

Soon, your car will get an 'Aadhaar' card

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RFID tags for vehicles promise gains for users as well as road authorities

Fastags, which are basically RFID tags for vehicles that allow uninterrupted passage through toll plazas on online payment of toll charges, are likely to emerge as Aadhar-like unique identity numbers for vehicles in the country.

Senior officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have already started referring to these tags as 'vehicle Aadhar' in their meetings. Besides enabling trucks and vehicles to zoom through toll plazas, these tags allow users to get discounted toll charges and probably even discounted fuel.

These also enable the government to track vehicles, at least on the national highways (NH).

To start with, the tags just stored vehicle data such as registration number and class of vehicle, which help determine the exact charges at each toll booth it crosses.

Recently, NHAI has also started putting encrypted vehicle related data like engine and chassis number in these tags. Moreover, the tags have the capacity to store more data such as pollution under control, insurance and even GSTIN number.

Numerous benefits

With the storage of pollution and insurance data, agencies wanting to check vehicles violating these norms can do so by installing tag readers within cities, particularly in the planned smartcities, Akhilesh Kumar Srivastava, CGM-IT, NHAI, told *BusinessLine*.

In the backdrop of the recent Supreme Court order on privacy, NHAI is ensuring that it protects the data by sharing the “bare minimum information” with agencies to activate the tags, said Srivastava.

As of now six lakh such tags have been fixed on vehicles. Of the ₹50-crore toll charges collected every day, NHAI now collects about ₹8 crore, or 17.4 per cent, through Fastags. Last year’s demonetisation move gave the tag a bigger push.

Almost all the NH toll plazas are being enabled with RFID readers. This will help prevent revenue losses at toll plazas by cutting down the possibility of reflecting a lower revenue receipt than the actual fee. The system is also expected to improve the safety of toll plaza handlers.

At least one lane of about 371 NH toll plazas have become RFID reader enabled. All lanes are expected to be electronically enabled by October, helping the government track all vehicles across the NH network.

These 371 RFID enabled plazas are spread over 50,000 km of the NH network, constituting roughly 48 per cent of the full stretch of India’s highways. This is managed by NHAI.

Another 48-odd toll booths spread over 50,000 km of NH is managed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. For this part of the network, Indian Highways Management Co Ltd (IHMCL), a company which is implementing the electronic toll system for the national highways, and in which NHAI has a stake, has recently got the mandate to make electronic toll plazas. “This should be done in six-eight months,” said Srivastava.

To ensure faster and wider adoption of the tags, NHAI recently launched two apps — one which enables users to buy tags from issuing banks and websites of NHAI and IHMCL; and another vehicle dealers, IOC, etc. Those selling and activating tags include banks such as SBI, ICICI, Axis, IDBI and small finance bank Equitas, as well as PayTM.

“About 50,000 end-users have downloaded the app in the last 12 days,” said Srivastava. NHAI has also roped in the Common Service Centres that distribute Aadhar numbers to people to sell the Fastags.

Now, zip through dedicated FASTag lane at toll plazas

NEW DELHI: To facilitate hassle-free passage, a dedicated lane for FASTag enabled vehicles has been operationalised at all toll plazas on national highways across the country from today, the government said.

"NHAI achieved the first milestone in electronic toll collection when it operationalised one dedicated FASTag lane at all toll plazas from today. Now FASTag enabled vehicles can cruise through the dedicated FASTag lane without stopping at toll plazas on national highways," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement.

The FASTag is an RFID tag available both online and offline through banks and common service centres.

Two mobile applications were launched by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) last month for ease of obtaining FASTags.

"Thousands of road users have downloaded the applications and purchased FASTags in less than two weeks. The penetration of FASTag has increased to 18 per cent as on August 31, 2017," the statement said.

The government of India has mandated that new vehicles being sold with effect from October 1, 2017 will be affixed with active FASTag.

The "FASTag Partner App" will facilitate more than 6,000 dealers in the country to access a single platform and activate the FASTag at the time of delivery of vehicle, it said.

