

Inset As An Alphabet On Indian Banknotes

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The Government of India in 1955 first introduced an Inset on One Rupee notes dated 1951 signed by H. M. Patel, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance. The Inset in this case was an alphabet in uppercase in bold beside the serial number.

The Reserve Bank of India in 1957 first introduced an Inset on Five Rupees notes signed by signed by H.V.R. Iengar. The inset on notes of Reserve Bank of India appears as an alphabet in uppercase in relief underprint beneath the serial number.

The purpose for the use of an inset is two-fold:

1. The use of an inset is to differentiate distinct series of banknotes. There are a large number of banknotes that are printed in India. Once a series is complete, instead of commencing a completely new series, an inset is included beneath the serial number to the same series. This creates a separate identity to the banknote. This process is followed even for insets on replacement notes with a star in the serial number.

Incidentally, from 2005 onwards, the year of printing is also incorporated on the reverse of the banknote. The same inset and serial numbers are once again used each year.

2. To identify the printer.

The inset alphabets are specific to the four different banknote printers currently used to print Indian banknotes by the Reserve Bank of India. Each of these four different banknote printers have been allocated specific inset alphabets.

- Bharatiya Note Mudran Nigam Pvt. Ltd., Mysore, Karnataka : No inset, A, B, C, D
- Banknote Press, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh : E, F, G, H, K
- Currency Note Press, Nashik (Nasik), Maharashtra : L, M, N, P, Q
- Bharatiya Note Mudran Nigam Pvt. Ltd., Salboni, West Bengal : R, S, T, U, V

*Twenty Rupees - Inset R
 printed in 2010 at Bharatiya Note Mudran Nigam Pvt. Ltd., Salboni, West Bengal*



*Fifty Rupees - Inset L
 printed in 2011 at Currency Note Press, Nashik (Nasik), Maharashtra*



One Hundred Rupees - Inset E
 printed in 2008 at Banknote Press, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh



Five Hundred Rupees - No Inset
 printed in 2011 at Bharatiya Note Mudran Nigam Pvt. Ltd., Mysore, Karnataka

