

# NEWS TODAY

## CENTRE TELLS STATES TO BORROW FROM RBI TO BRIDGE GST GAP

- States are **likely to face a GST revenue gap of Rs. 3 lakh crore** this year, as economy may contract due to COVID-19.
  - Compensation payments to states started getting delayed since October last year as GST revenues started to slow down.
  - Covid-19 pandemic has widened the gap, with GST revenues declining 41% in April-June quarter.
- GST Act extends a **guarantee to states that any loss in revenues in first five years** of GST implementation (2017-2022) will be made through a **GST Compensation Cess**, additional cess on certain notified goods in addition to GST applicable on it.
  - Of the Rs. 3lakh crore gap, Compensation cess collections are only expected to cover 65000Cr.
  - Of the remaining Rs. 2.35 lakh crore, Centre said only **Rs. 97,000 crore was** revenue loss due to transition to GST and rest was COVID-led slowdown.
  - Government has said that Rs. 97,000 crore was covered under GST compensation Act and rest of the revenue losses attributed to COVID fallout are not covered under compensation.
- Now states are **provided two borrowing options** to address shortfall. (See infographic)

OPTION 1 ₹2.35 LAKH CRORE	
Full GST compensation shortfall for FY21	Borrowing from mkt; Centre, RBI to facilitate
Shortfall due to pandemic as well as GST implementation	Relaxation of 0.5% in states' borrowing limit under FRBM Act
OPTION 2 ₹97,000 CRORE	
Shortfall amount owing to GST implementation	Borrowing via RBI special window
KEY HIGHLIGHTS	
FY21 an extraordinary situation due to 'Act of God'	
Contraction in economy expected	
In both options, states not to be burdened	
Option to be relooked at in FY 2021-22	

## STATES CAN HAVE SUB-GROUPS AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs) / SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs): SUPREME COURT (SC)

- A five judges bench of SC held that States can **sub-classify SCs and STs in 'Central List'** to provide preferential treatment to certain Scheduled Castes over others to ensure equal representation.
  - States have argued that some castes remain grossly under-represented despite reservation in comparison to other.
- Earlier in 2005, in **E V Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh and Others** (five judges bench), SC ruled that **only President has power to notify inclusion or exclusion of a caste as SC**, and states cannot tinker with the list.
  - Central List' of SCs and STs** is notified by President under **Articles 341 and 342**.
- Court said that, **sub-classifications within Central List does not amount to "tinkering" with it**. States only give preference to weakest in a pragmatic manner based on statistical data.
- Since a Bench of equal strength (five judges in this case) cannot overrule a previous decision, court referred it to a **larger Bench**.
- Court also said reservation for weaker sections was not contemplated by Constitution makers in perpetuity and constitutional goal of social transformation cannot be achieved without taking into account changing social realities.

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) CERTIFIED AFRICAN REGION FREE OF WILD POLIO

- For certification, **all countries in WHO Region need to have no case of wild polio for 3 consecutive years**. No single country can be certified as polio-free.
  - Now, five of six WHO regions**, except Eastern Mediterranean which includes Afghanistan and Pakistan, **are certified free of wild poliovirus**.
  - In 2014, India was officially declared polio-free, along with the rest of the South-East Asia Region.
- Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly **infectious disease that invades nervous system**. There are **3 types of wild polio virus** – type 1, type 2, and type 3. **Only type 1 wild poliovirus remains in circulation**.
- Two types of vaccinations** against poliovirus:
  - Inactivated polio vaccine** is made up of inactivated (killed) polio virus and will provide immunity from all strains of polio.
  - Oral polio vaccine** contains a live, attenuated (weakened) vaccine-virus. When a child is vaccinated, the weakened vaccine-virus replicates, triggering a protective immune response.
    - However, in some cases, **vaccine-virus is genetically altered during replication. This is called a vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV)**.
- Diseases eradicated from India:** Yaws, Polio, Guinea worm, smallpox, Maternal and neonatal tetanus.

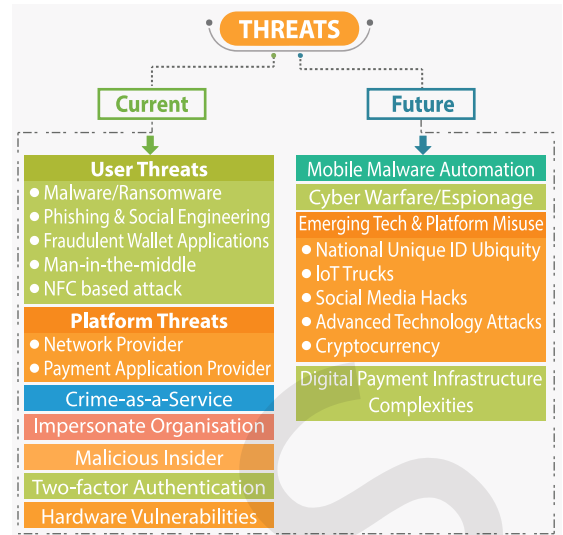
## NATIONAL GIS-ENABLED LAND BANK SYSTEM LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

