THE BUS INSIDER

VOLUME 02 | NUMBER 02 | JUNE 2026 | ₹250

BY COACH BUILDERS INDIA



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BUS MANUFACTURING

INALCO
ALUMINIUM SHEETS & COILS

RETHINKING INDIA'S STATE TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS

JAGAN AUTOMOBILES CONTINUING THE LEGACY

SHREE SAI COACH BUILDERS ADAPTING AND ACCELERATING

INNOVATIVE RESINS NEXT-GEN RESIN SOLUTIONS

ZINGBUS REDEFINING PREMIUM EXPERIENCES

INSTANT SUBSCRIPTION
ENDLESS UPDATES

PRAWAAS 5.0
STEERING THE NATION TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT

India's Flagship Multimodal Transport Show
Prawaas 5.0
BUS | CAR | METRO | LEVs
9-11 JULY, 2026
HEC, GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT

www.coachbuilderindia.com

JAGAN AUTOMOBILES
MANUFACTURING PRIVATE LIMITED

AIS 153 CERTIFIED

DRIVING TOMORROW.
DELIVERING EXCELLENCE.



OUR PRODUCT RANGE

- TOURIST BUSES
- STAFF BUSES
- SLEEPER COACH
- SCHOOL BUSES
- MOTOR HOMES
- VANITY VANS
- MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS
- MOBILE CLASSROOMS
- PORTABLE CORPORATE
- LOUNGES
- CUSTOM SPECIAL-PURPOSE VEHICLES



From concept to road,
WE DELIVER EXCELLENCE IN EVERY DETAIL.

SUPERIOR SAFETY | **ADVANCED ENGINEERING** | **CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS** | **TRUSTED BY LEADERS**

For more information:
+91 8882099289 | +91 8700430914
jaganautomobiles09@gmail.com
jaganautomobiles
jagan.automobiles

EDITOR:
Shivam Gautom

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:
Zainab Azhar
Violina Pegu

CORRESPONDENT
Samiran Bora

ART DIRECTOR
Abhinav Saikia

ADVERTISING
Kumar Shantanu
shantanu@coachbuildersindia.com
+91 98711 22871

CONSUMER CONNECT
Violina Pegu
violina@coachbuildersindia.com
+91 84482 29959

All material published in this magazine is the property of Coach Builders India. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form without prior written permission from the publisher.

The articles, opinions, views, comments, and information published in this magazine are those of the respective authors, contributors, and interviewees. The Editor and Publisher do not necessarily endorse or subscribe to the views expressed therein.

Published by Shivam Gautom on behalf of Coach Builders India.

Printed at:
Modest Print Pack (P.) Ltd.
C-52, DDA Shed,
Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I,
New Delhi – 110020

Published from:
86, Swapankunj Apartments,
Kalkaji Extension,
New Delhi – 110019

Editor & Publisher:
Shivam Gautom

Readers are advised to make independent enquiries before acting upon any information or advertisements appearing in this publication. The Publisher, Editor, and Printer shall not be responsible for any claims made by advertisers, nor for any consequences arising from reliance on such claims.

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts in Delhi/New Delhi.

© Coach Builders India. All Rights Reserved.

Dear everyone,

Every Prawaas brings together thousands of people who share one common purpose - to move India.

Over the next few days, exhibition halls will be filled with new products, new partnerships and new ideas. There will be discussions on electrification, technology, passenger safety, financing and the future of public transport. But beyond the launches and announcements, I believe events like Prawaas serve another purpose.

They allow us to measure how far our industry has come.

When I look around today, I see an industry that is becoming more organised, more disciplined and more ambitious than ever before. Bus body builders are investing in engineering and safety standards that were once considered optional. Suppliers are developing advanced materials that are helping manufacturers build lighter, stronger and more efficient vehicles. Operators are beginning to compete on passenger experience rather than just ticket prices. Technology companies are bringing artificial intelligence into everyday fleet operations, while mobility platforms are redefining what premium bus travel can look like.

Individually, these may seem like separate developments. Together, they tell a much bigger story.

The Indian bus industry is steadily transforming itself - not through one breakthrough, but through hundreds of small decisions to build better products, adopt better technologies and raise standards across the value chain.

That spirit is reflected throughout this issue.

From companies embracing AIS 153 and strengthening manufacturing capabilities to businesses reimagining passenger experience, materials, technology and customer engagement, every story points towards an industry that is preparing itself for the future.

As we launch this issue at Prawaas 5.0, I hope it does more than inform. I hope it starts conversations. I hope it encourages collaboration. And above all, I hope it reminds us that the future of this industry will not be shaped by any one company or one innovation alone. It will be built collectively - by manufacturers, operators, suppliers, technology providers and every individual working to move India forward.

To everyone visiting Prawaas, thank you for picking up this issue and for being a part of the journey we are building together.

Here's to better buses, better businesses, and a better future for Indian passenger mobility.

Cheers!





CONTENTS

COVER STORY
How INALCO Is Helping Shape The Future Of Bus Manufacturing In India 5

INDUSTRY TRAILBLAZERS
Six Decades Of Practical Experience Continue To Shape Jagan Automobiles 11

MOBILITY INNOVATORS
How zingbus Maxx is turning India's intercity highways into a premium hospitality experience 17

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
Shree Sai Coach Builders Adapting To A New Era Of Bus Manufacturing 23

TECHNOLOGY
InstaBus AI-Powered Customer Support Platform For Intercity Bus Operators 28

MATERIAL MATTERS
Engineering Advanced Resins for Composite Industry For Building Safer & Smarter Buses 29

MOBILITY INNOVATORS
Tirth Automobiles Secures Order For 27 Eicher Buses As AIS 153 Certification Boosts Growth 35

INDUSTRY VOICES
Rethinking India's State Transport Undertakings 38

PRAWAAS
Prawaas 5.0: Driving The Next Chapter Of India's Passenger Mobility 43

PRAWAAS
Five Conversations That Will Define Prawaas 2026 45

INALCO
ALUMINIUM SHEETS & COILS

Building **Lighter, Stronger & Smarter** Buses

How INALCO Is Helping Shape The Future Of Bus Manufacturing In India

By Violina Pegu



The Indian bus industry is undergoing one of the most significant transformations in its history.

Premium coaches are becoming more sophisticated. Sleeper buses are evolving rapidly. Electric buses are entering fleets at an unprecedented pace. Passenger expectations are rising, while operators are increasingly focused on efficiency, durability and long-term value.

As a result, manufacturers are rethinking not only how buses are powered, but also how they are built.

At the centre of this transformation is INALCO Pvt. Ltd., a company that has quietly become one of the most influential material solution providers serving India's bus and coach industry.

Over the years, INALCO has built strong relationships with OEMs, body builders and mobility manufacturers across the country, supplying aluminium solutions that have become an integral part of modern bus construction.

"The industry today is very different from what it was a decade ago," **says Mohit Garg, CEO of INALCO**. "Manufacturers are looking for materials that deliver performance, durability, aesthetics and long-term value simultaneously. Aluminium has emerged as a key enabler of that transformation."





Growing Alongside The Industry

As operators demanded better vehicles and passengers sought greater comfort, manufacturers began moving beyond conventional fabrication practices toward more engineering-driven product development. This shift created new opportunities for material innovation.

Recognising this trend, INALCO focused on developing aluminium solutions specifically suited to the transportation sector. Today, the company's portfolio includes aluminium coils, sheets, chequered plates and colour-coated coils that find extensive application across bus body structures, flooring systems, staircases, interior panelling and a wide range of structural components.

What differentiates the company is its understanding of the industry's unique requirements.

INALCO understands that bus manufacturing demands products that can withstand vibration, temperature variations, continuous usage and challenging operating environments over extended periods.

"Our focus has always been on developing solutions that help manufacturers build better products. The objective is not simply to supply aluminium, but to create value through engineering, consistency and reliability," says Garg.



Manufacturing At Scale

Behind every aluminium sheet lies a manufacturing ecosystem built around precision, quality and consistency.

Over the years, INALCO has invested heavily in manufacturing capabilities, technology and process control systems to support the growing demands of the transportation sector. The company has developed an integrated ecosystem capable of delivering customised solutions while maintaining the quality standards required by leading OEMs and body builders.

Supporting The Rise Of Premium Coaches

The Indian premium coach segment has witnessed remarkable growth over the past decade.

Luxury sleeper buses and premium intercity products are redefining passenger expectations across the country. Operators are investing heavily in vehicles that offer superior comfort, aesthetics, and travel experiences.

This shift has increased the importance of materials.



This manufacturing strength has become increasingly important as bus manufacturers move towards higher levels of standardisation and engineering sophistication. Whether it is a premium sleeper coach, a school/staff bus or a next-generation electric vehicle, manufacturers expect suppliers to deliver consistent quality at scale.

For INALCO, manufacturing excellence is not simply about capacity. It is about reliability. And in an industry where every component contributes to vehicle performance, reliability matters.

Premium vehicles require components that are lightweight, durable yet visually appealing. They must maintain their performance over years of operation while supporting increasingly sophisticated interior designs.

“The premiumisation of the industry is creating a completely new set of expectations. Manufacturers are seeking materials that enhance both functionality and passenger experience,” says Garg.

As body builders continue to raise the bar, aluminium is becoming an increasingly important part of modern premium coach architecture.

Powering The Next Generation Of Electric Buses

The rise of electric mobility is also creating one of the biggest growth opportunities for aluminium in the bus industry.

