

THE BUS INSIDER

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BY COACH BUILDERS INDIA



Tradition to Transformation

**MANPREET
GILL**

Redefines Gobind's Roadmap

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Hello everyone,

I have some fantastic news to share with you. After months of anticipation, the Press Registrar General of India has officially approved our registration under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023. What this means is simple, yet deeply significant - we're now a registered publisher. And with that, we're finally stepping into print.

The entire team was elated when the confirmation came through. But amid the celebrations, I found myself thinking about the journey it took to get here and just how much that journey reflects what so many of you face every day.

Like many businesses, we found ourselves moving through the slow rhythm of procedures and approvals. It took its own time, with follow-ups and a good dose of patience, before we finally got our title.

The system has its own pace, and we all have to adapt to it - something you in the transport industry know better than most.

Also, while we hoped to continue as The Bus Insider, we were granted The Bus Wire. Not what we exactly envisioned, but still a milestone - one that I'll always carry with pride.

Because sometimes, the name isn't as important as what you do with it.

And it's why I believe the August issue deserves to be big. Bold. And unforgettable.

I'm incredibly grateful to each one of you who's supported us through the past three issues. Your encouragement, your stories, and your belief in what we're building here, they've kept us going.

So yes, August will mark the beginning of a new chapter for us. We're pouring everything we've got into making this inaugural issue one that the entire industry will remember. And we invite you to be a part of it.

Here's to persistence, progress, and the road ahead!

Cheers!!!



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C O N T E N T S

News | National Page 5-10

Ashok Leyland Delivers Record-Breaking Financial Performance in FY25

Ashok Leyland Secures Major Order for 552 Buses from Tamil Nadu

JBM EV Unveils ECOLIFE Electric Bus at UITP Summit 2025, Enters EU Market

EKA Mobility Secures Automotive PLI Certification for Electric Bus Platform

EKA Mobility Launches Electric Buses in Arunachal on World Environment Day

Scania India Expands Financing Access Through New Strategic Partnerships

FlixBus Partners with 'Youth Can Lead' to Inspire Future Mobility Leaders

Tata Motors Launches First Euro VI Bus in the Middle East, Expands Product Range in Qatar Transport Corporation

JBM Green Energy Secures 3 GWh Orderbook for Battery Storage Projects Across India

NueGo Launches All-Electric Bus Service on Delhi-Lucknow Route at ₹999

Business

11 COVER STORY TRADITION TO TRANSFORMATION: MANPREET GILL'S ROADMAP FOR GOBIND BODY BUILDERS

One of India's first female CEOs in the bus body building sector is reshaping an industry with innovation, resilience, and a focus on sustainable mobility.

16 LEADING WITH VISION 42 YEARS, 100 BUSES, ONE VISION: THE EVOLUTION OF SANGITAM TRAVELS

Dharmasen Patil, Director of Sangitam Travels, shares how the company has stayed true to its roots while evolving over four decades to meet the demands of modern intercity travel.

21 PAYANA 2.0 KSBOA ORGANIZES SOUTHERN REGIONBUS OWNERS MEET 2025

South India's private bus sector charts course for unified reform at regional meet in Bangalore.

24 INTERCITY INNOVATOR THE LAST ROW WAS DEAD SPACE, UNTIL THIS OPERATOR MADE IT HIS BIGGEST USP

A young innovator turned the last row of a bus into its most coveted feature, redefining travel comfort and making it his unique selling point.

News | International Page 28-33

Accelerating Transit Transformation: Highlights from UITP 2025 Hamburg

Karsan Unveils e-ATA LE at UITP 2025, Setting New Standards for Suburban Electric Mobility

IVECO BUS Showcases New E-WAY Electric Bus and Full-Suite Electrification Ecosystem at UITP 2025

Solaris Showcases Modular Urbino 12 Electric Bus and Urban Mobility Expertise at UITP 2025

BYD Expands Intercity Lineup with Launch of 700-km Range eBus B13.b at UITP

MAN Lion's City E with New Battery Generation Celebrates World Premiere

Solaris Secures Contract for Seven Urbino 12 Electric Buses for PKM Jaworzno

IVECO BUS Expands EMT Malaga's Electric Fleet with 13 New E-WAY Midibuses

FlixBus Expands Footprint in Latin America with Mexico Launch

Karsan Autonomous e-ATAK Gains Approval to Operate on German Public Roads



Ashok Leyland Delivers Record-Breaking Financial Performance in FY25

Ashok Leyland, the flagship commercial vehicle arm of the Hinduja Group, has reported its best-ever financial performance in both Q4 and full-year results for FY25, marking a historic milestone for the company.

In Q4 FY25, the company posted an EBITDA margin of 15%, up from 14.1% in the same quarter last year. Net profit surged 38.4% to ₹1,246 crore, while operating profit before tax rose to ₹1,671 crore. Cash generation for the quarter stood strong at ₹3,284 crore, reflecting the company's operational efficiency and financial discipline.

For the full fiscal year, Ashok Leyland recorded a net profit of ₹3,303 crore, up 26% from FY24. Revenue reached ₹38,753 crore, while EBITDA touched ₹4,931 crore. The company turned net debt of ₹89 crore in FY24 into a net cash position of ₹4,242 crore in FY25, indicating a significant improvement in financial health.



Metric	FY25	FY24	Change
Revenue (₹Crore)	38,753	38,367	+1%
Operating PBT (₹Crore)	4,245	3,886	+9%
PAT (₹Crore)	3,303	2,618	+26%
EBITDA (₹Crore)	4,931 (12.7%)	4,607 (12.0%)	+7% (basis points)
Net Cash (₹Crore)	4,242	(89)	Improved

On the volume front, total CV sales for FY25 stood at 195,093 units. Notably, MHCV bus sales reached a record 21,249 units. Export volumes also rose sharply by 29% to 15,255 units. Growth in Power Solutions and Defence further added to the strong performance.

Looking ahead, the company is accelerating its focus on future mobility with advancements in EVs, LNG, and hydrogen-powered vehicles through its arm, Switch Mobility. Ashok Leyland's strategic diversification and technology investments position it strongly for long-term growth in the evolving CV landscape.

Ashok Leyland Secures Major Order for 552 Buses from Tamil Nadu

Ashok Leyland, has secured a substantial order from the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) for 552 Ultra-Low Entry (ULE) buses. This move supports the state's "Mobility for All" initiative, aimed at improving accessibility to public transport.

With over 18,000 Ashok Leyland buses already in service with TNSTC, this latest partnership reinforces a long-standing relationship. The newly ordered ULE buses feature advanced specifications, including a robust H-series 6-cylinder engine delivering 246 horsepower, step-less entry, rear engine configuration, automatic transmission, front disc brakes, and electronically controlled air suspension systems. These buses will also be equipped with intelligent

transport features such as CCTV surveillance, live vehicle tracking, and digital destination displays.

Commenting on the development, Shenu Agarwal, Managing Director and CEO of Ashok Leyland, highlighted the company's commitment to delivering efficient and future-ready mobility solutions. Sanjeev Kumar, President of MHCV, emphasized the technological innovation and safety embedded in the ULE design, tailored to offer high passenger comfort and driver convenience.

Funded by the German Development Bank (KfW), the project is set to roll out in the coming months. Notably, these buses are certified to be accessible

for differently-abled passengers, underscoring a citizen-centric design approach. As India's largest bus maker and the world's fourth-largest, Ashok Leyland continues to play a vital role in shaping the future of public transport.



JBM EV Unveils ECOLIFE Electric Bus at UITP Summit 2025, Enters EU Market



JBM Electric Vehicles (JBM EV), a leading global e-mobility solutions provider and part of the \$3 billion JBM Group, officially entered the European Union market with the launch of its all-electric city bus, ECOLIFE, at the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2025 in Hamburg.

The unveiling by JBM Group Vice Chairman Mr. Nishant Arya marked a major milestone for the company's international expansion. JBM EV has also established its European headquarters in Frankfurt, which will anchor sales, marketing, aftersales, and strategic partnerships across the continent. Leading the region is Daniel Frade, Director – Sales, Marketing & After Sales – Europe.

