



STORIES TO WATCH
INDIA 2021

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#StoriesToWatchIndia

A photograph showing a group of approximately 15-20 people in white full-body protective suits with blue piping and blue face masks. They are walking in a line on a paved street. The background is a blurred urban environment with buildings, a yellow van, and a few other people. A solid blue horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

2020: THE YEAR THAT NEVER WAS

A photograph showing a long corridor of empty hospital beds in a field hospital setting. The beds are arranged in rows, covered with blue and white checkered blankets. A man in a light blue shirt and dark trousers walks away from the camera, away from the beds. The floor is a light-colored concrete.

19 Jan 2020

WHO declared pandemic

30 Jan 2020

First reported case in India

25 Mar – 14 Apr 2020

Lockdown 1.0

15 Apr – 3 May 2020

Lockdown 2.0

25 Mar – 14 Apr 2020

Lockdown 3.0

15 Apr – 3 May 2020

Lockdown 4.0

74 Days



Millions lost their jobs



Image: Shutterstock

Extreme Weather Events in 2020



Cyclones **Amphan**,
Nisarga & **Nivar** caused
immense damage



125,000 acres of crops
destroyed by locusts



10 states experienced
floods

But then, we had good things as well...



Image: The Guardian, The Statesman, Sunday Times

Jun 2020
Unlock 1.0

Jul 2020
Unlock 2.0

Aug 2020
Unlock 3.0

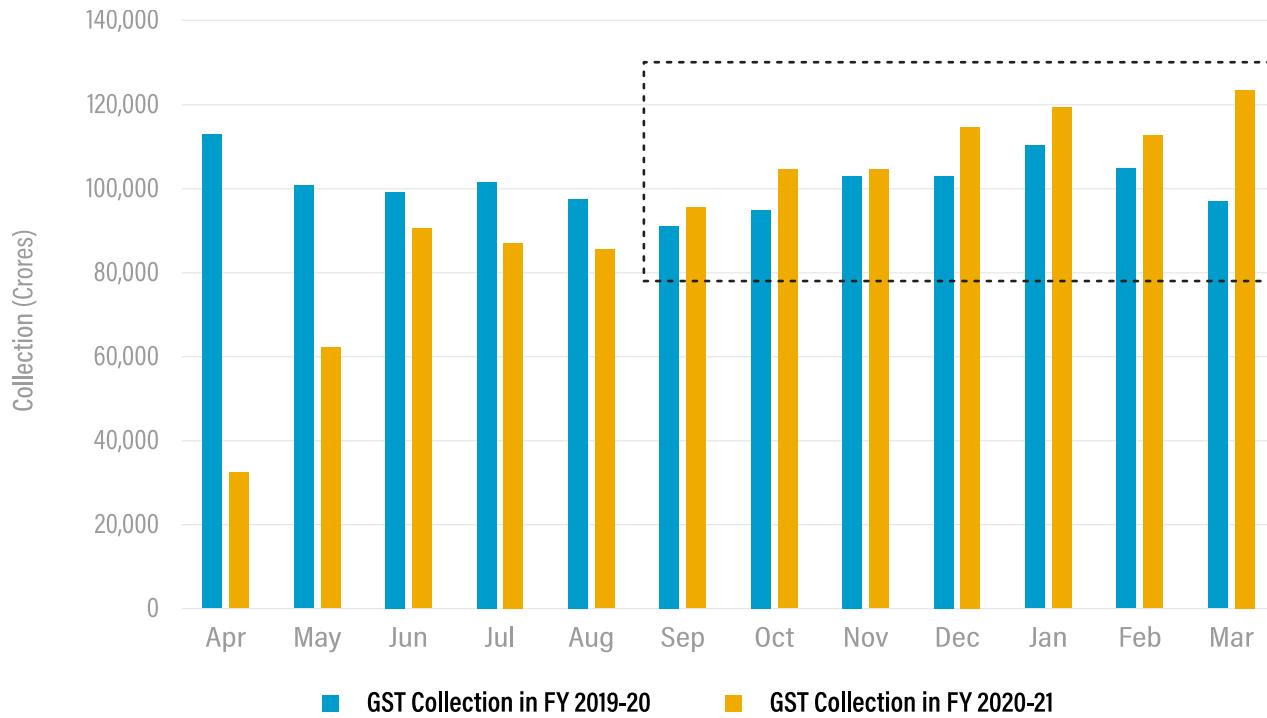
Sep 2020
Unlock 4.0

Oct 2020
Unlock 5.0

Nov 2020
Unlock 6.0

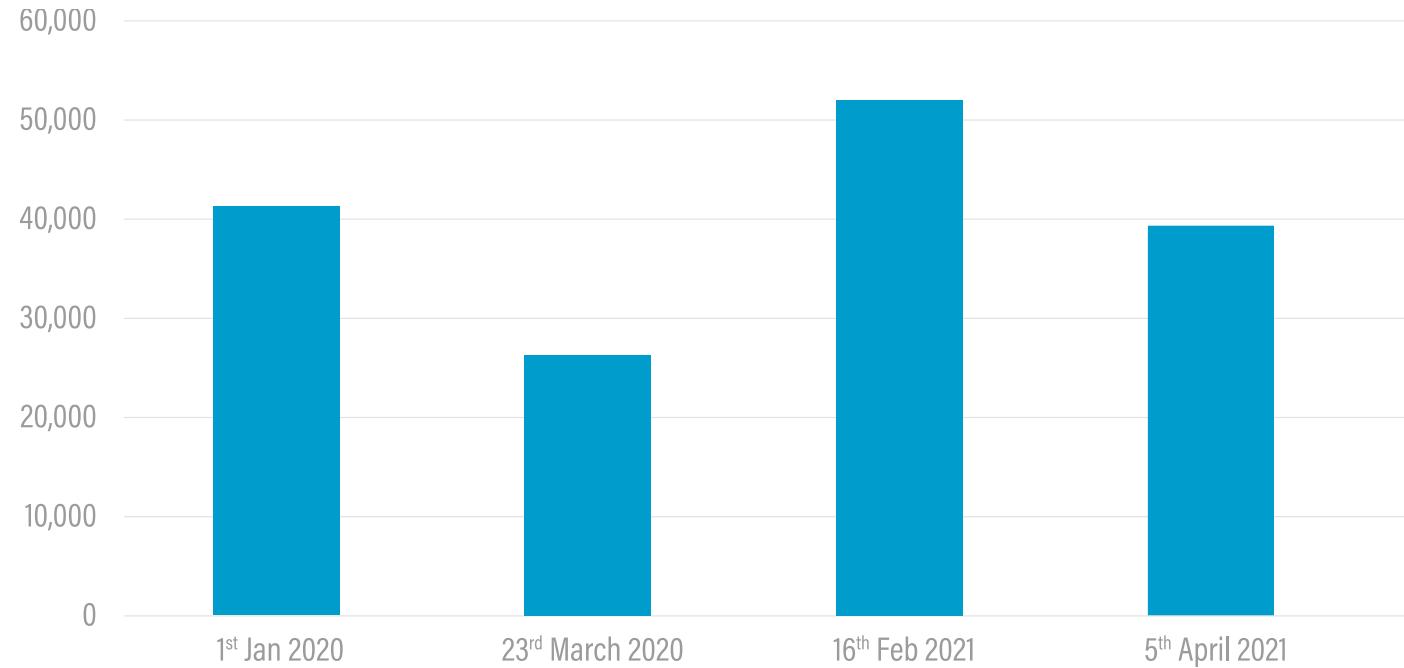


