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BY COACH BUILDERS INDIA

Festive Highways

The Great Indian Travel Rush



IntrCity SmartBus

YoloBus

MIC E-Mobility

Damodar Group



IN THE SHADOWS, A NEW LEGEND AWAITS

LAUNCHING SOON

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EDITORIAL

Hello everyone,

Finally, the season we've all been waiting for is here - the sound of celebration in the air, the sparkle of lights across every street. And yet, there's an irony that everyone in the transport business understands. While the country celebrates, most of us are running at full throttle. Because for us, this isn't just the festive season - it's business time!

As buses fill up and bookings surge, the effort behind the scenes multiplies. Sleepless nights, packed schedules, and the endless coordination to keep every route smooth and every passenger happy. But that's what we do. Because we know - the harder the hustle, the greater the reward.

And this Diwali, we're celebrating this relentless dedication that keeps India moving even during its biggest festival.

Our cover story brings together some of the most respected operators from across the country, from IntrCity SmartBus, YoloBus, Payal Travels, and Alagappa Travels, sharing how they prepare for the festive surge. From managing top routes to training their staff and maintaining their fleets, their insights reveal the precision and passion behind the scenes. There's a wealth of knowledge here, for both seasoned players and new entrants alike.

Adding to that, we have a special data-packed report from redBus, highlighting the busiest bus routes across Maharashtra this festive season — a fascinating look into how travel patterns shape during India's most dynamic time of year.

We are joined by YoloBus' new CEO Manoj Soni, who shares his vision of transforming YoloBus into India's next-generation electric intercity brand, where technology meets sustainability.

We're also excited to introduce MIC E-Mobility, one of the newest entrants in the intercity EV segment, set to redefine luxury and sustainability in long-distance travel — a glimpse into the future that's already taking shape.

And beyond India, our team brings you an exclusive report from Busworld Europe 2025, the world's largest congregation of bus industry leaders, capturing key takeaways, global perspectives, and some of the most notable product launches that are setting new benchmarks for design, safety, and innovation.

As we share these stories, I want to take a moment to wish you all once again a very happy Diwali. May this festive season bring joy, growth, and safe journeys for your teams, your passengers, and your businesses.

Till next time!

Cheers!!!

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JBM Electric Vehicles unveiled its all-electric ECOLIFE e12 city bus, marking a key step in its European expansion following its official market entry at the UITP Summit in Hamburg.



EKA Mobility and Kerchanshe Group Partner to Drive Electric Mobility in East Africa



“ETHIOPIA, WITH ITS GROWING INDUSTRIAL BASE AND FOCUS ON CLEAN ENERGY, IS THE IDEAL HUB FOR OUR EAST AFRICAN OPERATIONS. TOGETHER, WE AIM TO CREATE NOT JUST VEHICLES, BUT A CLEANER, MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE FOR MOBILITY IN EAST AFRICA.”

SUDHIR MEHTA,
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN,
EKA MOBILITY

EKA Mobility, India's fast-growing electric vehicle manufacturer, has joined hands with Ethiopia's Kerchanshe Trading PLC to expand electric mobility across East Africa. The strategic partnership was formalized on October 13, 2025, in Dubai, marking a major milestone in India-Africa collaboration for sustainable transportation.

The agreement includes plans to set up a local assembly facility in Ethiopia for EKA's range of electric buses and commercial vehicles. The partners will also build a regional distribution and service network to support fleet deployment across Ethiopia and neighboring countries.

EKA Mobility, backed by Mitsui & Co. (Japan), VDL Groep (Netherlands), and Pinnacle Industries (India), brings strong expertise in modular EV design, cost-efficient manufacturing, and sustainable transport solutions. Kerchanshe, one of East Africa's most diversified conglomerates, will leverage its industrial base and logistics network to localize production and strengthen after-sales operations.

Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder and Chairman of EKA Mobility, said Ethiopia's industrial progress and focus on renewable energy make it the ideal hub for regional EV operations.

Mr. Israel Degefa, CEO and President of Kerchanshe Group, added that the partnership blends world-class technology with local capability to accelerate Africa's transition to green mobility.

The collaboration is poised to create jobs, enhance industrial capacity, and cut carbon emissions, laying the foundation for a sustainable electric mobility ecosystem across East Africa.



Credit - Hemant Autoclickz

Tata Motors Unveils All-New LPO 1822 Bus Chassis, Redefining India’s Intercity Bus Segment

Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, India’s market leader in passenger and goods mobility, has introduced its most advanced intercity platform yet - the Tata LPO 1822 bus chassis. Purpose-built for long-haul applications, the new chassis is designed to set fresh benchmarks in ride comfort, reliability, and operational efficiency.

Equipped with full-air suspension and low NVH levels, the LPO 1822 ensures a smoother, quieter, and fatigue-free travel experience. The chassis supports multiple configurations, from 36 to 50-seater layouts and premium sleeper variants, catering to the diverse needs of India’s fast-evolving intercity transport ecosystem.

Powering the LPO 1822 is a 5.6-litre Cummins diesel engine producing 220 hp and 925 Nm of torque, balancing strong performance with fuel efficiency. The platform also underpins the Tata Magna Coach, a premium, fully built intercity bus that integrates advanced safety and comfort features.

Mr. Anand S, Vice President and Head, Commercial Passenger Vehicle Business, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, said, “The LPO 1822 combines superior ride quality, robust engineering, and intelligent features to deliver unmatched value. It’s a win-win for passengers, drivers, and fleet owners alike.”

Adding to its appeal, the LPO 1822 includes a four-year complimentary Fleet Edge subscription, Tata Motors’ connected vehicle platform that enables real-time diagnostics and predictive maintenance.

With a comprehensive product portfolio across diesel, CNG, LNG, and electric powertrains, supported by 4,500+ service touchpoints and Sampoorna Seva 2.0, Tata Motors continues to strengthen its leadership in future-ready passenger mobility.

Tata LPO 1822 Chassis Specifications

Specification	Details
Engine	5.6-litre Cummins Diesel Engine
Power Output	220 hp
Torque	925 Nm
Suspension	Full-Air Suspension (Front & Rear)
Noise, Vibration, Harshness (NVH)	Low NVH levels for enhanced passenger comfort
Seating Configurations	36 to 50-seater options; sleeper coach layouts available
Connectivity	Fleet Edge (4-year complimentary subscription)
Support & Service	Sampoorna Seva 2.0 (includes AMC, 24x7 assistance, spares)

NIIF's India-Japan Fund Invests Rs.500 Cr in EKA Mobility to Boost Sustainable Commercial Transport

In a major push for sustainable mobility, the India-Japan Fund (IJF), managed by the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF), has invested Rs.500 crore (US\$57 million) in EKA Mobility, a leading Indian electric commercial vehicle manufacturer.

This strategic investment marks a significant step in IJF's climate-focused agenda and its commitment to strengthening the India-Japan economic corridor. It also highlights growing investor confidence in India's transition to cleaner commercial transport solutions.

A subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries, EKA Mobility has built a robust portfolio of zero-emission vehicles, including electric buses (7m, 9m, and 12m), intercity coaches, electric 3-wheelers (passenger and cargo), heavy-duty trucks (55T and 7T), and small commercial vehicles (1.5T to 3.5T). The company has confirmed orders for over 3,300 electric buses through state and municipal contracts, as well as private fleet operators.

The funding will enable EKA Mobility to scale up manufacturing capacity, strengthen R&D, enhance its supply chain, and expand market outreach, both in India and internationally.

Krishna Kumar, Partner & Fund Head at IJF, commented, "Our investment reflects confidence in India's EV potential and homegrown OEMs like EKA Mobility. We're proud to support companies driving India's low-carbon future and fostering India-Japan business partnerships."

Makoto Uchida, Senior Managing Director at Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), noted, "This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to environmental sustainability and bilateral cooperation. Together with NIIF, JBIC will continue to promote Japanese investments in India's green transition."

Dr. Sudhir Mehta, Founder & Chairman of EKA Mobility, added, "NIIF's investment is a strong endorsement of our vision. This comes at a pivotal time as we scale operations and accelerate EV adoption across India."

This partnership also aligns with the Government of India's Make-in-India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, underlining a shared vision for sustainable and self-reliant mobility.





Ashok Leyland Secures Major TNSTU Order for 1,937 Buses

Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group and a leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, has secured a landmark order for 1,937 buses from the Tamil Nadu State Transport Undertakings (TNSTU).

This significant order further reinforces the company's long-standing partnership with TNSTU and its position as a dominant player in India's bus manufacturing sector.

With over 21,000 Ashok Leyland buses already operational in the TNSTU fleet, the brand remains the preferred choice for public transport in the state. The new order includes a diverse mix of fully built buses and chassis, designed for town, mofussil, and SETC applications.

Each unit will be built on the AIS 153-compliant chassis platform, meeting the latest Indian safety and performance standards.

The buses will be equipped with Ashok Leyland's advanced iGen6 BS VI technology, aimed at improving fuel efficiency and lowering emissions, while ensuring superior passenger comfort and vehicle reliability.

Speaking on the order, Ms. Madhavi Deshmukh, National Sales Head – MHCV, said, "This order reflects the trust our customers place in our technology and our commitment to shaping the future of public transport in India."

Mr. Mohan K, Head – Bus, MHCV, added, "We are proud to continue supporting Tamil Nadu's public transport with safe, reliable, and advanced mobility solutions."

Key features across the new fleet include electronic stability control for high-speed vehicles, upgraded batteries and alternators to support ITMS, auto transmission, air suspension, and low-entry floor heights for enhanced commuter experience. The inclusion of wheelchair ramps underscores Ashok Leyland's focus on accessible, inclusive transportation.

This order is another milestone for Ashok Leyland, already recognized as the largest bus manufacturer in India and the fourth-largest globally. It also reflects the growing emphasis on modernizing state-run transport systems with safer, more efficient, and passenger-centric solutions.

Ashok Leyland Delivers First Batch of AVTR 55T Electric Trucks to ASAT Logistics

Ashok Leyland has commenced delivery of 24 AVTR 55T Electric trucks to ASAT Logistics Pvt Ltd. The company is a key logistics partner for Shree Cement, specializing in cement and aggregate movement.

The first batch of four trucks was handed over by Sanjeev Kumar, President – MHCV, Ashok Leyland, to Arvind Sarda, CEO, ASAT Logistics, in the presence of senior dignitaries. This delivery marks a major step in strengthening the strategic alliance between Ashok Leyland and ASAT Logistics, reinforcing their shared focus on sustainability and innovation in logistics.

