

Govt to launch electric bus service for religious cities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Varanasi

The Yogi Adityanath government is launching electric air-conditioned bus service to connect major religious cities in Uttar Pradesh, including Kashi, Prayagraj, Ayodhya and Sonbhadra. With charging stations coming up in Varanasi and Sonbhadra, the initiative aims to offer eco-friendly, comfortable travel for devotees while reducing pollution.

Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) Regional Manager Parshuram Pandey said that electric buses were planned to run from the Prayagraj and Ayodhya regions to Varanasi and Sonbhadra. For this, five charging stations are being set up — four at the Varanasi Cantt depot workshop and one in Sonbhadra. The charging stations will be ready within

a month to ensure that buses plying between these cities can recharge and return without issues. Each electric bus will take about 30 minutes to fully charge and can travel up to 150 kilometres on a single charge. The air-conditioned electric buses can seat around 28 passengers. They will also be equipped with CCTV cameras, GPS systems and panic buttons to ensure the safety of women passengers.

VACCINATION

The World Immunisation Week is proposed to be run from April 24 to May 10 in order to immunise the children who were left out of vaccination during the headcount survey. In this direction, a district level inter-departmental meeting was organised on Zoom platform on

Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal in which he directed all the departments to cooperate. Under the programme, children deprived of vaccination will be immunised by organising special vaccination sessions. Also, in view of the increasing cases of diphtheria, children of 10 and 16 years of age will be covered with diphtheria containing vaccine (TD) by conducting school-based tetanus and TD vaccination (adolescent/ teenager) campaigns in all blocks/ urban areas of the district, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said. He said that there is a high possibility of transmission of diphtheria between July and December, so children will be covered with vaccines by running a campaign in advance.