

## Odisha government likely to engage IIT Bhubaneswar to improve Rajdhani bus service

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Debabrata Mohapatra | TNN | July 27, 2019, 14:15 IST

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At present 23 [Rajdhani buses](#) are connected between Bhubaneswar and 11 district headquarter towns.

"We want to improve the comfort for passengers and launch new facilities for them in Rajdhani buses. Even though the public transport system is doing well and making profit, we plan to take the expertise of the IIT Bhubaneswar to further improve the service. We will also take the assistance of the IIT to improve the OSRTC service in some other areas," state transport secretary G Srinivas told TOI.

Sources said the school of infrastructure of the IIT Bhubaneswar had conducted a performance assessment study of the city bus service in the past.

Srinivas said the OSRTC will purchase more vehicles under the Rajdhani bus service. "We plan to cover all the 30 district headquarter towns by purchasing new buses. A mobile application will soon be launched for passengers to know the real time location of the Rajdhani buses," Srinivas said.

The Rajdhani buses now ply from Bhubaneswar to 11 places, including Phulbani, Rourkela, Bhawanipatna, Bhanjanagar, Rajgangpur (via Sundargarh), Rajkhariar (via [Balangir](#)), Gorumahisani (via Karanjia) and Burla (via Sambalpur). The buses offer free Wi-Fi, mobile charging points and drinking water bottles to passengers.

Apart from the [Rajdhani service](#), the OSRTC now operates at least 439 buses in all the 30 districts and on 43 inter-state route covering Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

The OSRTC has a few luxury deluxe buses that are normally used for movement of sportspersons, including international cricketers from hotels to stadium and to various tourist spots around the city. The buses were also used by players during last year's Men's Hockey World Cup.

OSRTC said construction of new bus stands is underway at different places, including Jeypore in [Koraput](#), Balangir, Angul, Bamara in Sambalpur and Odagaon in Nayagarh. "We are also renovating some bus stands and would develop 50 model bus stands at block level in various districts. There is also a plan to augment the size of OSRTC fleet to 1,000 buses in the next three years," another officer said.