

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ADVANCING ELECTRIC BUSES IN INDIA



INTRODUCTION

India's commitment to climate leadership is reflected in its ambitious pledges under the Paris Agreement, its Net Zero target by 2070, and the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health. In line with these objectives, India is rapidly transitioning its urban public transport systems toward electric mobility. The electric bus (e-bus) segment has emerged as a critical enabler of this shift, supported by national policies such as Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles (FAME) I & II Schemes, the National Electric Bus Programme (NEBP), and the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.

The 'Advancing Electric Buses in India' project was conceived to support this momentum through a multi-level, systems-based approach. Led by UITP India, the project focused on improving the supply landscape, supporting city-level deployment strategies, and strengthening the institutional capacity of key public transport stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to fast-track India's transition to electric buses through three integrated objectives:

- 1. Enhancing the national supply ecosystem for electric buses
- 2. Providing tailored technical assistance to cities
- 3. Building institutional capacity through targeted training and stakeholder engagement.

These three pillars were strategically interlinked to support both the demand and supply side of India's electric bus ecosystem.

ACTIVITY 1: NATIONAL-LEVEL SUPPORT ON SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT OF E-BUSES

Despite India's strong policy backing and rising demand for electric buses, challenges on the supply side continue to impede progress. Limited participation from domestic Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), coupled with delivery delays and low tender responsiveness, has restricted procurement outcomes across many states. To address this, UITP India worked closely with NITI Aayog to create a welcoming environment for international electric bus manufacturers.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC BUS OEMS

UITP engaged more than 20 global OEMs through bilateral consultations and shared detailed insights into India's market structure, policy incentives, and localisation opportunities. The culmination of this effort was the National Workshop for International Electric Bus OEMs, organised on 30 November 2023 in New Delhi, in collaboration with NITI Aayog. The workshop hosted over 60 delegates, facilitating structured dialogue between global suppliers, Indian transport agencies, and state representatives.





UITP played a pivotal convening role, facilitating matchmaking between OEMs and states such as Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, which showcased industrial land banks and financial incentives. The event catalysed investment interest and initiated long-term engagement between Indian agencies and international OEMs.

PUBLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

In parallel, UITP produced a **knowledge brief** named **Enablers and Barriers for E-Bus Manufacturing in India** identifying critical enablers—including India's robust policy frameworks, FAME-II, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and stable electricity tariffs—and barriers such as fragmented technical standards, policy uncertainty beyond five-year cycles, and lack of homologation capacity. UITP also **published a paper** on **Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) ushering a new era of Electric Bus deployment in India** in response to Government of India's ₹34,353 crore Payment Security Mechanism (PSM), launched in October 2024, to ensure timely payments to operators and improve market confidence.

ACTIVITY 2: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CITIES

Recognising that successful e-bus deployment hinges on local execution, UITP India provided tailored technical assistance to three cities—**Thiruvananthapuram**, **Chandigarh**, and **Bengaluru**. Each city represented a distinct operating context, enabling UITP to develop targeted, scalable solutions and showcase diverse implementation pathways.



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION (KSRTC)

In Thiruvananthapuram, UITP worked with KSRTC and its Special Purpose Vehicle, KSRTC-SWIFT, which operates 145 e-buses under an outright purchase model. The intervention focused on optimising charging infrastructure and energy usage across the fleet. A detailed analysis was conducted on battery discharge rates, charger locations, and route lengths. UITP developed a schedule-wise charging strategy, reducing dead kilometres and aligning charging demand with operational patterns. The study also identified key charging terminals—such as East Fort and Vikas Bhavan—for infrastructure upgrades and recommended the use of outer depots like Vizhinjam and Neyyattinkara for future suburban services.

CHANDIGARH – CHANDIGARH TRANSPORT UNDERTAKING (CTU) AND CHANDIGARH CITY BUS SERVICES SOCIETY (CBSS)

In Chandigarh, UITP supported the city's Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), CCBSS, and CTU in updating its 10-year e-bus expansion plan. Building upon existing Service and Business Plan of Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), UITP modelled multiple procurement and fleet mix scenarios, evaluating operational performance and financial sustainability. A scenario featuring a combination of midi and standard buses—supplemented with revenue from carbon credits and operational subsidies under PM-eBus Sewa—was found to be the most financially sound. The model projected over ₹33 crore in potential carbon credit revenue through 2035, reducing the city's reliance on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and enhancing long-term sustainability.

