

Q. As the use of cash has risen alongside spiking digital payments, more needs to be done to promote unified payment interface. Discuss.

↳ currency in circulation growing might alongside of rising digital adoption with the spread of mobile wallets, QR based apps and unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Advantages of Using UPI

↳ UPI manage to materially reduce the need for the public to deal in cash.

↳ UPI use prompts bank account holders to hold large balances in their savings accounts, providing a banks with cost source of funds and a higher CASA cushion for lending

↳ Greater traceability of transactions for taxman looking to widen tax base.

↳ Demand for paper currency diminish, Banks would save on logistic costs involved in safely storing and transporting paper currency and regularly filling the ATM

↳ Digital Payments are still far from ubiquitous says National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Need of the Hour

- ↳ Need to address stumbling blocks to reach the digital payments by policy maker.
- ↳ The Mobile wallets, Payment apps and QR code readers available only on smartphones.
- ↳ RBI is trying to remedy this with launch of UPI U2PAY for feature phones.
- ↳ Educate users about safe use of UPI
- ↳ currently, high transaction failures rates, this requires users to be given access to more channels beyond the app providers themselves.
- ↳ Banks and other participants need to make adequate investments in infrastructure to keep up with transaction volumes.
- ↳ RBI and centre quickly arrive at an understanding on the issue of changing for UPI services.