

NJB\_ News

Nearly a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the demonetization move, 'BusinessLine' finds out how some of the traditional businesses are coping. [<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/specials/india-file/demonetisation/article9411910.ece>]

Excerpts of the report Javed Nissar, 48, is happy. "Achha hua" (It is good), he said of the recent demonetisation move. A second generation employee in Fort William Jute Mill in Howrah, 10km from the heart of Kolkata, Nissar opened a Jan Dhan account last year. But he had rarely used it till a week ago, when for the first time his ₹5,000 fortnightly wage was transferred to the account, instead of being handed over in cash.

Many see bank transfer as one of the steps to bring transparency in operations. Concerned that they might face the ire of workers for non-payment of wages, jute mill owners now want to transfer salaries through bank.

Nissar, the jute mill worker, welcomes the change but admits that those who didn't have the account faced problems in getting wages. Fatima Bibi, 40, of Hukumchand had to open an account to get wages. And, she is irritated about the delay. But her colleague, Shahzad Ali (52) convinced her that getting salaries through the bank will benefit her.

Ali had opened an account four months ago, nearly two years after the mill became among the first in Naihati to opt for bank transfer to pay salaries. "If you get cash, you tend to blow it up," he said. Ali has saved ₹1,200 over last four months. –end-

In its effort to mobilize jute mill workers to adopt UPI App for cashless transactions NJB along with IJMA have been holding workshops in different mills. This effort of NJB has resulted in near 100 percent jute mill workers now having bank account. Few that were pending till yesterday in each of the mills will be completed in the following weeks depending on the quickness of the banks' response.