BENGALURU – BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (BMTC)

In Bengaluru, BMTC engaged UITP to align its e-bus expansion with the city's Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP). UITP developed four fleet deployment scenarios with varying fleet targets (60%–100%) and procurement models (full Gross Cost Contract vs. mixed). An 80% CMP-aligned fleet with complete GCC model and a mixed GCC-outright model were found to offer optimal cost-efficiency and deployment flexibility. UITP also provided a phased depot investment strategy to synchronise infrastructure rollout with e-bus procurement schedules.

CROSS-CUTTING OBSERVATIONS

Common challenges observed across all three cities included limited access to disaggregated operational data, underdeveloped depot strategies, and a lack of integration between energy planning and service design. UITP's tailored, data-driven assistance helped each city move beyond short-term deployment toward building **institutional capabilities** and developing **long-term transition strategies**. These models offer valuable insights for other Indian cities aiming to embark on or scale up their e-bus programmes.



ACTIVITY 3: CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Institutional capacity is the cornerstone of a successful e-bus transition. Recognising this, UITP India organised three focused training programmes aimed at enhancing the capabilities of State Transport Undertakings (STUs), SPVs, city officials, and mobility professionals. These sessions were designed to respond to the evolving operational and planning needs of Indian public transport agencies transitioning to electric buses.

1. MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRIC BUSES

The training was organised on 28-29 November 2023 in New Delhi and was attended by 40 participants representing 12 STUs, representatives from OEMs, component manufacturers, and other non-profit organisations. This training introduced participants to electric bus technologies, service planning considerations, and key performance indicators for fleet operations. Topics covered included operational scheduling, lifecycle costing, safety protocols, and procurement models such as GCC, lease, and outright purchase. Participants gained clarity on how to align operational strategy with energy needs and contract structuring.



2. DEPLOYMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT FOR ELECTRIC BUSES

The training was organised on 27-28 June 2024 in Pune, India with support of Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML). The training had 36 participants representing 16 STUs across India along with participation from representatives of other non-profit organisations, indicating the widespread interest and need for such specialised knowledge. This training focused on planning and managing charging infrastructure in urban contexts. UITP experts covered site selection, grid integration, energy optimisation, and depot layout design. Special emphasis was placed on inter-agency coordination with DISCOMs and planning for multi-modal integration. Real-world examples helped participants understand the complexities of charger placement and energy management across fleet types.





3. EMERGING PRACTICES IN ELECTRIC BUS MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

The training was organised on 6-7 March 2025 in Bengaluru, India with support of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). The training programme witnessed 47 participants from 18 organisations, including 12 state transport undertakings from different parts of India. This training programme explored global trends in zero-emission bus deployment, including battery-swapping models, opportunity charging, digital scheduling systems, and carbon financing mechanisms. A case-based approach encouraged dialogue on how to adapt international practices to Indian conditions. The training also explored emerging business models and strategies for ensuring financial resilience.





All training programmes of UITP and all related processes are certified for ISO29990:2010 – the standard for learning services for non-formal education and training. UITP's skilful and diverse trainers are international experts, domestic experts, and professionals with extensive experience and knowledge in the domain. Across the three training programmes, over 100 professionals from 30+ Indian cities participated. The comprehensive training programmes designed with classroom sessions, coupled with group activities and technical visit ensured a perfect blend of knowledge sharing and practical exposure. The post-training feedback highlighted increased confidence in strategic planning and a strong interest in follow-up support, particularly around financing and digital operations in electric buses.

INTERNATIONAL BUS SEMINAR: ADVANCING ELECTRIC BUSES IN INDIA

The UITP India International Bus Seminar, held on 21–22 November 2024 in New Delhi, brought together over 100 participants from across India and abroad to explore strategies for accelerating electric bus deployment. Organised by UITP India and supported by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), and Association of State Road Transport Undertaking (ASRTU), the two-day event featured rich exchanges amongst policymakers, STUs, OEMs, multilateral agencies, and technology providers.

Opened with a high-level plenary on India's e-bus policy landscape, reflecting on the progress under FAME, PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, the newly launched PM E-DRIVE Scheme and Bharat Urban Megabus Mission. Senior officials from Tamil Nadu government, Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), KfW Development Bank and JBM Group discussed how national missions are reshaping public transport finance and manufacturing ecosystems.



Technical sessions delved into priority areas: digitalisation for e-bus operations, infrastructure planning, and strategies to overcome range anxiety. City-level experiences and international perspectives enriched the discourse, offering insights into real-time scheduling systems, depot planning, and financial innovation. Speakers from agencies such as GIZ, Telangana State



Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Limited (DIMTS), and TMB Barcelona shared operational strategies to improve efficiency and reduce cost.