Electric vehicles place a much greater emphasis on weight optimisation. Battery packs add significant weight to the vehicle, making lightweight materials increasingly important for overall efficiency and performance.

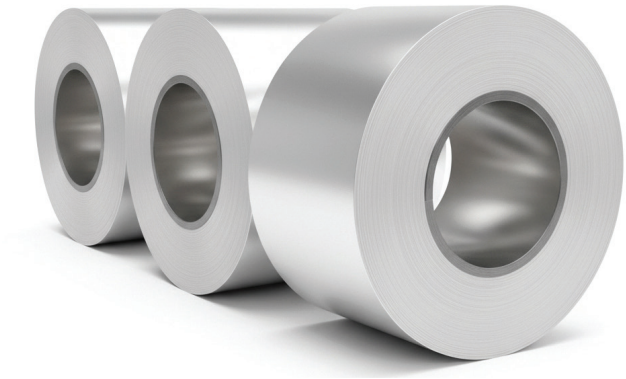
This is where aluminium becomes increasingly important. From flooring systems and structural applications to interior components and specialised assemblies, aluminium helps manufacturers offset battery weight while improving overall vehicle efficiency.

Every kilogram saved can contribute towards better energy utilisation, improved vehicle performance and, ultimately, greater operational efficiency.

As electric bus deployment accelerates across India, the importance of lightweight materials is expected to grow further. Manufacturers are increasingly looking at aluminium not simply as a material choice, but as an engineering solution that supports the next generation of mobility.

"The shift towards electric mobility is fundamentally changing how vehicles are engineered. Lightweight materials are becoming increasingly important as manufacturers focus on efficiency, performance and sustainability," notes Garg.

For INALCO, this transition represents more than a business opportunity. It represents an opportunity



to contribute to the evolution of cleaner, more efficient and technologically advanced transportation solutions for India.

More Than A Material Supplier

The modern bus industry is built on collaboration. OEMs, body builders, technology companies and suppliers must work together to create products capable of meeting increasingly demanding market expectations.

This is where INALCO sees its role evolving.

Rather than functioning solely as a supplier, the company positions itself as a long-term industry partner, working closely with manufacturers to develop solutions that address real-world challenges.

"The future of mobility will be driven by collaboration," says Garg. "Innovation happens when different stakeholders bring their expertise together to create better products."

That philosophy has helped INALCO establish itself as a trusted partner within India's bus manufacturing ecosystem.







Building The Future

As the industry moves towards a future defined by premiumisation, electrification and higher engineering standards, the importance of materials will only continue to grow. The buses of tomorrow will be lighter. They will be smarter. They will be more efficient and more refined than ever before.

Companies such as INALCO are helping make that future possible. By combining manufacturing excellence, industry expertise and a deep understanding of evolving mobility requirements, the company is helping bus manufacturers build vehicles that meet the expectations of a rapidly changing market.

In an industry where every kilogram matters, every component is engineered for performance, and every detail contributes to the passenger experience, precision is no longer optional - it is essential.

And perhaps that is what best captures INALCO's philosophy - ***Where Precision Matters, Excellence Delivers***.

> *"The future of bus manufacturing will not be defined by powertrains alone, but by the materials, engineering and partnerships that make next-generation mobility possible. As vehicles become lighter, safer and more efficient, suppliers will play an increasingly strategic role in driving innovation. At INALCO, we see ourselves not just as an aluminium supplier, but as an engineering partner helping shape the future of India's bus industry."*



Mohit Garg
CEO
INALCO

Six Decades Of Practical Experience Continue To Shape JAGAN AUTOMOBILES

By Violina Pegu





> *For us, legacy is measured not by years in business, but by the confidence operators place in every bus we deliver. As we enter our next phase of growth, our focus remains the same: building buses operators can depend on throughout their service life.*
>
> **Pankaj Gupta**, CEO, Jagan Automobiles Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.

In India's bus body manufacturing industry, engineering expertise is often measured by production capacity, technology and certifications. Jagan Automobiles believes there is another equally important qualification - understanding what it takes to operate a bus every single day.

That philosophy has defined the Delhi-based company for six decades.

Founded by Late Shri Ganesh Dutt Gupta in the 1960s, **Jagan Automobiles Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.**, did not begin its journey as a coach builder. It began as a transport operator, running, repairing and maintaining its own fleet of buses. Years spent on Indian roads gave the company first-hand insight into the operational realities of passenger transport - how vehicles age, where structural fatigue develops, the maintenance challenges operators face and the engineering decisions that influence long-term reliability.

Those experiences ultimately shaped the company's transition into bus body manufacturing.

Rather than simply building buses, Jagan Automobiles set out to engineer vehicles that were stronger, safer, easier to maintain and capable of delivering dependable performance throughout their operational life. More than sixty years later, that philosophy continues to guide every vehicle that leaves its manufacturing facility.









In 1988, Jagan Automobiles designed and fabricated a completely glass-bodied bus for Maharishi Ayurveda - an ambitious project that showcased its ability to execute highly customised concepts.

The next major chapter began in 1993 when Pankaj Gupta joined the family business after completing specialised training in bus body fabrication at Ashok Leyland's Chennai facility. His arrival brought modern engineering practices and further strengthened the company's manufacturing capabilities.

A Legacy Built Through Continuous Innovation

The company's evolution mirrors many of the milestones that have shaped India's bus industry.

Its entry into full-scale bus body fabrication came in 1984, when it played a major role in restoring buses damaged during the riots following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The large-scale restoration programme demonstrated the company's engineering capabilities and marked the beginning of its journey as a full-fledged coach builder. Innovation followed .





Over the following decades, the company continued to pioneer new ideas. It became the first coach builder in the Delhi-NCR region to fabricate a CNG bus body, successfully engineered bodies on India's early semi low-floor chassis and was among the first manufacturers in North India to introduce sleeper coaches. Beyond conventional passenger vehicles, it also developed a diverse portfolio of specialised mobility solutions, including mobile medical units, mobile classrooms, motor homes, vanity vans and portable corporate lounges for leading organisations across the country.

Manufacturing With An Operator's Perspective

Today, Jagan Automobiles manufactures tourist buses, sleeper coaches, staff transportation buses, school buses and a wide range of specialised vehicles, while strengthening its presence in the tourist and commercial bus segments. Every vehicle is developed to meet customer operational requirements, with a strong focus on durability, passenger comfort and long-term performance.

"Our engineering philosophy is rooted in operational experience. Having operated buses for decades, we understand how vehicles perform beyond the factory floor. This insight shapes everything from structural design and material selection to ease of maintenance and lifecycle reliability," says Pankaj Gupta, CEO, Jagan Automobiles Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.

Timely delivery is another key focus. Recognising that every delayed bus means lost revenue for operators, Jagan Automobiles has built its manufacturing systems around disciplined planning, efficient production and reliable execution without compromising quality.



Raising The Benchmark

The company's recent achievement of AIS 153 certification marks another important milestone in its journey.

The certification covers multiple seating configurations across chassis platforms from leading OEMs, including Ashok Leyland, Tata Motors, Eicher and BharatBenz, spanning wheelbases from 4,200 mm to 7,000 mm.

For Jagan Automobiles, however, the certification represents far more than regulatory compliance. It reinforces a long-standing commitment to engineering discipline, passenger safety and product quality that has defined the business for decades.

"For us, AIS 153 is not merely a compliance requirement but a reflection of our commitment to delivering products that meet the highest industry standards while ensuring passenger safety and operator confidence," says Pankaj Gupta.



Looking Towards The Future

The Indian bus body manufacturing industry is entering a new phase, driven by higher safety standards, evolving passenger expectations and growing demand for premium travel experiences. Jagan Automobiles believes manufacturers will increasingly need to combine engineering excellence, regulatory compliance and customer-centric product development to remain competitive.

As the company celebrates sixty years of its journey, it is also preparing for a generational transition. Er. Yash Gupta, Director and fourth-generation leader, brings an engineer's perspective to the business, balancing innovation with the values that have shaped Jagan Automobiles for decades.

Supporting this vision are continued investments in manufacturing infrastructure, advanced fabrication technologies, automation and expanded production capacity. At the same time, the company's focus remains firmly on strengthening its position in the tourist bus, commercial bus and specialised mobility segments.

Despite these ambitions, the company's core philosophy remains unchanged. Its objective is not simply to build more buses. It is to build buses that operators can depend upon throughout their service life.

PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

- Tourist Buses
- Staff Buses
- Sleeper Buses
- School Buses
- Motor Homes
- Vanity Vans
- Mobile Medical Units
- Mobile Classrooms
- Portable Corporate Lounges
- Custom Special-Purpose Vehicles
- Midi Buses

> *"For us, quality will always outweigh quantity. We would rather build fewer buses that stand the test of time than compromise on reliability. Every bus we deliver carries our name and reflects our unwavering commitment to engineering excellence, lasting durability, and the trust our customers place in every vehicle we build. Always."*



Yash Gupta
Director
Jagan Automobiles Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.

