

Product can be Regulated Centrally

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Narasimhan has tried to make a product that can be regulated in a centralised manner. "Every time there is a fare revision, drivers queue up in large numbers with few technicians who can recalibrate the meters manually. We wanted to make meters that can be centrally recalibrated. Like how fuel stations get petrol prices reset whenever a fuel price hike or cut is announced," Narasimhan said.

At the core of this project is the Raspberry Pi, a no-frills computing device similar to the one used in smartphones.

The company had initially integrated the GPS system with device to make a meter that ascertained distance based on navigational data. State transport officials who reviewed the product wanted the odometer retained. With some re-

visions to include cables to be connected to the wheels, the meter is now a conventional unit with tracking and data communication facilities.

"There is this usual trick of tampering with the meter cables to show up a higher fare. It won't work in this meter because the GPS fare has to corroborate," Narasimhan said. The meter can also print out receipts.

Although the cost of each meter is ₹10,000, there is an earning opportunity since the device comes with a USB port that enables a screen device to be connected to display advertisements, the makers said. A restaurant chain, for instance, can stream a discount offer to a passenger passing by its outlet.

The company is testing the device before sending it to the transport department again.