

# e-grantz applications cross a lakh

## Student grant sanction online

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**KOCHI:** Akshaya Mission has logged over one lakh online applications across the State in just over a month under e-grantz, a web-based application of the Department of Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes Development to distribute grants and stipends to students. Under the project, the entire process — from applying to sanctioning and disbursal of grants — is online.

Although there was a dedicated site for e-grantz earlier, offline filing of applications was not possible. Students had to manually file applications through schools. Much time was lost between the application and receipt of financial assistance, as the applications had to pass through various sections before it reached the clerk concerned in the SC/ST Department.

"Filing of applications was made online at the beginning of this academic year. Straightaway the project was given to Akshaya. Filing of applications began by June 25. Since then, 1,12,675 applications have been filed through over 2,000 Akshaya centres across the State," Rejeetha Bimal, manager (e-governance), Akshaya Mission, told *The Hindu*.

"The most number of applications were filed in Kozhikode (13,623), followed by

- Service, operated by Akshaya Mission, is free for students

- System facilitates speedy processing of applications

Malappuram (12,954), Palakkad (12,547), Ernakulam (11,961), and Thrissur (10,436). The remaining nine districts are ranked in the following order: Kottayam (9,364), Thiruvananthapuram (8,108), Alappuzha (7,299), Kollam (6,643), Kannur (5,795), Pathanamthitta (4,322), Kasaragod (4,071), Idukki (3,033), and Wayanad (2,519)," she added.

The service is free for students. Akshaya entrepreneurs fill in the application and attach the applicant's photo too.

The application thus filed instantly goes into the inbox of the section clerk of the SC/ST Department, facilitating speedy processing.

The online system has proved beneficial to service providers as well. Akshaya entrepreneurs receive Rs.20 for every fresh application filed and Rs.15 for every renewal out of a fund earmarked for the purpose by the SC/ST Department, Ms. Bimal said.

The Centre for Development of Imaging Technology developed the software for the project.