NHAI has also launched massive awareness campaign to make road users aware of the FASTag and its benefits.

"NHAI officers have been tasked to visit toll plazas personally and ensure operationalisation of single dedicated electronic toll collection lane. NHAI plans that as penetration of FASTag increases, more and more lanes will be dedicated to ETC," the statement said.

In big hurry? No time to stop? Now, cruise through all toll plazas on national highways courtesy FASTag

FASTag is a RFID tag available both online and offline through banks and common service centres.

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Fastrack your toll experience




Non Stop Flow

 Buy	 Recharge	 Feedback
 Toll Information	 Advantage	 <u>Requirements</u>

Requirements

Individuals

- Basic KYC details (name, mobile no) & vehicle number
- Vehicle Registration Certificate copy

Corporates

- Certificate of Incorporation/Partnership Deed/Registration certificate of the firm
- Photo ID of signing authority
- Vehicle Registration Certificate copy

For more information visit: <http://www.ihmcl.com/>



FASTag is a RFID tag available both online and offline through banks and common service centres.

TOP NEWS

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Monday said that a dedicated lane for FASTag enabled vehicles has been operationalised at all toll plazas on national highways across the country from Friday, Press Trust of India reported. The step has been taken to facilitate hassle-free passage for the FASTag enabled vehicles. "NHAI achieved the first milestone in electronic toll collection when it operationalised one dedicated FASTag lane at all toll plazas from today. Now FASTag enabled vehicles can cruise through the dedicated FASTag lane without stopping at toll plazas on national highways," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement. PTI reports that FASTag is a RFID tag available both online and offline through banks and common service centres. NHAI had launched two mobile applications last month for ease of obtaining FASTags. "Thousands of road users have downloaded the applications and purchased FASTags in less than two weeks. The penetration of FASTag has increased to 18 per cent as on August 31, 2017," PTI quoted agency as saying. As per the report, the government has made it mandatory that the new vehicles being sold with effect from October 1, 2017, will be affixed with active FASTag.

The statement said that the “FASTag Partner App” will help more than 6,000 dealers in the country and facilitate them the access to a single platform and activate the FASTag at the time of delivery of the vehicle. In addition, the authority has even started a number of awareness campaigns to make road users aware of the FASTag and its benefits. “NHAI officers have been tasked to visit toll plazas personally and ensure operationalisation of single dedicated electronic toll collection lane. NHAI plans that as penetration of FASTag increases, more and more lanes will be dedicated to ETC,” the statement said as per PTI.

Tourist taxi union opposes FASTag



The government wants to make it mandatory for dealers to fix FASTag in 4-wheelers sold from October 1 onwards. | Photo Credit: [N BASHKARAN](#)

Can't produce toll receipts for submission to customers

A draft notification by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to make installation of FASTag compulsory for four-wheelers from October 1 has put the tourist taxi industry in a fix.

The draft rules, published on Tuesday, make it mandatory for dealers to fix FASTag in vehicles in the M&N category sold from October 1 onwards. Else, the regional transport authorities cannot register the vehicle. M&N category comprises four-wheelers for passengers as well as goods.

The tags would have to be installed on the front windscreen. In cases where the vehicle is sold without a windscreen, the purchaser will have to fix a windscreen and FASTag before registration.

“It will not be economically viable for fleet operators to deposit huge amounts of money in advance where there is no guarantee that these vehicles will be crossing toll plazas on a regular basis. Taxi operators receive payments against expenses, including toll tax, on production of physical receipt from customers. We won’t get a receipt in the FASTag system,” says a petition by the Bangalore Tourist Taxi Owners’ Association (BTTOA) addressed to the MoRTH seeking exemption for tourist taxis from the rule.

The petition says: ‘We hope that this system will be helpful for many, but it would be better to exempt taxis. Besides, FASTag is available only in a few banks’.

The lack of FASTags became a major issue last year when demonetisation was announced. Even now, according to the MoRTH website, these tags are available only in select locations in Bengaluru and in the offices of a few banks.