

Switch Mobility sees e-bus mkt tripling to 6,000 units next year

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Switch Mobility — the EV arm of Ashok Leyland — is expecting e-bus volumes in the country to treble next year from current levels as various state transport undertakings (STUs), road transport corporations and private bus operators look to take the electric mobility route, a senior company official said. On Thursday, the UK-based step-down subsidiary of the company launched the country's first electric double-decker bus EiV22 in Mumbai. It can ferry nearly twice the number of seated passengers as a comparable single-decker bus with just 18 per cent increase in kerb weight. Depending on the battery and vehicle specifications, each EiV22 will cost at least ₹2 crore.

"Twenty of these e-double decker buses can easily replace 32-38 cars and can lead to a substantial reduction in emissions," said Mahesh Babu, CEO, Switch Mobility India. The buses are in line with the company's intent "to democratise zero carbon mobility" and enable people have access to the highest technology



Switch Mobility launched the country's first electric double-decker bus EiV22 in Mumbai on Thursday

at an affordable price, he added.

The Hinduja Group has a clear vision to support economies in delivering their net-zero objectives through renewable energy, finance and zero emission transportation, said Ashok Hinduja, chairman, Hinduja Group of Companies (India). "We are confident that our new zero-emission double-decker buses will deliver a cleaner and more sustainable future, reinforcing our commitment for India and the globe," he said.

Switch India has already secured

an order of 200 electric double decker buses in Mumbai and is looking at a dominant space in the electric double decker segment, across key regions in the country.

"There is a need to transform the transport system from a long-term perspective. With focus on reforming urban transport, we are trying to build a low footprint and high passenger density integrated EV mobility ecosystem," Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India.