

Salient Features Of Genuine Currency Notes By RBI

General

Rupee one notes are issued with the signature of the Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The notes of Rs. 2 and above denominations are bank notes and are issued with the signature of the Governor, Reserve Bank of India. The details of design, etc., of these notes are notified in the Gazette of India from time to time. It is not possible to lay down hard and fast rules as to the differences noticeable between genuine and forged notes. However, some salient features of genuine notes are described below.

Paper

The paper of all genuine notes is superior rag paper and when new, has a distinct crackle. The crackle, however, is reduced in humid atmosphere and as the note becomes soiled due to circulation.

Watermark

All genuine notes must have watermark of the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi in the left hand window. Watermark is one of the important features which decides the genuineness of notes. If the watermark impression appears crude and without light and shade effect, the notes should be viewed with suspicion. A close examination of the watermark on a suspect note in comparison with that on a genuine note will help to decide whether the suspect note is genuine or not. Slight variations in the position of the watermark in the left hand window of the note can occur even in genuine notes and should not alone cause suspicion.

Security Thread:

All genuine notes of Rs. 5 denomination and above have a security thread embedded vertically which should not only be discernible as a dark line when held against light but also when the note is held slantingly. The security thread can also be generally felt by fingers. The security thread may sometimes have a small gap in some genuine notes, i.e. may appear broken, and need not cause suspicion.

Quality of Printing and Graphics

Genuine notes are printed in distinctive body colors over rainbow tints consisting of fine lines. The printing is neat and clean and free from broken lines and smudges. Register between front and back (i.e. between the design / graphics on the front and that on the back) when held against light is also almost perfect on genuine notes. Notes with crude appearance, broken lines, spelling mistakes, imperfect blending of tints and colors and bad front and back register have to be viewed with suspicion.

Intaglio Printing

Genuine notes are printed using advanced printing techniques, both dry offset (flat printing) and intaglio security feature on certain denominations of notes. This printing feature can be felt as raised printing on paper by passing the fingers on the notes. Presently, denominations of Rs. 10 and above are printed with this feature of intaglio printing. In these denominations of notes, the figures of the denomination of the notes, name of the Reserve Bank of India, the guarantee clause, the promise clause, the signature of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, the language panel and the seal of Reserve Bank of India are in intaglio printing. Notes of denominations of Rs. 100, Rs. 200 and Rs. 500 have intaglio printing on both the sides. However, there is no intaglio print features on notes of Rs. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 (bearing yacht motif on the reverse). The intaglio print may however be less sharp on notes which have become soiled due to circulation.

Numbering

Genuine notes will bear a distinctive serial number along with prefix. The numerals and the alphabets of genuine notes will be in perfect alignment. Any change in the shape of individual numbers or non-alignment of numbers should be viewed with suspicion.

The security features in MG Series 2005 and MG (New) Series banknotes are as under:

i. Security Thread: The silver coloured machine-readable security thread in ₹10, ₹20 and ₹50 denomination banknotes is windowed on front side and fully embedded on reverse side. The thread fluoresces in yellow on both sides under ultraviolet light. The thread appears as a continuous line from behind when held up against light. ₹100 and above denomination banknotes have machine-readable windowed security thread with colour shift from green to blue when viewed from different angles. It fluoresces in yellow on the reverse and the text will fluoresce on the obverse under ultraviolet light.

ii. Intaglio Printing: The portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, Reserve Bank seal, Guarantee and promise clause, Ashoka Pillar emblem, RBI's Governor's signature and the identification mark for the visually impaired persons are printed in intaglio in denominations ₹100 and above.

iii. See through register: On the left side of the note, a part of the numeral of each denomination is printed on the obverse (front) and the other part on the reverse. The accurate back to back registration makes the numeral appear as one when viewed against light.

iv. Water Mark and electrotype watermark: The banknotes contain the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi in the watermark window with a light and shade effect and multi-directional lines. An electrotype mark showing the denominational numeral in each denomination banknote also appears in the watermark widow and these can be viewed better when the banknote is held against light.

v. Colour Shifting Ink: The numeral 200, 500 & 2000 on the ₹200, ₹500 and ₹2000 banknotes are printed in a colour-shifting ink. The colour of these numerals appears green when the banknotes are held flat but would change to blue when the banknotes are held at an angle.

vi. Fluorescence: The number panels of the banknotes are printed in fluorescent ink. The banknotes also have dual coloured optical fibres. Both can be seen when the banknotes are exposed to ultra-violet lamp.

vii. Latent Image: In the banknotes of ₹20 and above in the MG-2005 Series, the vertical band next to the (right side) Mahatma Gandhi's portrait contains a latent image, showing the denominational value as the case may be. The value can be seen only when the banknote is held horizontally and light allowed to fall on it; otherwise this feature appears only as a vertical band. In the MG (New) Series banknotes, the latent image exists in denominations ₹100 and above.

viii. Micro letterings: This feature appears at different places on the banknotes and can be seen better under a magnifying glass.

ix. Additional Features introduced since 2015

• New Numbering Pattern

The numerals in both the number panels of the banknotes are in ascending size from left to right while the first three alpha-numeric characters (prefix) will remain constant in size.

• Angular Bleed Lines and Increase in the size of Identification Marks

Angular Bleed Lines have been introduced in banknotes - 4 lines in 2 blocks in ₹100, 4 angular bleed lines with two circles in between in ₹200, 5 lines in 3 blocks in ₹500, 7 in ₹2000. In addition, the size of the identification marks in denominations ₹100 and above have been increased by 50 percent.

Information about the above security features present in the Indian banknotes denomination-wise is also available on the website www.rbi.org.in>>press releases. Alternately, information can also be accessed from https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=11610&fn=2753&Mode=0