Sanjeev Kumar said, “These trucks highlight our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and performance in the commercial vehicle sector. This partnership reflects the growing confidence



in our electric mobility solutions and our position as a technology leader.”

Arvind Sarda added, “We trust the quality and performance of Ashok Leyland trucks. Together with Shree Cement, we are moving toward a cleaner, more efficient, and sustainable logistics future.”

The AVTR 55T Electric trucks feature advanced Lithium-ion battery technology with dual-gun charging,

automatic transmission, and telematics. They are equipped with a premium cabin, ADAS, and industry-standard safety systems, ensuring superior efficiency and low operating costs.

This milestone underscores Ashok Leyland's commitment to eco-friendly mobility and its mission to drive India's transition toward sustainable commercial transportation.

Tata Motors Begins Deliveries of Prima E.55S Electric Prime Movers to Enviiro Wheels Mobility

Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, a pioneer in sustainable freight solutions, has commenced deliveries of its advanced Tata Prima E.55S battery-electric prime movers to Enviiro Wheels Mobility. The first batch was handed over in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. These zero-emission trucks will be deployed for mineral and ore transportation — a key step in decarbonising heavy logistics operations.

Enviiro Wheels Mobility, a leader in green commercial transport serving the power, mining, cement, and steel sectors, sees this partnership as a milestone in its sustainability journey. “The Prima E.55S is an ideal choice to support our customers' net-zero goals,” said Praveen Somani, Managing Director, Enviiro Wheels Mobility. “With Tata Motors' strong after-sales support, we are building a future-ready, clean transport fleet.”

Rajesh Kaul, Vice President & Business Head – Trucks, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, said, “We are proud to deliver the first batch of Prima E.55S trucks to Enviiro Wheels. This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to green logistics and reinforces Tata Motors' leadership in India's transition to sustainable freight.”

The Prima E.55S features an advanced EV drivetrain with an integrated e-axle, regenerative braking, and a range of up to 350 km per charge. Dual-gun fast charging, 3-speed Auto Shift transmission, and smart systems like lane departure warning, tyre pressure monitoring, and cruise control enhance performance and safety.

With this launch, Tata Motors continues to lead India's shift toward cleaner, more efficient, and future-ready mobility.

ZF India Wins Major OEM Contract for Advanced 430mm Heavy-Duty Clutch System

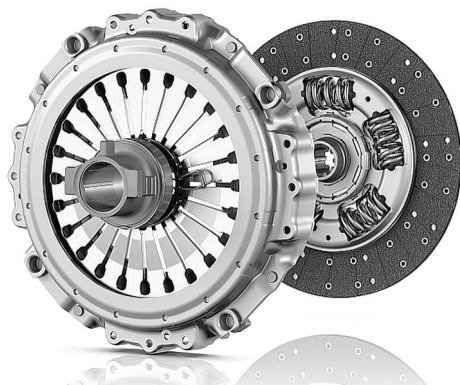
ZF India Pvt. Ltd. has secured a landmark business contract from one of India's top commercial vehicle OEMs to supply its newly developed 430mm heavy-duty clutch system, purpose-built for high-performance engines and India's demanding road conditions. Signed in May 2025, the agreement underscores ZF's growing role in local innovation and manufacturing excellence.

Production of the clutch system will commence in mid-2026 at ZF's Chakan plant in Pune, reinforcing its commitment to the "Make in India" initiative and local supply chain development. Several thousand units are expected to be produced annually for both domestic and export applications.

According to Mr. Akash Passey, President – Region India, ZF Group, this achievement reaffirms ZF's strategy of combining global expertise with regional manufacturing. "With our advanced driveline technologies and strong local presence, we're enabling OEMs to deliver world-class performance tailored to Indian conditions," he said.

Mr. Paramjit Singh Chadha, Senior Vice President – CVS Division (India), ZF Group, added, "This business win validates the superior durability and performance of our new 430mm clutch system. Its compatibility with future driveline architectures, including Automated Manual Transmissions (AMTs), positions us well for the next phase of commercial vehicle evolution."

Engineered for efficiency, durability, and comfort, the clutch features advanced friction linings that extend service life by up to 20%, reduce maintenance costs, and offer smoother engagement with lighter pedal effort, ideal for long-haul applications and demanding duty cycles.



Force Motors Launches 3-Year Complimentary Roadside Assistance Program Across All Vehicles

Force Motors Limited has rolled out a comprehensive Roadside Assistance (RSA) program, offered complimentary for three years across its entire product range — Traveller, Trax, Monobus, Urbania, and Gurkha.

This initiative marks a first for India's commercial vehicle segment and reflects the company's growing emphasis on customer convenience and ownership satisfaction. The program provides 24x7 support nationwide, covering breakdowns, towing, accident recovery, and on-site repairs to minimize downtime and ensure uninterrupted operations.

"Our customers place their trust in Force vehicles every day, and it is our responsibility to stand firmly by that trust," said Mr. Prasan Firodia, Managing Director, Force Motors. "With this program, we aim to provide total support throughout their journey, reaffirming our commitment to reliability and care."

Key Highlights of Force Motors' RSA Program:

- Complimentary coverage for three years from the date of purchase
- 24x7 multilingual helpline, available all year
- Free towing up to 100 km to the nearest authorized workshop
- On-site repairs for minor electrical or mechanical issues
- Accident assistance with recovery coordination
- Tyre change, jump-start, and key-related support
- Additional services like hotel or taxi coordination, medical referrals, and legal guidance

Backed by a nationwide partner network, this initiative strengthens Force Motors' customer-centric service ecosystem, enhancing reliability, accessibility, and overall value across its commercial and personal mobility portfolio.

Damodar Group Becomes First Indian Bus Body Builder to Achieve AIS 153 Certification Across All Major OEM Platforms

Damodar Group has become the first Indian bus body builder to receive the AIS 153 certification from ARAI (Automotive Research Association of India) for its Rudra and High Deck Plus sleeper and seater-sleeper models. The certification spans chassis from Ashok Leyland, BharatBenz, Tata Motors, and Volvo-Eicher, covering vehicle lengths from 222 wheelbase to 13.5 metres. With this milestone, Damodar Group now holds all three key ARAI certifications, AIS 052, AIS 119, and AIS 153, solidifying its position as a national leader in quality, safety, and regulatory compliance.

The AIS 153 standard, introduced by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), sets comprehensive safety and design benchmarks for bus body structures, including structural integrity, emergency exits, fire resistance, electrical safety, and NVH (noise, vibration, and harshness) parameters. The regulation becomes mandatory for all new buses manufactured in India from September 2025.

By meeting this compliance well ahead of the deadline, Damodar Group has demonstrated its long-standing commitment to “safety-first engineering,” a philosophy it has upheld since delivering India’s first sleeper coach. According

to the company, the certification simplifies fleet integration across OEMs, reduces retrofit risks, and enhances operator confidence with a consistently homologated product line.

Future-ready by design, Damodar’s upcoming models, including the Kalpa, are being engineered within the same certified framework, ensuring seamless homologation and regulatory headroom for advanced features such as lightweight ABS panels, smart cabin systems, and the evolving Pravaha design language.

Speaking on the achievement, Yash Sharma, Director at Damodar Group, said:

“AIS 153 isn’t just a certificate for us; it’s a contract with our passengers. It validates the discipline behind our structures, materials, and processes across OEMs and lengths. For operators, it means predictable quality and quicker deployments. For customers, it means safer journeys every single time.”

With this milestone, Damodar Group reinforces its position as a trusted partner in premium intercity mobility, offering certified safety and reliability at scale.



Peak Season, Peak Pressure

How Operators are Gearing Up for India's Festive Rush

BY SHIVAM GAUTOM



For India's bus operators, Diwali is more than a festival! It's a pivotal period that sets the tone for the months ahead. As highways swell with vehicles and passengers, operators brace for one of the most critical revenue-generating windows of the year. From September through February, festive holidays, weddings, and cultural events create sustained demand, turning intercity bus operations into a finely tuned orchestration of fleet readiness, staff management, and passenger service.

This Diwali, industry insiders report rising optimism. Passenger bookings are already climbing, routes are seeing early surges, and operators are preparing fleets and crews with meticulous care. **Prakash Sangam**, CEO of redBus, expects a 40 percent increase on average across India, while some regions indicate even higher growth. **Manish Rathi**, CEO of IntrCity SmartBus, notes that bookings have surged 35 percent compared to the same period in 2024, with advance reservations nearly double those of regular non-festive weeks.

Behind the scenes, the season tests operational resilience, pricing strategies, and service reliability, all while providing a vital snapshot of market growth, passenger trends, and the evolving dynamics of India's intercity transport ecosystem.

Diwali, in many ways, is a celebration of the bus industry itself - a high-stakes, high-reward period reflecting both the growth and the challenges of intercity travel today.

Defining the Festive Season: A Multi-Month Surge

For India's bus operators, the festive season is far more than a single holiday. It is an extended period of sustained demand that shapes operations, revenue, and planning across the country. By and large, the season begins around September and continues through January, covering major festivals such as Diwali, Christmas, New Year, and Sankranti.

While the start and end may vary slightly across regions, Diwali remains the undisputed peak for passenger movement.

"In Tamil Nadu, our festive season runs for about five to six months, from late August to February, covering major festivals like Diwali, Christmas, New Year, and Pongal. Diwali and Pongal are the busiest periods for passenger movement and revenue," says **Dr. A. Anbalagan**, Managing Director of Alagappa Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd. and President of the All Omni Bus Owners Association.



COVER STORY

In Maharashtra as well, the festive rhythm starts earlier, immediately after Ganesh Chaturthi, and continues well into February.

“The festive rush for us kicks off right after Ganesh Chaturthi and stretches through Navratri, Diwali, Christmas, New Year, and Sankranti,” shares **Chintan Rathod**, Managing Director, Nakoda Travels.

Across regions, while the timing may shift slightly, the story is consistent - the festive season is a high-stakes, high-reward period that demands careful planning, operational readiness, and flawless execution from bus operators.

Diwali's High-Stakes Window

For bus operators across India, Diwali isn't just a festival, it's the high-octane season that drives the bulk of annual revenue. Buses run full, passenger demand spikes, and every route becomes a key contributor to quarterly performance.

“The Diwali season brings a significant increase in revenue and passenger demand, which helps us strengthen and expand our platform for even greater reach in the future,” says **Rohan Dewan**, CEO & Co-founder, LeafyBus.

