durable than regular paper. The whole note is then infused with gelatin to give it extra strength. Using watermark technology, an image of Mahatma Gandhi is imprinted onto the sheet during the paper making process. Before the paper dries, a silver thread with holographic imagery is woven into it. The watermark and silver thread makes the notes very difficult to replicate.

