19th Urban Mobility India Conference and 2nd National Urban Conclave in Bhubaneswar – Bhubaneswar wins 'Best Green Transport Initiative' city award

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News

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), through the Institute of Urban Transport (India) and with Odisha's support, held the 19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition in Bhubaneswar on 23–24 Oct 2026. Theme: 'Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age'. At the valedictory on 24 Oct, Union Minister Manohar Lal gave the awards: 'City with Best Green Transport Initiative' – Bhubaneswar (CRUT); 'Best Non-Motorised Transport System' – Chennai (Greater Chennai Corporation); 'Best Passenger Services (Metro)' – Chennai Metro Rail Ltd and NCRTC. Odisha also hosted the 2nd National Urban Conclave alongside it in Bhubaneswar.

Key facts

Event	19th UMI, 23–24 Oct 2026, Bhubaneswar; about 1,500 delegates
Organiser	MoHUA via Institute of Urban Transport (India); Odisha support
Theme	Urban Accessibility and Liveability in Digital Age
Green award	Bhubaneswar – CRUT (Capital Region Urban Transport)

Chennai awards	Non-motorised transport – GCC; Metro passenger services – CMRL; financing commendation – MTC
Manohar Lal's 3-I	Integration, Inclusiveness, Intelligence; operational Metro 1,185 km in 26 cities

Background

- The National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) 2006 – core idea: 'move people, not vehicles'; priority to public transport, walking–cycling facilities and integrated land-use–transport planning. The UMI conference is held annually in this spirit.
- Metro Rail Policy 2017 – new metro proposals must show socio-economic returns, PPP component, last-mile connectivity and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD); cities above 20 lakh population may plan a metro.
- PM-eBus Sewa (Aug 2023, MoHUA) – 10,000 e-buses on the Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model; Segment A – city bus services in 169 cities; Segment B – green mobility initiatives in 181 cities (bus priority, NCMC fare collection, charging). At UMI 2026 the Minister said 1,100 e-buses run in 28 cities.
- 25 June 2015 – the Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and PMAY-Urban were launched on the same day. AMRUT's priority is water supply, then sewerage; storm-water drains, green spaces and non-motorised transport are also covered.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai won two main awards at UMI 2026 – Greater Chennai Corporation (Best Non-Motorised Transport System – footpaths, cycling facilities) and Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (Best Passenger Services, jointly with NCRTC); the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) got a commendation for 'most viable financing'. Citing the 20-lakh population threshold of the Metro Rail Policy 2017, the Centre returned the Coimbatore and Madurai metro DPRs in Nov 2025.

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