Across regions, operators report passenger surges of

Top Routes From Chennai: Dr. A. Anbalagan

Chennai – Madurai

Chennai – Trichy

Chennai – Tirunelveli / Thoothukudi

Chennai – Karaikudi / Sivagangai

Chennai – Salem/Coimbatore

up to 40% percent. Strategic fare adjustments during this period amplify earnings, making Diwali the single largest revenue window of the year.

“The Diwali period is among the strongest phases for the mobility industry in India. We typically see a 30–40% jump in passenger movement compared to regular months. It directly impacts quarterly revenue and keeps our networks humming at full capacity,” notes **Manoj Soni**, CEO, YoloBus.

For some operators, the numbers are even more dramatic. **Dharmasen Patil**, Director of Sangitam Travels, points out that passenger movement nearly doubles during this period. “People travel home to celebrate with family or take short getaways. This season contributes a substantial share of our annual revenue,” he explains.



“
WE APPROACH THE FESTIVE SEASON
WITH MILITARY-LEVEL PREP. WE
AUDIT EVERY BUS - MECHANICAL
HEALTH, TIRES, INTERIORS, EVEN AC
CALIBRATION. ONLY THOSE THAT
CLEAR OUR “READY FOR DIWALI”
CHECKLIST HIT THE ROAD.”

CHINTAN RATHOD,
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
NAKODA TRAVELS



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KICKS IN.”

MANISH RATHI,
CO-FOUNDER & CEO,
INTRCITY SMARTBUS



“
WE PLAN DUTY AND REST
SCHEDULES TO PREVENT OVERWORK
AND ENSURE ADEQUATE REST. STAFF
WORKING THROUGH THE FESTIVE
DAYS RECEIVE SPECIAL INCENTIVES,
AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE GIVEN
GIFTS AS APPRECIATION.”

DR. A. ANBALAGAN,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ALAGAPPA
TOURS & TRAVELS PVT. LTD.

Demand Surges But Regional Disparities Remain

This year, the festive season has kicked off on a strong note, with early trends signalling one of the most robust periods for the intercity bus sector in recent years. Operators across key markets are reporting robust advance bookings, driven by rising passenger confidence and a clear shift toward organized, tech-enabled travel options.

Dharmasen Patil noted that the booking window has opened noticeably earlier this year. “Compared to the same period last year, we’re seeing a stronger surge in demand. Passengers are showing greater confidence in road travel, and the convenience of online booking is prompting them to reserve seats well in advance. If this trend continues, we’re on track for one of our best Diwali seasons to date,” he said.

Manish Rathi, Co-founder and CEO of IntrCity SmartBus, confirmed similar momentum. “We’ve recorded a 35% increase in bookings over the same time last year. With Diwali still a week away, we expect volumes to grow further as last-minute travel kicks in,” he observed, highlighting the sustained uptick in preference for branded intercity operators.



“**COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WE’RE SEEING A STRONGER SURGE IN DEMAND. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, WE’RE ON TRACK FOR ONE OF OUR BEST DIWALI SEASONS TO DATE.**”

DHARMASEN PATIL,
DIRECTOR,
SANGITAM TRAVELS





“

DEMAND HAS PICKED UP FASTER THIS YEAR, AND WE'RE PROJECTING A 15-20% INCREASE OVER LAST DIWALI. ADVANCE BOOKINGS ARE STRONG ACROSS HIGH-DENSITY CORRIDORS, WHICH REFLECTS CONTINUED CUSTOMER TRUST IN STRUCTURED, RELIABLE TRAVEL SERVICES.”

MANOJ SONI,
CEO, YOLOBUS



“

DEMAND HASN'T PICKED UP LIKE LAST DIWALI. THERE'S BEEN SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENT, BUT MOST TRAFFIC IS ONE-SIDED - OUTBOUND ROUTES ARE BUSY, WHILE RETURN LEGS REMAIN UNDERFILLED.”

PIYUSH DESHLAHRA,
PARTNER, PAYAL TRAVELS

YoloBus is also seeing early traction. “Demand has picked up faster this year, and we're projecting a 15-20% increase over last Diwali,” said Manoj Soni. “Advance bookings are strong across high-density corridors, which reflects continued customer trust in structured, reliable travel services.”

However, this festive surge hasn't played out evenly across all regions. In markets like Chhattisgarh, demand has been far more subdued.

Piyush Deshlahra, Partner of Raipur-based Payal Travels, pointed to a noticeably restrained market this year. “We were expecting a stronger pickup, but demand hasn't materialized the way it did last Diwali. There's been a slight improvement in recent weeks, but much of the movement is one-sided - outbound routes are relatively active, but return legs are seeing weak fill rates,” he noted.

He attributed the soft sentiment to broader structural issues. “Market confidence here is low, and that's definitely impacting travel decisions. Also, fleet expansion in recent years has far outpaced actual passenger growth in many corridors, leading to oversupply. That imbalance is now becoming more visible,” he explained.

Rishi Raj Phukan, Director of Assam-based Rishi India Transport, echoed similar tepid sentiments, noting that demand has been sluggish and the typical festive momentum has yet to materialize.

Top Routes from Pune:

Dharmasen Patil

Pune - Nagpur

Pune - Chandrapur

Pune - Nanded

Pune - Akola

Pune - Amravati





“The market has been unusually slow this year. Bookings are yet to pick up at the pace we usually see by this stage in the festive calendar,” he said. “We’re also observing significant asymmetry in traffic flows; certain routes are loaded in one direction, while return legs remain underutilized.”

This divergence underscores the varied pace of recovery across India’s mobility landscape. While high-traffic corridors are seeing strong gains, traditional and regional players in slower-growing markets continue to face headwinds.

Behind the Scenes: Rigorous Prep and Real-Time Readiness

For operators, the Diwali season leaves little room for error. Packed buses, heightened passenger expectations, and long-distance routes mean that any breakdown or service disruption can ripple across operations. To stay ahead, operators are leaving nothing to chance.

“Every bus undergoes a comprehensive check, engine, tires, AC, electricals, interiors, weeks in advance. Our drivers are briefed and trained on fatigue management, passenger communication, and emergency protocols. Operationally, we deploy standby vehicles and backup drivers to handle unforeseen challenges. Our backend team monitors live tracking constantly to ensure any issue is resolved immediately,” explains **Dharmasen Patil**.

“We approach the festive season with military-

Top Routes Pan India: Manish Rath

Delhi – Lucknow

Mumbai – Pune

Pune – Nagpur

Chennai – Madurai

Bengaluru – Hyderabad

Mumbai – Indore

level prep. A month in advance, we audit every bus – mechanical health, tires, suspension, interiors, even AC calibration. Only those that clear our “ready for Diwali” checklist hit the road. Technical and backup teams stay on 24x7 standby across key routes,” says Chintan Rathod.

For EV operators, technology provides an extra layer of preparedness. “We prepare by stocking critical spare parts, ensuring daily checks on all vehicles, and keeping technicians ready for any scenario. Since our buses are electric, full telematics allow us to track and analyse even minor issues before they become major breakdowns,” says Rohan Dewan.

Regional veteran Dr. A. Anbalagan adds, “Before the festive rush, all buses undergo thorough maintenance. Drivers and cleaners receive special training on rest, safety, and passenger care. During Diwali, a 24-hour support team is on standby to address emergencies promptly.”



In a high-stakes season where reliability is non-negotiable, preparation goes beyond routine maintenance, it's about reinforcing passenger confidence and delivering flawless, uninterrupted service.

Prioritizing People as Much as Performance

During the festive rush, it's not just the vehicles that demand meticulous upkeep, the human element is equally critical. The surge in passenger volumes places immense pressure on frontline staff, testing their stamina and morale. Industry veterans know that operational success hinges as much on a well-supported workforce as on a well-maintained fleet.

Dr. A. Anbalagan underscores this holistic approach: "We plan duty and rest schedules to prevent overwork and ensure adequate rest. Staff working through the festive days receive special incentives, and their families are given gifts as appreciation. Our goal is to create a safe, comfortable environment that keeps staff motivated and committed during the busy season."

Echoing these priorities, Dharmasen Patil highlights the value of engagement and morale, "Timely salary

disbursement, pre-festive celebrations, structured rest rotations, and regular check-ins are fundamental to maintaining staff wellbeing. Our appreciation drives reinforce the critical role our teams play in facilitating millions of meaningful journeys each year."

Collectively, these measures reflect a mature understanding within the industry - preparedness for peak travel seasons demands not only mechanical reliability but also a resilient, motivated workforce.

The Industry's Evolving Playbook

Diwali continues to be a defining moment for India's intercity bus industry - not just as a revenue peak, but as a measure of resilience, readiness, and growth. This year's demand has come in strong, with early booking surges and rising passenger confidence reflecting the sector's growing appeal.

Yet, regional variations serve as a reality check - the festive wave is not uniform, and operators must remain agile to navigate localised slowdowns and asymmetrical traffic flows.

But what stands out is the industry's evolving maturity. Operators are no longer just reacting to festive demand - they're anticipating it. From pre-season fleet audits to driver welfare and passenger service, the focus has shifted to precision, preparation, and consistency.

The takeaway is clear - it is no longer just a high-pressure season, it's a performance benchmark. Those who invest in planning, empower their people, and adopt smarter systems are setting new standards for reliability and scale. And if the momentum continues, the festive season won't just test operational strength - it will signal just how far the sector has come. ●

Top Routes from Kolhapur: Chintan Rathod

Kolhapur - Mumbai

Kolhapur - Pune

Kolhapur - Bangalore

Kolhapur - Hyderabad

Pune - Hubali, Belgaum, Ratnagiri



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Switch



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IntrCity Reports 35% Growth in Festive Booking Boosts Capacity with 70% More Inventory

BY SAMIRAN BORA

“

WE'VE ADDED AROUND 70% MORE SEATS COMPARED TO A REGULAR PERIOD, ESPECIALLY ON THE BUSIEST ROUTES. THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT ADDING BUSES - IT'S ABOUT MAKING TRAVEL SMOOTH, STRESS-FREE, AND RELIABLE FOR PASSENGERS.”

MANISH RATHI,
CO-FOUNDER & CEO,
INTRCITY SMARTBUS

As one of India's leading intercity mobility brands, IntrCity SmartBus has a front-row view of how the country travels during the festive season. Bookings this year have surged 35% compared to the same period in 2024, with advance reservations nearly double those of regular non-festive weeks.

To meet this growing demand, IntrCity has ramped up capacity with 70% more seats across its network, aiming to ensure a smooth and comfortable journey for every passenger, and expecting a 30% higher revenue contribution from this festive period versus last year.