INNOVATIVE
RESIN, HEART & SOUL

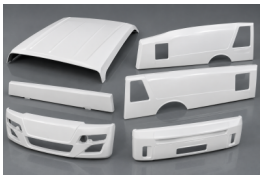
INNOVATING MATERIALS, TRANSFORMING POSSIBILITIES

- SINCE 2010 -

ADVANCED **RESIN SOLUTIONS** FOR COMPOSITE INDUSTRY

BETTER, SAFER & SMARTER BUSES

RESIN SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY APPLICATION



FRP BODY PANELS



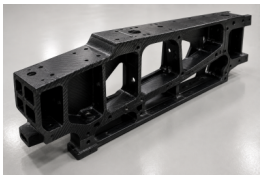
LUGGAGE COMPARTMENTS



BATTERY ENCLOSURES



DASHBOARDS & INTERIOR COMPONENTS



STRUCTURAL COMPOSITE PARTS

OUR SOLUTIONS. YOUR ADVANTAGE



RESIN SYSTEMS

UPR, Vinyl Ester, Fire-Retardant Resins

TOOLEX
Tooling Gelcoat is formulated from epoxy Bisphenol A Resin

SURFACE SOLUTIONS
Gelcoats, Pigment Pastes & Specialty Additives

REINFORCEMENTS
Glass Fibre Reinforcements for stronger composites

CATALYSTS & ADDITIVES
Reliable curing systems for optimal performance

ACCESSORIES & CONSUMABLES
Everything you need for efficient FRP manufacturing

Let's Build Better Buses Together.
At IRPL, we engineer solutions that help you build quality buses with confidence.

INNOVATIVE
RESIN, HEART & SOUL

INNOVATING MATERIALS, TRANSFORMING POSSIBILITIES

For more details: +91 8448875588 | urmila.j@innovativeresins.in | www.innovativeresins.in

First Class On the Highway



How zingbus Maxx is turning India's intercity highways into a premium hospitality experience.

By Violina Pegu



For as long as most Indians can remember, taking an intercity bus meant accepting a series of silent concessions. Variable rest stops. Unknown drivers. Meals at midnight *dhabas* of uncertain hygiene. A seat that reclined at its own discretion. And always, always, the hope that the coach would arrive somewhere near the promised time. Bus travel worked. But it was rarely an experience anyone looked forward to.

This was not for want of demand. India's intercity bus market is enormous and growing. The sector globally reached USD 20.43 billion in 2025 and is projected to climb to USD 28.41 billion by 2030, and India sits at the heart of that trajectory. What the market lacked was not passengers. It lacked a product worthy of them.

The gap was particularly glaring in the middle distance - routes of four to fourteen hours where flying doesn't save meaningful time once airport travel and check-in are included, and where trains are either unavailable or fully booked. For this segment, the Indian traveller had no premium option.

Until now!





Engineering a Journey, Not Just a Ride

zingbus Maxx was built with a clear brief: make the intercity bus journey feel like it was designed, not defaulted into. The product runs exclusively on Volvo B8R 9600 coaches - a deliberate choice driven by ride quality, advanced suspension suited to challenging Indian terrain, and the reliability expected of a premium brand. Every detail of the onboard experience is curated: a welcome refreshment kit, onboard dinner, a hot breakfast on morning departures, and the attentive presence of trained Gold Star Crew throughout the journey.

Rest stops, historically the weakest link in the intercity bus chain, are pre-selected, vetted locations with cleaner washrooms, safer environments, and consistent food options. On eligible routes, passengers are offered a complimentary breakfast buffet. These are not upgrades bolted onto an existing product. They are structural elements of a new category.

Every element of zingbus Maxx is designed to elevate expectations, setting a new benchmark for premium bus travel in India. Because the journey should be as exceptional as the destination.

> *Maxx is not just about premium coaches or better amenities. It is about creating a journey where comfort, safety, hospitality, and technology come together.*

Prashant Kumar, Co-Founder, **zingbus**



Safety - an aspect the bus industry has too often treated as a compliance checkbox rather than a competitive advantage - is embedded into every Maxx operation. Buses are speed-locked at 80 km/hr. Driver monitoring sensors track behaviour in real time and issue alerts when required. Live GPS tracking can be shared with family members or emergency contacts. These are not optional features. They are the operating standard.

What the Market Is Saying Back

Premium products often generate enthusiasm at launch and hesitation at repeat purchase. Maxx has defied that curve. The customer satisfaction score sits at 90.5% - a figure that reflects not just first impressions but the full arc of the journey, from boarding to arrival.

90.5%
Customer satisfaction score (CSAT) across zingbus Maxx journeys

50%
Higher customer retention on Maxx vs. zingbus Plus tier

4X
Higher repeat travel rate vs. the intercity bus industry average

80%
Higher Average Selling Price (ASP) enabled by the Maxx model

The retention figure is perhaps the most telling: Maxx customers return at a rate 50% higher than those on zingbus' own Plus tier. And against the broader industry, the repeat travel rate is four times the average. Once passengers experience the product, they choose it again. That is the most honest validation a premium offering can receive.

When Safety Becomes a Market Signal

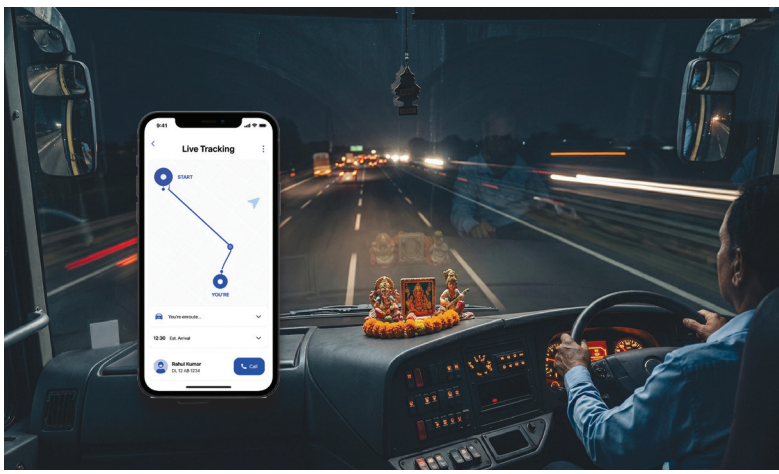
One of the most revealing data points in the Maxx story has nothing to do with fares or fleet size. It is about who is choosing to travel. Women now account for 40% of total Maxx ridership, significantly above the broader industry norm.



40%
of total Maxx ridership are women



Solo bookings by women have more than doubled in the past year, concentrated among travellers aged 22 to 35 on overnight metro-to-hometown and leisure routes. “Women are shaping the next phase of intercity travel in India. The rising adoption of Maxx shows that safety is no longer just a baseline expectation; it is central to how premium travel experiences are built”, elucidates Mr. Kumar.



This trend sits within a broader national shift. According to a recent report, female ridership on intercity buses has increased by more than 130% between 2019 and 2025. On zingbus overall, nearly one in three passengers is now a woman. The Maxx platform, with its female-only seating options, AI-enabled safety monitoring, emergency exit visualisation during booking, and live GPS sharing, has made the premium product the natural choice for this fast-growing segment.

Women also account for a disproportionately high share of booking value relative to seats booked, indicating a strong preference for premium over economy when safety and comfort are part of the equation. That is a signal the industry should read carefully.

An Operator-First Platform

For bus operators, zingbus Maxx is not simply a better service tier to participate in. It represents a structural shift in how the business of intercity travel can work. In the conventional model, operators compete on fare. That dynamic compresses margins, limits investment in quality, and creates a race to the bottom where every route eventually becomes a commodity.

As profitability comes under pressure, investments in fleet upgrades, staff training, and passenger experience are often deferred, reinforcing a cycle where differentiation becomes increasingly difficult.

Maxx changes the equation by creating a premium category where passengers select on experience rather than price. By shifting the basis of competition from discounts to value, the model allows operators to command healthier yields while delivering a more consistent and predictable customer experience.

The operator benefit is tangible: an 80% higher Average Selling Price per ticket, combined with the 4X repeat rate, means more dependable revenue per trip and faster capital recovery. The model also helps operators build brand positioning at a regional level, becoming the benchmark for premium intercity travel on their routes rather than one of many undifferentiated options.

80%
Higher Average Selling Price (ASP)

4X
Repeat Rate

Maxx Operators are not competing on **the cheapest fare** - they are competing on **the best experience**



zingbus frames this as an invitation to join what it calls the Top 2% Operators' Club - those who have moved beyond price wars and built sustainable competitive advantage through service quality, reliability, and trust. The operators who invest early in this shift, the company argues, become the category leaders in their markets for years to come.



Scaling Without Diluting

zingbus Maxx currently operates over 50 coaches across demand-led routes including Delhi–Manali, Chennai–Coimbatore, Hyderabad–Chennai, Pune–Bangalore, and Delhi–Lucknow. The fleet is on course to cross 100 buses by year-end, with approximately 10 new routes in the pipeline, including Gurugram–Lucknow and Hyderabad–Tirupati.

Separately, the company is targeting ₹500 crore in revenue this fiscal year, driven by the expansion of its Maxx and Plus services with 10+ new routes in the pipeline. Looking further ahead, Prashant Kumar has announced plans to deploy 1,000 electric buses by 2030, reinforcing the company's vision of combining premium travel experiences with a cleaner, more sustainable mobility future.

> *"We are working with the goal of making the Maxx experience at par with the best of international airlines and hotel chains. Most Indians opt for buses when travelling domestically - and this choice shouldn't feel like a compromise."*

Prashant Kumar
Co-Founder
zingbus

50+
coaches in operation

10+
new routes in the pipeline

₹500Cr
revenue target for current FY

The challenge for any premium offering is maintaining consistency at scale. zingbus' answer is structural: the company owns its buses, hires its drivers, trains its crew, and controls customer support directly. There is no aggregator gap where accountability disappears. That ownership model is not just a business decision. It is the foundation on which the premium promise rests.





