

**16– 10 – 2022**

**News:** RBI allows offline digital transaction

- To push digital transactions in rural and semi-urban areas, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework allowing offline payments.

## **Offline Digital Payment**

- To push digital transactions **in rural and semi-urban areas, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework allowing offline payments up to Rs 200 per transaction, subject to an overall limit of Rs 2,000.**
- An offline digital payment means a transaction that **does not require internet or telecom connectivity.**
- Transactions are subject to a **limit of Rs 200 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 for all transactions until the balance in the account is replenished.**
- Balance **replenishment can only occur in an online mode.**
- Under the offline mode, payments can be carried out face-to-face (proximity mode) using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets, and mobile devices.
- These transactions **will not require an additional factor of authentication (AFA).**
- Since the transactions are offline, **alerts will be received by the customer after a time lag.**

## Significance of this move

- **Push to digital transactions:** Offline transactions are expected to **give a push to digital transactions in areas with poor or weak internet or telecom connectivity**, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas.
- **Consent of the customer:** It can be **enabled only after obtaining the specific consent** of the customer.
- **Grievance Redressal:** The **customers will continue to enjoy protection under the provisions of circulars limiting customer liability** and will have recourse to the Reserve Bank Integrated Ombudsman Scheme for grievance redress.

## News: Centre considering Sri Lanka's proposal to translocate gaurs

- Close on the heels of the project that translocated cheetahs from Namibia, the Indian government is considering a proposal from Colombo to export a number of gaurs, or Indian bison, to Sri Lanka to revive the population of gaurs that have been extinct in the island since the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century

## **Indian Gaur / Indian Bison**

- Indian gaur is also called **Indian bison**.
- Distributed throughout **South & Southeast Asia**, they are largely confined to **evergreen forests or semi-evergreen & moist deciduous forests**.

- IUCN Status: **Vulnerable.**
- CITES Status: **Appendix I.**
- Wildlife Protection Act: **Schedule I.**
- Recent surveys revealed that more than **2000 individuals** are present in the **Nilgiri region.**
- Threats faced include **human-animal conflict and Habitat destruction.**