- National **GIS (Geographic Information System)**-enabled Land Bank system, is being developed by integration of Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS Systems.
  - Department for promotion of Industry & Internal Trade** has developed IIS portal, a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the country **to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial upgradation and sustainability**.
  - GIS is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface.
- IIS aims **to provide details of logistics, land, rail & air connectivity, tax incentives, drainage system, power supply and raw material availability** from portal on various industrial belts.
  - Currently information about industrial belts in six states is available on the portal.
- Benefits:** It will help investors to get real-time information about availability of industrial land and resources for potential projects; address delays in acquiring land especially for large projects, ease in land conversion from agriculture use, improving ease of doing business etc.
- Issues in land availability:** mismatch between demand and supply, fragmented land holdings, regulatory and policy restrictions, dysfunctional pricing regime and weak informational and institutional mechanisms.

Region	Year certified polio-free
WHO African Region	2020
WHO Region of the Americas	1994
WHO South-East Asia Region	2014
WHO European Region	2002
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region	Not Yet certified
WHO Western Pacific Region	2000

# NEED FRAMEWORK TO TACKLE DIGITAL PAYMENT FRAUDS: DSCI-PAYPAL INDIA REPORT

- Report points that the growing adoption of digital payments in the country, has necessitated the need for a comprehensive framework to tackle cybersecurity risks involving digital transactions.
  - India's digital payment industry is expected to **grow five-fold to reach USD 1 Trillion** by 2023. (currently worth around USD 200 Billion).
- Risk factors for India:**
  - Large population which is not tech savvy.
  - Lack of cyber security risks knowledge among masses.
  - Sudden acceleration in adoption of digital payment channels.
  - vulnerabilities and gaps in the digital payment infrastructure and products etc.
- Key suggestions:**
  - Long-term strategy** for managing global cyber security environment and controlling cybercrime.
  - Standardized data protection** laws and cyber security frameworks for digital payments.
  - Comprehensive regulatory guidelines** on risk management technologies.
  - Threat intelligence sharing across the ecosystem.**
  - Strong **start-up innovation** program for cyber security and the Fintech sector.
  - Public-private partnerships** for cyber security education and workforce development.
  - Incentivize companies to make cyber security and data protection a priority** for Boards and C-Suites.



## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>Nationally Determined Contributions- Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC- TIA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NDC-TIA project <b>aims at promoting a coherent strategy of effective policies for decarbonising transport</b> that are co-ordinated among various sector ministries, civil society and the private sector.</li> <li>Project <b>engages in China, India and Vietnam over the period 2020-24.</b></li> <li>It is a <b>joint project of seven organisations</b> including World Resources Institute, International Transport Forum, International Council on Clean Transportation etc.</li> <li>The <b>implementing partner in India for the project is NITI Aayog.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>NASA maps trace causes of global mangrove habitat loss</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map highlighted that <b>overall mangrove habitat loss declined</b> between 2000 and 2016.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Losses from natural causes such as erosion and extreme weather <b>declined more slowly than human causes.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Key drivers for mangrove loss:</b> Rice, shrimp, and oil palm cultivation; Shoreline erosion; extreme weather events etc.</li> <li>Mangroves are <b>trees and shrubs that grow in tropical and subtropical coastlines</b> in wet and moist soil.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They <b>shield the coastline</b> from erosion and damage, and store carbon in their roots, trunks and in the soil.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>UdeDesh Ka AamNagrik (UDAN)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>78 new routes under the 4th round of <b>Regional Connectivity Scheme- UDAN</b> have been approved.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019 with a <b>special focus on North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>UDAN was <b>launched in 2016</b>, with aim to <b>provide connectivity to un-served and under-served airports</b> through revival of existing air-strips and airports.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the scheme, airlines are offered <b>viability gap fund for 50% of the seats</b> on a flight and fares for those seats are capped by the government.</li> </ul> </li> <li>It is a key component of <b>National Civil Aviation Policy 2016.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>KIRAN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a <b>mental health rehabilitation helpline</b> to provide support for issues like early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being etc.</li> <li>It will offer services in 13 languages.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&amp;D)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BPR&amp;D, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, <b>is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Anniversary</b> on 28th August, 2020.</li> <li>It was raised with a mandate <b>to promote excellence in policing, promote speedy and systematic study of police problems</b>, apply science and technology in the method and techniques by the Police.</li> </ul>
<p><b>World Urdu Conference</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is being organized by <b>National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL).</b></li> <li>NCPUL is an <b>autonomous body under the Ministry of Education</b>, Department of Secondary and Higher Education.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was set up to <b>promote, develop and propagate Urdu language.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>Urdu is <b>one of the languages under 8th schedule</b> of the Constitution of India.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Great Andamanese tribe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, few members of the tribe have <b>tested positive for COVID-19.</b></li> <li>Great Andamanese are <b>one of five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)</b> that reside in Andamans archipelago. Other are: Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and Sentinelese.</li> </ul>

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