

## Bus in 4 Minutes

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The denizens of the State Capital will have the facility of availing city bus service every four minutes.

This was stated by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Krishan Kumar after attending a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary A P padhi.

He said the people will get the city bus service in every four minutes instead of every 15 to 20 minutes.

The facility will be available ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held during November-December here.

Dr.Kumar said the State government has decided to add 200 more city buses to the existing fleet of 110 buses.

The plan will be implemented in four phases and in the first phase, 200 new buses (50 standard AC buses, 50 standard Non AC Buses and 100 mini buses).

Besides, two new depots along with the existing depot shall be developed under this phase. And, the full-fledged commencement of this phase shall be expected to be achieved by October 2018.

Dr.Kumar said: "Presently there are 110 government-run city buses playing on different routes of Bhubaneswar and with the new addition the total number of buses would touch 310."

Earlier in the week Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had asked the civic body upgrade the public transport system in order to make it accessible for more people.

Currently the public mobility by transport is only 6 per cent, Naveen asked the municipal authorities to enhance it to 16 per cent.

A decision over the launching the ambitious e-mobility (electric-powered transport system) in the smart city was also taken in the meeting.

During the phase which is proposed to be executed in 2018-19, electricity mobility would be introduced in the city as per the changing world order and affinity towards electricity vehicles which will help in bringing down pollution levels.

The State government also plans to bring the peripheral cities under the city bus service scheme.

During the third phase, peripheral cities and satellite towns around the State Capital would be added under the City Bus Service by adding 300 new buses and phasing out of the 110 buses of the old fleet.

The third phase is proposed to be executed during 2019-20.

The fourth or last phase of the city modernization plan will see 400 new buses keeping the population growth in mind.

During the last phase, additional 400 buses would be added to the City Bus Service to cater to another 2 to 2.5 million populations.