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E-Way Bill Integration with FASTag, RFID

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Why in News

The Union Government has integrated the E-Way Bill (EWB) system with FasTag and RFID.

Key Points

- **Electronic Way (E-Way) Bill:**
 - **E-Way Bill** is usually a unique bill number generated for the specific consignment involving the movement of goods.
 - Under the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** regime, **EWBs are mandatory** for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs. 50,000 from April 2018, with the exemption to precious items such as gold.
 - It is a mechanism **to ensure that goods being transported comply with the GST Law** and is a **tool to track movement of goods and check tax evasion.**
- **FASTag:**
 - The **FASTag** is a reloadable tag that **allows automatic deduction of toll** without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
 - The tag uses **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
 - RFID is the **use of radio waves to read and capture information** stored on a tag attached to an object.
 - A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not need to be within the direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.
 - From 15th February, 2021, **FASTag has become compulsory for all vehicles** across the country.
 - It is **operated by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).**

- **Significance of Integration:**

- **Large Movement of Goods Vehicles:** On an average, 25 lakh goods vehicle movements from more than 800 tolls are reported on a daily basis to the E-Way Bill system.
- **Live Vigilance:** The integration of EWB, RFID and FASTag will **enable tax officers to undertake live vigilance in respect of EWB compliances** by businesses.

Taxmen can now access reports on vehicles that have passed the selected tolls without e-way bills in the past few minutes.

- **Stop Revenue Leakage :** It will aid in preventing revenue leakage by **real-time identification of cases of recycling and/or non-generation of EWBs.**

Source:IE