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I am glad to know Delhi Chapter of Alumni Association of NCE Bengal and Jadavpur University partnering with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is organising its inaugural National Conference on Sustainable Urban Transformation on Saturday, November 15, 2025. I also compliment Delhi Chapter of Alumni Association of AANCEBJUDC for choosing a topical theme but for fulfilment of which India cannot be transformed into a developed nation.

The principal theme proposed to be deliberated is appropriate for balanced urbanisation in India as holistic and integrated development that ensures economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and effective governance. Key priorities for that include:

- Infrastructure and Basic Services
- Sustainable Planning and Climate Resilience
- Improving Governance and Inclusive Growth
- Modernising Amenities
- Leveraging Technology for Smart Solutions and Digital Infrastructure, utilising AI Geospatial information systems for slum mapping and real time monitoring of city systems

I am sure the conference would deliberate all these issues in-depth. However, I would also suggest that following is deliberated additionally:

Identification and development of new smart urban conglomerations to absorb migration of rural population. Such migration is likely to be large in coming decades. That it is vital, should not lead to expansion of existing tier-1 city. It should rather lead to expansion and transformation of tier-II and tier-III cities while fulfilling priorities of modern infrastructure and sustainable development etc.

I wish the Conference great success.

(D V Kapur)