To support its EU rollout, JBM EV has partnered with KazenMaier Leasing in Germany. The collaboration offers integrated leasing solutions that bundle electric buses, charging infrastructure, and service packages for public

transport operators. KazenMaier CEO Max Nastold emphasized the synergy, saying, "Together, we are driving sustainable mobility with accessible zero-emission solutions."

The JBM ECOLIFE midibus is engineered for European standards, built with a stainless-steel monocoque structure and loaded with safety and connectivity features. It includes Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS), forward collision warnings, lane departure alerts, 360-degree cameras, and cybersecurity protection. The bus also features Intelligent Transport Systems, advanced telematics, and a full suite of safety functions like fire detection and suppression, driver fatigue alerts, and blind spot detection.

ECOLIFE is part of JBM E-Verse, the company's end-to-end EV ecosystem that integrates vehicle production with in-house charging infrastructure, battery solutions, and remote diagnostics. This ecosystem ensures

near-zero downtime and aligns with JBM's Net Zero 2040 vision. JBM EV brings over a decade of electric mobility expertise, with 11,000+ electric buses deployed or in execution globally. Its India-based facility, the largest outside China, has an annual production capacity of 20,000 electric buses. JBM buses have already logged 165+ million e-kilometers, serving over 1 billion passengers while saving 350+ million litres of diesel and preventing over 1 billion kilograms of CO₂ emissions.

Aligned with key UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), JBM's focus areas include good health, sustainable cities, climate action, and innovation-led infrastructure.

With the ECOLIFE launch and its expanded European presence, JBM EV positions itself not just as a bus manufacturer, but as a comprehensive EV ecosystem enabler, delivering scalable, safe, and sustainable public transport solutions worldwide.

EKA Mobility Secures Automotive PLI Certification for Electric Bus Platform

EKA Mobility has earned the prestigious Automotive Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Certificate for its indigenous electric bus platform. The certification was granted by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), the nodal agency under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.



This achievement places EKA among a select group of manufacturers recognized under the government's Advanced Automotive Technology Vehicles category. It affirms the company's commitment to clean mobility, local innovation, and compliance with stringent industry standards.

The certified bus platform is designed to meet the future needs of public transport. Built on a modular monocoque chassis, it offers lightweight construction and flexible configurations, supporting various bus lengths and formats. With high localisation, it aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative and delivers low total cost of ownership (TCO), making it a compelling choice for urban transport operators.

Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder and Chairman of EKA Mobility, noted that the certification underscores the maturity of India's EV ecosystem. "This milestone reflects our integrated approach to EV design, local manufacturing, and global quality standards," he said. EKA's recognition under the PLI scheme not only boosts its position as a homegrown EV leader but also reinforces India's strategic shift towards sustainable mobility. With a strong focus on indigenous engineering and accessible transport solutions, EKA Mobility is helping to drive the nation's clean energy ambitions forward.

EKA Mobility Launches Electric Buses in Arunachal on World Environment Day

EKA Mobility has achieved a notable milestone by launching ten electric buses in Arunachal Pradesh. The flag-off ceremony was led by the Chief Minister, Shri Pema Khandu, marking a major step in the state's transition to green public transport.

The new fleet has been delivered to the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Services (APSTS) under a project coordinated by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL). These 9-meter-long AC buses feature a 900mm floor height, making them more accessible and well-suited for the state's challenging terrain and intra-city travel needs.

Rohit Srivastava, Business Head and Chief Growth Officer at EKA Mobility, expressed pride in supporting the state's sustainable goals. "Our vehicles are designed and made in India, reflecting our dedication to clean mobility solutions that cater to India's diverse geography," he said.

With this rollout, Arunachal Pradesh joins several other Indian states embracing electric mobility as a step toward cleaner and more inclusive urban transport. That the launch took place on World Environment Day only added to its significance, underlining the importance of innovation and partnership in environmental conservation. EKA Mobility continues to expand its presence, aiming to provide safe, sustainable, and technologically advanced electric transport solutions across the country.



Scania India Expands Financing Access Through New Strategic Partnerships

Scania Commercial Vehicles India has announced service agreements with several leading financial solutions providers to streamline and expand financing options for its customers in the mining, infrastructure, and transport sectors. The move aims to make vehicle ownership more accessible while supporting Scania's customer-first strategy and accelerating solutions-led sales.



The new financial facilitation partners include True Blue Asset Services (Hyderabad), CorpCare Investech (Mumbai), and Connect Residuary (Mumbai). Each brings deep market expertise and a strong network of financial institutions, enabling Scania customers to secure tailored financing for their business needs. These partnerships ensure faster loan approvals, simplified documentation, and flexible financial products, including structured EMIs, leasing options, and customized repayment terms.

"Our customers operate in demanding sectors. Access to quick and flexible financing should never hold them back," said Silvio Munhoz, Managing Director, Scania India. "By integrating finance with our sales strategy, we're helping businesses grow sustainably and with confidence." This initiative further reinforces Scania's commitment to delivering a comprehensive ownership experience. By embedding finance into the vehicle purchase journey, the company is addressing a crucial barrier for businesses looking to scale with high-performance commercial vehicles.



FlixBus Partners with 'Youth Can Lead' to Inspire Future Mobility Leaders

FlixBus India joined hands with 'Youth Can Lead', an initiative led by Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, as the official mobility partner to empower young leaders through experiential learning.

As part of the program, students embarked on a journey from Bengaluru to Hosur in FlixBus' premium coaches to visit an electric vehicle manufacturing facility. They also toured the headquarters of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited and Bengaluru's Traffic Management Centre, where they interacted with Shri M. N. Anucheth, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

Through these visits, participants gained a deeper understanding of sustainable transportation systems, advanced manufacturing, and urban mobility planning. The program offered them a close look at how modern infrastructure and innovation are shaping the future of mobility in India.

Speaking on the initiative, Shri Tejasvi Surya said, "Empowering youth is essential to nation-building. This partnership with FlixBus allows students to directly experience the possibilities within India's transport sector and prepares them to lead change."

Surya Khurana, Managing Director of FlixBus India, added, "Our mission goes beyond travel. We are committed to supporting youth leadership and sustainable development by connecting students to real-world innovations."

'Youth Can Lead' offers hands-on learning in leadership, governance, and civic responsibility. Combined with FlixBus's support, the program opens new avenues for India's next generation to engage with policy, technology, and sustainability.

This collaboration marks a meaningful step in fostering youth engagement in nation-building through the lens of smart, green mobility.

Tata Motors Launches First Euro VI Bus in the Middle East, Expands Product Range in Qatar



Tata Motors, in partnership with its authorised distributor Al Hamad Automobiles, has introduced the all-new **LPO 1622** staff bus in Qatar - its first Euro VI-compliant bus in the Middle East. The launch reaffirms the company's growing commitment to providing sustainable, high-performance mobility solutions tailored to regional requirements.

Designed for staff transportation, the LPO 1622 delivers enhanced passenger comfort, strong performance, and a low total cost of ownership. Powered by a 5.6-litre Cummins Euro VI engine, it produces 220 hp and 925 Nm of torque. The model is available in 65- and 61-seater configurations, offering flexibility for fleet operators across corporate and industrial sectors.

Safety and technology are central to the new platform. The LPO 1622 features Electronic Stability Control,

Hill Start Assist, Cruise Control, and a Multimode Switch that adjusts performance based on road and load conditions. A full air dual-circuit braking system with ABS, tubeless radial tyres, and a heavy-duty suspension ensure stability and comfort, even in high-use operations. Speaking at the launch, **Asif Shamim**, Head of International Business, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, said, "Qatar is a key market for us in the region. The LPO 1622 is designed to provide long-term value and profitability to our customers, while ensuring a superior ride experience for passengers."

