



**JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR**

PRESS RELEASE

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CM flags off electric bus service for Guwahati city

Government to introduce electric buses across state in phases: CM

Dispur, November 4: In line with the state government's vision to make Assam a pollution free state, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off 15 electric buses which were introduced under Assam State Transport Corporation in the city today in a programme held at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara. The new buses procured under 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles' (FAME-1) and introduced as a pilot project will ply from Panbazar to Kamakhya Temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that following the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Assam government is moving forward to make Assam a pollution free state. He said that depending on the success of this pilot project, the government will introduce electric bus services across the state in phases.

Stating that the state government is working to transform Guwahati as the gateway to the South East Asian countries, the Chief Minister said that such a vision to materialise requires great deal of support from all sections of society. The Chief Minister said that introduction of the electric vehicles is a small step towards achieving the government's goal of making Assam a pollution free state and there is a lot to be done in future.

Referring to the teachings of Vaishnavite saint Srimanta Sarkardeva, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the spiritual guru taught the people to be responsible towards nature. He asserted that following Sarkardeva's values people need to work for conservation of nature through afforestation initiatives. Sonowal stressed on extensive plantation and taking adequate care for each and every sapling planted which will in turn help the human kind and wildlife.

Minister of Transport Chandra Mohan Patowary while speaking on the occasion said that people of the state must put united efforts to make Assam a pollution free state. He said that with the introduction of 15 electric buses in Guwahati, the state government laid the foundation for an emission free transport system in the state. He further said that the government of India launched the FAME scheme last year and Assam was one of the first five states to apply and implement this scheme by procuring these 15 electric buses. He also informed that these buses will have all the modern amenities, security features and most importantly will not release any harmful gas. The Transport Minister also said that



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his department will soon ink an MoU with a Hungary based company for setting up of an electric bus manufacturing unit in Assam.

Earlier delivering the welcome speech MD, ASTC Anand Prakash Tiwari informed that after the success of FAME-1, state government will introduce 100 additional electric buses under FAME-2 for which necessary process have been started. Out of these buses while 50 buses will ply in Guwahati, 25 each will be pressed into service at Jorhat and Silchar. He said that apart from setting up a CNG station at Dibrugarh, efforts are also on to set up more such stations in future.

Chairman of ASTC Ashok Kumar Bhattarai also spoke on the occasion. While Vice Chairman of ASTC Haricharan Boro offered the vote of thanks, the programme was also attended by Chief Minister's Media Advisor Hrishikesh Goswami, Chief Minister's Legal Advisor Shantanu Bharali, MLA Rituparna Baruah, Commissioner & Secretary of Transport Department Ashutosh Agnihotri, Transport Commissioner Virendra Mittal and Secretary of Transport Department Razvee Hussain among others.

BG/ November 4, 2019.