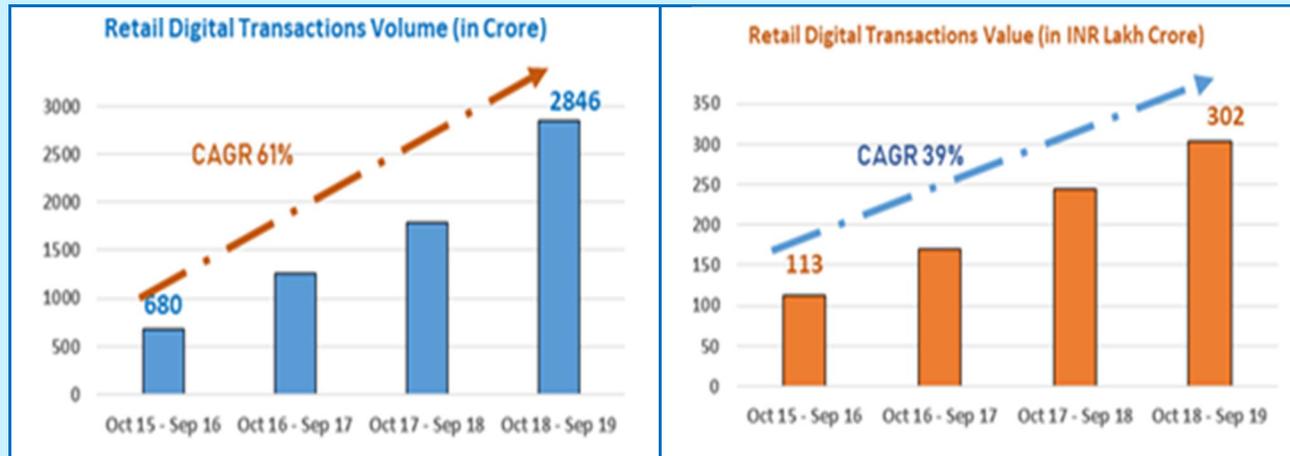


RBI proposes measures to promote digital payments

In pursuance of RBI's vision to promote digital payments, it has been endeavouring to establish state of the art payment systems that are efficient, convenient, safe, secure and affordable. Digital payments constituted a high 96% of total non-cash retail payments during the period October 2018 to September 2019. During the same period, the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) systems handled 252 crore and 874 crore transactions with year on year growth of 20% and 263%, respectively. This rapid growth in the payment systems, inter-alia, has been facilitated by a series of measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India. The efforts of RBI have resulted in a rapid growth in the retail digital payment systems stated as below:



Source: RBI

To further empower every citizen with an Exceptional (e) Payment Experience, and provide her access to a bouquet of options, the Reserve Bank proposes to take the following steps:

- Mandate banks not to charge savings bank account customers for online transactions in the NEFT system with effect from January 2020.

- Operationalise the Acceptance Development Fund to increase acceptance infrastructure with effect from January 1, 2020.
- Constitute a Committee to assess the need for plurality of QR codes and merits of their co-existence or convergence from both systemic and consumer viewpoints.
- Permit all authorised payment systems and instruments (non-bank PPIs, cards and UPI) for linking with National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTags. Going forward, this will facilitate the use of FASTags for parking, fuel, etc., payments in an interoperable environment.
- Enable processing of e-mandates for transactions through UPI.

The benchmarking exercise undertaken by the Reserve Bank reveals a high position enjoyed by the country in various parameters in the payment systems. Reserve Bank has facilitated acceptance of RuPay cards in Bhutan and will actively engage with the payment system regulators in other jurisdictions and share its experience to derive synergies and reduce the cost and time taken for inward remittances, especially in key remittance corridors.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Associate Economist at surbhi@phdcci.in with a cc to Dr. S P Sharma, Chief Economist at spsharma@phdcci.in of PHD Chamber.

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