The numbers tell a compelling story - India's preference for premium, reliable bus travel is strengthening. Enhanced fleet capacity, flexible ticketing options, loyalty programs like Club Miles, trained captains, and onboard washrooms are now shaping passenger expectations, ensuring journeys are comfortable, predictable, and stress-free.

*In this exclusive conversation, **Manish Rathi, Co-founder & CEO, IntrCity SmartBus**, shares insights on what's driving this year's festive surge, which routes are seeing the highest traffic, and how evolving passenger expectations are transforming intercity travel during India's peak festive season.*

Can you give us an overview of how bookings are shaping up as the festive season approaches? And how has passenger demand evolved this year compared to 2024, especially for Diwali?

Yes, the festive season is off to a strong start, and we're already witnessing a significant uptick in bookings. Compared to the same period last year, IntrCity SmartBus has recorded a 35% growth, and with Diwali still a week away, the momentum is expected



Diwali Rush Booking Trend

Festive Season Booking Growth:

35% vs 2024

Advance Bookings:

Nearly 2 × non-festive period

Bus Inventory Increase:

70% vs last year

Revenue Boost:

30% vs 2024



Which routes are seeing the highest passenger traffic this festive season, and which destinations are emerging as the most booked by travellers?

This festive season, some of our busiest routes have been

- Delhi – Lucknow
- Mumbai – Pune
- Pune – Nagpur
- Chennai – Madurai
- Bengaluru – Hyderabad
- Mumbai – Indore

These are the lifelines connecting metros with major Tier- 1 and 2 cities and popular travel hubs. Beyond these, other top destinations seeing strong bookings include Kanpur, Trichy, and Amritsar, reflecting the continued preference for hometown visits and traditional festive getaways.

to continue as last-minute travellers begin securing their seats. What's encouraging is that this early surge reflects growing confidence among passengers in intercity bus travel.

Our expanded fleet, upgraded onboard facilities, and flexible booking options ensure that passengers can travel smoothly, even during the peak season rush, without having to compromise on comfort or convenience

What, according to you, is driving this surge in bus bookings this festive season?

This is already the busiest season of the year for us, and it's easy to see why. Airfares are on the rise, train availability is limited, and more travellers are turning to premium bus services for comfort and convenience.

We're seeing a clear surge because we've focused on both scale and experience, expanding our fleet and enhancing the onboard journey. From functional washrooms and trained captains to loyalty rewards through our Club Miles program and the Smart Switch feature that gives travellers flexibility, we've built an offering that passengers can trust.

Essentially, it's comfort, reliability, and flexibility that are driving this surge, and we're seeing passengers respond with growing confidence in choosing bus travel this festive season.

Looking at the entire year, which festival typically drives the highest spike in passenger movement?

Diwali continues to be the biggest travel period for us, without a doubt. The roads fill up as families and friends plan reunions, and workers head home to celebrate. What's interesting this year is how the demand curve has extended - back-to-back long weekends around Dussehra and Diwali mean high occupancy is sustained over a longer period. Passengers are booking earlier



and planning their trips more meticulously, which reflects the growing confidence and preference for comfortable, reliable bus travel.

Have you noticed any new or emerging routes that are seeing increased bookings this festive season?

Interestingly, we haven't seen any major shift toward new or emerging destinations this year. The travel trend remains largely consistent, with steady growth across established routes pan-India. Passengers continue to prefer popular corridors that connect metros to key Tier-2 cities, as well as traditional hometown and leisure routes that have reliably drawn demand year after year.

So, our focus remains on tried-and-tested journeys that reliably meet passenger demand across the country.

How is bus inventory being adjusted to meet the festive rush? Have you added more buses or seats this year to keep up with growing demand?

Yes! To ensure everyone reaches home comfortably this Diwali, we've ramped up our bus inventory across the network. In fact, we've added around 70% more seats compared to a regular period, especially on the busiest routes. This isn't just about adding buses - it's about making travel smooth, stress-free, and reliable for passengers.

By expanding our fleet and spreading capacity wisely, we're able to meet the surge in demand while maintaining the comfort and convenience that travellers expect from IntrCity SmartBus.

Do you see the festive season making a significant impact on IntrCity SmartBus' annual revenues? How does this year compare to 2024 in terms of growth?

The festive season is a key driver for our annual revenues, and this year, with bookings already up by 30% compared to 2024, we're anticipating a significant boost. And with Diwali still around the corner, the momentum is only set to grow, pushing revenues even higher.

It's not just about numbers, this surge reflects growing trust in our services and the fact that more passengers are choosing premium, reliable bus travel. Every additional booking during this period translates into smoother journeys for travellers and stronger business outcomes for us. ●

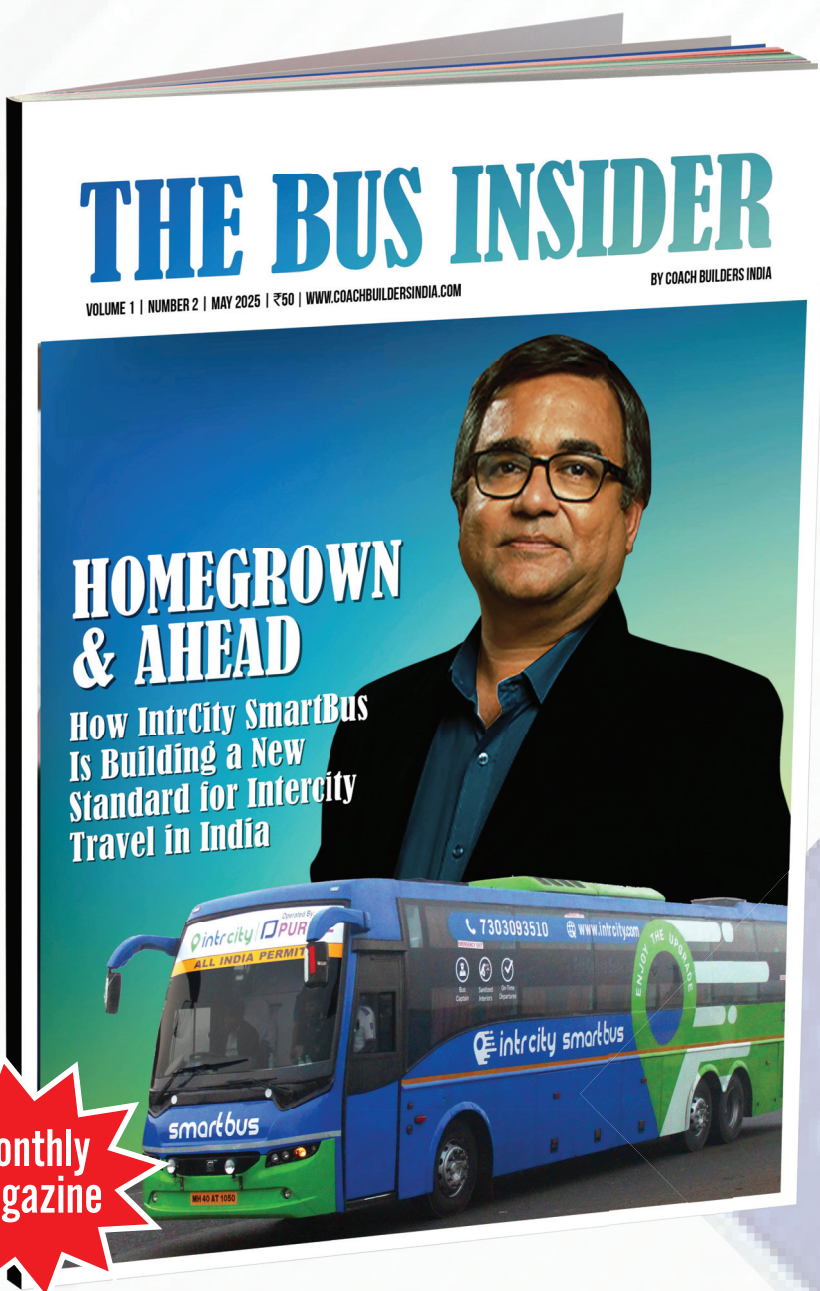
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MIC E-Mobility:

A New Force Driving India's Intercity Electric Coach Revolution



India is racing toward its net-zero goal by 2070, and government electrification policies are accelerating the shift in passenger mobility. Long-distance travel is seeing unprecedented traction, with intercity routes emerging as the new frontier. While most e-mobility players focus on city buses, a new wave is targeting intercity travel, combining sustainability with comfort and efficiency.

Into this space steps MIC E-Mobility Pvt. Ltd, promising to redefine long-distance electric bus travel with smart technology, luxury, and reliability at its core.



Backed by MIC India (Master Instrument Corporation India) and led by its Managing Director, MIC E-Mobility is a new venture dedicated to manufacturing next-generation electric buses for the global market. MIC India, established in 1988, is a trusted name in power electronics and semiconductor components.

Founded with a clear-eyed focus on intercity electric coaches, MIC E-Mobility aims to bridge a crucial gap in India's rapidly evolving EV landscape. The idea, according to **CMO of MIC E-Mobility Pvt. Ltd.**, came from a combination of market opportunity and policy advantage.

"The Indian EV commercial market is growing rapidly. Government schemes, fluctuating fuel prices, and shorter vehicle lifespans compared to EVs make the transition inevitable. On top of that, EVs attract just 5% GST compared to 18% on conventional diesel buses. These factors collectively point to a future where electric intercity buses are not just viable - they're essential," he explains.

Recognizing the Market Gap

While the EV bus space has seen significant activity in recent years, Sanjiv points out that most major manufacturers are busy fulfilling government PPP model orders. This focus has left a vast market segment largely untouched - retail operators, overseas markets, and, notably, the luxury intercity coach segment.

"All the major EV manufacturers are fully occupied with government projects. Pending orders are piling up, and private operators are left underserved. Nobody has truly focused on hybrid and luxury long-distance buses, which is exactly where we want to make an impact," Sanjiv said.

This clear identification of an underserved niche forms the backbone of MIC E-Mobility's strategy. By targeting private operators who demand high-end, comfortable, and reliable intercity coaches, the company positions itself not just as a bus manufacturer but as a partner in transforming passenger experience on long-distance routes.



“

TWENTY YEARS AGO, INTERCITY TRAVEL WAS MOSTLY INTUITION-DRIVEN. OPERATORS RELIED ON EXPERIENCE AND MANUAL SYSTEMS. TODAY, PASSENGERS EXPECT DATA-BACKED RELIABILITY, COMFORT, AND CONVENIENCE. MIC E-MOBILITY IS PREPARING OPERATORS TO MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS WHILE SHAPING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.”