Shree Sai Coach Builders

Adapting To A New Era Of Bus Manufacturing

By Violina Pegu

Ahmedabad-based Shree Sai Coach Builders has achieved AIS 153 certification, joining a growing group of bus body manufacturers embracing higher standards of safety, engineering and regulatory compliance.

The certification marks a significant milestone in the company's journey from a traditional coach building workshop to a modern manufacturing organisation focused on premium passenger transportation solutions. Available across leading chassis platforms from Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, BharatBenz and Eicher, the certified models comply with the latest safety and performance requirements mandated under AIS 153.

Established in 1992, Shree Sai Coach Builders has spent more than three decades serving the Indian bus industry, building a strong presence across segments such as sleeper coaches, seater coaches, staff transportation and school buses. Over the years, the company has steadily expanded its manufacturing capabilities while adapting to changing passenger expectations, evolving technologies and increasingly stringent regulatory requirements.

In this interview, Vishnubhai Oza, Director, Shree Sai Coach Builders, discusses the company's AIS 153 certification journey, the changing dynamics of the bus body manufacturing industry, emerging trends in passenger transportation and how the company is preparing for the future.

Could you briefly outline the company's background, core bus segments you cater to, and current manufacturing capabilities?

Shree Sai Coach Builders was established in 1992 with the vision of building safe, reliable, and passenger-focused bus body solutions for the Indian passenger mobility industry. Over the past three decades, we have evolved from a modest coach building workshop into a modern manufacturing facility serving customers across India.

Today, we cater to multiple segments, including premium sleeper coaches, luxury seater coaches, staff transportation buses, school buses and customised transport solutions. Our customer base includes private operators, tour operators, corporate mobility providers and institutional clients.

Our focus has always been on delivering products that balance passenger comfort, safety, durability and operational efficiency. Achieving AIS 153 certification for our sleeper coach range is another important milestone in that journey and reflects our commitment to quality, compliance and continuous improvement.

How has Shree Sai Coach Builders evolved over the years in terms of scale, technology and the customers you serve?

Our journey has been one of continuous growth and adaptation. What started as a modest coach building workshop has evolved into a modern manufacturing facility capable of handling multiple projects and large fleet orders simultaneously.

One of the biggest changes has been the adoption of technology. Earlier, most designs and fabrication processes relied heavily on manual methods.

Today, we utilise CAD-based design tools, advanced fabrication equipment, precision welding technologies and modern paint and finishing systems to improve quality, consistency and manufacturing efficiency.

We have also expanded our product portfolio from conventional passenger buses to premium sleeper coaches, luxury seater buses and specialised transport solutions.

This evolution has helped us stay aligned with changing market expectations while continuing to focus on safety, quality and customer satisfaction.





Could you tell us about your latest bus models or design innovations? What makes them stand out?

In recent years, we have focused on developing premium sleeper and passenger coach solutions that combine safety, comfort and operational efficiency.

From a design perspective, we have adopted more aerodynamic and modern exteriors while maintaining a strong focus on structural strength and safety. Inside the coach, features such as ambient lighting, ergonomic layouts, improved insulation, integrated charging points and efficient HVAC systems help enhance the passenger experience.

We have also invested in advanced fabrication techniques, lightweight materials and improved NVH (Noise, Vibration and Harshness) control measures to create quieter and more refined cabins. At the same time, our modular design approach allows operators to customise layouts and features according to their specific operational requirements.

Congratulations on achieving the AIS 153 certification. Could you tell us which bus models and layout types are now covered under this certification?

Thank you. Achieving AIS 153 certification is a significant milestone for our organisation and reflects our commitment to safety, quality and regulatory compliance.

The certification currently covers our premium 2x1 sleeper coach configurations, including 30-berth and 36-berth layouts, along with variants equipped with onboard washroom facilities. These certified bodies are available across Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, BharatBenz and Eicher chassis platforms.

The approval covers critical requirements such as structural integrity, fire safety, emergency exits, passenger protection, rollover safety and NVH compliance.

For us, AIS 153 is a step towards building safer, more reliable sleeper coaches while giving operators greater confidence in the quality and compliance of the vehicles they purchase.



"For us, AIS 153 is more than a regulatory requirement. It is a step towards building safer, more reliable sleeper coaches while giving operators greater confidence in the quality and compliance of the vehicles they purchase."

Vishnubhai Oza
Director
Shree Sai Coach Builders

What were the biggest challenges - technical, financial or organisational - that you faced while working towards AIS 153 compliance?

From a technical perspective, one of the biggest challenges was ensuring that every aspect of the vehicle met the new safety and structural requirements while maintaining passenger comfort and operational practicality. This required significant effort in design optimisation, material selection, structural validation and the integration of additional safety systems.

The certification process also demanded substantial investment in testing, engineering development and process improvements. For many body builders, AIS 153 is not simply a product upgrade - it requires changes across the entire manufacturing and quality control ecosystem.

Organisationally, it was important to ensure that our engineering, production and quality teams fully understood the new requirements and worked together towards a common objective. This involved extensive planning, coordination and continuous monitoring throughout the certification process.

Do you believe AIS 153 compliance will regulate the industry in terms of safety and uniform bus designs?

AIS 153 is an important step towards improving safety and raising standards within the bus body manufacturing industry. It establishes a common framework for critical aspects such as structural integrity, fire safety, emergency exits and passenger protection.

However, I do not believe it will lead to completely uniform bus designs. Manufacturers will continue to differentiate themselves through styling, passenger amenities, interior layouts and engineering innovations.

What AIS 153 does achieve is the standardisation of safety and quality benchmarks.

It ensures that manufacturers operate within a defined framework while giving operators and passengers greater confidence in the vehicles being built.

In the long term, we believe the regulation will benefit the entire industry by encouraging higher levels of professionalism, engineering discipline and compliance, ultimately resulting in safer and better-built buses for passengers across the country.

What major trends do you see emerging in the Indian bus body industry?

One of the biggest trends is the growing demand for premium passenger experiences, particularly in the sleeper and intercity coach segments. Passengers today expect higher levels of comfort, safety and overall refinement.

At the same time, there is a stronger focus on safety and regulatory compliance. Standards such as AIS 153 are encouraging manufacturers to adopt higher engineering and quality benchmarks across the industry.

Another important trend is the gradual shift towards electric mobility, which is driving greater emphasis on weight optimisation, structural efficiency and new vehicle design approaches.



"At Sai Coach, our focus is on strengthening our engineering capabilities, expanding our product portfolio and adopting modern manufacturing technologies that enhance quality, efficiency and safety."

Jigar Oza
Managing Director
Shree Sai Coach Builders



Overall, the industry is moving towards better engineering practices, higher levels of standardisation and a stronger focus on passenger-centric products, and we expect these trends to continue shaping the market in the coming years.

As the bus body industry continues to evolve, how do you see Sai Coach positioning itself for the next phase of growth?

The bus industry is evolving faster than ever before. Rising passenger expectations, stricter safety regulations and rapid technological advancements are continuously reshaping the market. In this environment, continuous improvement is no longer an option - it is an imperative.

At Sai Coach, our focus is on strengthening our engineering capabilities, expanding our product portfolio and adopting modern manufacturing technologies that enhance quality, efficiency and safety.

We will continue to invest in design, process improvement and advanced manufacturing practices while closely monitoring emerging trends such as premium sleeper travel, electrification and next-generation passenger comfort solutions.

As the industry moves towards higher standards of engineering and compliance, we remain committed to evolving alongside it and delivering products that meet the needs of tomorrow's transportation ecosystem.



InstaBus

AI-Powered Customer Support Platform For Intercity Bus Operators



As India's intercity bus industry continues to embrace digital technologies, a new startup is looking to address one of the sector's most overlooked challenges - passenger communication.

InstaBus has introduced what it describes as India's first AI-powered customer support platform built exclusively for private intercity bus operators. The platform is designed to automate passenger interactions throughout the travel journey, helping operators improve customer experience while reducing the burden on bus staff, primarily driver and conductor, and office support teams.

Unlike traditional, existing setup that depend on conductors or office support executives, InstaBus deploys an AI-powered voice agent capable of handling passenger conversations around the clock. The virtual assistant communicates in a natural female voice and supports more than 27 languages, including English, Hindi and several regional languages, enabling operators to engage with passengers in their preferred language.

The AI agent manages multiple touchpoints across the customer journey, including post-booking confirmations, pre-departure reminders, in-trip assistance and post-trip feedback collection. According to the company, the system can resolve up to 90% of passenger queries in real time without human intervention.

Beyond customer support, InstaBus is positioning the platform as a revenue and customer retention tool. The company claims operators can generate up to 20% more return-trip bookings through proactive passenger engagement while increasing online ratings and reviews by as much as 25%. These improvements, it says, contribute to stronger passenger loyalty and higher repeat business.

The launch comes at a time when passenger expectations are evolving rapidly, with travellers increasingly expecting instant responses and seamless communication throughout their journey. While larger travel companies have invested heavily in digital customer engagement, many small and mid-sized bus operators continue to rely on manual support processes.

InstaBus believes artificial intelligence can help bridge this gap by enabling operators to deliver 24x7 customer support without significantly increasing manpower costs. The platform is already being deployed with intercity bus operators, and the company is currently onboarding additional fleets across the country as it looks to expand its presence in India's organised bus transport sector.



