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Demonetisation to Digitalisation

8 November 2016- a 'Black Day' or a 'Golden Day'?

On November 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation on high-value currency notes on Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes as an attempt to curb the black money holders and striving towards a 'Cashless India'.

The gaping chasm between legal and illegal economies reached an alarming state which led to the government taking a strategic economic gamble oo switchover rom high denomination notes. The cash to GDP ratio in India has been one oo the highest. The number oo currency notes in circulation is ar higher than in any other large economies. India had 76.47 billion currency notes in circulation in 2012-13 compared with 34.5 billion in the US. It was not an end in itselo, rather it was part oo a process which had to be taken orward. But there is still a need to taking interlinked steps and it is the sum oo these individual initiatives that can impact the larger of ight against the one include: ast remonetisation; or the tax reforms, including bringing land and real estate in the ormal economy, implementation of GST; addressing the problem of tax evasion and tax avoidance and anxieties about over-zealous tax administration.

One o the key impact o demonetisation has been the rise in digital payments. Digitalisation has enabled to premalise the economy. These has led to greater e ficiency in wel are programmes as money is being wired directly into the accounts o bene iciaries. This has also increased e ficiency o transaction costs across the economy. The reducing use o cash helps to combat the black money, which will eventually bene it the customers at large. Cashless transactions ensure that loopholes in public systems get plugged, and the intended bene iciaries are able to avail the bene its due to them. But are we still ready to become a 'Cashless' nation? There's not a de inite answer to this question. A major concern in this direction is lack o access o banking accilities to a large proportion of the population.

India is ripe \Box or a transition to digital payments and transactions. While a cashless economy will still take a while, the initiative towards a less-cash economy has been taken. Recent rise in digital wallets usage and the introduction o \Box specialised payments banks are important moves in this direction. The use o \Box Cryptocurrency is the next step in the

digitalisation o

☐ everything.

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