Mohamed Yousef Al Mana, Chairman of Al Hamad Automobiles, reaffirmed the distributor's commitment, adding, "With our nationwide service network and genuine parts availability, we are equipped to support Tata Motors' latest offerings with comprehensive after-sales support."

In addition to the bus, Tata Motors also unveiled its enhanced Prima range of heavy-duty trucks, meeting Euro V standards. The lineup includes the Prima 4040.K, 4440.S, 4040.T, and 6040.S, aimed at addressing Qatar's growing construction and infrastructure demands.

Tata Motors' commercial vehicle portfolio spans over **40 countries**, covering cargo capacities from sub-1-tonne to 60-tonnes and passenger capacities up to 71-seaters. Each product is engineered with regional needs in mind, backed by the company's global R&D and local testing protocols.

With the introduction of Euro VI and Euro V products, Tata Motors signals a strong intent to support Qatar's sustainability goals while delivering dependable, future-ready mobility solutions.

JBM Green Energy Secures 3 GWh Orderbook for Battery Storage Projects Across India

JBM Green Energy Systems (P) Ltd. (JBMG), the lithium-ion battery division of JBM Auto Ltd., has reported a strong orderbook of 3 GWh for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to be deployed across India. The momentum follows high-profile wins, including a 1 GWh BESS contract from SJVN Ltd. and several other clients.

Leveraging JBM Auto's decade-long expertise in sustainable mobility and energy innovation, JBMG offers end-to-end capabilities in battery design, intelligent energy systems, and scalable storage platforms. The company is actively engaged in EV battery solutions for passenger vehicles,



commercial fleets, and two- and three-wheelers, in addition to storage projects ranging from mini grids to utility-scale installations.

The upcoming BESS deployments will feature advanced, grid-connected systems with high round-trip efficiency and rapid response times. These systems will support solar integration, energy time-shifting, peak shaving, and frequency regulation—key pillars

in India's transition to a renewable-powered grid.

Mr. Nishant Arya, Vice Chairman and MD of JBM Auto Ltd., emphasised the critical role of energy storage in India's renewable strategy. "BESS is central to achieving the 500 GW clean energy target by 2030. With our strong foundation in battery tech and system integration, JBMG is well-positioned to lead this transformation," he said.

JBMG's investments in cutting-edge technology and global partnerships underscore its mission to deliver future-ready storage solutions that enhance grid flexibility and accelerate the nation's energy transition.

NueGo Launches All-Electric Bus Service on Delhi–Lucknow Route at ₹999

NueGo, India's first electric intercity bus brand by GreenCell Mobility, has launched its all-electric bus service on the Delhi–Lucknow route. Priced at ₹999, this marks the brand's longest intercity route to date, covering approximately 500 km in about 10 hours. This initiative strengthens NueGo's commitment to sustainable and premium intercity travel, connecting two major cities in North India.

NueGo's electric buses are engineered to offer a balance of safety, comfort, and sustainability. Each bus undergoes



25 stringent mechanical and electrical safety checks. With zero tailpipe emissions and a range of over 250 kilometres per charge, the Delhi–Lucknow route offers guests a

In the heart of India's commercial vehicle manufacturing industry, where precision meets power and every frame carries a story, one leader stands out not just for her role, but for her journey. Manpreet Gill, CEO of Gobind Body Builders, stepped into a business rooted in legacy and transformed it with vision, determination, and resilience.

She is also doing something few women in India have done before. As one of the first female CEOs in the country's bus body building sector, Manpreet's presence itself challenges an industry shaped almost entirely by men. But her leadership is not defined by defiance — it is defined by depth. She did not enter the business with experience, but with curiosity. She asked questions, listened closely, and learned everything from the ground up.

Her story is not one of easy inheritance. It is a story of capability and courage, shaped by choices she made every day. What

Tradition to Transformation

Manpreet Gill's

Roadmap for Gobind Body Builders

By Violina Pegu

COVER STORY

began as quiet observation turned into decisive action. Over time, she introduced changes that reshaped operations, strengthened teams, and prepared the company for the future of mobility — including electric vehicles and sustainable manufacturing.

From Observing to Leading: Journey into the Heart of Gobind Body Builders

Manpreet Gill entered the business at a young age, having married into the founding family of Gobind Body Builders. Initially, her role was informal when she joined the business along with her husband Sukhmander Gill, Director, Gobind Body Builders. However, curious by nature and eager to contribute, she couldn't just stand by. She observed, asked questions, and sought to understand every facet of the business.

And by the way she talks about the initially days, you can easily figure out that her interest was not superficial — it was driven by a genuine curiosity to learn.

Over time, her curiosity led to commitment. She immersed herself in every part of the company, from materials and processes to the on-ground challenges. She became deeply involved in customer relations, procurement, quality control, and logistics, tackling each area with hands-on dedication. Rather than asserting authority, she built trust through her willingness to work side by side with the team, earning respect through her actions, not words.

Breaking Barriers: Leadership in a Male-Dominated Industry

The commercial vehicle and bus body building sector is still predominantly male. From the factory floor to boardroom meetings, Manpreet often finds herself as the only woman in the room, facing preconceived notions, doubts, and the quiet skepticism that tends to greet women in such industries. Yet, despite the challenges, Manpreet was never motivated by the need to prove herself to anyone but herself.

"I've had to prove myself every single day," she says. "But the truth is, I work to prove something to myself, not to others. I set my own standards."

Instead of responding to doubt with defensiveness, she chose quiet diligence. Her leadership style is not loud, but it is unmistakably present. Whether walking the factory floor, engaging with workers, discussing

production timelines, or negotiating with clients, Manpreet's approach is grounded in action. She listens intently, speaks with clarity, and makes decisions driven by both data and instinct.

Over time, people stopped questioning whether she belonged in the industry and started asking how she does it so effectively.

"There is a lot of noise when you are different," she reflects. "But I've learned to tune it out and focus on what really matters."

The Present: Facility, Teams, and Challenges

Today, Gobind Body Builders operates a large-scale modern manufacturing facility located in Bhadaur, covering an expansive 2 acres. Equipped to handle a wide range of custom and standard bus body requirements, the factory produces everything from school buses and institutional vehicles to premium sleeper buses. The facility runs on a highly efficient and seamless workflow, made possible by a skilled workforce of over 550 people.

Under Manpreet's guidance, the company has not only maintained its rigorous quality standards but also

Manpreet Gill's journey to the top is one of resilience, curiosity, and relentless pursuit of excellence. As one of India's first female CEOs in the bus body building sector, she's redefined leadership in an industry often dominated by men.





“I didn’t come into this business thinking I’d be CEO. I just wanted to understand how everything worked and make things better, bit by bit.”

-Manpreet Gill,
CEO, Gobind Body Builders

enhanced its internal operations. The production capacity stands at approximately 450 units per month, with the flexibility to scale up during peak demand periods. This scalability is supported by the robust communication and cooperation between departments, which has become a key driver of productivity and success. Effective interdepartmental communication ensures that information flows freely and that all stakeholders, regardless of their roles, work together towards a common goal.

One of the most persistent challenges Manpreet faces is with human resources. Skilled labor is difficult to find and even harder to retain.

“Skilled workers are the foundation of this industry,” she explains. “But we are seeing a shortage of young people entering the trade, and many experienced workers are leaving for more stable or higher-paying opportunities.”

To address this, the company has introduced skill development initiatives, created better work environment, and emphasized

safety and respect on the factory floor. Ongoing efforts are in place to build an environment where workers feel valued, heard, and integral to the company’s long term vision.

Gobind Body Builders is also in the process of upgrading its infrastructure, with plans for new machinery that will enhance production efficiency and improve build quality. These technological improvements are focused on speeding up turnaround times while preserving the high quality of the final product.

Gobind’s Approach to Designing Buses

At Gobind Body Builders, the approach to designing buses is centered around the user experience, ensuring every vehicle is tailored to meet specific needs. The in-house design team collaborates closely with clients, whether for school transport, employee mobility, or long-distance travel, ensuring their unique requirements are met with precision. This user-first philosophy is supported by the integration of advanced digital tools like CAD and CAM, allowing for rapid design iterations and simulations.





