

Cashless Nation: How UPI Changed Everything

Authored by Santanu Paul and B. Sambamurthy, and published by Penguin Random House, the book chronicles the origin story of UPI and the rise of India as a digital superpower

Cashless Nation is a multi-decade narrative of how India built the world's most consequential digital payments system and reshaped its relationship with money. With lucid, fast-paced storytelling, this book traces the personalities, bold ideas, institutional grit, and quiet breakthroughs behind this transformation. It is a compelling ringside view of India's technological ascent.

UPI celebrated its 10th anniversary in August 2026 breaking new records. Today, from street-side vadapav carts to fine-dining restaurants, from plumbers to doctors, from kirana shops to e-commerce behemoths, the swelling tide of UPI payments has lifted all. Seen through the lens of India's search for financial inclusion, and leavened with extensive interviews conducted with principal actors who made it possible, Cashless Nation documents the rise of India as a digital powerhouse.

The book is crafted for a diverse audience, and sheds light on how frictionless digital payments can transform societies, bridge economic divides, and pave the way for an efficient global economy. It is written for readers who enjoy learning about the interplay between technology and finance, policy and practice, as well as enterprises and startups. It is for wellwishers, who may live in India or abroad, that would like very much to see India emerge as the next superpower.

The book's authors Dr. Paul and Mr. Sambamurthy, have had a ring-side view of the transformative developments in India's payments landscape, thanks to their deep involvement with NPCI and IDRBT, as well as many other boards and committees across India's financial sector. This unique combination of a technology practitioner and a banking practitioner writing together provides readers with rare insights.

More details of the book can be found at cashlessnationbook.com