On the second day, participants visited the Rajghat-2 electric bus depot of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), observing first-hand the layout, charging infrastructure, and vehicle design of JBM's e-bus fleet. The visit reinforced discussions on real-world operational planning and depot-level innovation.



The seminar served as a platform not only for knowledge sharing but for building long-term partnerships. It reaffirmed UITP India's role as a neutral convener and knowledge catalyst, supporting cities and states in navigating the complex transition to sustainable, scalable, and smart e-bus systems.

CONCLUSION: PATHWAYS FOR SCALABILITY, REPLICATION, AND UITP'S ROLE

The "Advancing Electric Buses in India" project has demonstrated that a well-integrated approach—combining policy-level engagement, city-level technical support, and institutional capacity building—can deliver tangible outcomes across multiple fronts.

The interventions piloted through this project offer **replicable models** for other cities, regardless of fleet size, business model, or stage of adoption. The tools, scenarios, and planning methodologies developed under this initiative can be adapted to suit different urban contexts, helping cities navigate the transition to cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable public transport systems.

From national supply facilitation to granular operational planning, UITP's work has laid the foundation for a scalable e-bus ecosystem in India. The organisation now stands ready to:

- Serve as a neutral technical partner to states and cities
- Guide cross-sector collaboration between OEMs, financiers, and regulators



Build long-term institutional capacities across India's public transport sector

As India moves toward its 2030 climate and mobility goals, UITP remains committed to supporting inclusive, data-driven, and financially viable solutions for public transport decarbonisation.

READ MORE: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS PUBLISHED UNDER THE PROJECT











O KNOWLEDGE BRIEF

ENABLERS AND BARRIERS FOR E-BUS MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN INDIA



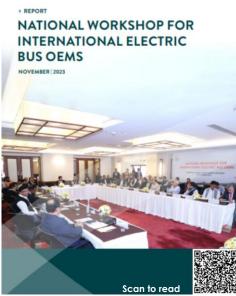


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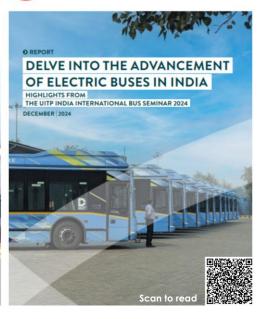




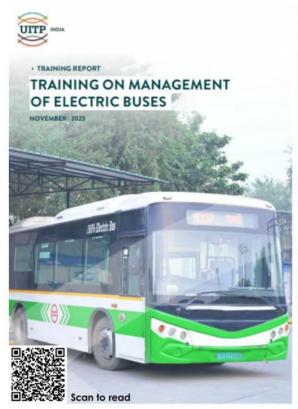


















LEARN MORE: RELATED KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS OF UITP



O KNOWLEDGE BRIEF



O KNOWLEDGE BRIEF

PLANNING FOR ELECTRIFICATION OF RURAL AND INTERCITY BUSES

FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR THE **ELECTRIC BUS TRANSITION**

INTRODUCTION

Electric bus (e-bus) adoption efforts in the India bus sector, like in many ather places globally, have predeminantly facused on urban bus services, giruse their lower didy-kilometre (fmc) characteristic compared to rurd and intercity buses, making it relatively easies to avereame the range constraints of e-buses. However, the bus landscape in India administed by rural and intercity buses, which account for 70% of the Nation's entire bus fleet, with about 1,02,541 out of 1,46,559 public buses operated by State Transport Undertakings (STU) operating in the rural and intercity makes the end of March 2022, while the remaining 4d,018 buses are in urban areas? India has about 2,000 more buses to the order (NEBP) which aims to deploy an additional 50,000 mere buses in the near future of shich account for 70% of the Nation's entire bus fleet, with about 1,02,541 out of 1,46,559 public buses operated by State Transport Undertakings (STU) operating in the rural and intercity makes are expected to form a significent share.

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O ACTION POINTS

INTRODUCTION

Government of India's financial support of more than ₹54,000 crore (USD 6.8 bition) in the form of the Faster Adaption of Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) shome along with decreasing battery prices, and economies of scale, reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST), Motar Vehicle (MV) tax & permit fees, and state-level subsidies have contributed to price reduction and popularity of Electric Buses. popularity of Electric Buses.

In April 2022, Gal under the largest global tender for an aggregated procurement of 5,450 e-buses for five cities on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model? exclised. 23-27% cheaper prices per km for electric buses compared to their internal cambustion engine (ICE) counterparts*.