Using Finite Element Analysis (FEA), the team tests structural integrity to ensure durability before construction even begins. This process not only optimizes design turnarounds but also reduces errors, resulting in a robust and reliable final build. By employing these advanced technologies, Gobind Body Builders is able to deliver high-quality, customized solutions that exceed client expectations.

The Vision: Modernization and Sustainability

Manpreet's vision for Gobind Body Builders extends far beyond maintaining business as usual. She sees the future as a landscape that demands adaptability, technological investment, and forward-thinking. Her company is poised for growth, both in capacity and capability, particularly with the shift toward electric mobility.

As global attention turns toward cleaner and greener alternatives, the company is actively building the capacity to meet emerging demand.

"We're closely observing the EV space and aligning our internal capabilities accordingly," Manpreet shares. "Our design team is exploring body structures that are lighter, more aerodynamic, and optimized for electric platforms."

For Manpreet, embracing electric mobility is not just a step toward innovation, it's a meaningful way to contribute to environmental responsibility. Sustainability is becoming a core part of the company's evolving identity.

"We are actively adopting sustainability in multiple layers," she explains. "From optimized raw material usage to integrating energy-efficient lighting systems, and exploring eco-friendly coatings and adhesives, we are committed to reducing our footprint."

Manpreet's leadership style is built on respect, collaboration, and thoughtful decision-making. Her ability to listen, understand, and act strategically has propelled Gobind Body Builders to new heights — making her one of the most impactful CEOs in the sector today.



The company is also enhancing thermal insulation in buses to reduce the load on air conditioning systems, improving energy efficiency for clients. Gobind is also planning to transition to solar power for its auxiliary energy needs, further cutting down on its reliance on non-renewable sources. By prioritizing low-waste processes, Gobind Body Builders aims to make every step of the production process as environmentally conscious as possible.

Alongside these sustainability efforts, the company is embracing digital transformation. Manpreet is spearheading the integration of modern ERP systems to optimize everything from inventory control to delivery timelines. "We cannot grow if we do not modernize," she affirms. "Technology is not just an add-on. It is a necessity."

Leading with Purpose, Building with Vision

Ask Manpreet Gill what drives her, and she will speak not of

At the heart of Gobind Body Builders' success lies Manpreet Gill's commitment to empowering her team and transforming the company's culture. With a workforce of over 550 employees and a sprawling 2-acre facility, her approach to leadership continues to drive growth and innovation.

“My leadership is not loud, but it is visible. It shows in how I walk the factory floor, engage with workers, and make decisions driven by both data and instinct.”

competition, but of purpose. Her work is about more than profit margins; it is about progress.

"I feel responsible," she says. "For the legacy I stepped into, for the people I work with, and for the future we are building together."

Her leadership style is both thoughtful and proactive. She believes in earning respect, not demanding it. She believes in planning for the long term, not just chasing short-term wins. And above all, she believes in doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

As Gobind Body Builders expands its capabilities, enters new markets, and charts a new course, it does so with a leader who is grounded in values but focused on change.

From the outside, Manpreet's journey may look like a story of breaking barriers. From the inside, it is a story of building something better, day by day, decision by decision. And if the road behind her is any indication, the one ahead looks bold, innovative, and full of promise. ●

42 YEARS, 100 BUSES, ONE VISION

The Evolution of Sangitam Travels

By Violina Pegu

Last month, Sangitam celebrated its 42nd anniversary with great pomp and show. As I stood watching the festivities, I was reminded that behind this leading transport brand is a story not just of buses, but of bold pivots, generational vision, and unwavering values.

Unlike most conventional stories from the transport business, Sangitam's didn't start with a transport vision - it started with melody. In 1983, founder **Vinodkumar Panditrao Patil**, who owned a music shop, noticed a growing need for better connectivity between Jalgaon and Pune. And he pivoted boldly. With just one bus and a deep sense of purpose, he launched an intercity service to bridge that gap for students and job-seekers from Khandesh.

Fast forward four decades, and Sangitam now operates a fleet of over **100 buses** across more than 90 routes, covering 80% of Maharashtra and expanding into four neighbouring states. The company's true transformation, however, began with the arrival of the second generation.



“Two decades ago, operations were entirely offline, from ticketing and maintenance to route planning, with decisions guided primarily by experience and intuition. Today, the entire system is data-driven.”

-Dharmasen Patil
Director, Sangitam Travels Pvt. Ltd.



"To be honest, there were no solid plans for me and my brother to join the business," recalls Director **Dharmasen Patil**. "It just happened on its own - or let's say, the situation called for it. Either way, it was destiny that brought us both to join our father," he told me as we sat in his office, flipping through old photographs.

At the time, he was studying to become a Chartered Accountant, and his elder brother **Dhanvijay Patil** was pursuing a career in IT. Neither had imagined themselves in the transport business. But a mix of legal challenges and growing operational demands made their involvement necessary, first as a stopgap, and eventually as full-time leaders.

What followed was a decade of focused evolution. They brought in systems, embraced technology, expanded strategically, and turned Sangitam from a modest, family-run legacy into a modern, scalable brand - all without losing

the human touch and values their father had built it on.

Mastering the Art of Adaptation: What It Takes to Thrive in the Indian Bus Industry

After laying a solid foundation in its early years, Sangitam's success in today's fiercely competitive intercity bus market has always been rooted in one core principle - adaptability. This principle has been central to the company's journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a leader in Maharashtra's transport sector.

Even as Sangitam has expanded its footprint and grown in size and stature, the company has remained steadfast in the values instilled by its founder, Vinodkumar Patil. "No matter how big we become, we've stayed true to the values my father built this company on," Dharmasen Patil reflected.

One of the most enduring values from its early days is its close connection with passengers. Even



Biggest Challenges Faced by Bus Operators in India

Running a bus operation in India comes with its own set of daily roadblocks - some expected, others not. According to Dharmasen Patil, these are five key challenges that every bus operator in the country has to grapple with:

- **Regulatory Hurdles:** Constantly evolving policies, taxes, and permit requirements make staying compliant a continuous challenge. Even a single new regulation can disrupt operations if not anticipated.
- **Rising Fuel & Maintenance Costs:** Fluctuating fuel prices and the high cost of maintaining a large fleet put constant pressure on operational budgets.
- **Tough Competition:** With a saturated market and frequent price wars, standing out while maintaining profitability is becoming increasingly difficult.
- **Poor Infrastructure:** Bad road conditions, congestion, and lack of proper parking or terminal facilities disrupt schedules and impact service reliability.
- **Safety & Punctuality Concerns:** External factors like weather, roadblocks, and sudden breakdowns make it hard to ensure consistently safe and on-time journeys.



LEADING WITH VISION



Technology has been a game changer in both streamlining operations and enhancing the passenger experience. Over the years, technology has not only made the fleet management process easier and more efficient, but it has also empowered Sangitam to provide a safer, more reliable service.



now, both directors are personally involved in ensuring that customer feedback plays a central role in shaping decisions. Every upgrade, every change, is guided by what passengers want, keeping the human touch alive in a sector evolving at breakneck speed.

"We've always listened to what our customers want, and today, we continue to evolve our services based on their feedback. I truly believe this is one of the key factors that set us apart in the industry," he shared, highlighting the company's unwavering dedication to continuously improving its offerings.

This philosophy has driven Sangitam Travels to introduce several key upgrades over the years. From luxury sleeper buses to the implementation of GPS tracking and an easy-to-use online booking system, the company has continuously adapted its services to keep pace with customer expectations. But for Dharmasen Patil, growth has always been about quality over quantity.

"It's not about the number of buses we have. We strive to continuously ameliorate the experience we offer to our customers. We focus on high-demand routes, ensuring every journey remains safe, comfortable, and hassle-free," he said, highlighting how Sangitam strategically grows without compromising on service.

