

Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Infrastructure

Why in News?

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has directed banks issuing FASTags to verify and correct vehicle registration numbers to enable the rollout of the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system.

- It is an advanced facility that ***allows vehicles to pass through toll gates at high speeds***, without stopping or slowing at toll plazas.
- It will replace traditional physical toll booths.
- **Process** - The MLFF or barrier-less tolling system does not have boom barriers.
- **Technology** - The toll is collected with
 - **Satellite-based GPS technology**,
 - **High-performance Radio Frequency Identification FASTag readers** - Detects tags mounted on windshields,
 - **Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras** - Captures front/back images to recognize license plates (using India-optimized OCR) and
 - **Laser/Sensor Technology** - Performs automatic vehicle classification (AVC).
- **Mandatory VRN Linkage** - In the absence of human intervention in this process, a mismatch in the VRN linked to the FASTag could see commuters pass without paying the fee.
- Thus, Accurate VRN mapping with FASTag is critical for MLFF tolling.
- So, the NHAI has directed banks to blacklist FASTags found linked to incorrect or invalid VRNs.
- **Benefits of MLFF**
 - **Uninterrupted Travel** - No slowdowns or physical barriers.
 - **Reduced Congestion** - High-speed travel increases traffic throughput.

- **Improved Efficiency** - Saves fuel and reduces vehicle emissions due to no idling.
- **Enhanced Revenue** - Lower risk of leakage and improved compliance.
- **Enforcement actions**- Before the MLFF system is made fully operational, NHAI and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) are taking a series of steps to prevent misuse, especially concerning the user fee.
- Issuance of electronic notices to vehicles for non-payment of the user fee.
- **Operationality** - The MoRTH has awarded the tender for 16 toll plazas to implement barrierless tolling.
- The *Choryasi fee plaza in Gujarat* will be the first barrier-free toll plaza in India.

Reference

[The Indian Express | Multi-Lane Free Flow \(MLFF\) tolling system](#)

