Nemili toll plaza on NH-48 goes barrier-free with MLFF, second in TN

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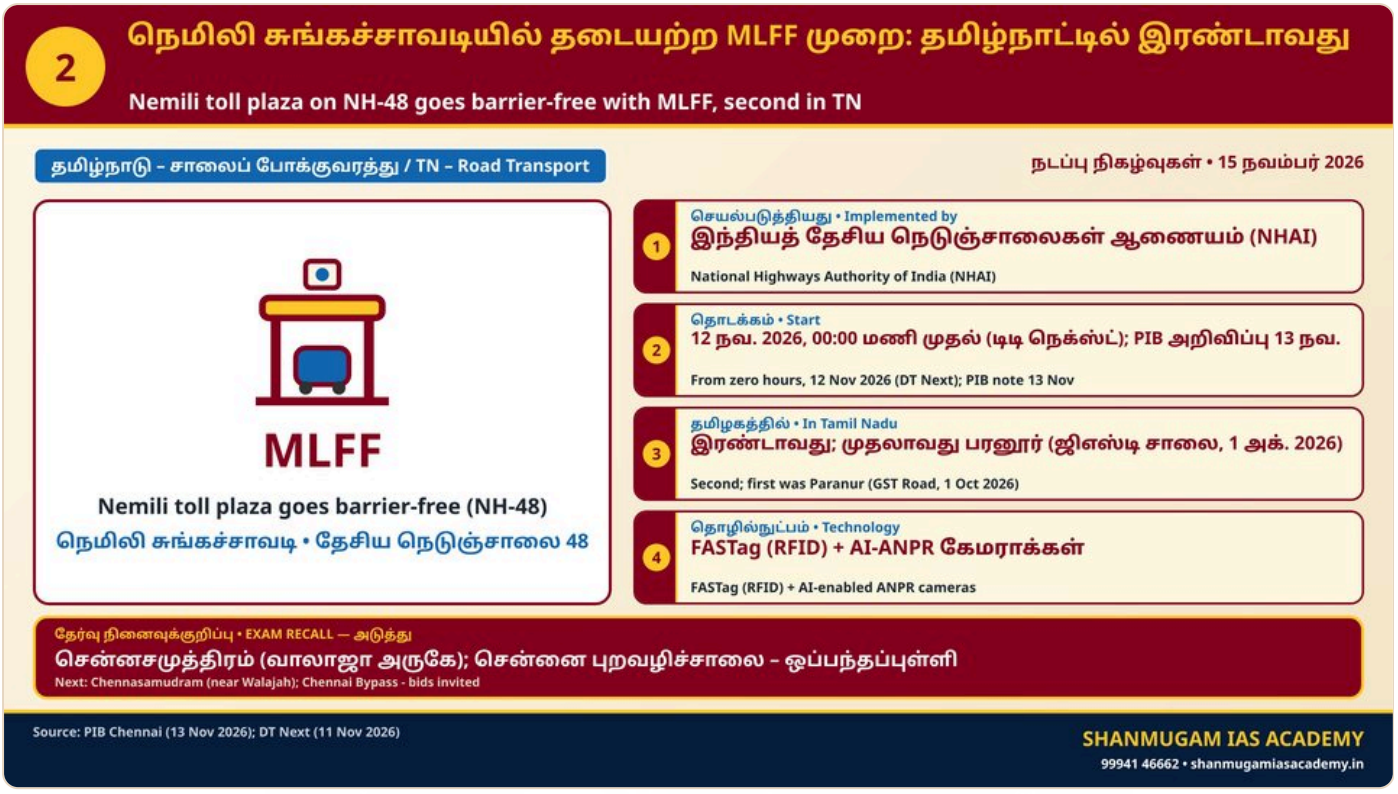

News

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has implemented a Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at the Nemili toll plaza on the Sriperumbudur-Karaipettai section of NH-48 (Chennai-Bengaluru highway), PIB Chennai said on 13 November 2026; DT Next reported that barrier-free collection began from zero hours on 12 November. Nemili is the second toll plaza in Tamil Nadu with barrier-less tolling, after Paranur near Chengalpattu on GST Road (1 October 2026). Vehicles need not stop or slow down: RFID readers detect FASTags, AI-enabled Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras capture registration numbers, the two are matched in real time and the toll is deducted from the linked account. NHAI has asked motorists to keep functional FASTags with sufficient balance to avoid electronic notices (E-Notices). Chennasamudram near Walajah on the same highway is expected to follow after trials, and NHAI has invited bids to convert the Chennai Bypass toll plazas to MLFF.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Toll plaza	Nemili, Sriperumbudur-Karaipettai section, NH-48
Implemented by	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
Start	From zero hours, 12 Nov 2026 (DT Next); PIB note 13 Nov