Having spent over a decade in the industry, Dharmasen Patil believes that the key to sustaining success lies in a continuous cycle of listening, learning, and adapting.

"Staying ahead means embracing change, sometimes by learning from others, and sometimes by setting an example for them," he said, highlighting how Sangitam remains committed to pushing boundaries and setting new standards in the sector.

Embracing Technology: How Innovation is Keeping Sangitam Ahead of the Curve

For Sangitam, technology has been a game changer in both streamlining operations and enhancing the passenger experience. Over the years, technology has not only made



Left to Right: Acting Directors Dharmasen Patil, Dhanvijay Patil, with Founder Vinodkumar Panditrao Patil

the fleet management process easier and more efficient, but it has also empowered Sangitam to provide a safer, more reliable service.

The ability to monitor their buses in real-time - from tracking speed and GPS data to accessing dashcam footage - has armed them to address all issues instantly, ensuring smoother operations. Additionally, technology has also simplified the passenger journey, with online ticket booking, live bus tracking, and seat selection features, now a part of everyday travel.

"We've always been focused on making our services as efficient and reliable as possible, and technology has been a huge part of that," he explained.

"What technology allows us to do is monitor everything, from over-speeding to breakdowns, in real-time. If something goes wrong, we can immediately respond. The impact of that on both our operations and passenger experience has been incredible. At the end of the day, it's all about giving our passengers peace of mind."

This ongoing investment in technology continues to enhance reliability and optimize services, ensuring that Sangitam not only

“ If I could change one thing, it would be to introduce a single, streamlined regulatory system across all states. A uniform framework would reduce red tape, simplify approvals, and encourage operators to expand more efficiently. In the long run, it would boost investment, improve connectivity, and deliver better, more consistent service to passengers across the country. ”



LEADING WITH VISION



keeps up with the times but also shapes the future of travel in Maharashtra.

The Road Ahead: A Sector on the Brink of Transformation

In the past two decades, the Indian bus industry has undergone a seismic shift. What was once a largely manual, intuition-driven operation has now evolved into a highly digitized, customer-centric service. For companies like Sangitam, adapting to this shift wasn't optional; it was essential.

"Twenty years ago, everything was offline, ticketing, maintenance, even route planning," he explained. "It was all about experience and gut feeling. Today, everything runs on data, and expectations are much higher."

From the rise of online booking platforms to real-time GPS tracking and digital payments, the way passengers travel has changed dramatically. Reliability,



Advice to Aspiring Bus Fleet Operators

Drawing from over a decade in the industry, Dharmasen Patil shares his top insights for new and aspiring fleet owners:

- **Start small, scale smart.** Understand your routes, manage costs, and don't rush expansion. A few well-run routes are better than many poorly managed ones.
- **Prioritize quality service.** New buses may attract passengers, but cleanliness, punctuality, and safety are what builds loyalty.
- **Never cut corners on maintenance.** A single breakdown can harm your reputation more than you think.
- **Put passengers first.** Comfort, reliability, and respect for time should be non-negotiable.
- **Grow the industry,** not just your brand. Operators should focus on long-term value, not quick wins that hurt the market.



comfort, and transparency are no longer luxuries; they're standard expectations.

And the industry is far from done evolving.

Looking ahead, Dharmasen Patil is optimistic. India is entering an era of transformation. As infrastructure gets better, public transport - especially intercity buses - will become even more integral to how we move," he said. Citing global examples like Japan and Europe, he pointed to how advanced safety and service features are slowly making their way to Indian roads.

Recent government mandates, like the inclusion of ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems), are just the beginning. With AI-driven fleet management, automated maintenance alerts, and smart route optimization on the horizon, the sector is set to become more efficient and safer than ever before. "Features like breathalyzers and blind spot assist, already standard in the West, will soon be commonplace here too," he noted.

Market projections echo his confidence. With the electric bus segment alone expected to grow at over 20.66% CAGR through 2029, the Indian bus industry is poised for a multi-billion-dollar boom. And as Dharmasen Patil believes, the companies that commit to meaningful passenger experience and innovation today will be the ones leading the way tomorrow. ●





South India's Private Bus Sector Charts Course for Unified Reform at Regional Meet in Bangalore

In a coordinated push for structural reform and regional policy alignment, over 3,000 stakeholders from the private intercity bus transport sector convened in Bangalore for the Southern Region Bus Owners Meet, 2025.

Hosted by the Karnataka State Bus Owners Association (KSBOA) at Anantya Palace on May 17, the event brought together operators, associations, policymakers, regulators, legal experts, and industry suppliers from all six southern states - Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Puducherry.

The event's core agenda included:

- A proposal for a **reciprocal inter-state movement agreement** across the southern states
- Endorsement of a South Zone-wide All India Tourist Permit (AITP)
- A joint appeal for **uniform state-level taxation** for commercial passenger vehicles

Coordinated Regional Voice Gains Ground

The Southern Region Bus Owners Meet was a landmark event



for private bus operators in the region. Associations from all the six southern states came together for the first time on a single platform to voice shared concerns and propose collaborative solutions. The meet concluded with the passing of a unanimous resolution, which called for regulatory alignment across states.

The alignment particularly focused on tax policies, permit interoperability, and administrative transparency.

The scale and unified tone of this event mark a shift in how southern operators are engaging with policy discussions, as noted by industry observers. Rather than isolated appeals, the resolutions adopted here signal an emerging bloc-based approach to negotiations with state and central transport authorities.

Massive Participation from Across the Sector

Approximately 3,118 attendees were present, making it one of the largest industry congregations of its kind. These included private bus operators, coach builders, commercial vehicle manufacturers, government officials, software



“A regulatory framework built on clarity and inter-state interoperability will not only support operators but ultimately benefit passengers through more reliable and seamless service delivery.”

Justice B. Veerappa
Upa-Lokayuktha & Former Judge,
Karnataka High Court



“This historic gathering reflects our collective strength. The unanimous resolution today sets a forward-looking agenda for policy change, economic justice, and operational unity in the southern transport sector.”

Sri S. Nataraja Sharma,
President, KSBOA.

providers, and aggregators. High-level delegations from various associations and districts brought their full governing bodies in support of the event's resolutions.

Key industry participants included:

- **Vehicle manufacturers:** Tata Motors, Bharat Benz, Volvo, Eicher, Force Motors,
- **Coach builders:** SM Kannappa, Shree Damodar Coach, MG Automotive, KMS Coach Builders, etc.
- **Suppliers:** Trans ACNR, Mobus Climate Control Systems, Mega Amp, Camoflex, MRF, etc.

Insights from Legal and Policy Experts

Key sessions were led by former and serving government officials, bringing administrative insight to the table.

- **Justice B. Veerappa**, Upa-Lokayuktha and former High Court judge, spoke on the need for transparent enforcement and consistent interpretation of transport policies across states.
- **Sri Ashfaq Ahmed**, President, AIFMV Technical Officers Association, advocated for practical interpretations of the Motor Vehicles Act and called for uniform taxation to reduce operational inefficiencies.
- **Sri B. Nagaraja Rao**, Joint Commissioner of Commercial

Taxes (Policy & Law), provided clarity on GST's current application to passenger transport and proposed reforms to streamline compliance.

Strengthening Industry-Government Dialogue

Sri Ramalinga Reddy, Karnataka's Transport Minister, held a ministerial session at the event and heard appeals from operators and reaffirmed the government's intent to engage constructively. Delegates recommended the formation of a **Southern Zonal Transport Council** to institutionalize policy dialogue between states and private stakeholders.

Additionally, the participants proposed:

- Legal task force formation to approach the Union Transport Ministry for policy-level discussions
- Regular SITCO meetings by respective state governments to address emerging issues and maintain momentum

Industry Recognition and Media Inclusion



“Uniform taxation will not only address leakage and inefficiencies but also improve cost predictability and fleet utilization.”

Sri Ashfaq Ahmed,
President, All India Federation of Motor Vehicle Technical Executive Officers Association, and former RTO officer.