> *"By combining AI with real-world bus operations, we're helping operators deliver faster customer support, improve passenger satisfaction and create new opportunities for repeat business - all without adding to their support teams."*

Gautam Bahri
Founder
InstaBus

INNOVATIVE RESINS PVT. LTD.

INNOVATIVE
RESIN, HEART & SOUL



Engineering Advanced Resins for **Composite Industry** For Building **Safer & Smarter Buses**

India's bus industry is undergoing a significant transformation. The shift towards lighter, safer and more sustainable vehicles, particularly electric buses, is redefining how buses are designed and manufactured, with advanced composite materials at the centre of it all.

Founded in 2010, Innovative Resins Pvt. Ltd. (IRPL) has grown from a modest beginning into one of India's leading manufacturers of specialty resins and composite materials. With two state-of-the-art manufacturing units located at Bhiwadi and Karoli (near Alwar), Rajasthan, and a combined installed production capacity of over 54,000 metric tons per annum, the company is well-positioned to serve diverse industry needs. Headquartered in Gurugram, IRPL today serves customers across transportation, infrastructure, renewable energy, marine, electrical and industrial sectors, backed by a team of over 200 professionals and advanced R&D capabilities built on a foundation of innovation, quality and customer-focused service.

From Material Supplier to Technology Partner

Over the years, IRPL's engagement with the bus and coach industry has evolved from a conventional supply relationship into a deep technical partnership. The company works closely with bus OEMs, body builders and composite component manufacturers to develop customised material solutions that address specific manufacturing challenges.

The bus industry today demands lightweighting, fire safety, superior aesthetics, durability and manufacturing efficiency, simultaneously. Meeting these requirements calls for more than materials; it requires application expertise and collaborative innovation. IRPL's technical teams engage with customers from the design and development stage, helping them optimise material selection, improve manufacturing processes and develop high-performance composite components.







"At Innovative Resins, we are committed to work towards 100% customer satisfaction. In all our actions, works, improvement and systems we ensure to give our clients Innovative Vishwas."

Ashish Rathi
Managing Director
Innovative Resins Pvt. Ltd.





A Comprehensive Product Portfolio for Bus Manufacturing

IRPL's product portfolio has been specifically developed to meet the modern bus industry's core demands, structural integrity, excellent surface finish, reduced weight, fire safety and long-term durability.

Their solutions are extensively used in:



FRP Body Panels



Roofs and Side Panels





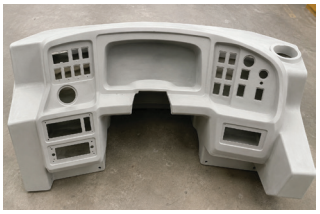
Front and Rear Fascias



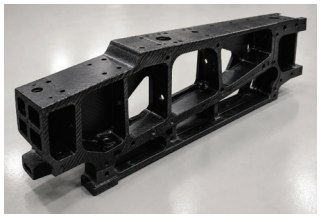
Luggage Compartments



Battery Enclosures



Dashboards and Interior Components



Structural Composite Parts

> *"At IRPL, we firmly believe that we are not merely manufacturing resins - we are enabling our customers to manufacture superior products."*

Our High-Performance Resin Systems

Unsaturated Polyester Resins (UPR)

Unsaturated Polyester Resins form the backbone of FRP manufacturing, extensively used across bus body panels, roofs, side panels, luggage compartments and structural components. IRPL offers one of the industry's widest UPR ranges, tailored to specific customer requirements for processability, mechanical performance and cost efficiency, including:

- Isophthalic Polyester Resins
- Orthopthalic Polyester Resins
- Terephthalic Polyester Resins
- DCPD-Based Polyester Resins
- Flexible Resin Systems
- Toolex (A premium Dye Making Product)

These customised formulations enable bus body manufacturers to optimise performance, durability, productivity and cost according to their application requirements.

Vinyl Ester and Super Vinyl Ester Resins

For applications requiring exceptional performance under demanding conditions, IRPL offers Vinyl Ester and Super Vinyl Ester Resin systems delivering superior chemical resistance, higher mechanical strength and excellent long-term durability, with specialised formulations developed specifically for automotive and transportation environments.

Fire-Retardant Resin Systems

With increasing regulatory focus on passenger safety, bus manufacturers are under growing pressure to adopt fire-retardant composite materials.

IRPL's specially engineered Fire-Retardant Resin Systems, tested and approved by an ICAT-accredited laboratory, meet stringent fire safety requirements without compromising manufacturing efficiency, process consistency or mechanical properties.

As safety standards continue to evolve, the company remains committed to advancing fire-retardant technologies that support the industry's objective of building safer buses.

Gelcoats and Pigmented Gelcoats

Gelcoats directly influence the appearance, durability and long-term aesthetic performance of FRP parts, making them among the most critical materials in bus manufacturing. IRPL's comprehensive Gelcoat range provides:

- Superior surface aesthetics and Class-A finish
- Excellent UV resistance and weatherability
- Outstanding colour retention and gloss retention
- Enhanced surface durability and long service life

IRPL's factory-manufactured Pre-Pigmented Gelcoats eliminate manual colour mixing, ensure batch-to-batch uniformity and enable consistent, hassle-free production for bus body manufacturers, helping them deliver premium-quality exteriors and interiors that retain their appearance throughout the vehicle's lifecycle.

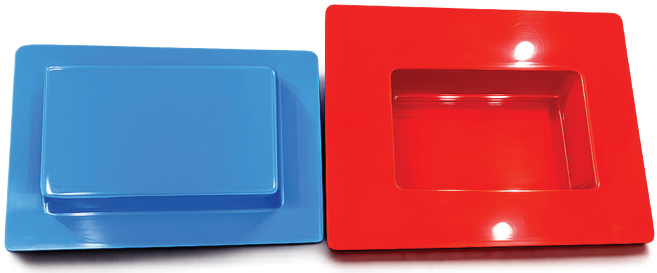
Tooling Systems – TOOLEX®

In composite manufacturing, the quality of the final product is determined by the quality of the mould.

Recognising this, IRPL offers TOOLEX®, their specialised, integrated mould-making system that enables customers to achieve:

- Superior surface finish and Class-A appearance
- Excellent dimensional stability and accuracy
- High mechanical strength and rigidity
- Longer mould life and reduced maintenance
- Consistent production quality over extended manufacturing cycles

TOOLEX® combines specialised resin systems and proven application know-how to help customers build robust, durable and dimensionally stable moulds — because at IRPL, the belief is simple: a great product begins with a great mould.





A One-Stop Solution for Composite Manufacturing

IRPL's commitment extends beyond resin systems. Manufacturing premium-quality FRP components requires a complete ecosystem of reliable raw materials and accessories — and the company offers exactly that, enabling customers to source all critical inputs from a single, dependable partner.

Their product range includes:

Glass Fibre Reinforcements

- Chopped Strand Mat (CSM)
- Woven Roving (WR)
- Unidirectional Fabrics (UD)
- Surface Mat and other specialty reinforcements

Catalyst and Accelerator Systems

- MEKP Catalyst Systems (IPROX)
- Cobalt Accelerators (INOX)
- Specialty curing systems and additives

Colour and Surface Solutions

- Pigment Pastes under the INOX® brand
- Gelcoats and Pre-Pigmented Gelcoats (COLOURCOAT)
- Specialty additives and surface finishing materials

Composite Manufacturing Accessories

- Rollers and Brushes
- Mould Release Systems and Release Agents
- Application and processing consumables
- Various accessories required for efficient FRP manufacturing

By consolidating all critical inputs under one roof, from mould making to finished FRP parts, IRPL simplifies procurement, ensures material compatibility and improves supply reliability, making them a true one-stop composite partner for the bus manufacturing industry.

Pan-India Presence with Global Reach

Timely material availability and responsive technical support are critical in bus manufacturing. To meet this, IRPL has built one of the strongest distribution and service networks in the Indian composites industry, operating through:

- 2 STATE-OF-THE-ART MANUFACTURING PLANTS
- 4 STRATEGICALLY LOCATED REGIONAL STOCK POINTS AT DELHI, MUMBAI, KOLKATA & BENGALURU
- 9 SALES & TECHNICAL SERVICE OFFICES ACROSS INDIA

This infrastructure enables IRPL to deliver products quickly, provide local technical support and ensure bus manufacturers have uninterrupted access to critical raw materials, minimising production disruptions and helping customers adhere to demanding delivery schedules.

Beyond India, the company has established a growing international footprint, exporting specialty resin solutions to customers across global markets.



Built on Systems, Driven by Excellence

While manufacturing capabilities and products are important, what truly differentiates IRPL is its commitment to systems and processes.

The company operates through:

- SCADA-automated manufacturing systems
- Advanced quality control laboratories
- Dedicated Research & Development Centre
- Robust quality management practices
- Structured technical support and application development processes
- Continuous product innovation and process improvement initiatives

These systems ensure consistency, traceability and reliable product performance across every batch.

IRPL's engagement with customers extends well beyond supplying materials, the company positions itself as a technology and solution partner, collaborating closely with bus manufacturers, OEMs and component manufacturers from the product development stage.

