

## How green is bus travel?

The average bus in 2016/17 carried just 11.9 passengers. If you excluded the very crowded peak time service buses in our major towns and cities, the average figure for bus use would be considerably lower. It makes many bus services an expensive way of carrying a few people, and means there is a substantial output of exhaust gases, particulates and CO2 for the typical bus passenger. The argument for large buses is a better ratio of passengers to the cost of the driver and vehicle, but where in many cases there are insufficient passengers wanting that route at that time it obviously dearer and less environmentally friendly than a mini bus or taxi sized vehicle.

This is compounded by the fact that the average bus is 7.6 years old. That means there are still many diesel buses running on UK roads that do not meet modern standards of exhaust emission control. We see these buses discharging smoke and particulate matter as they stand at bus stops or in bus stations with engines running, or as they accelerate away from traffic lights or congestion points.

In 2016 29 cyclists and pedestrians died from accidents involving buses, and 232 people sustained serious injuries from crashes involving buses. Bus drivers usually drive safely and carefully. Many of the crashes were probably not the fault of the bus, but the bus is a large vehicle to deploy on many of our narrow and crowded streets leading to conflicts with other road users. Buses can add to congestion by their need to stop on the carriageway to drop off and pick up, and some bus lanes are designed in ways which greatly reduce the total capacity of the road which they are part of. A road of variable width can offer more traffic conflict by directing buses onto a bus lane for a short distance then back onto the narrow road, then back into the bus lane in ways which slow traffic and may cause misunderstandings and collisions.

Buses are good ways of moving lots of people in very busy urban areas at peak times, and quite good ways of moving people throughout the day in places where enough people want to use these services so they can be frequent. Outside busy places and periods it is not possible to offer a frequent bus service, given the costs of running a large bus. The lack of frequent services then reduces the numbers of people who find it potentially useful. Many people want more flexible public transport like dial a ride services executed by mini buses. Many would prefer a car based service, if it could be made affordable. These different options would also reduce the number of very large vehicles on small roads.

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## **8th Theatre Olympics Concludes in Mumbai- We aim to use the power of our culture in realizing the Prime Minister's dream of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat': Union Culture Minister**

After a glorious run of 51 days across 17 cities of India, the historic event 8th Theatre Olympics drew to a colourful close in Mumbai today. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony.

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Author:

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## **President Kovind in Equatorial Guinea; holds talks with President Obiang in first-ever visit to the country by a President of India; says India keen to enhance development cooperation with Equatorial Guinea**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, reached Equatorial Guinea yesterday evening (April 7, 2018) on the first leg of his State Visit to three African nations –Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Zambia.

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# [PM congratulates Indian women's Table Tennis team on winning the Gold Medal](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian women's Table Tennis team on winning the Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games.

"A well deserved and historic Gold for the Indian women's Table Tennis team! Congratulations to the team.

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## [243rd Raising Day](#)

243rd Corps Day of Army Ordnance Corps (AOC) was celebrated on 08 Apr 2018. In a solemn ceremony organised at the 'Amar Jawan Jyoti', Lt Gen Giri Raj Singh, Director General of Ordnance Services & Senior Colonel Commandant, laid a wreath on behalf of all ranks and civilian employees of the AOC, to pay homage to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country.

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