Associations in Attendance:

- Tamil Nadu Omni Bus Owners Association
- Tamil Nadu Omni Tours and Travels Owners Association
- 11 Other District Level Bus Associations from Tamil Nadu
- Kerala State Private Bus Operators' Federation
- Puducherry Bus Owners Associations
- Telangana Cabs and Bus Operators Association
- Telangana Tours and Travel Bus Owners Association
- Andhra Pradesh Private Bus Owners Association

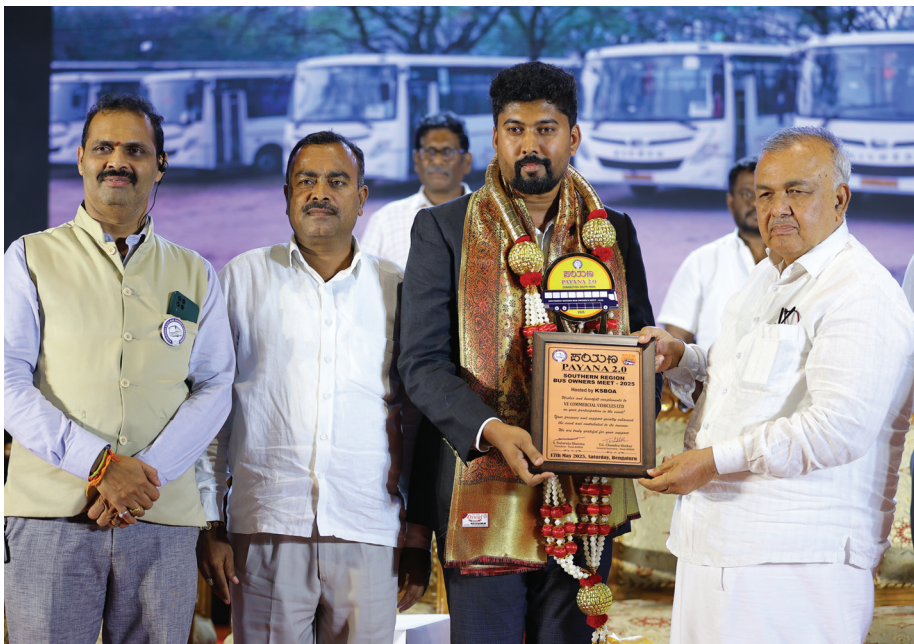
Members of the media, who have consistently reported on transport sector developments, were recognized by the organisers. Awards with titles of 'Jewels of Media' and 'Gems of Media' were presented to female and male journalists respectively.

This highlighted the sector's acknowledgment of informed journalism as a pillar of public discourse.

Looking Ahead

The 2025 Southern Region Bus Owners Meet saw widespread support for the resolutions and a clear roadmap proposed for further action. It laid the groundwork for what may become a new standard of coordinated policymaking in the intercity bus sector.

The success of the resolutions and the roadmap will depend on the execution and follow-through from state governments and regulatory bodies. But the mass participation from all the stakeholders and the consensus displayed here marks a huge step forward for a sector long burdened by operational disruption and inconsistent oversight. ●





The Last Row Was Dead Space, Until This Operator Made It His Biggest USP

By Shivam Gautam

Every bus operator knows the pain - those last few seats at the back just won't move. No matter how steep the discount, passengers avoid them due to discomfort, rear jerks, or just an overall bad reputation. They've always been the toughest part of your inventory to sell, and they quietly chip away at your revenue.

But one young operator from Assam decided he wouldn't settle for that.

Meet **Asish Kumar Borgohain**, an operator who started small in 2019 with just two second-hand buses in Assam. Like every other operator, he soon ran into the age-old headache of the last-row curse. He tried everything - better cushioning, more sedate driving, and even tempting discounts. But nothing worked. The last row remained hard to sell. And he finally understood why - it wasn't the ride, the pricing, or the comfort. It was perception.

And perception, he realized, couldn't be fixed with minor tweaks - it needed something tangible.



“I understood that to change the perception, I needed something passengers could actually see and feel, something visually appealing and different.”

-Asish Kumar Borgohain
Owner, Asish Luxuria

“I understood that to change the perception, I needed something passengers could actually see and feel, something visually appealing and different,” says Asish. “And that’s when the idea hit me - Why not turn the least desirable part of the bus into its most luxurious?”

Instead of trying to push the last seats with offers, he redesigned the entire rear section into a separate **VIP lounge** - a 1x1 layout with **sleeper-style recliner sofas, extra legroom, and plush, lounge-like comfort**. Gone was the traditional back row. In its place stood a premium section that redefined what bus passengers thought was possible.

And the result? The back seats started filling up first.

Passengers weren't just okay with the back - they **wanted** it. Even though a few seats were sacrificed for space, the added value, the buzz, and the bookings more than made up for it. Asish created something every operator dreams of - **differentiation** that drives demand.

His innovation didn't just solve a problem. It flipped an industry truth on its head.

Behind the Brand: The Curious Mind Driving **Asish Luxuria**

When Asish Kumar Borgohain made headlines for turning the back of his bus into prime real estate, it wasn't just a clever fix — it was a glimpse into how he thinks. What started as one operator's creative response to a persistent industry problem soon became a statewide trend. But behind that innovation lies something deeper - a mindset tuned to observation, reinvention, and long-term value.

Because Asish Luxuria isn't just about layout tweaks. It's about a young operator who treats his passengers like people, treats feedback like strategy, and treats every route as a learning opportunity.

A Brand Built from Lessons on the Road

Asish began his journey in 2019 with just two second-hand buses under the name Hornbill Transport. Like many small operators, he entered the business with ambition and limited resources. Then came the pandemic, and with it, a brutal test of resilience.

Instead of pulling back, Asish made a choice that would define his path - he doubled down, sold his aging fleet, and reinvested in two brand-new buses by 2022.

That's when Hornbill Transport became Asish Luxuria - a name that, for him, wasn't just branding but a statement of intent. The rebrand marked a shift from being just another bus operator to becoming a customer-first, design-led service built on



comfort, reliability, and curiosity. From cabin upgrades to timing precision, every detail was a result of listening carefully to what passengers really wanted - and acting on it.

What the Road Taught Him

Over the past few years, Asish has learned that the passenger mobility business is just as much about listening as it is about logistics. While routes and schedules may define the business on paper, what truly drives it is how passengers feel about the journey.

The rebrand wasn't just cosmetic, it was it was a clear statement of intent - a shift from being just another bus operator to a customer-first, design-led service focused on comfort, reliability, and curiosity.



One of the biggest limitations is low inter-state connectivity. Unlike other parts of India where buses freely crisscross state borders - like Delhi to Jaipur or Bangalore to Chennai - the Northeast has far fewer cross-border routes. As a result, operators are mostly confined to short intra-state circuits.



"Treat your passengers like people, not just ticket numbers," he says - a philosophy that has become central to how he operates. And he means it. From cabin design to departure timing, every operational change at Asish Luxuria starts with what passengers are saying.

"Passenger feedback is gold," he adds. "It tells me what's working, what isn't, and what we should try next. A lot of what we do now has come directly from those insights."

For Asish, feedback isn't a formality - it's a tool. He doesn't just collect it; he acts on it. He believes that small, consistent changes are what shape the bigger journey.

"At the end of the day, passengers care about two main things - good service and arriving on time," he says. "If you get that right, they remember the experience, and more importantly, they come back."

Navigating the Challenges of the Northeast

Operating a private bus business in the Northeast comes with its unique set of hurdles. From tough geography and road conditions to limited growth opportunities, the region demands more from its operators than just running buses on time.

One of the biggest limitations is low inter-state connectivity. Unlike other parts of India where buses freely crisscross state borders - like Delhi to Jaipur or Bangalore to Chennai - the Northeast has far fewer cross-border routes. As a result, operators are mostly confined to short intra-state circuits. "We don't have the luxury of scaling up like operators in metro corridors," says Asish. "We're boxed in by geography and policy."