Whether the objective is:

- Reducing vehicle weight to improve vehicle efficiency and battery range
- Improving fire safety performance and regulatory compliance
- Enhancing surface aesthetics and Class-A finish
- Increasing component durability and long-term reliability
- Supporting sustainability initiatives and circular economy objectives
- Improving production efficiency and process consistency
- Developing superior tooling systems for precision and repeatability

A key differentiator for IRPL is its dedicated R&D capability. The team works closely with customers to understand their manufacturing processes, application challenges and performance expectations, developing application-specific solutions rather than standard off-the-shelf products.

Whether the requirement is improved fire performance, faster curing cycles, superior surface finish, higher mechanical properties or specialised tooling systems, IRPL's R&D and technical teams collaborate with customers to engineer solutions that create measurable value. The company's stated mission is straightforward: help customers manufacture better buses - lighter, safer, more durable and more sustainable.





Tirth Automobiles Secures Order For 27 Eicher Buses As AIS 153 Certification Boosts Growth

By Violina Pegu

Tirth Automobiles has secured a landmark order for 27 Eicher 6016 chassis from V C Shahpatel Services Pvt. Ltd. The buses will be built in a high-capacity 3x2 seating configuration with 56 seats and are expected to support employee transportation operations across Gujarat.

The order further strengthens the company's position in the passenger transportation segment and reflects the growing demand for high-capacity, compliant bus solutions among fleet operators.

The development comes at a time when Tirth Automobiles is witnessing increased market traction following its recent AIS 153 certification from ICAT. The company was among the first bus body builders in Gujarat to achieve the certification, marking a significant milestone in its journey towards organised and standards-driven manufacturing.

The AIS 153 approval covers multiple bus models across leading OEM platforms, including Ashok Leyland, Tata Motors, BharatBenz and Eicher. The certification validates compliance with some of India's most stringent requirements relating to structural integrity, fire safety, passenger protection and overall vehicle safety.



According to the company, the impact of the certification has been immediate. Growing awareness among operators regarding compliance and safety standards has translated into increased business opportunities, helping strengthen Tirth Automobiles' order pipeline.

Today, the company has an order book exceeding 300 buses, highlighting the industry's gradual shift towards certified and compliant bus body solutions. Industry observers note that AIS 153 is increasingly becoming an important differentiator as operators look for products that meet evolving regulatory requirements while ensuring long-term reliability and passenger safety.

Commenting on the development, Nirmal V. Shah, Managing Director, Tirth Automobiles, said, *"The response from the market after achieving AIS 153 certification has been extremely encouraging. Operators today are increasingly aware of the importance of compliance, safety and quality. Securing new orders and building a strong order pipeline validates our belief that the industry is moving towards a more organised and professional manufacturing ecosystem."*

Tirth Automobiles currently operates a manufacturing facility in the Bharuch region and has been steadily expanding its capabilities to support future growth. With certification in place and a growing order book, the company is positioning itself as a key player in Gujarat's evolving bus body manufacturing landscape.

> *"Orders such as these reflect the confidence customers place in our engineering, manufacturing quality and delivery capabilities. Our focus remains on building buses that create long-term value for fleet operators while maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality."*



Nirmal V. Shah
Managing Director
Tirth Automobiles

Missed the first two halls? Don't miss your last chance.

Book your space at Expo Hall 3 now!

India's Flagship Multimodal Transport Show

Prawaas 5.0

BUS | CAR | METRO | LEVs

9-11 JULY, 2026 | HEC, GANDHINAGAR

Organiser: BUS & CAR OPERATORS CONFEDERATION OF INDIA (BOCI 10 YEARS)

Supported By: MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES

Event Curator: MM ACTIV Sci-Tech Communications

Prawaas 5.0 brings together operators, manufacturers, startups, technology providers, financiers & government to advance Desh Ki Raftaar by building a safe, smart, sustainable, and multimodal mobility ecosystem. The Exhibition acts as its commercial and innovation engine bringing together key industry stakeholders to showcase, connect, and collaborate on the future of passenger transport in India.

Event Spectrum

- Global Exhibition
- Conference
- Workshops
- Bharat Prawaas Awards
- BOCI Dialogue
- Startup Pitches
- B2B Partnering
- Networking Dinners

Event Highlights

- **36** STATES & UTs OF INDIA
- **1500+** INDUSTRY DELEGATES
- **10000+** BUS & CAR OPERATORS
- **60+** EXPERT SPEAKERS
- **300+** LEADING EXHIBITORS
- **15000+** BUSINESS VISITORS

Exhibitor Tariff

Category	₹/Sqm.	US $
Raw Space	₹ 13000/-	$ 175
Shell Space	₹ 14000/-	$ 190

Plus 18% GST

Be a Partner | Book a Booth

Block Your Seat | Be at Prawaas

For participation opportunities please write to secretariat@prawaas.com

www.prawaas.com

Awards Partner: redBus

Conference Co-Host: abhibus

Gold Partners: VINFAST; JTAC; ZYLOG COMPOSITES

HVAC Partner: RRN SPH Bus Air Conditioners

Sliver Partner: SYNATY

Supported By: JBM Group; BITLA SOLUTIONS SIMPLIFIED; SUTLEJ

Host Association: AGPVST

Co-Host Association: GUJARAT TOURIST VEHICLES OPERATOR'S ASSOCIATION; Gujarat Luxury Cab Owners Association

Media Partner: COACH BUILDERS INDIA

The Future of Indian **STATE TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS**



A Governance, Sustainability and Mobility Transformation Roadmap for the Next Decade

By Dr. V. Amudhan

P.C.: ZOSHUA COLAH

For decades, State Transport Undertakings (STUs) have been the lifeline of India's public transport system, connecting remote villages, supporting economic growth, and providing affordable mobility to millions of citizens every day. They do far more than move passengers; they connect people to education, healthcare, employment, and opportunity.

Yet, despite their immense social value, discussions about STUs often centre on financial losses, ageing fleets, rising operating costs, and increasing competition from private mobility providers. Today, Indian STUs stand at a defining moment. The challenge is no longer simply operating more buses; it is reimagining STUs as modern, technology-enabled mobility organisations capable of meeting the demands of a rapidly changing mobility landscape. After all, every bus carries more than passengers; it carries aspirations, livelihoods, and the promise of a more connected and inclusive India.



P.C.: ATHARVA WHAVAL



P.C.: NAJL MUSTHAFA

More than Transport Operators

Public bus transport is far more than a mobility service - it is a vital pillar of India's social and economic infrastructure. Every day, State Transport Undertakings connect workers to livelihoods, students to their dreams, patients to life-saving healthcare, and communities to opportunities. In many rural and semi-urban regions, STU buses remain the only dependable mode of public transport.

Unlike private operators, they often serve routes that are socially essential but commercially unviable, creating value that cannot be measured by financial statements alone. As India pursues inclusive growth and sustainable development, the importance of STUs continues to grow.

India's STUs collectively connect millions of passengers every day, linking rural communities, supporting economic activity, and providing affordable mobility across the country. Their transformation will play a critical role in achieving India's mobility, sustainability, and social inclusion goals.

The Emerging Challenges

The operating environment for State Transport Undertakings is evolving rapidly. Urbanisation is increasing travel demand while creating congestion and operational challenges. Passenger expectations are rising, environmental concerns are accelerating the shift to cleaner transport, and governments are demanding higher service quality with greater financial accountability.

Meanwhile, many STUs continue to face ageing infrastructure, legacy systems, workforce transitions, and growing technological complexity. These challenges cannot be solved through traditional approaches alone. The future belongs to organisations that are willing to transform, not merely adapt.

From Fleet Management to Mobility Management

Historically, State Transport Undertakings have focused on managing buses, depots, schedules, and personnel. However, the future demands a broader vision. The era of simply running buses is coming to an end. Around the world, leading public transport agencies are evolving into integrated mobility providers, combining buses, metro systems, shared mobility, digital platforms, and seamless passenger services.