SANJIV SHARMA,
CMO OF MIC



ALL THE MAJOR EV MANUFACTURERS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH GOVERNMENT PROJECTS. PENDING ORDERS ARE PILING UP, AND PRIVATE OPERATORS ARE LEFT UNDERSERVED. NOBODY HAS TRULY FOCUSED ON HYBRID AND LUXURY LONG-DISTANCE BUSES, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHERE WE WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT.”

Manufacturing and Production Capacity

MIC E-Mobility's operations are based in Pune, Maharashtra, a strategic location given the city's strong industrial base and automotive ecosystem. The company has designed its manufacturing facility with scalability in mind, boasting a planned production capacity of 1,800 buses per year. This capacity, combined with the focus on intercity electric coaches, sets the stage for a rapid rollout once orders commence.

While specific technical details remain under wraps, Sanjiv highlights that the first product line reflects a careful blend of international expertise and domestic innovation.

“We have tied up with some well-known international brands as well as pioneers from the Indian automobile industry. Together, we are creating a product that balances global standards with local needs,” he said.

Focusing on Intercity Electric Coaches

Unlike many EV players who focus primarily on city buses, MIC E-Mobility has honed its attention on intercity travel. The company is focusing on 13.5M sleeper buses designed for long-distance journeys

where passenger comfort, operational efficiency, and reliability are critical.

“The luxury intercity segment has remained largely untapped. Private operators are looking for solutions that offer more than just transportation; they want safety, comfort, and a hassle-free operational experience. That's exactly what MIC E-Mobility is aiming to deliver,” Sanjiv explained.

This emphasis on luxury and quality marks a departure from the typical volume-driven mindset prevalent in the Indian bus market. MIC E-Mobility is not chasing fleet numbers for the sake of scale; instead, the company prioritizes high-demand routes and operators who value consistent passenger experience.

Technology at the Core

Technology sits at the heart of MIC E-Mobility's product philosophy. Each bus is being engineered as a connected, intelligent platform - not just a vehicle. From advanced battery management systems and vehicle health monitoring to smart infotainment and passenger comfort controls, every element is built to deliver performance, reliability, and a premium onboard experience.

Equipped with real-time telematics and diagnostic capabilities, MIC's electric coaches will enable operators to track routes, monitor performance, and predict maintenance needs before issues arise. The result is fewer breakdowns, lower operating costs, and a smoother, data-driven travel experience, redefining what long-distance electric travel can look like in India.

Sanjiv emphasizes that technology is not just about operational efficiency. “We want to give operators the



tools to run their services smoothly, and passengers a journey they can trust. Features like live tracking, and advanced safety systems are integral. In long-distance travel, reliability is just as important as comfort,” he said.

MIC’s first fleet will also integrate the latest advancements in electric propulsion and energy efficiency, promising lower operating costs and reduced environmental impact. In a market where diesel buses dominate intercity travel, this combination of sustainability, reliability, and luxury positions MIC E-Mobility as a transformative player.

Strategic Targeting of Private Operators

Private operators are MIC E-Mobility’s primary customers. By focusing on this segment, the company can respond quickly to market feedback and fine-tune its offerings for real-world operational conditions. Unlike government projects, private operators demand flexibility, timeliness, and a product that can deliver high passenger satisfaction consistently.

“Our aim is to ensure operators see the value of our electric intercity coaches, not just in terms of operational efficiency but also in enhancing their brand and passenger experience,” Sanjiv explained.

Leadership Vision

While Sanjiv Sharma drives marketing and strategy, the vision of the company is anchored by the **Managing Director of MIC India**. His perspective underscores MIC E-Mobility’s long-term ambitions.

“India is on the cusp of an intercity transport revolution. EVs are not the future, they are the present, and private operators must be ready for this shift. At MIC E-Mobility, we are committed to creating coaches that set new standards for safety, comfort, and operational excellence. We’re not just building buses; we’re building the future of intercity travel in India,” the MD said.

This emphasis on vision and sector transformation gives the company a narrative beyond products, positioning MIC E-Mobility as a thought leader in the intercity electric mobility space.

Navigating the Industry Transformation

The Indian bus industry is evolving rapidly. From manual operations to digital management systems, the sector

MIC E-Mobility is poised to transform the intercity bus landscape in India.

It’s a story of strategic clarity, technology-led innovation, and a commitment to delivering value where it matters most—on the road, for operators and passengers alike



is embracing technology at an unprecedented pace. Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), AI-driven fleet management, and energy-efficient propulsion are gradually becoming standard expectations, not optional upgrades.

Sanjiv Sharma notes, “Twenty years ago, intercity travel was mostly intuition-driven. Operators relied on experience and manual systems. Today, passengers expect data-backed reliability, comfort, and convenience. MIC E-Mobility is preparing operators to meet these expectations while shaping a more sustainable future.”

Market projections reinforce this optimism. A recent TechSci Research report values India’s electric bus market at USD 396 million in 2025, projected to reach USD 1.36 billion by 2031, growing at a CAGR of 22.8%.

This surge signals not just growth but transformation, a market shifting from compliance to competitiveness. Within this, the luxury and intercity coach segment stands out as the next big frontier, driven by private operators eager to deliver differentiated, premium travel experiences.

Looking Ahead

MIC E-Mobility’s strategy combines timing, technology, and market insight. By identifying an untapped niche, investing in scalable manufacturing, and focusing on operator needs, the company aims to accelerate adoption of intercity electric coaches across India.

Sanjiv Sharma sums it up: “Our mission is clear. We want to make long-distance travel cleaner, more reliable, and more comfortable. By doing so, we help operators elevate their services and passengers experience a new standard of intercity travel.”

Coupled with MIC India’s forward-looking vision, the company is poised to transform the intercity bus landscape in India. It’s a story of strategic clarity, technology-led innovation, and a commitment to delivering value where it matters most—on the road, for operators and passengers alike.

As India moves toward cleaner, smarter, and more efficient public transport, MIC E-Mobility is not just entering the market; it is aiming to define it. ●

From Comfort to Kilowatts

Manoj Soni Plots
YoloBus' Next Move

BY SHIVAM GAUTAM



“YOLOBUS WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST OPERATORS TO RUN INDIGENOUSLY BUILT ELECTRIC BUSES, DESIGNED FOR LONGER RANGES, HIGHER EFFICIENCY, LOWER OPERATING COSTS, AND ZERO TAILPIPE EMISSIONS.”

Manoj Soni has taken charge of YoloBus at a pivotal moment. Having stepped into the role just ahead of Diwali, one of the busiest and most competitive travel periods in India, he inherits both a challenge and an opportunity.

Demand is peaking, customer expectations are evolving, and competition across the intercity mobility space is heating up fast. For YoloBus, a tech-forward intercity operator under EaseMyTrip, this is a defining season to deliver scale. For the new CEO, it's a chance to convert vision into velocity.

With over 24 years of experience across transport, fleet operations, and electric mobility, Manoj Soni brings a rare mix of operational depth and strategic foresight. He now serves as CEO of both YoloBus and Easy Green Mobility, twin subsidiaries of EaseMyTrip that together represent a full-stack approach to the future of mobility.

At YoloBus, he is steering an ambitious transition toward electric mobility by 2026, while transforming the platform into a high-performance, tech-enabled service that prioritizes safety, reliability, and exceptional passenger experience.

Simultaneously, as CEO of Easy Green Mobility, he is building the backbone of India's EV future, overseeing everything from product innovation and homologation to plant setup and scalable manufacturing through the company's integrated EV ecosystem. Together, he carries a singular mission: to shape cleaner, smarter transport systems that address the realities of today while preparing for the demands of tomorrow.

Known for his ability to lead business transformation at scale, with past roles at Ashok Leyland, LAGBUS, Prasanna Purple, and Mega Cabs, Soni is no stranger to mobility's ground realities. He blends boardroom clarity with on-road experience and now has the

“Our immediate priorities revolve around fleet modernization, route optimization, and deeper digital integration — all with a strong push toward electrification.”





mandate to make YoloBus not just successful, but pivotal in shaping the future of electric intercity bus travel in India.

In this exclusive, Manoj Soni reveals how YoloBus is set to electrify India's intercity travel, combining cutting-edge tech, bold innovation, and a relentless focus on the passenger experience.

Congratulations on taking charge as the CEO of YoloBus. What's your long-term vision for YoloBus under the EaseMyTrip umbrella?

Thank you. YoloBus has always stood for comfort, reliability, and cutting-edge technology. Now, as part

“Our goal is to lead the industry in innovation, elevating every aspect of intercity travel to make it smarter, more accessible, and more responsive to the evolving needs of today's traveler.”

of the EaseMyTrip family, my vision is to transform YoloBus into India's most trusted and preferred intercity mobility brand - one that seamlessly connects people and cities while setting new benchmarks in safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

We're not just aiming to be another bus operator. Our goal is to be a tech-enabled, integrated mobility platform that delivers premium travel experiences with seamless digital convenience, powered by EaseMyTrip's deep technology expertise and expansive customer base.

Ultimately, our goal is to lead the industry in innovation, elevating every aspect of intercity travel to make it smarter, more accessible, and more responsive to the evolving needs of today's traveler.

The intercity bus segment in India is fiercely competitive with numerous players jostling for market share. From your perspective, what sets YoloBus apart in delivering a distinctive and consistent travel experience to passengers?

The intercity bus market is certainly crowded, but few truly prioritize delivering a consistent, high-quality

passenger experience. At YoloBus, our differentiation is built on four core pillars — premium service quality, uncompromising passenger safety, technology-driven operations, and sustainable growth.

From our uniform branding and meticulously maintained fleet to well-trained crew members, we ensure every journey meets high standards. Our app-based seat selection, live bus tracking, and responsive customer support add layers of convenience and transparency that passengers expect.

Importantly, we're also championing green mobility, integrating technology, comfort, and environmental responsibility to create a travel experience that's not just efficient, but truly future-ready.

Could you give us an overview of YoloBus's current network footprint? Specifically, how extensive is your fleet, what routes do you operate, and which regions are showing the most promise?

Today, YoloBus operates extensively across all key intercity corridors in North, South, and Central India, connecting major cities such as Delhi, Lucknow, Indore, Bhopal, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru, among others.

We currently run over 100 daily services, utilizing a hybrid model of both owned and partner fleets. Our expansion strategy is data-driven, drawing on EaseMyTrip's deep traveler insights to identify and strengthen high-demand routes. This approach ensures we remain agile and responsive to shifting passenger needs as we expand.

What are YoloBus' immediate priorities for network expansion and service enhancement?

