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News: Cabinet nod for 10,000 electric buses in 169 cities

PM e-bus Seva Scheme

- PM e-bus Seva Scheme is a recently approved scheme by the Union government.
- The aim of the scheme is to augment the city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on PPP model.
- The Scheme would have an estimated cost of Rs.57, 613 crore, out of which support of Rs.20, 000 crore will be provided by the Central government.
- The Scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.
- The scheme will cover cities of 3 lakh and above population as per census 2011 including all the Capital cities of Union Territories, North Eastern Region and Hill States.
- Under this scheme priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service.
- The scheme will generate 45,000 to 55,000 direct jobs through deployment of around 10,000 buses in city bus operation.

The Scheme has two segments

Segment A – Augmenting the City bus services (169 cities)

- The approved bus scheme will augment city bus operations with 10,000 e-buses on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- Associated Infrastructure will provide support for Development/ up-gradation of depot infrastructure; and Creation of behind-the-meter power infrastructure (substation, etc.) for e-buses.

Segment B– Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI) (181 cities)

- The scheme envisages green initiatives like bus priority, infrastructure, and multimodal interchange facilities, NCMC-based Automated Fare Collection Systems, Charging infrastructure, etc.
- **Support for Operation:** Under the scheme, States/Cities shall be responsible for running the bus services and making payments to the bus operators. The Central Government will support these bus operations by providing subsidy to the extent specified in the proposed scheme.

Advantages of the scheme

- The scheme will promote e-mobility and provide full support for behind-the-meter power infrastructure.
- Cities will also be supported for development of charging infrastructure under Green Urban Mobility Initiatives.

- The support to bus priority infrastructure shall not only accelerate the proliferation of state-of-the-art, energy efficient electric buses but also foster the innovation in the e-mobility sector as well as development of resilient supply chain for electric vehicles.
- This scheme shall also bring in economies of scale for procurement of electric buses through aggregation for e-buses.
- Adoption to Electric mobility will reduce noise and air pollution and curb carbon emission.
- Modal shift due to increased share of bus-based public transportation will lead to GHG reduction.