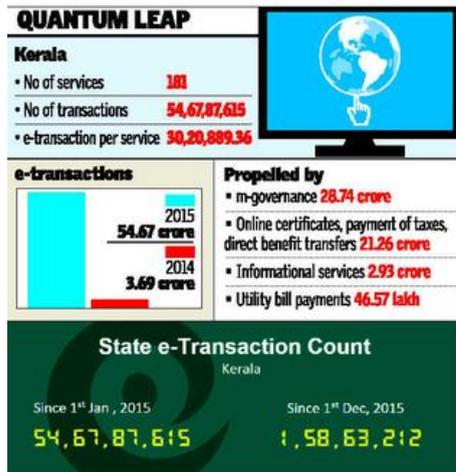


State ranked third in e-transactions



T. Nandakumar

Registers 54.67 crore e-transactions this year, a 15-fold growth over last year's



erala has registered a quantum leap in the number of electronic transactions since the start of the year, displacing 10 States to occupy the third position in the national tally.

As on Thursday evening, Kerala had registered 54.67 crore e-transactions this year, representing a 15- fold growth from 3.69 crore transactions in 2014. Andhra Pradesh with 111.88 crore transactions, tops the list, followed by Telangana with 87.34 crore transactions, according to the National e-Transaction Count maintained by the Electronic Transaction Aggregation and Analysis Layer (etaal) under the Union Department of Electronics and Information Technology. In 2014, Kerala was ranked 13.

Mobile governance

The phenomenal growth in e-transactions in Kerala this year was propelled largely by mobile governance services (28.74 crore transactions) and issue of online certificates, payment of taxes, and direct benefit transfers (21.26 crore).

Informational services like railway enquiry, passport status, and exam results and downloading of forms and tenders amounted to 2.93 crore transactions, while utility bill payments accounted for 46.57 lakh transactions. Business to citizen services like banking and mobile recharge registered 16.55 lakh transactions.

With 180 e-services, the State is ranked fifth, behind Andhra Pradesh (263), Telangana (225), Madhya Pradesh (206) and Gujarat (195). Last year, Kerala had only 139 e-services.

Interestingly, Andhra Pradesh retained the top slot with a 10 fold growth in the number of e-transactions despite a fall in the number of services from 413 to 263. Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand registered a drop in the number of services and transactions while West Bengal recorded an increase in e-transactions despite a marginal fall in the number of services.

Kerala is also placed third in the number of transactions per service (3020856.65), behind Andhra Pradesh (4254020.69) and Telangana (3882052.76).

Aadhaar-enabled services

Director, Kerala State IT Mission K. Mohammed Y.Safirulla told *The Hindu* that efforts were on to increase the number of Aadhaar-enabled services, equip all the 2450 Akshaya centres with banking kiosks and introduce a single mobile app that would enable citizens to avail of a variety of government services.

These initiatives, he said, would be a game changer for the State in the race for the top slot.

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