Our immediate priorities revolve around fleet modernization, route optimization, and deeper digital integration — all with a strong push toward electrification.

We're strategically expanding into underserved Tier-2 and Tier-3 city pairs that present significant growth potential. Simultaneously, we're upgrading our fleet with next-generation vehicles and embedding YoloBus' services more tightly within the EaseMyTrip ecosystem to offer travelers a seamless booking and real-time tracking experience.

By the next financial year, our goal is to double YoloBus' active routes and launch electric buses on select intercity corridors. Notably, YoloBus has already secured India's first intercity electric bus tender, with deployment slated for early 2026.

YoloBus is going electric? What's the broader vision behind this move, and how are you planning to make it work operationally?

Absolutely! In fact, this is one of our most exciting strategic focus areas for us at the moment.

With the backing of EaseMyTrip, our parent company, we're taking a full-stack approach to electrification. Starting 2026, we plan to launch electric buses, with a long-term goal to transition our entire fleet to electric, making intercity travel cleaner, greener, and more efficient.



INTERCITY INNOVATOR

EaseMyTrip also owns Easy Green Mobility, which is setting up India's next-generation electric bus manufacturing business. This gives us a unique advantage, not just in deploying EVs, but in shaping them for the specific demands of intercity travel.

YoloBus will be among the first operators to run these indigenously built electric buses, designed for longer ranges, higher efficiency, lower operating costs, and zero tailpipe emissions.

We plan to begin pilot operations by early 2026, starting with routes in Madhya Pradesh as part of the government tender we recently secured. For us, this isn't just about fleet transformation, it's about building an integrated ecosystem that supports sustainable, future-ready intercity mobility.

Yes, so YoloBus and Easy Green Mobility won Madhya Pradesh's first intercity electric bus tender earlier this year. Could you share an update on how the project is progressing and what we can expect from the initial rollout?

Yes, this is a project we're especially proud of. It represents a significant milestone as Madhya Pradesh's first intercity electric bus initiative.

We're working closely with the team at Easy Green Mobility to oversee manufacturing and delivery, and the first batch of electric buses is on track for rollout by January 2026.

In the initial phase, YoloBus will operate electric services across key city pairs including Sagar, Katni, Bhopal, and Indore, with plans to expand the network progressively. Beyond offering passengers a more reliable and environmentally friendly travel experience, the project will support the state's goals around emissions reduction and reduced fuel dependency, setting a new benchmark for clean intercity transport in India.



What are your thoughts on India's evolving intercity mobility ecosystem? And what role do you see the private sector playing in shaping its future?

India's intercity mobility ecosystem is undergoing a massive transformation. Today's passengers expect far more — greater comfort, enhanced safety, seamless digital convenience, and unwavering reliability. Private operators are rising to the challenge, leveraging technology, service innovation, and professional fleet management to meet and exceed these expectations.

Government initiatives around electric mobility, infrastructure development, and digitalization are laying the perfect groundwork for effective public-private collaboration.

I firmly believe that the next phase of intercity travel will be led by organized private players like YoloBus, who are combining technology, clean energy, and service excellence to not only redefine how India travels between cities but also to make a meaningful contribution to the country's growth story. ●



RedBus Report:

The Busiest Bus Routes in Maharashtra This Festive Season

By Samiran Bora



Maharashtra's road travel network has witnessed a dramatic surge in activity during Dussehra 2025. According to a detailed report from redBus, bus bookings across the state rose by 31%, highlighting the busiest bus routes in Maharashtra this season.

This spike offers valuable insights for bus operators, enabling them to identify the most effective bus routes to target during periods of high demand.

Industry insiders expect this upward trend to continue throughout the festive season, including Diwali, as more travellers opt for road transport to visit family and attend celebrations.



Top 6 Busiest Bus Routes in Maharashtra

Based on redBus booking data, the following emerged as the bus routes with the highest passenger volume in Maharashtra and adjoining regions:

- **Mumbai – Kolhapur**
- **Mumbai – Pune**
- **Pune – Hyderabad**
- **Kolhapur – Mumbai**
- **Nagpur – Pune**
- **Pune – Nagpur**

These high-traffic corridors reflect strong intercity demand, particularly among passengers traveling between major cities and regional hubs. For bus operators, these routes represent strategic opportunities to expand or enhance services.

Key Findings from the redBus Report

The redBus report goes beyond just route data—it also sheds light on traveler preferences and market dynamics:

- 31% increase in bookings during Dussehra season
- 84% of bookings were for AC buses, indicating growing demand for comfort
- 87% of passengers chose sleeper buses, with long-distance travel patterns dominating
- 32% of travelers were women, reflecting higher female mobility
- 45% urban and 33% rural travelers, showing increasing rural participation in festive travel

These statistics are crucial for operators planning to deploy fleets on the busiest bus routes in Maharashtra and nearby states.

What This Means for Bus Operators

The redBus data doesn't just reveal high passenger volume, it highlights strategic corridors where operators can unlock both revenue and long-term brand value.

High-Yield Corridors with Predictable Demand

Routes such as Mumbai–Pune, Nagpur–Pune, and Pune–Hyderabad consistently register strong occupancy, even outside festival periods. By focusing on these corridors, operators can optimize fleet deployment, reduce empty kilometers, and achieve higher load factors, turning predictable demand into a competitive advantage.

Premium Passenger Segments Driving AC Sleeper Adoption

With 84% of bookings for AC buses and 87% for sleeper configurations, there's a clear premiumization trend. Passengers are seeking comfort and reliability, and operators who invest in modern, well-equipped coaches can command higher fares while building customer loyalty.

Festival Peaks as Strategic Leverage Points

Festive periods like Dussehra, Diwali, and Ganesh Chaturthi create spikes that go beyond typical daily demand. Operators who anticipate these peaks with proactive scheduling, dynamic

pricing, and enhanced service offerings can maximize occupancy and build lasting brand trust among travelers.

Emerging Rural Connectivity Opportunities

With one-third of travelers originating from rural areas, there is untapped potential for intercity connectivity. Smartly designed routes linking villages and tier-2/3 towns to major urban centers can capture new markets, diversify revenue streams, and strengthen network resilience.

Data-Driven Route Optimization

Operators can now leverage granular booking trends, seat preferences, and travel patterns to refine route frequency, coach type allocation, and timetable planning. This is no longer just about running buses; it's about precision mobility management, ensuring every journey is profitable, efficient, and aligned with passenger expectations.

In essence, these corridors represent more than just busy roads, they are strategic arteries where smart operators can combine fleet efficiency, premium services, and market intelligence to drive sustainable growth in Maharashtra's intercity mobility ecosystem. ●





JBM ECOLIFE

e12 Electric Bus Debuts at Busworld Europe 2025

At Busworld 2025 in Brussels, JBM Electric Vehicles unveiled the all-electric JBM ECOLIFE e12 city bus, marking a major milestone in the company's European expansion. Earlier in June, JBM officially entered the European market with the launch of its complete e-mobility ecosystem at the UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2025 in Hamburg, Germany.

STRATEGIC EXPANSION

Safety and Smart Technology at Its Core

The JBM ECOLIFE e12 is equipped with a comprehensive suite of safety and driver assistance features. At the heart is its proprietary Advanced Driver-Assistance System (ADAS), helping reduce human error and enhancing urban road safety.

Key safety features of the JBM ECOLIFE e12 include:

- Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS)
- Forward Vehicle Collision Warning System (FVCWS)
- Lane Departure Warning System
- Pedestrian & Cyclist Collision Alerts
- Blind Spot Detection
- 360-degree camera system

The bus also integrates an Intelligent Transport System (ITS) compliant with EU standards and features advanced telematics for real-time vehicle diagnostics and fleet monitoring.

The launch was led by Nishant Arya, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the \$3.3 billion JBM Group, as the company positions itself as a global leader in sustainable public transport.

Zero-Emission Mobility with Practical Range

The JBM ECOLIFE e12 is a fully electric, zero-emission city bus designed for European urban environments. It offers a range of up to 400 kilometers on a single charge and supports ultra-fast charging, ensuring high uptime and operational flexibility for transit agencies.

Built with a lightweight monocoque stainless steel body, the bus combines strength, efficiency, and sustainability. Inside, the ECOLIFE e12 features eco-conscious materials, such as seats made from recycled materials and fabrics produced from recycled yarn, aligning with the company's Net Zero commitment.

European Headquarters and Global Footprint

In conjunction with the launch, JBM Electric Vehicles announced the opening of its European headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany, which will serve as the company's central hub for sales, marketing, aftersales support, and strategic partnerships across the European Union.

Globally, JBM has deployed or is executing contracts for over 11,000 electric buses, supported by what it claims to be the world's largest dedicated integrated electric bus manufacturing facility outside China — located in India, with an annual capacity of 20,000 units.

Over the past five years, JBM's electric buses have covered

200 million electric kilometers, transported more than 1 billion passengers, and helped avoid over 1 billion kilograms of CO₂ emissions.

Integrated Ecosystem for Zero-Downtime Transit

Also showcased at the event was JBM E-Verse, the company's integrated EV ecosystem platform. E-Verse encompasses:

- Fast-charging infrastructure
- Lithium-ion battery systems
- Power infrastructure for zero-downtime operations

This ecosystem reflects JBM's holistic approach to electrification, covering vehicles, infrastructure, and digital support in one seamless offering.

Sustainability Vision Aligned with Global Goals

JBM has committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2040 and is actively supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to sustainable cities, health, infrastructure innovation, and climate action.

With a diverse portfolio of electric vehicles, including city buses, intercity coaches, luxury coaches, and specialized fleet vehicles, JBM is aiming to serve over 20 billion passengers and accumulate 3 billion electric kilometers by 2028. ●



Busworld Europe 2025 Wraps Up:

A Showcase of Innovation, Scale, and Industry Momentum

BY SHIVAM GAUTOM



Busworld Europe 2025 concluded with strong participation and high energy, reaffirming its status as a globally central gathering for the bus and coach industry. The event, held at Brussels from October 4 to October 9, witnessed a sharp increase in exhibitor numbers, visitor footfall, product debuts, and media coverage, underscoring the sector's momentum heading into the next cycle.

This year's edition occupied approximately 82,000 m² of exhibition space, navigating through 6.8 km of corridors and extensive displays. The show welcomed 559 exhibitors from 40 countries, including 81 bus manufacturers (up from 66 in 2023), and featured 209 vehicles indoors and 29 outdoors - a lineup that would stretch over 3.5 km if arranged front to back.

Attendance also surged - the event recorded 45,427 visitors from 101 countries, marking a notable uptick from past editions.

