

FASTag to Fast Track Road Travel

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has decided that all lanes in the fee plazas on National Highways (NH) shall be declared as 'FASTag lane of the fee plaza' with effect from midnight of 15th/16th February, 2021. As per NH Fee Rules 2008, any vehicle not fitted with FASTag or a vehicle without a valid, functional FASTag entering into the FASTag lane of the fee plaza, shall pay a fee equivalent to two times of the fee applicable to that category.

This has been done to further promote fee payment through digital mode, reduce waiting time and fuel consumption, and provide for a seamless passage through the fee plazas. FASTag is a simple to use, rechargeable tag, which enables automatic deduction of charges at toll plazas and lets one pass through without stopping for any cash transaction. It is a tag or a sticker that needs to be affixed on the windscreen of a vehicle. It uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology that helps toll plazas to scan the bar-code like sticker on the windscreen and automatically deduct the toll fee from the respective FASTag wallet.

Since the advent of COVID-19, commuters are increasingly looking at FASTag as a toll payment option as it annuls the chances of any human contact between the drivers and the toll operators. MoRTH had mandated fitment of FASTag in M&N categories of motor vehicles with effect from 1st January, 2021. Category 'M' stands for a motor vehicle with at least four wheels used for carrying passengers and Category 'N' stands for a motor vehicle with at least four wheels used for carrying goods, which may also carry persons in addition to goods.

FASTag is easily available at over 30,000 points of sale (PoS) across the country and is mandatorily available at National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) toll plazas. PoS include RTOs, Common Service Centers, transport hubs, selected petrol pumps etc. For retail segment (car/jeep/van) FASTag may be purchased online through websites of different member banks such as SBI, ICICI bank, Axis bank, HDFC bank, IDFC First bank, etc or through their specific bank branches. It can also be purchased online from Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Paytm, Google Pay and MyFASTag mobile app.

For recharge facility, NHAI / Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) have developed a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recharge facility via MyFASTag app. FASTag can be also be recharged by visiting respective bank's portal through net-banking, credit/debit card, UPI and other popular means of payment.

The toll collection through FASTag had crossed Rs. 80 crore per day on 24th December, 2020, with record 50 lakh FASTag transactions per day.

IHMCL has announced introduction of 'Missed Call Alert Facility' for NHAI Prepaid Wallet balance enquiry. It has also warned that some fraudsters are selling FASTags online making them appear to be as those of NHAI / IHMCL.

Notifications

PIB

Amazon India to commence Electronic Devices Manufacturing in India

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India's Foreign Trade for January 2021

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Index Numbers of WPI for January, 2021

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Capex utilisation in DFC increases by 21%

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