Another unusual aspect of the region is the level of luxury expected by passengers. In

Assam, buses, even on shorter, under-300-km routes, are far more premium than in most other states. That's a consumer preference operators can't ignore.

"Here, the standard of buses is way ahead of many parts of India," explains Asish. "For example, even in regular seater services, we operate only 2x1 seating layouts with reclining seats. There are no basic 2x2 seaters."

While this improves passenger comfort, it also reduces the total number of seats per bus, directly affecting revenue potential. Building and maintaining such luxurious fleets comes at a significantly higher cost, often with shrinking margins.

To make matters tougher, operators cannot adjust fares to match rising operational costs. The fare system is entirely government-regulated. "No matter how many amenities or luxury you provide - whether it's Wi-Fi, premium seats, or onboard refreshments - the fare remains fixed," says Asish. "And once set, it doesn't change for years."

With no scope for dynamic pricing, even during peak seasons or high-demand periods, it becomes almost impossible to recover investment in premium upgrades.

Adding to the pressure is the intensity of competition in Assam's

bus market. Asish points out that on most routes, where only two buses could sustain demand, there are often ten in operation. This overcrowding has worsened in recent years, largely due to the government's Uberization scheme - a subsidy program designed to promote entrepreneurship in the transport sector.

"When the Uberization scheme was introduced, it attracted a wave of new entrants," says Asish. "From the outside, the bus business looks very lucrative. So many people took the subsidy, bought buses, and jumped in."

However, many of these newcomers lacked industry experience and soon shut down after facing the operational realities.

"Unfortunately, while many exited, they left a dent in the market. It hit serious operators hard by pushing

Despite being expected to deliver premium comfort, operators in Assam are bound by government-fixed fares, with no scope for dynamic pricing, even during peak seasons.

fares down and flooding already saturated routes."

On top of that, an increasing number of operators have started offering deep offline discounts to fill empty seats. While it might temporarily help with occupancy, Asish believes it's a damaging practice in the long run.

"It devalues the service and confuses passengers. If someone pays full fare and the person next to them gets a big discount without reason, they feel cheated," he explains. "Instead of a race to the bottom, we should be focusing on improving quality and consistency."

Improve What You Have, Win Who You Serve

When asked about expansion, Asish doesn't talk about adding more buses or chasing scale. His focus is on getting the basics right and then making them better. "This business is not like running a regular shop," he says. "Passenger needs change every day. Routes evolve. The only way to grow is by constantly adapting."

Instead of stretching his resources thin, he's investing in the finer details; cleaner buses, better customer support, more punctual operations, and consistent service delivery - quiet improvements that build trust and keep passengers coming back.

Takeaway for Operators

Asish Kumar Borgohain's story is a reminder that success in the bus business doesn't always come from fleet size or flashy tech - sometimes, it's about how closely you listen, how quickly you adapt, and how deeply you care about the passenger experience.

From turning the back row into a selling point to refining every detail of the ride, Asish Luxuria was built on observation, humility, and smart execution. His journey proves that even in a saturated and challenging market, a fresh mindset and consistent service can set a small operator apart - and turn a struggling business into a standout brand. ●



Accelerating Transit Transformation: Highlights from UITP 2025 Hamburg



The UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2025, held in Hamburg from June 15–18, concluded on a high note, placing the spotlight on the evolving priorities of the public transport sector. The summit's core themes - Net Zero Cities, Operations, Lifestyle, People-Centricity, Sustainability, and Technology - framed a compelling vision for the future of mobility.

Recognised as the world's largest and most influential event in the public transport industry, this year's summit brought together more than 10,000 participants from over 110 countries.

Over four days, policymakers, industry leaders, and innovators came together for high-level dialogues, cutting-edge technology showcases, and a landmark exhibition featuring global OEMs unveiling the next generation of mobility solutions.

A Sector in Transition

In his opening address, UITP Secretary General Mohamed Mezghani reflected on the transport sector's recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic,

emphasising the importance of resilience, innovation, and forward-looking policy.

Leaders from global cities, including Paris, Singapore, and Vienna, shared transformational case studies, highlighting how bold governance and citizen-first strategies have reshaped public mobility systems.

A unifying message resonated throughout the summit:

The future of public transport is not only electric - it is interconnected, data-driven, and designed around people.

People, Data, and Decarbonisation

The discussions centred around three transformative pillars:

1. Putting people at the heart of urban mobility
2. Leveraging data to enhance service delivery
3. Accelerating the shift toward low and zero-emission transit solutions

While ridership is steadily rebounding, speakers stressed that operators must now evolve from merely being available to being truly desirable. Anjes Tjarks, Hamburg's Minister for

Transport and Mobility Transition, encapsulated this shift and stated, "It's not only about building up infrastructure, but about enabling public transport companies to truly customise services for citizens."

This human-centric approach was echoed by transport leaders across countries, all of whom advocated for more responsive systems, emphasising better service frequency, real-time planning, and environmentally sustainable operations.

A Global Commitment to Collaboration

One of the summit's landmark announcements was the declaration of April 17, 2026, as the inaugural World Public Transport Day, a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the social, environmental, and economic value of public mobility.

As urban centres around the world face rising populations, climate urgency, and digital disruption, the message from UITP 2025 was clear that the path forward lies in collaboration between governments, transport operators, and industry manufacturers.

Karsan Unveils e-ATA LE at UITP 2025, Setting New Standards for Suburban Electric Mobility

Karsan, a leading innovator in electric and autonomous public transport, made headlines at the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2025 in Hamburg with the global debut of its latest model, the e-ATA LE. Revealed on the opening day of the summit, the new Class 2 electric bus marks a major leap in suburban and short intercity transportation.

Designed specifically for routes connecting city centres to nearby towns and distant inner-city lines, the e-ATA LE brings together long-range capability, energy efficiency, and superior passenger comfort. With seating for 41 passengers, all front-facing with safety belts, and room for 90 in total, it redefines comfort and capacity for high-demand corridors.

The bus offers up to four battery options, including a 528 kWh pack that delivers over 500 kilometres of real-world range. Fast-charging infrastructure of up to 200 kW, along with pantograph compatibility, allows a significant charge in just five minutes, ensuring minimal downtime for operators.

Under the hood, a 250 kW motor delivering 22,000 Nm torque ensures consistent performance, even on challenging terrain. The model's thermal management system efficiently operates in temperatures as low as -25°C while reducing energy consumption by up to 80%.

Karsan CEO Okan Baş highlighted the strategic importance of the launch, stating, "e-ATA LE is our response to evolving mobility demands. It sets a new benchmark in the Class 2 segment, enhancing range, comfort, and operational efficiency. This unveiling marks a crucial step in our journey toward global e-mobility leadership."



IVECO BUS Showcases New E-WAY Electric Bus and Full-Suite Electrification Ecosystem at UITP 2025

IVECO BUS took center stage with the debut of its latest-generation E-WAY 12-metre electric bus and a comprehensive suite of electrification solutions tailored for zero-emission transit.

The company's 400 m² exhibition space reflected its growing influence in Europe's e-mobility landscape, currently holding a 14.2% market share in electric urban bus registrations. The newly unveiled E-WAY battery-electric bus, featured in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) format, boasts a 416 kWh battery capacity, 95-passenger capacity, and a camera-based mirror system, underscoring its focus on safety, energy efficiency, and design innovation.

Built for demanding urban operations, the E-WAY range offers flexible configurations in four lengths - from 9.5 to 18 metres - and can travel up to 400 km on a single charge. The system is powered by SIEMENS Elfa III electric motors delivering up to 375 kW. Beyond vehicles, IVECO BUS showcased its Energy Mobility Solutions—a project-based consulting arm that supports operators from infrastructure planning to fleet deployment.

It also presented its IVECO ON connected services, which provide real-time diagnostics, intelligent charging management, and predictive maintenance via a unified digital platform.

To enhance engagement, visitors experienced immersive product demos using mixed reality tools as part of UITP's Innovation Guided Tours. Through its end-to-end approach, vehicle, infrastructure, services, and digital tools - IVECO BUS reaffirmed its role as a key partner in accelerating the public transport sector's shift to clean mobility.