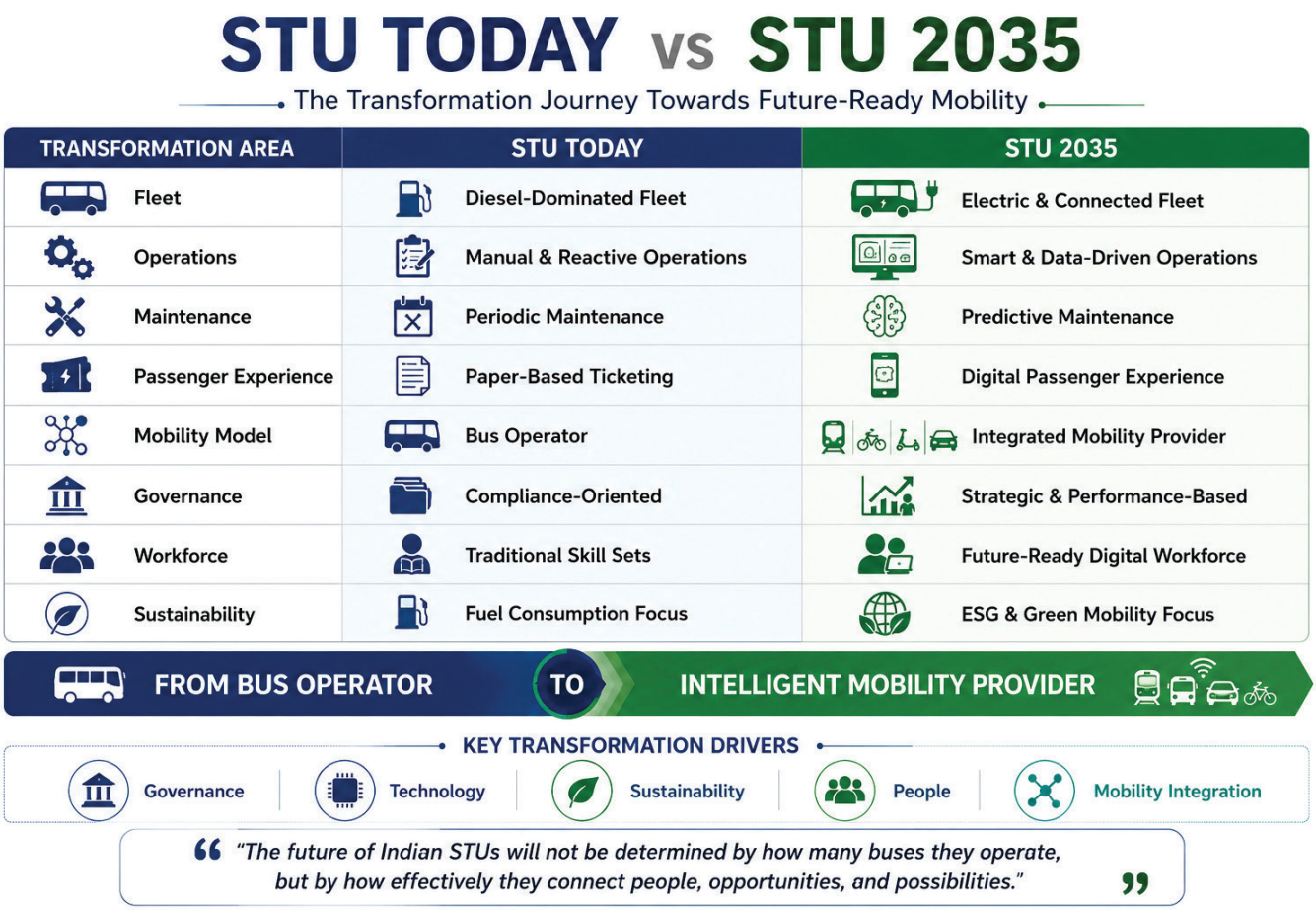
Indian STUs must embrace Mobility as a Service (MaaS), integrated ticketing, and multimodal journey planning to remain relevant. The goal is no longer simply moving buses, it is moving people efficiently, safely, and sustainably.

Digital Transformation as a Strategic Enabler

Technology will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of State Transport Undertakings. Advanced telematics, artificial intelligence, predictive maintenance, real-time fleet monitoring, automated scheduling, and digital passenger information systems are transforming public transport worldwide. Modern buses generate vast amounts of data that, when effectively analysed, can improve reliability, enhance safety, reduce costs, and strengthen passenger satisfaction. Digital transformation is therefore not merely an IT initiative but a strategic business imperative.

The organisations that successfully harness data-driven decision-making will be better positioned to improve operational performance and long-term financial sustainability.





Accelerating the Electric Mobility Transition

The transition to electric mobility represents one of the most transformative developments in the history of public transport. Electric buses offer lower emissions, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, and a cleaner future for communities.

However, successful electrification requires far more than procuring vehicles; it demands integrated charging infrastructure, energy management, battery lifecycle planning, workforce training, safety systems, maintenance readiness, and digital monitoring. Tomorrow's depot will evolve into a technology-enabled mobility hub powered by intelligent charging and predictive diagnostics.

Governance Matters More Than Ever

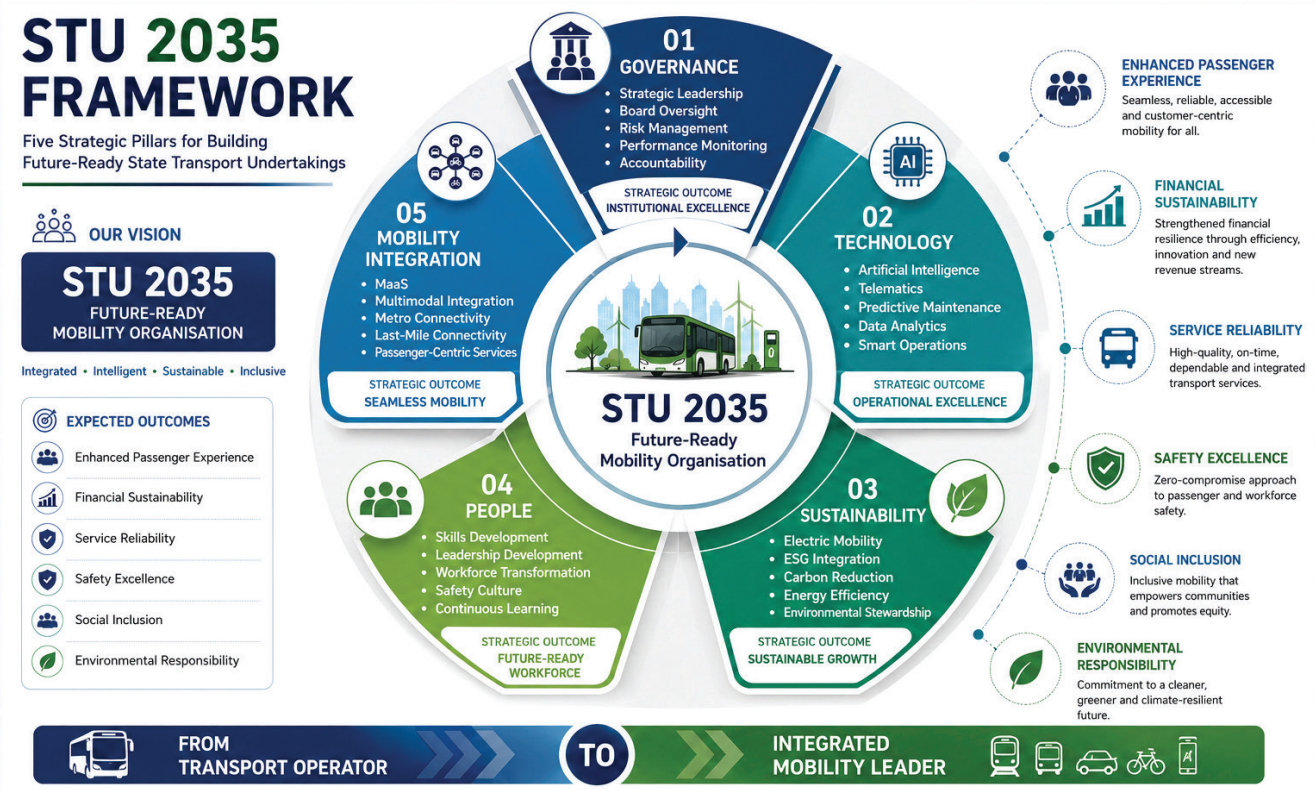
Technology alone cannot overcome institutional challenges. Strong governance remains one of the most critical foundations of sustainable organisational performance. Future-ready State Transport Undertakings will require effective board oversight, strategic planning, robust risk management, financial discipline, transparent decision-making, and measurable performance outcomes.

The next generation of STUs will compete not only on fleet quality but also on governance quality. Governance must evolve beyond compliance to become a catalyst for innovation, accountability, and long-term value creation.

Investing in People

While technology will reshape public transport, people will continue to determine its success. Drivers, engineers, maintenance personnel, operations teams, and frontline staff remain the backbone of service delivery. The transition to electric mobility, digital operations, connected vehicles, and advanced safety systems demands sustained investment in workforce development.

Continuous training, leadership development, succession planning, and technical skill enhancement must become strategic priorities. Future-ready organisations will succeed not merely by adopting new technologies, but by empowering people to use them effectively.



A Vision for STU 2035 (Governance • Technology • Sustainability • People • Mobility)

The State Transport Undertakings of 2035 will be fundamentally different from the STUs of today. They will operate cleaner fleets, harness intelligent technologies, leverage real-time data, integrate multiple transport modes, enhance passenger experiences, and embrace modern governance practices. Most importantly, they will evolve from being a bus operator into a comprehensive mobility service provider. Achieving this transformation will require stronger collaboration between governments, STUs, OEMs, technology providers, and infrastructure partners. As India advances towards greater economic growth, sustainability, and social inclusion, the effectiveness of public transport will become increasingly vital.

Conclusion

The future of Indian STUs is not merely a transport issue, it is a national development imperative. For STUs, the priorities are clear: strengthen governance, accelerate digitalisation, modernise fleets, invest in people, and integrate mobility services. Organisations that embrace this transformation today will define the future of public mobility tomorrow.

Because public transport is not simply about moving buses; it is about connecting people to opportunities, empowering communities, and building a more sustainable and inclusive India.



About the Author

Dr. V. Amudhan is a Global Public Transit Governance Expert with over 33 years of experience in public transport, mobility governance, and transport safety across India and abroad. He serves as an Independent Director and Governing Board Member in multiple Indian State Transport Undertakings and is a widely published thought leader on sustainable mobility, predictive maintenance, transit safety, and transport policy reforms.



Prawaas 5.0: Driving The Next Chapter Of India's Passenger Mobility

India's Flagship Multimodal Transport Show
Prawaas 5.0
BUS | CAR | METRO | LEVs
9-11 JULY, 2026
HEC, GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT

Towards SAFE SMART SUSTAINABLE Passenger Mobility

As India advances towards the vision of **Viksit Bharat**, public transport is emerging as one of the country's most important enablers of economic growth, urban development and sustainable mobility. At the same time, the industry is navigating rapid transformation. New technologies, changing passenger expectations, evolving regulations and fresh business models are reshaping how public transport is planned, built and operated.

