



DEFENDING PEOPLE'S RIGHT
TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Scrap the BEST Fare Hike!
Buses Are Not for Profit, They Are a Public Service

Overnight BEST has doubled and in some cases tripled its fares. This is a deadly blow to BEST and Mumbaikars. Have Mumbaikars' incomes doubled or tripled that they can pay such fares?

Everywhere in the world public buses are funded from Government budgets, so that working people can travel to work, to schools and colleges, to hospitals, and all the needs of city life. Buses are not a business to make a profit, they are an essential public service, a lifeline. That is why Mumbaikars once used to love BEST as their own.

In the last few years BEST has been handing over the running of buses to private contractors. The number of buses has fallen, and each bus is much smaller and overcrowded. The contractors do not maintain the buses, so there are many breakdowns. The staff are underpaid and not given proper training, so there are accidents. BEST has also scrapped a large number of routes, denying people bus services.

When BEST hiked fares in the past, commuters left the BEST for share autos and taxis. When people protested, BEST had to reduce fares, after which people came back to the buses. Now BEST is doubling and tripling fares people will be forced to leave it once again. Mumbai will suffer with more traffic and longer, more expensive commuting.

Aamchi Mumbai Aamchi BEST held a public hearing on April 26, 2025 in which Mumbaikars and workers of BEST turned out in large numbers and expressed the suffering they are going through because of these policies.

The rulers want to drive people out of BEST so that they can hand over the BEST depots to builders. Already they have announced the redevelopment of 3 depots. Our public land is being handed on a platter to the land mafia. At the same time 5 government hospitals in Mumbai, on which the ordinary working people depend, were privatised overnight. The government has announced it is handing over municipal schools to private parties to run and to develop the land for profit.

Our only strength is that we, the ordinary citizens of Mumbai, are the vast majority. So let us come together and, through struggle, defend our rights.

Scrap the Bus Fare Hike!
Scrap the contractor system, stop privatization!
BEST must buy more buses and run them itself!
Stop handing over depots to builders!