

E-toll collection in 350 national highways by Dec: Gadkari

Minister says the system could help save ₹7,000 crore

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, October 31

Electronic toll collection (ETC) systems will be installed in at least one lane of the 350 toll plazas across national highways, advancing the earlier target date by three months, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

Checkposts delays

Given the average waiting time of 10 minutes at toll plazas, there is scope to save ₹7,000 crore through fuel savings, Gadkari said, while inaugurating ETC system for the Delhi-Mumbai corridor.

Citing a Transport Corporation of India-IIM Kolkata study that said ₹27,000 crore was lost on account of various delays at checkposts, the

minister said electronic toll collection could save ₹34,000 crore.

The electronic clearing house for the ETC system is being facilitated by ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

ETC has already been installed at 55 toll plazas and their integration with the Central Clearing House (CCH) operators has almost been completed on the Delhi-Mumbai route via Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. A pilot project for an inter-operable ETC system of 10 toll plazas between Mumbai (Charoti) and Ahmedabad has already been tested and seamless ETC on this section is in operation.

The Centre has issued orders to incorporate ETC lanes

as a mandatory clause in the contracts awarded for all the highways projects in future. Action will be taken to include ETC system by means of supplementary agreement in those projects which have not yet been started.

For implementing ETC across the country, a new company — Indian Highways Management Company Ltd — has been formed, with equity participation from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), concessionaires and financial institutions.

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Electronic age (from left) Chanda Kochhar, ICICI CEO; RP Singh, NHA Chairman; Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport; and Krishna Pal, Minister of State, at the inauguration in New Delhi on Friday. MEETA AHLAWAT

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Gadkari also launched a project under which a survey will be done to gather data on actual traffic on highways.

The minister also formally launched NHA's toll information system website, which helps users by defining toll plaza locations and respective user fees.

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