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## Free Bus Travel for Women on Raksha Bandhan Across Multiple States

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In a gesture aimed at easing travel for women during Raksha Bandhan celebrations, several Indian states are offering free bus rides on August 9, 2025. The initiative is designed to help women visit their brothers and families for the festival without bearing travel costs, a move expected to benefit thousands across urban and rural areas.

Uttar Pradesh has taken the lead with one of the most generous offerings, free travel for women in state-run buses over a three-day window. The service will run from the evening of August 8 until midnight on August 10, covering both the lead-up and the aftermath of Raksha Bandhan. This extended period is intended to accommodate those traveling longer distances and to manage the expected surge in passenger volume.

Haryana is also participating in the initiative, with a notable inclusion that both women and children will be able to travel free of charge in Haryana Roadways buses on August 9. Officials say the move is aimed at ensuring entire families can join the celebrations without financial strain. Buses are expected to be in high demand, and additional services have been scheduled to handle the anticipated influx.

Rajasthan has announced a similar arrangement, allowing women to travel free within the state on government-operated buses. The scheme applies to all categories of buses run by the Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC), excluding luxury coaches. The aim is to provide affordable mobility while supporting the cultural tradition of sisters visiting their brothers for the ritual tying of the rakhi.

Madhya Pradesh is also rolling out free bus services for women on August 9, a decision expected to particularly benefit those in rural districts who depend heavily on public transport. State officials have indicated that the move aligns with their broader social welfare agenda, ensuring accessibility and safety for women during festive travel.

In Uttarakhand, the Department of Transport has confirmed that women will be able to travel for free on state-run buses for the festival. The decision comes in recognition of the state's challenging terrain, where private transportation can be expensive and public buses are a lifeline for many communities. Authorities have reassured passengers that sufficient buses will be deployed to handle the festive rush.

Even the Tricity area, covering Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula, has joined the list, offering free travel for women on government buses within its jurisdiction. The move reflects a growing trend of regional cooperation in implementing gender-focused travel benefits during cultural events.

These initiatives, while rooted in tradition, also highlight a policy approach that addresses accessibility, safety, and gender inclusivity. By removing travel costs, state governments are enabling greater participation in Raksha Bandhan, a festival that emphasizes family bonds

and togetherness. Transport departments have advised passengers to plan their journeys early, as large crowds are expected at bus stands and terminals.

Overall, the free travel schemes for women and, in some cases, children are being welcomed by citizens and are likely to become a recurring feature of festival planning in many states. This year's coordinated effort across multiple regions underscores a shared recognition that cultural celebrations are most meaningful when logistical barriers are minimized, allowing traditions to be preserved and enjoyed by all.