



Uttarakhand to Levy Green Cess

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government is all set to implement a [green cess](#) on vehicles entering the state from other states.

- A Green cess is a **form of tax** levied by the government with the **purpose of environment conservation**.

Key Points

- The cess would be collected at **toll plazas through FASTag**, with amounts ranging from **Rs 20 to Rs 80**. [Electric vehicles](#) and cars fuelled by **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)** will be **exempted**.
- It will be collected by the concessionaires of [National Highways Authority of India \(NHAI\)](#).
- According to the transport department, **three-wheelers and four-wheelers (Light Motor Vehicles)** will be subject to **Rs 20 and Rs 40** respectively as green cess, while medium and heavy motor vehicles will have to pay **Rs 60 and Rs 80** respectively.
 - **Two-wheelers, government vehicles, fire tenders and ambulances, Army vehicles and vehicles** used for farming will be **exempted from the green cess**.
- Vehicles from other states will have the option for one-time entry by paying the prescribed rate for a day.
 - Alternatively, they can opt to pay 20 times the standard rate for a three-month period or 60 times the green cess rate for the entire year.

FASTag

- It 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 color codes.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- 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.