UITP ADVANCING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Increasing aperating costs of dissel and CNG buses due to fuel price increase, subsidised electricity rates to promote EVs and public transport has led to lower fifecycle costs for e-buses and energy and emission efficiency benefits.

Diesel buses will however continue its presence in fleets as electric buses have range constraints, EV component manufacturing is limited in India and 70% of public bus operations in India concentrated

Careful planning of service schedules and charging infrastructure can support electrification of a significant share of rural and intercity services with available +-bas whick and charging technologies, as demonstrated in the UITP knowledge brief on "Planning for electrification of rural and intercity buses" (2022))^a.



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O WORKING PAPER

UITP PUBLIC

ELECTRIC BUS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

LESSONS FROM SIX INDIAN CITIES

FLEET WIDE TRANSITION TO ZERO **EMISSION BUSES**



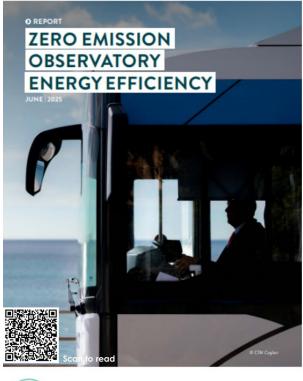


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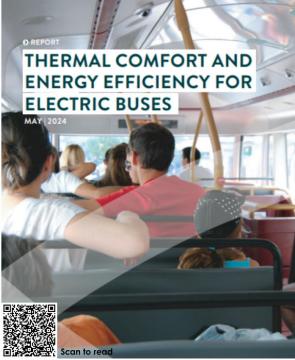
















O POLICY BRIEF



IN MOTION CHARGING TROLLEYBUS SYSTEMS

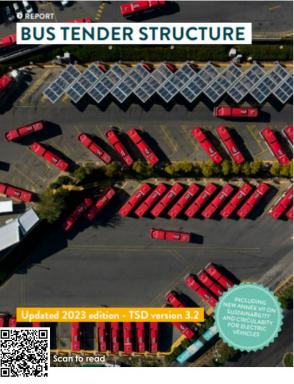
INTRODUCTION





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ABOUT UITP

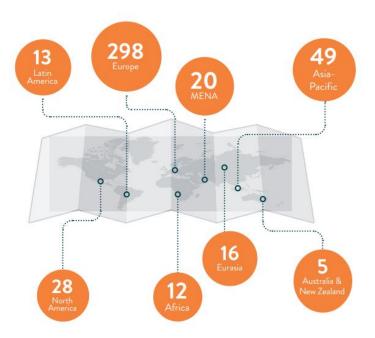
UITP (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) - International Association of Public Transport is the only worldwide association bringing together all public transport stakeholders. Established in Brussels, Belgium in 1885, UITP has over 140 years of expertise and a presence in more than 100 countries as a leader in advancing sustainable urban mobility. With over 1,900 members across the world, UITP is widely known for inspiring excellence and innovation by generating cutting-edge knowledge and expertise along with engaging with decision makers and key international organisations to promote sustainable mobility solutions by bringing people together to exchange ideas, finding solutions and forging partnerships.

UITP INDIA

UITP opened its office in India in 2007 with the aim to better address the specific needs of the regional members as well as work closely with the stakeholders of the Indian public transport sector for its advancement. UITP India supports development of Indian public transport system through its membership services, research projects, conferences, seminars, webinars, training and capacity building programmes by working in close association with Ministries, NITI Aayog, STUs, urban rail organisations, OEMs, municipal corporations, government bodies, think tanks, and organisations who are key stakeholders of the public transport sector in India.

UITP BUS DIVISION

Bringing together 400+ organisations and operators from around the world, the Bus Division is the largest modal community in UITP. Collectively, the Division provides a global platform for the exchange of knowledge and business opportunities. UITP truly brings a global perspective to the table with representation of members in the Bus Division spanning across all the regions of the world.





The UITP Bus Division, through its Bus and Trolleybus Committees, drives the global transition to zero-emission buses (trolleybuses, battery-electric and hydrogen) by developing decarbonisation strategies, Life Cycle Assessment, Total Cost of Ownership tools, and methodologies for vehicle consumption evaluation (SORT/eSORT). It provides recommendations for bus tendering, guidance on e-bus safety, operations optimisation and thermal comfort, while also advancing work on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), network design and priority measures, on-demand transport, accessibility (incl. UN Regulation R107), digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and the implementation and operational use cases of autonomous buses to ensure innovation delivers practical value for operators.

Discover more about how to get involved: https://www.uitp.org/members/membership/

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