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अपर सचिव
SURENDRAKUMAR BAGDE
Additional Secretary & CVO

75
आजादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



भारत सरकार
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
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India is expected to witness a sharp increase in urban population in coming years – it is estimated that around 60 crore people will live in Indian cities by 2030 as against 37.7 crore in 2011. With ever increasing urban population and expanding geographical boundaries, we are bound to see a significant increase in demand for transportation of people and goods in the cities. It is extremely important to meet this increase in demand by adequate supply of efficient and sustainable urban transport services. Besides, we have to ensure that urban planning goes hand in hand with the transport planning in the cities.

Improving carbon footprint of urban transportation system is crucial to enable India to meet its Sustainable Development Goals. The need of Modal shift towards non-motorized transport and increasing share of public transport cannot be overemphasised. A safe, reliable, efficient and affordable public bus service will help improve last-mile connectivity in cities. In large cities too, organised public bus transport services can complement mass rapid transit systems, which Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing in several cities across the country. Leveraging advances in technology and analytics in preparation and implementation of comprehensive mobility plans is indeed required.

The 15th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo is an opportune moment to delve into the gamut of issues related to urban transport in India. I am glad that this year's UMI Conference has the theme of "Azadi@75 Sustainable Atma Nirbhar Urban Mobility". This is aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call of "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India".

I wish UMI Conference and Expo a grand success in helping all the stakeholders evolve a roadmap for a much improved urban transport system in India.

(Surendrakumar Bagde)