Exhibitors reported strong engagement, with many citing business leads and serious interest from operators, engineers, and decision-makers.

Media presence at Busworld 2025 was robust. A total of 405 accredited journalists, vloggers, and photographers from 49 countries were present, alongside about 50 social media reporters and influencers.

The event hosted 34 press conferences and 23 vehicle unveilings / innovation premieres, reinforcing its role as a platform for product launches and global visibility.

Also, new in this edition was the launch of Busworld

Plaza - a new digital platform designed to complement, the physical event. It acts as a continuous connection between Busworld editions and offers a year-round entry point into its global network.

Congress Highlights & Key Themes

Parallel to the exhibition, the **Busworld Europe Congress** offered a four-day programme of sessions on zero-emission technology, digitalisation, safety, socio-economics, and long-distance coach travel. Attendance remained high, indicating strong interest in knowledge exchange. Speakers include EU officials, major OEMs like Daimler Buses and ZF, and operators such as Flixbus, RATP and De Lijn.

Three major insights emerged from the Congress:

- By 2030, over 60 % of urban buses in Europe are expected to be battery electric, signaling momentum in the zero-emission transition.
- The definition of “zero emission” may evolve beyond tailpipe metrics to embrace carbon neutrality across the lifecycle, especially for long-haul transport.
- Seamless vehicle-generated data exchange was flagged as critical for designing safe, comfortable, multi-modal mobility systems.

These takeaways reflect the industry’s focus on holistic decarbonization and the convergence of digital systems with vehicle technology.





Industry Impact & Outlook

Busworld 2025 reinforced several sector trends. The rise in manufacturer participation confirms increasing confidence in bus innovation, while the volume of product debuts suggests aggressive investment in next-generation drivetrains, autonomous systems, and digital infrastructures.

Many exhibitors leveraged the stage to showcase advanced electric and sustainable solutions, not just prototypes but near-production models, underlining how the marketplace is edging into electrification more seriously than ever.



Finally, the breadth of participation, across manufacturers, suppliers, policymakers, and media, reinforced Busworld's position as a bellwether for where the industry is heading globally.

Overall, Busworld Europe 2025 closed its doors with strong metrics, bold innovations, and notable industry signaling. As the bus and coach sector navigates the shift to zero emission, digital integration and design excellence, with Busworld as a pivotal stage, its eyes will already be on the next edition in 2027. ●



“AFTER MONTHS OF PREPARATION, OPENING DAY IS ALWAYS SPECIAL — A MOMENT SHARED BY EVERY TEAM MEMBER. THE ENERGY THROUGHOUT THE SHOW IS INCREDIBLE, AND WHEN BUS HORNS SOUND AT 18:00 ON THE FINAL DAY, IT’S HARD TO SAY GOODBYE. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR EXHIBITORS, VISITORS, AND SUPPORTERS — YOU DRIVE US.”

MIEKE GLORIEUX,
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BUSWORLD EUROPE

BUSWORLD EUROPE 2025

Busworld Vehicle Awards 2025

Award Category: Grand Award - Bus

Winner: Yutong Bus U15

Award Category: Grand Award - Coach

Winner: Yutong Bus T14E

Award Category: Safety Coach

Winner: Setra S 515 HD

Award Category: Ecology Coach

Winner: Otokar e-Territo 13 & Yutong IC12E

Award Category: Comfort Coach

Winner: Setra S 515 HD

Award Category: Safety Bus

Winner: Yutong Bus U15

Award Category: Comfort Bus

Winner: Mercedes-Benz eCitaro

Award Category: Ecology Bus

Winner: Yutong Bus U15



Busworld Vehicle Design Awards 2025

Category: Design Coach

Position: Winner

Winner: VDL Bus & Coach – Futura 3

Category: Design Coach

Position: 1st Runner-up

Winner: Yutong T14E

Category: Design Coach

Position: 2nd Runner-up

Winner: King Long Merry Combo

Category: Design Bus

Position: Winner

Winner: Yutong Bus U15

Category: Design Bus

Position: 1st Runner-up

Winner: Mercedes-Benz eCitaro

Category: Design Bus

Position: 2nd Runner-up

Winner: BYD B13.B



BYD Unveiled New eBus Lineup at Busworld Europe 2025

At Busworld Europe 2025, BYD introduced three new models to its electric bus portfolio — the eBus B12.b HF, B12.b LE, and B18.b — reaffirming its leadership in zero-emission mobility. The launch accompanied a full display of BYD's electric vehicle lineup, further showcasing the brand's decade-long innovation in sustainable public transport.

The all-new B12.b High Floor (HF) featured a powerful 495 kWh Blade Battery and a range of up to 650 km. Designed for commuting, intercity, and tourism use, it offered 520 kW dual-gun or pantograph charging, along with a generous 5.7 m³ cargo space, making it suitable for luggage-intensive routes. Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and a driver-centric cockpit design elevated both safety and comfort.

BYD also revealed the 18-metre B18.b articulated bus, with seating for up to 146 passengers and a maximum range of 630 km. Featuring optional all-wheel drive, it delivered improved traction on steep, wet, or icy roads. A refined disc and damping system enhanced cornering stability, while upgraded regenerative braking reduced wear and improved downhill control.

Beyond products, BYD underscored its investment in European operations. Over 5,000 eBuses are already operating across 26 countries, and more than 1,000 have been produced at its Hungarian plant. The company also expanded its service network, now covering 100+ sites across 15 countries, and opened its first OEM battery service center in the UK, part of a broader push to localize support and reduce total cost of ownership for European operators.



Electric, Biomethane and Beyond: IVECO BUS Unveils Its Next-Gen Fleet

IVECO BUS showcased six vehicles at Busworld 2025, highlighting its commitment to sustainable mobility and a technology-neutral approach to decarbonisation. Alongside its vehicle lineup, the company also presented its "Energy Mobility Solutions" ecosystem of services, aimed at supporting customers throughout their transition to low-emission transport.

Among the vehicles on display, two world premieres took center stage. The eDaily Low Entry Minibus, a fully electric model, extended IVECO's offering for urban passenger transport. The second debut was the G-WAY Midibus, promoted as the narrowest biomethane-compatible midibus on the market. Available in 9.5 or 10.7 meters and only 2.33 meters wide, the G-WAY was designed for manoeuvrability in dense urban environments.

The stand also featured the E-WAY, a 12-meter battery-electric city bus capable of operating a full day on a single charge. Two additional models, the CROSSWAY ELEC and CROSSWAY Low Entry ELEC, offered electric solutions for interurban and peri-urban transport, both benefiting from the latest high-energy-density battery technologies. The versatile EVADYS coach, compatible with biofuels, rounded out the lineup, targeting long-distance routes and shuttle services.

Beyond vehicles, IVECO BUS promoted its integrated services, including digital tools and connectivity via the IVECO ON platform. A dedicated outdoor area allowed visitors to explore more models in person.

IVECO BUS employs over 5,500 people and operates seven plants globally. It recently announced a €3.8 billion merger deal with Tata Motors, expected to conclude in 2026, forming a new commercial vehicle group with combined revenues of €22 billion.

VinFast Enters European Market with Two New Electric Buses



VinFast has officially launched its EB 8 and EB 12 electric bus models in Europe, marking a significant step in the Vietnamese automaker's expansion into public transport. Debuting at Busworld Europe 2025, the full-size 12-metre EB 12 is now available to order, while the compact 8-metre EB 8 will follow soon.

Designed for modern urban environments, both models feature intelligent technology, safety systems, and an impressive range. The EB 8 offers over 290 km of range from a 359 kWh battery and carries

up to 60 passengers. With compact dimensions and a 200 kW motor, it's ideal for busy city routes. The EB 12, targeting large-capacity transport, accommodates up to 90 passengers and provides more than 400 km of range from a 422 kWh battery. Twin 125 kW wheelhub motors power the vehicle, and its low-floor design ensures smooth boarding and alighting.

Both buses are equipped with fast-charging capabilities and a suite of safety and driver-assist features, including ABS, Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, and Advanced Driver Assistance

Systems (ADAS). Passengers benefit from USB ports, air suspension, and climate control, while operators are supported by low operating costs and a class-leading warranty: 5 years with unlimited mileage on the full vehicle and 8 years on the battery and anti-corrosion bodywork.

Production will take place in Vietnam, with delivery and operations scheduled from 2026. VinFast aims to establish partnerships across Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, and Central and Eastern Europe as it accelerates its push into the global e-mobility space.

Daimler Buses Unveils Mercedes-Benz eIntouro: The First All-Electric Intercity Bus

Daimler Buses has officially launched the Mercedes-Benz eIntouro, its first all-electric intercity bus, at the world premiere held during Busworld Europe 2025 in Brussels. The new eIntouro marks a key milestone in the company's electric roadmap, expanding beyond urban applications into long-distance and school transport segments.

The eIntouro is powered by one or two LFP battery packs, each offering 207 kWh of capacity, for a total of up to 414 kWh. This enables a range of up to 500 kilometres depending on terrain and driving conditions. The electric central drive delivers 320 kW continuous power and up to 400 kW at peak. Charging is available at 400 kW with dual battery packs, while the single-pack setup supports 225 kW charging.

Available in two lengths — 12.18 metres (eIntouro) and 13.09 metres (eIntouro M) — the bus accommodates between 50 and 63 passengers. It is built on the proven high-floor Intouro diesel platform, redesigned for full-electric operation.

The eIntouro introduces Daimler's new electronics architecture with "over-the-air" update capability via the Omniplus On portal, a first for any European bus.



Safety features include Active Brake Assist 6, Sideguard Assist 2, Frontguard Assist, Traffic Sign Assist, and MirrorCam options.

Daimler Buses CEO Till Oberwörder confirmed that the company will extend electrification to touring coaches by the end of the decade, with fuel-cell coaches to follow, a step toward sustainable, long-range travel across Europe.

Shorter, Smarter, and Stronger: Solaris Unveils the Urbino 10.5 Electric

Solaris unveiled the Urbino 10.5 electric, a new compact model designed for modern urban environments. Making its world premiere in Brussels in October 2025, the fully electric bus combined small size with high passenger capacity, offering a flexible and sustainable solution for dense city routes.

At just 10.5 meters long, the Urbino 10.5 electric accommodated up to 85 passengers, including 33 seated, and featured a turning radius under 17 meters, ideal for narrow streets and tight turns. A modular driveline design eliminated the engine tower, improving interior space and weight distribution.

The vehicle ran on a 240 kW synchronous motor and was equipped with Solaris High Energy batteries offering up to 350 kWh, with configurations available beyond 400 kWh. According to eSORT tests, the bus could operate over 600 km on a single charge, suitable for all-day service without recharging. Charging was possible via plug-in or pantograph.

