

# Cashless card offering 10% concession for journey in UP electric buses soon

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**Lucknow:** Commuting on an electric bus will soon cost less as the directorate of urban transport is set to introduce a card for cashless travel.

The cashless card, likely to be introduced in a month's time, will offer 10% concession in fare to its customers.

With the card being introduced, the electric buses operating in all 14 cities in UP will have a uniform fare for every kilometre.

The card will also be compliant to the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) and will be applicable to other modes of transport linked to the NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India, which has designed by the NCMC platform.

Over 1.5 lakh commuters board 740 electric buses operating in 14 cities in UP every day.

The state government is committed to expanding electric bus service to all the cities in the state.

At the UPSRTC's Foundation Day event, CM Yogi Adi-



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tyanath said that there is a huge public demand for electric buses in cities other than the ones where the buses are in operation already. "Wherever we go, people request us to start electric bus services in their areas as well," he said.

Chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra has already reviewed the operation of electric buses in the state and issued necessary directions to the directorate of urban transport, which operates the buses to boost transport in cities.

Joint director, urban transport, Tk Singh said, "The directorate is getting a survey done through private agencies to find out if there is a need to increase frequency of these buses on some of the existing routes or are there

## **FAME behind green travel**

The Centre has been promoting the operation of electric buses through FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) scheme. In August 2019, 640 electric buses were allocated to UP for operation in 11 cities, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Moradabad, Bareilly, Aligarh and Jhansi.

Later, the state government under the UP Electric

any new routes where the demand for these buses exists and other similar things."

In Lucknow, electric buses are available on 12 routes, at present. The route between Scooters India and Engineering College has huge demand for these buses, said the official, adding that the number of buses on the route has been increased from 10-12 buses initially to over 40 buses at present. The buses are equipped with CCTV cameras and panic buttons and linked to

Vehicle Manufacturing and Mobility Policy 2019 adopted three more cities, Mathura-Vrindavan, Gorakhpur and Shahjahanpur, under the scheme.

Electric buses are being operated under the PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode in which private firms operate buses for a 10-year period and the directorate of urban transport hires buses under Gross Cost Contract (GCC) mode.

the Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC).

Apart from the 14 cities, Ayodhya and Saharanpur will be the two new cities to get electric buses. Each of them will get 25 electric buses.

The existing fleet of 740 buses will be further augmented by 300 buses within the next three months. Out of which, Lucknow will get 125 buses, Prayagraj 100 buses and Gorakhpur another 25 electric buses.