NHAI Introduces 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' Initiative

Source: PIB

Why in News?

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched the **'One Vehicle, One FASTag'** initiative that aims to **discourage user behavior of using single** FASTag **for multiple vehicles** or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle.

- NHAI is also encouraging FASTag users to complete the 'Know Your Customer' **(KYC)** process of their latest FASTag by updating KYC **as per RBI guidelines.**
- FASTags with valid balance but with incomplete KYC will get deactivated/blacklisted by banks post **31st January 2024.**

What is FASTag?

- **About:** FASTag is a device that employs **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion.
    - NHAI launched two mobile Apps – **MyFASTag and FASTag Partner** to facilitate the availability of FASTags.
    - The tag is valid for **5 years** from the date of issuance and comes in seven different colour codes.

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Description	NPCI Vehicle Class	Tag Color	TAG COST	Tag Deposit	Threshold amount	SALE AMOUNT
Car/Jeep/Van/Tata Ace and similar mini light commercial vehicles	Class 4	Violet	100	200	100	400
Light commercial vehicles 2-axle/Mini Bus	Class 5	Orange			140	140
Bus 3-axle/Truck 3-axle	Class 6	Yellow			300	300
Bus 2-axle/Truck 2-axle	Class 7	Green			300	300
Tractor/Tractor with trailer/Truck 4-axle/Truck 5-axle/Truck 6-axle	Class 12	Pink			300	300
Truck 7-axle and above	Class 15	Blue			300	300
Earth Moving/Heavy Construction Machinery	Class 16	Black			300	300

- **Benefits of FASTag:**
    - **For Road Users**
        - Near non-stop motion through toll plazas
        - Convenience for cashless payment of toll fee

- Less traffic congestion and reduced commute times
  - **For Toll Operator**
    - Lower operating costs
    - Better audit control through centralized user accounts
    - Improved capacity without being required to build more infrastructure
  - **For Government**
    - Savings on fuel and reduction of emissions from idling and repeated stops at toll plazas.
    - Improves transparency of toll transactions

Note

Radio Frequency Identification is a technology that uses radio waves to passively identify a tagged object. The system has two basic parts: **tags and readers.**

- The reader gives off radio waves and gets signals back from the RFID tag, while the tag uses radio waves to communicate its identity and other information.

What is the National Highways Authority of India?

- NHAI was constituted by an Act of Parliament in **1988** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** as a Central Authority to **develop, maintain and manage the** National Highways entrusted to it by the Government of India.
  - The authority, however, became operational in **February, 1995.**
- The Authority consists of a **full time Chairman, and not more than five full time Members and four part time Members** who are appointed by the Central Government.

What is the National Electronic Toll Collection Programme?

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has created the **National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC)** program to fulfill India's electronic tolling needs.
  - This program provides a **nationwide, interoperable toll payment solution,** covering clearing house services for settlement and dispute resolution.
- In the context of NETC, interoperability means a standardized set of processes and technical specifications, **allowing FASTag users to use their tags for payment at any toll plaza**, regardless of the plaza's operator.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

1. Consider the following communication technologies: (2022)

1. Closed-circuit Television
2. Radio Frequency Identification
3. Wireless Local Area Network

Which of the above are considered Short-Range devices/technologies?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)