Solaris Showcases Modular Urbino 12 Electric Bus and Urban Mobility Expertise at UITP 2025

Solaris Bus & Coach highlighted both innovation and insight, unveiling its Urbino 12 electric bus with a modular drive system and participating in critical discussions shaping the future of public transport.

The Urbino 12 electric, designed for modern city transit, eliminates the traditional engine tower, freeing up cabin space to accommodate more passengers. Its next-gen modular architecture places all high-capacity batteries - totalling over 600 kWh - on the roof, allowing the vehicle to achieve a real-world range of up to 600 km as per eSORT 2 standards.

This design not only enhances capacity and performance but also aligns with the latest safety and cybersecurity requirements under the GSR2 regulation. The bus has already earned recognition, winning the Sustainable Bus Award 2025 in the Urban category.

In parallel, Solaris experts took an active role in several technical forums during the summit, offering perspectives on battery and hydrogen technologies as part of UITP's broader focus on clean and connected mobility.



With this dual presence - product innovation and thought leadership - Solaris reaffirmed its position as a forward-thinking manufacturer driving public transport toward smarter, safer, and zero-emission solutions.

BYD Expands Intercity Lineup with Launch of 700-km Range eBus B13.b at UITP 2025



BYD unveiled its next-generation intercity electric bus, the eBus B13.b, at the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2025. Designed for both urban and regional applications, the B13.b is a 13.2-metre Low Entry model featuring BYD's in-house Blade Battery technology, co-developed with BorgWarner.

With a maximum battery capacity of 560 kWh, the B13.b delivers a range of up to 700 km (SORT test cycle) without increasing total vehicle weight. Passenger capacity has been optimised to 78, including 49 seated—an improvement over the earlier B13 version.

Powering the vehicle are two 150 kW hub motors, supported by BYD's proprietary Thermal

Management System. This system integrates drivetrain cooling, battery temperature control, heat pump-based cabin heating, and waste heat recovery, resulting in a 10% energy saving on test cycles.

The Blade Battery's LFP-based chemistry offers 50% better volume efficiency compared to traditional packs, enabling high energy density and faster heating performance. A second version with a 476 kWh battery offers a range of 620 km.

The B13.b builds on the Blade Chassis platform first introduced with the eBus B12 in 2024, and is positioned to offer operators a high-capacity, long-range solution tailored for both city outskirts and mid-distance routes.

MAN Lion's City E with New Battery Generation Celebrates World Premiere at UITP 2025



MAN Truck & Bus unveiled the updated Lion's City 10 E, marking the global debut of its new in-house battery generation. The model represents a major advancement in urban electric mobility, combining improved efficiency, passenger capacity, and sustainability.

The 10.5-metre low-floor eBus features MAN's proprietary BatteryPack system developed and manufactured in Nuremberg. With four high-performance NMC battery modules totaling 356 kWh, the bus achieves the same or better range with fewer packs, allowing more space for passengers without increasing overall vehicle weight.

The compact Lion's City 10 E is designed for urban peak-time shuttles and inner-city routes, carrying up to 81 passengers (27 seated, 54 standing) with the

maneuverability of a shorter bus and the capacity of a 12-metre model.

MAN emphasized battery safety and circularity. The packs are up to 96% recyclable, with an estimated lifespan of 1 million kilometres across 14 years. These batteries will also power MAN's future eBuses and eTrucks.

In addition, MAN showcased its Transport Solutions consulting services and automation technologies for public transport operators. A deeper dive into the battery development will be presented on June 18 at 11:30 AM, titled "The New MAN Battery Pack – Lifelong Energy, One Reliable Partner".

The launch reinforces MAN's long-term commitment to efficient, scalable, and sustainable e-mobility.



IVECO BUS Expands EMT Malaga's Electric Fleet with 13 New E-WAY Midibuses

IVECO BUS has reinforced its partnership with Empresa Malagueña de Transportes (EMT Malaga) by delivering 13 new E-WAY electric midibuses. This delivery is part of a broader 19-unit order aimed at strengthening the city's electric public transport fleet, now numbering over 80 vehicles.

A formal handover event in Malaga marked the milestone, attended by Mayor Francisco de la Torre and key city officials. The initiative aligns with the city's commitment to sustainable urban mobility and environmental innovation. The overall investment of more than €12 million, partially supported by the Next Generation EU funds, reflects the growing momentum for green mobility in Southern Europe.

"These new E-WAY buses further cement our shared vision of a fully electrified public transport system," said Fabrizio Toscano, Sales Manager at IVECO BUS Iberica.

"They represent not only ecological innovation but also a commitment to passenger comfort and operational performance."

The newly delivered E-WAY midibuses are 9.5 meters long and 2.33 meters wide, making them ideal for navigating Malaga's historic and narrow city streets. Each bus accommodates up to 55 passengers, including 16 seated, and is fully accessible with low floors, automatic and manual ramps, and a designated space for people with reduced mobility (PRM).

Passenger experience is enhanced with features such as LED interior lighting, USB ports, an onboard information system, and an ergonomic driver's cockpit. A camera-based rearview system replaces traditional mirrors, complemented by an internal surveillance system for added safety. Beyond the vehicles, IVECO BUS delivers a full-service ecosystem to support fleet operation and

maintenance. This includes preventive maintenance programs, technical support, driver and technician training, and IVECO ON connected services for real-time monitoring, diagnostics, and performance optimization.

Malaga's transport operator now stands among the most forward-thinking urban fleets in Europe, with one of the largest electric bus deployments in the region. The collaboration with IVECO BUS goes beyond vehicle supply, reflecting a shared strategy for cleaner, smarter urban transit.

This delivery underscores IVECO BUS's role as a trusted partner to public operators, helping cities transition to low-emission transport solutions that align with EU sustainability goals and the evolving demands of urban mobility.



FlixBus Expands Footprint in Latin America with Mexico Launch

Global travel-tech leader FlixBus has officially launched its long-distance bus services in Mexico, marking its third Latin American market after Brazil and Chile.

The service kicked off on May 27, with buses now connecting key cities across five Mexican states including Mexico City, Monterrey, Querétaro, Torreón, Matehuala, and San Luis Potosí. Travelers can now book tickets via FlixBus's digital platform for a seamless and affordable travel experience.

The move also links Mexico to FlixBus's broader North American network, which spans over 1,600 destinations in the United States and Canada, thanks in part to its 2021

acquisition of Greyhound, which currently handles operations in Monterrey.

"We're excited to expand our Latin American footprint," said André Schwämmlein, Flix founder and CEO. "By partnering with local businesses, we're transforming travel in Mexico—bringing affordable, comfortable, and tech-driven options to more people."

With this launch, FlixBus reinforces its strategy of partnered expansion while continuing to push for digitalization and sustainability in intercity travel. Mexico now joins a growing list of countries where FlixBus is redefining mobility through a tech-first, customer-centric approach.

Karsan Autonomous e-ATAK Gains Approval to Operate on German Public Roads

Karsan's Autonomous e-ATAK has become the first autonomous public transport bus to receive full certification from Germany's Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA), allowing it to operate on public roads in Hannover as part of the Albus Project.

This Level-4 autonomous bus will run a 7-kilometre route on line 906 in Burgdorf, navigating complex urban features including



10 traffic lights, 13 stops, intersections, and pedestrian crossings, at speeds up to 40 km/h without a physical driver onboard.

Karsan CEO Okan Bas emphasized the company's leadership in mobility innovation, stating that operating in a highly regulated market like Germany highlights their technical expertise and visionary approach. Developed alongside technology partner ADASTEC, the e-ATAK uses LiDAR, RGB cameras, GNSS, and RADAR to safely manage diverse driving scenarios.

Powered by a 220 kWh battery, the 8.3-metre-long e-ATAK takes about 5 hours to fully charge and marks a significant step in autonomous public transport adoption across Europe.



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