Advanced tech and safety systems were also part of the package. Optional Mirror Eye cameras replaced side



mirrors to improve visibility, while ADAS features included blind-spot detection, forward collision warnings, pedestrian sensors and a drowsiness monitoring system. A CO₂ heat pump-based HVAC system ensured energy-efficient climate control.

The new model reached a 97% recyclability rate and was developed using standardized components from the Urbino electric family, reducing operating and maintenance costs. It could also be managed through the eSConnect platform for energy use monitoring and remote diagnostics.

The Urbino 10.5 electric further strengthened Solaris's position as a leader in zero-emission transport across Europe.

Scania Expanded Electric Ambitions with New High-Floor BEV Platform

Scania revealed a new high-floor battery-electric bus and coach platform, marking a significant step in its strategy to electrify broader segments beyond urban transport. Designed for both Urban and Travel applications, the new platform opened doors for zero-emission intercity, airport, and long-distance coach operations.

The new BEV platform supported a range of up to 600 km, with luggage capacity nearly matching that of combustion-powered coaches, a critical factor for operators transitioning to electric. This made it suitable for medium-distance intercity travel, airport transfers, and even sports team transport.

Scania also designed the platform with flexibility in mind. It could be adapted for school buses, sightseeing



vehicles, and urban bus rapid transit systems in emerging markets such as Africa, Asia, and South America.

Technologically, the platform incorporated proven components including e-machines up to 330 kW, and battery systems offering up to 534 kWh installed capacity, with 480 kWh usable energy. It supported charging speeds up to 325 kW, offering fast turnaround times between routes.

Scania paired the new platform with a robust ecosystem of electrification services. Its smart charging solutions helped operators avoid peak energy costs and extend battery life. In addition, the Scania Charging Access service gave operators entry to a growing European network of public chargers tailored for heavy vehicles, simplifying payment and boosting route flexibility.

VDL Futura 3 Sets a New Standard for Long-Distance Coach Travel

VDL Bus Group unveiled the Futura 3, its next-generation coach designed to redefine efficiency, comfort and design in long-distance transport. The launch marked a major milestone for the newly integrated VDL Bus Group, which now brings together VDL Bus & Coach and VDL Van Hool under one roof.

The Futura 3 was the result of years of development and feedback from customers, drivers and the after-sales network. It offered a significant improvement in total cost of ownership, with fuel savings of up to 15 percent thanks to advanced engineering, aerodynamic updates and reduced weight.

Driver ergonomics saw a complete overhaul. The cockpit featured a more intuitive layout, enhanced visibility and upgraded seating to reduce fatigue. For passengers, new ambient lighting, refined material choices and upgraded seating created a more premium and comfortable experience.

VDL also improved the Futura 3's sustainability profile. A redesigned climate control system provided quiet and efficient temperature regulation, contributing to both comfort and energy savings. The coach was also built with future powertrains in mind, offering flexibility for operators planning ahead.

Safety received equal focus. The Futura 3 came equipped with the latest generation of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), better sightlines and structural enhancements to meet the most stringent safety standards.

With modular components and improved technical accessibility, maintenance and repair costs were also reduced, making the Futura 3 a smart investment for fleet operators aiming for long-term performance and lower operating costs.



Irizar Unveils Next-Generation Electric Bus and i3 Normal Floor Coach, Setting New Standards in Efficiency and Design



Irizar e-mobility has unveiled the latest generation of its fully electric Irizar ie bus, introducing major advancements in efficiency, comfort, and sustainability. The new model, officially named the Irizar ie bus Efficient, features a completely redesigned structural concept that reduces weight by nearly 1,000 kilograms, increasing passenger capacity by 5 percent compared to the previous generation.

Equipped with a more compact motor, next-generation high-efficiency batteries, and an upgraded thermal management system, the new ie bus achieves up to 10 percent lower energy consumption. Irizar has also doubled the use of recycled materials in production, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and circular design principles.

In addition to the ie bus Efficient, Irizar also premiered its Irizar i3

Normal Floor, a 100 percent electric intercity coach designed for longer routes and higher luggage capacity. The model offers over 7 m³ of luggage space and a range of up to 450 kilometres on a single charge, depending on operating conditions.

The i3 Normal Floor shares several components with other Irizar models, simplifying maintenance and spare parts management for operators. Built in full compliance with European GSR2, R155, R156, and R29 standards, the coach integrates advanced safety, cybersecurity, and crash protection systems.

With this new generation, Irizar strengthens its position as a leader in sustainable mobility, offering a lineup that combines efficiency, performance, and passenger comfort, all engineered and manufactured in Europe to meet the evolving needs of public transport operators.

Ankai Unveils New Electric Buses E12S and E60 at Busworld Europe 2025



Ankai Bus introduced two new electric buses, the E12S and E60, marking a significant step in the company's global electrification strategy.

The E12S is Ankai's fourth-generation electric open-top double-decker, designed for premium sightseeing and urban mobility applications. The new model features an extended wheelbase that accommodates 50 seats on the upper deck and 23 on the lower deck, enhancing passenger capacity and comfort.

The driver's area is equipped with an adjustable platform and a 10.1-inch digital display for improved ergonomics, while passengers enjoy USB charging ports, multi-language audio tour systems, and accessibility options. The E12S uses a permanent magnet synchronous wheel-hub motor, delivering high torque and low energy consumption. With full regenerative braking, the system can reduce overall energy usage by up to 10%. The model is powered by CATL LFP battery packs with an advanced thermal management system for consistent performance and safety.

The bus complies with R155 and R156 standards and integrates cybersecurity protection, over-the-air software updates, and multiple driver-assistance technologies—aligning with Europe's latest safety and connectivity norms.

Alongside it, Ankai also launched the compact E60 micro-cycle bus, developed for dense urban environments. It features a modular body design, high-strength structure, and upgraded digital cockpit with an integrated instrument cluster and large central display.

Both models underscore Ankai's focus on intelligent, safe, and sustainable transport solutions. Following Busworld, the new buses will begin deployment in Paris, signalling the company's growing European footprint.



CRRC Unveils New-Generation Electric Double-Decker and Intercity Coach for Global Markets

CRRC made a powerful statement about its global electric mobility ambitions with the unveiling of two advanced models, a fully electric double-decker bus for Hong Kong and a 100% electric intercity coach, the EU12C.

The 12-metre double-decker, developed in close collaboration with Hong Kong operators, is tailored for dense urban environments such as Hong Kong, Singapore, and London. Measuring 2.55 metres in width and 4.4 metres in height, the bus delivers 480 kW of power and 5,100 Nm of torque. Its lightweight structure uses advanced materials sourced from European suppliers, improving strength, noise insulation, and vibration resistance.

CRRC has drawn heavily from its expertise in high-speed rail technology to develop its bus range. The double-decker features modular aluminium structures, a rail-grade battery management system, and advanced electronic assistance tools. These ensure safety and efficiency in demanding city conditions, from steep gradients to high passenger volumes.

The EU12C intercity coach marks CRRC's entry into the long-distance electric segment. Built on an 800V high-voltage architecture, the 12-metre coach houses a 440 kWh CATL battery pack, providing a range of up to 550 kilometres. The design also maximises luggage space to 6.5 m³ through floor-integrated batteries.

Inside, drivers benefit from a 12-inch control screen, electronic mirrors, and a 360-degree monitoring system. The coach's 480 kW motor with 5,100 Nm torque allows strong performance across varied terrain while maintaining a turning circle under 18 metres for urban manoeuvrability.

With the Hong Kong double-decker as its pilot project, CRRC aims to expand its electric bus portfolio across Asia-Pacific and Europe, translating its proven rail innovation into next-generation road transport.

BMC Unveiled Next-Gen Urban Mobility Solutions at Busworld Europe 2025

Türkiye's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, BMC, made a strong impression at Busworld Europe 2025 with latest lineup of sustainable and technologically advanced buses, reinforcing its commitment to eco-friendly urban mobility.

BMC presented key models, including the NEOCITY 8.5M EV, PROCITY 12M Diesel, and the newly introduced PROCITY+ 12M and 18M electric buses. These vehicles reflected BMC's strategic R&D investments and its continued focus on reducing urban emissions through alternative fuel technologies.

A pioneer in Türkiye's public transport sector, BMC had previously introduced the country's first CNG-powered, fully low-floor city buses. At Busworld, it built on that legacy by unveiling its next-generation electric models developed in collaboration with KIEPE Electric,

a global leader in electronic systems and integration.

The company's presence at the event also highlighted its growing international reach. Recent deliveries to Germany, Italy, Poland, Estonia, Portugal, Czechia, and North Macedonia demonstrated BMC's successful expansion into European markets.



BMC's product range spanned bus lengths from 8.5 to 18 metres, available in both solo and

articulated versions, with powertrain options including diesel, CNG, and electric. This flexibility enabled the company to meet a wide variety of urban transport needs.

Through its showcase at Busworld Europe 2025, BMC reaffirmed its role as a forward-looking manufacturer, combining domestic expertise with global partnerships to drive the future of sustainable public transportation.

Marcopolo Returns to Europe with Paradiso G8 1200 Coach Tailored for the Market

Marcopolo, a global leader in bus body manufacturing, marked its commercial reentry into the European market with the Paradiso G8 1200 coach, designed specifically to meet European standards and operator demands.

Developed in Brazil by Marcopolo's engineering team, the Paradiso G8 1200 combined advanced design, technology, and safety features aligned with European quality, safety, and comfort requirements. It was compatible with the continent's main chassis and complied with local technical certifications.

Measuring 13.5 meters in length, the coach accommodated 55 passengers in premium Confort AA seats equipped with USB outlets. It featured a modern exterior with

a larger glazed area, redesigned mirrors, and a second door in the wheelbase to improve accessibility. The interior boasted premium finishes, sliding seats for more aisle space, electropneumatic pantograph doors, and an advanced air conditioning system.

Technology highlights included a multiplex system, centralized connectivity, tablet-controlled dashboard, and cybersecurity protections. Safety was enhanced through a suite of active and passive systems: Autonomous Emergency Braking, Lane Departure Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control, blind-spot sensors, and a 360-degree camera system.

Additional amenities such as internal LED lighting with chromotherapy, high-performance insulation, audio-video DVR, and



two 15.6-inch monitors elevated passenger comfort. Marcopolo's CEO André Armaganijan emphasized that the Paradiso G8 1200 showcased the company's commitment to innovation and its strategic focus on European expansion.



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