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## Green Cess in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 10 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

According to the officials, the **Uttarakhand Government** will soon impose a [green cess](#) on out-of-state vehicles.

- A Green cess is a **form of tax** levied by the government with the **purpose of [environmental conservation](#)**.

### Key Points

- **Introduction of Green Cess in Uttarakhand:**
  - The cess will **range from Rs 20 to Rs 80** and will apply to both **commercial and private vehicles**.
  - Two-wheelers, [electric vehicles](#) and [Compressed Natural Gas \(CNG\)](#) vehicles, ambulances, fire brigades, and vehicles registered in Uttarakhand **will be exempted**.
- **Implementation and Technology:**
  - The system is targeted to become **operational by the end of December 2024**.
  - Automatic **number plate recognition cameras** will identify vehicles, and cess amounts will be **deducted directly from** vehicle owners' [FASTag wallets](#).

### FASTag

- It is a device that employs [Radio Frequency Identification \(RFID\) technology](#) for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion.
- [National Highways Authority of India \(NHAI\)](#) **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 color codes.

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## Landslide Zones Successfully Treated in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 10 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

According to the [Border Roads Organisation \(BRO\)](#), the **rock bolt technology** is successfully treating **active [landslide zones](#)** in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- **Landslide Challenges in Uttarakhand:**

- **Landslides** occur regularly in the hill areas, especially during the [monsoon season](#), causing roadblocks and inconveniences for **Chardham pilgrims**.
- These landslides often **result in loss of lives** and have long been a major concern.
- Persistent landslide zones on the [Gangotri and Yamunotri highways](#) have posed significant risks for years.
- **Adoption of Australian Rock Bolt Technology:**
  - The BRO is using **Australian rock bolt technology** to **treat active landslide zones at Raturisera and Bandarkot** on the Gangotri highway in Uttarkashi district.
  - Previously, the technology was **successfully applied at Nalupani and Chungi Badethi landslide zones**.
    - The technology has been instrumental in treating landslide zones active for years as part of the [Chardham road-widening project](#).
- **Effectiveness and Techniques:**
  - The technology has been 90% effective in preventing landslides.
  - It **involves soil nailing to stabilize loose soil and rock bolting in bedrock** to strengthen vulnerable areas.

## Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- Established in 1960 with only two projects, **Project Tusker (now Vartak) in the East and Project Beacon in North India**, the BRO has grown to become a vibrant organisation with 18 projects operating in 11 States and three Union Territories.
  - It is now recognised as the leading infrastructure construction agency in high-altitude and difficult snow-bound areas.
- In 2023-24, the BRO completed 125 infrastructure projects, including the construction of [the Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chardwar-Tawang Road](#).
  - The BRO will soon start construction on **the 4.10-km long Shinkun La Tunnel, which will become the world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft** once completed, bypassing **China's Mila Tunnel at 15,590 ft**.
- The BRO is an Indian executive force under the **Ministry of Defence**, to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-eastern states.
- It operates under the **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** and is responsible for road networks in border areas and neighbouring countries.
  - The **motto of BRO is "Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam"**, which translates to **"Everything is achievable through hard work."**