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Shreegirish Jalihal 9 April 2021 Updated 10 Apr 15465 views

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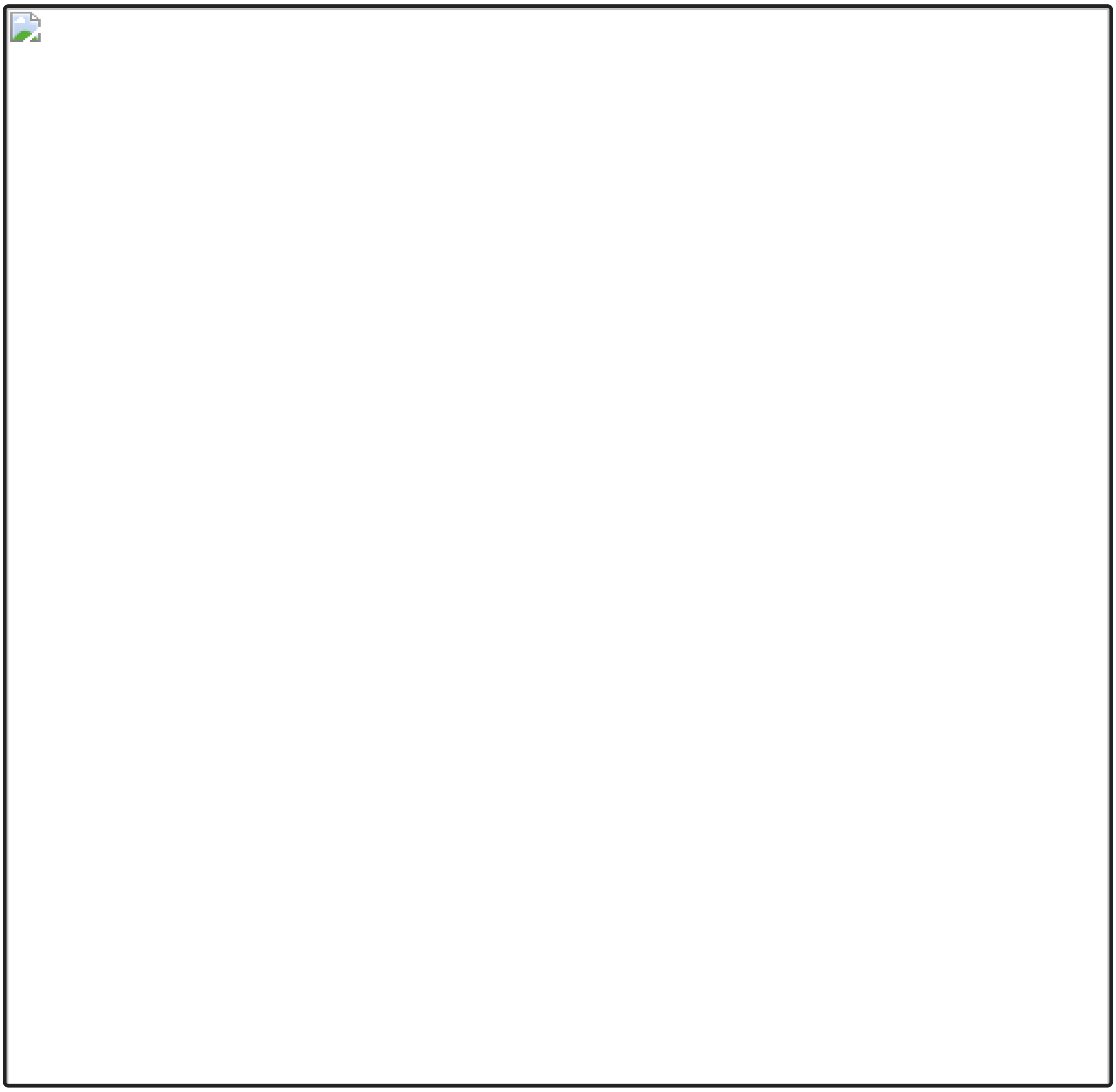

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Timeline

Date	Event

16-09-2014	Transport Ministry signs data sharing agreement with Fast Lane
16-10-2014	ManServ, German company, signs contract with Fast Lane for access to bulk data.
16-02-2015	ManServ makes official request to Transport Ministry to enter bulk data contract with them. It has particular interest in location details.
31-03-2015	Fast Lane sends email to ManServ, asking them to delete the data they have received till then since they’re ending the partnership.
15-04-2015	ManServ then asks Transport Ministry if it can partner with an Indian company for access to bulk data since the govt won’t give it on its own.

16-07-2015	Fast Lane writes to Transport Ministry, says ManServ won’t delete the data despite being asked to. This, it says, is in violation of the contract between the two firms. It says it’s pursuing legal options.
17-02-2016	Ministry decides to not share data anymore. Further notes that NIC should classify data as sensitive and non-sensitive data and that sensitive data should not be shared any more.
19-02-2016	NIC suggests that data sharing has ‘security issues’ and ‘data leakage possibilities’. Transport Ministry asks it to cut off data flow.
30-05-2018	Transport Ministry decides to terminate contract with Fast Lane

March 2019	Govt launches Bulk Data Sharing Policy.
04 - 06 - 2020	Govt rescinds Bulk Data Sharing Policy over ‘privacy issues’
11 - 02 - 2021	Nitin Gadkari, in Parliament, says private firms who have accessed Vahan and Sarathi data will not be asked to delete it

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(Shreegireesh Jalihal is a member of The Reporters’ Collective www.reporters-collective.in. This story was published in English by The Wire www.thewire.in).

Part one of this series in Assamese is available at: https://assamtimes.org/content/modi-govt-vehicle-registration-data-price-discovery-privacy-fast-lane-automotive

Part two of this series: Once the contract was signed and the firm started receiving bulk vehicular data from the government, the company signed up a German firm as a sub-contractor. This firm would have access to data shared by the ministry via the Indian company. The deal did not carry through over commercial and other reasons but the Indian company passed on sample data which the German firm then refused to delete. In an email to the German company, the Indian firm referred to all information shared as 'very sensitive'. It was months after the Indian company informed the Transport Ministry of these events that the bulk data supply was cut off over 'data leakage possibilities and security issues'.

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Shreegirish Jalihal

BY SHREEGIRISH JALIHAL

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