Point	Details
In Tamil Nadu	Second; first was Paranur (GST Road, 1 Oct 2026)
Technology	FASTag (RFID) + AI-enabled ANPR cameras
If unpaid	Electronic notice (E-Notice)
Next	Chennasamudram (near Walajah); Chennai Bypass - bids invited
Nationwide	First phase 16 toll plazas (3 in TN) - reported

Background

- FASTag: an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) sticker on the windscreen, working under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). FASTag became mandatory at national highway toll plazas from mid-February 2021; entering a FASTag lane without a valid tag attracts double the fee. FASTag shortened queues; MLFF removes the barrier altogether.
- Legal basis: 'Highways declared by or under law made by Parliament to be national highways' is Entry 23 of the Union List. The National Highways Act, 1956 (Section 7) empowers fee collection; rates follow the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. NHAI was set up under the NHAI Act, 1988 and became operational in 1995; it works under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- Geography: after the 2010 renumbering, NH-48 runs from Delhi via Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru to Chennai, covering the Delhi-Mumbai and Mumbai-Chennai arms of the Golden Quadrilateral. As the Sriperumbudur area is an automobile and electronics manufacturing hub, freight traffic on this stretch is heavy.
- Exam angle (Mains): benefits - less congestion, travel time, fuel use and emissions; transparent toll collection. Challenges - fake or damaged number plates, wrong e-notices, grievance redress, and privacy protection of vehicle data collected by ANPR cameras (link to the DPDP Act, 2023).

Tamil Nadu link: This story is directly about Tamil Nadu. NHAI's first MLFF phase included three toll plazas in the State - Paranur (GST Road), Nemili and Chennasamudram (Chennai-Bengaluru highway) (DT Next, March 2026). Of these, Paranur (1 October 2026) and Nemili (12 November 2026) are now operational. Travel time should fall on the Chennai-Bengaluru industrial corridor and on GST Road, which links Chennai to the southern districts.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has implemented a Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at the Nemili toll plaza on the Sriperumbudur-Karaipettai section of NH-48 (Chennai-Bengaluru highway), PIB Chennai said on 13 November 2026; DT Next reported that barrier-free collection began from zero hours on 12 November.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Toll plaza: Nemili, Sriperumbudur-Karaipettai section, NH-48; Implemented by: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI); Start: From zero hours, 12 Nov 2026 (DT Next); PIB note 13 Nov; In Tamil Nadu: Second; first was Paranur (GST Road, 1 Oct 2026).

What is the background to this news?

FASTag: an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) sticker on the windscreen, working under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The Nemili toll plaza in Tamil Nadu, where barrier-free MLFF tolling has been introduced, is on which national highway?

A) NH-44

B) NH-48

C) NH-32

D) NH-38

Answer: B – Explanation: It is on the Sriperumbudur-Karaipettai section of NH-48 (Chennai-Bengaluru highway); Tamil Nadu's first MLFF plaza was Paranur on GST Road.

2. In Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling, which technology is used along with FASTag readers to identify vehicles?

A) Weigh-in-Motion platforms

B) Manual receipt issue

C) QR code fixed on the vehicle

D) Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras

Answer: D – Explanation: RFID readers read the FASTag and AI-enabled ANPR cameras capture the registration number; the two are matched in real time.

3. FASTag works on which technology?

A) Bluetooth

B) Infrared

C) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

D) Satellite GPS alone

Answer: C – Explanation: FASTag is an RFID tag working under NPCI's National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme.

4. Which was the first toll plaza in Tamil Nadu to get barrier-free MLFF tolling, in October 2026?

A) Paranur

B) Chennasamudram

C) Vanagaram

D) Krishnagiri

Answer: A – Explanation: Paranur (near Chengalpattu, GST Road) - 1 October 2026; Nemili was second (12 November 2026); Chennasamudram is to follow.

5. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was constituted under an Act of Parliament passed in which year?

A) 1956

B) 1988

C) 1995

D) 2008

Answer: B – Explanation: NHAI Act, 1988; the Authority became operational in 1995. 1956 - National Highways Act; 2008 - fee rules.

Sources: PIB Chennai, 13 Nov 2026 (https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2335917); DT Next (Daily Thanthi group), 11 Nov 2026 (https://www.dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/nemili-toll-plaza-to-go-barrier-free-from-november-12); DT Next, 31 Mar 2026 (https://www.dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/three-toll-plazas-in-tamil-nadu-to-go-barrier-free). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.