PRESS RELEASE
BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY: INVESTING IN INDIA’S PUBLIC TRANSPORT SECTOR

BRUSSELS, 14 OCTOBER 2020

Public transport in India provides affordable access to mobility for two-thirds of households that don’t own a personal car or a two-wheeler: making it an essential part of Indian cities.

Due to the economic and mobility impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, India’s GDP has fallen sharply by 23.9% in the first quarter of the financial year 2020-21.

What does this means for the country’s public transport sector and those who rely on it?

UITP has released our newest Policy Brief, “Boosting accessibility and employment: Investing in India’s public transport sector” to evaluate the impact of alternative transport sector investments being made by governments in India; issues in the current transport discourse and the case for increased investments in public transport.
The public transport sector needs financial assistance from national, state and city-level governments to address the losses incurred due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Without this investment, services face ongoing pressure to continue providing the services needed by millions of users.

Many cities around the world are implementing measures involving financial aid and new contractual arrangements to support the sector and its economic recovery.

The public transport sector in India needs assistance which holds maximum impact, and our latest Policy Brief presents a comparative evaluation of Government investments.

What does the research tell us?

By our calculations, buses provide access to mobility to 3.8 times more people compared to investments in roads and 26.5 times more people compared to investments in the auto industry.

Governments need to improve public transport services and build confidence among users, provide financial support to operators, and realign investments in road infrastructure to generate immediate support for public transport agencies.

Investments in public transport should be made as a priority.

The advantages to employment, accessibility, education, and culture are numerous – and all government investments must be made to provide the maximum impact to city life.

Read our new Policy Brief on public transport investment in India

Have you read our Statistics Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on bus services in India?

FOR EDITORS

UITP, The International Association of Public Transport works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than 1800 members in 100 countries, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the newsroom and follow us on Twitter.

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