It is against this backdrop that **Prawaas 5.0** returns as the **largest edition of the event to date**, reflecting both the scale of the industry's transformation and the growing importance of collaboration across the passenger mobility ecosystem.

Organised by the **Bus & Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI)**, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, the event will be held under the theme **"Towards Safe, Smart & Sustainable Public Transport."**

Supported by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, Prawaas 5.0 will bring together policymakers, transport operators, vehicle manufacturers, technology providers, financiers, startups and industry experts on a single platform.

Alongside one of the country's largest passenger mobility exhibitions, the conference will explore the opportunities and challenges shaping the sector through discussions on electrification, digital mobility, innovative financing, tourism, women in mobility, driver development and public transport policy. Together, these conversations acknowledge that the future of passenger transport will be shaped not by a single technology or policy, but by the collective evolution of people, infrastructure, business models and innovation.

More than an exhibition, Prawaas has become a platform where ideas are exchanged, partnerships are forged and the industry's future direction is debated. As the sector gathers in Gandhinagar this July, Prawaas 5.0 will offer not only a showcase of emerging technologies and solutions, but also a shared vision for building a safer, smarter and more sustainable passenger transport ecosystem for India.




SYNATY
LUXURY
ISN'T ADDED LATER.
IT'S ENGINEERED
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
BECAUSE EXCELLENCE
ISN'T AN OPTION.
IT'S OUR
STANDARD.
BUILT FOR SAFETY.
A1-153 CERTIFIED
ENGINEERED FOR PERFORMANCE.
PRECISION IN EVERY DETAIL
DESIGNED FOR COMFORT.
JOURNEYS PEOPLE LOVE
MADE TO LAST.
TOUGH ON ROADS.
EASY ON OPERATIONS
BUILT TO GROW TOGETHER.
A PARTNER IN YOUR SUCCESS
EXPLORE THE COMPLETE
SYNATY RANGE
WWW.SYNATYAUTO.COM
+91 6262624462



Five Conversations That Will Define **Prawaas 2026**

While the exhibition floor at Prawaas 5.0 will showcase the latest buses, technologies and mobility solutions, the conference programme will offer an equally valuable glimpse into where India's passenger transport industry is headed.

From electrification and digital transformation to workforce development and business sustainability, this year's discussions reflect the changing priorities of an industry navigating rapid transformation.

Here are five conversations that are expected to shape the dialogue at Prawaas 5.0.

1. Can India Build a Cleaner Future for School Transportation?

School buses remain one of the most critical yet overlooked segments of India's passenger transport ecosystem. While electric mobility has made significant progress in public transport, school transportation continues to rely predominantly on diesel-powered fleets.

The session on **Electrifying School Bus Transport for a Cleaner Future** will examine how financing, charging infrastructure and policy support can accelerate the adoption of electric school buses across the country. Beyond environmental benefits, the discussion is expected to focus on improving children's health, reducing urban emissions and creating scalable deployment models that can make clean school transport commercially viable.

2. Women Are Becoming an Integral Part of India's Mobility Story

Curated by the **BOCI Women's Wing**, the session Women at the **Wheel of Change – Nari on the Move, Bharat on the Rise** will celebrate the growing role of women as entrepreneurs, policymakers, business leaders and professionals across the passenger transport ecosystem.

More importantly, the discussion will examine how the industry can create safer workplaces, improve gender diversity and build a more inclusive mobility ecosystem. As transport continues to evolve, attracting a wider talent pool will be essential for long-term industry growth.

3. Building the Future Mobility Ecosystem

The future of passenger mobility will be shaped by much more than the next generation of buses.

Technology, capital and energy infrastructure are rapidly becoming the building blocks of modern transport systems. The session **The Future Mobility Stack: Technology, Capital & Fuel** will bring together industry leaders to discuss digital mobility, fleet technologies, financing models, electrification and emerging fuel solutions.

The conversation reflects a growing industry consensus that cleaner mobility cannot be achieved through vehicle technology alone. Sustainable transport will require an ecosystem where financing, digital innovation, infrastructure and clean energy evolve together.

4. Solving the Driver Challenge

India's transport sector continues to face a significant driver shortage, affecting both public and private operators. Curated by WRI, **Driving India Forward: Empowering Operators with Open Networks** will explore how technology, structured training, digital verification and shared platforms can strengthen recruitment, improve skills and support long-term career development.

As fleets continue to expand and modernise, building a professional and future-ready driver workforce will be just as important as investing in new vehicles.



5. Listening to the People Who Keep India Moving

No one understands the realities of passenger transport better than operators themselves.

The session **The Movers of India: The Operator's Perspective** will bring together industry leaders to discuss the operational challenges that define everyday business—from financing and taxation to workforce shortages, regulatory issues and passenger expectations.



While manufacturers continue to introduce new technologies and governments shape transport policy, operators remain responsible for translating these developments into reliable services on the ground.

Their perspectives will provide valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges facing India's passenger mobility sector.

More Than Just Conference Sessions

Taken together, these discussions highlight why Prawaas has become much more than an industry exhibition. The event has evolved into a platform where the sector's most pressing questions are debated, emerging ideas are shared and future collaborations begin.

Whether the conversation is about electrifying school transport, empowering women in mobility, adopting new technologies, addressing driver shortages or strengthening the business environment for operators, each session reflects a broader shift taking place across India's passenger transport ecosystem.

For industry stakeholders, the conversations at Prawaas 5.0 will not simply define the event - they will help shape the future direction of passenger mobility in India.





BUS WIRE

by

COACH BUILDERS INDIA

THE VOICE OF INDIA'S PASSENGER MOBILITY INDUSTRY.

The biggest brands.
The boldest innovations.
The people driving change.
The conversations that matter.
All in one magazine.





SUBSCRIBE NOW

studioSEVEN

DESIGN THAT **MOVES PEOPLE** BRAND THAT **LEAD THE WAY**



At **studioSEVEN**,
we design with purpose.

Specialising in the bus industry, we create powerful visual identities and experiences that put your brand on the fast lane.

OUR SERVICES

BRAND IDENTITY DESIGN
- LOGOS
- BRAND GUIDELINES
- STATIONERY & COLLATERALS

BUS LIVERY DESIGN
- STRIKING & MEMORABLE DESIGNS
- ON-ROAD IMPACT

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
- BROCHURE
- ADS
- HOARDINGS
- DIGITAL CREATIVES

PHOTOGRAPHY
- FLEET PHOTOGRAPHY
- PRODUCT & FACILITY PHOTOGRAPHY

VIDEOGRAPHY
- CORPORATE FILMS
- AD FILMS
- BRAND VIDEOS
- PROMOTIONAL CONTENT

YOUR BRAND | OUR DESIGN | POWERFUL IMPACT

ADVERTISEMENTS | BRAND DEVELOPMENT

GRAPHIC DESIGN | DIGITAL ART | CONTENT WRITING

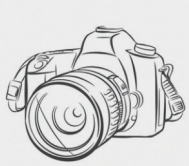
MARKETING (ONLINE & OFFLINE) | PRINTS & PUBLICATIONS

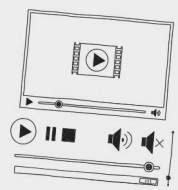
PACKAGING | PRODUCT DESIGN | MERCHANDISING

PHOTOGRAPHY | VIDEO PRODUCTION | EVENT MANAGEMENT

SOCIAL MEDIA | WEBSITE | APP







WE PROVIDE A COMPLETE

CREATIVE SOLUTION

SHAPE YOUR BRAND | MAKE YOUR PRESENCE | BOOST YOUR BUSINESS

For enquiries & appointments
95997 03355

Follow for more info & updates
@studiosevenghy

dream • ideate • create

ENGINEERING CONFIDENCE. DELIVERING EVERY JOURNEY.

SHREE SAI COACH BUILDERS

AIS 153 COMPLIANT

BUILT FOR SAFETY. BUILT FOR INDIA.

With over three decades of engineering excellence, **Shree Sai Coach Builders** continues to redefine premium bus body manufacturing through innovation, precision and an uncompromising commitment to safety. From luxury sleeper coaches to customised mobility solutions, every vehicle is built to deliver superior comfort, reliability and long-term performance.



PASSIONATE ABOUT SAFETY. COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE.

ENGINEERED FOR COMFORT
Ergonomic design, premium interiors and superior ride quality

BUILT TO LAST
Robust construction and quality workmanship for longer life.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
Modern facilities, skilled workforce and stringent quality processes.

PARTNERING GROWTH
Delivering value to operate and enriching passenger experience

SHREE SAI
COACH BUILDERS

National Highway No. 8, At. Malarpura,
Post. Kanera, Tal. Dist Kheda, Ahmedabad-387540.

+91 98985 54646

saicoach2990@gmail.com

www.shreesaicoach.com

DAMODAR

RNI No. DLENG/25/A1102

Rudra





DAMODAR GROUP presents RUDRA - where futuristic design meets premium sleeper mobility. Bold in presence, refined in comfort, and engineered for the highways of tomorrow, RUDRA sets a new benchmark in modern intercity travel.

DAMODAR EST 1986

info@damodarcorp.in

+91 9829417675, +919823445490