Economy back to Pre-COVID Levels



Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India

Sensex Rebounds





Phase 1

Healthcare Workers
Frontline Workers

Phase 2

60+ Citizens
45+ Citizens

Phase 3

All citizens

65+
Million
vaccinated

Vaccine *Maitri* - A Humanitarian Initiative



Source: Ministry of Health

WHAT TO WATCH

Logistics of the vaccination program



Image: Deccan Herald

WHAT TO WATCH

Second Wave: Will India Endure or Cure?



Source: Hindustan Times



The Pandemic
showed us
the **Risk of**
colliding with
Nature

Image: Shutterstock

An aerial photograph of a road through a dense forest. The road is a dark grey asphalt surface with white dashed lines, running vertically through the center of the frame. The surrounding area is filled with a dense canopy of green trees and bushes, with some lighter-colored ground cover visible in patches. The overall scene is a mix of natural greenery and human-made infrastructure.

WORKING WITH NATURE

Image: Shutterstock

URBAN RESTORATION



**Conservation
of Mangroves
in Mumbai**



Image: Nandi Foundation



Image: Unsplash



Image: FOLU

WHAT TO WATCH

Nature Based Solutions: Isolated Initiatives or Widespread Adoption?

- Restoration of wetlands and lakes
- Mainstreaming resilience into infrastructure planning

WHAT TO WATCH

Can Nature Based Solutions Scale-Up?

- Can Indian agriculture shift from water intensive paddy and sugarcane to water prudent millets?
- Need for strong administrative will and commitment

Image: Shutterstock





THE QUEST FOR A BETTER LIFE

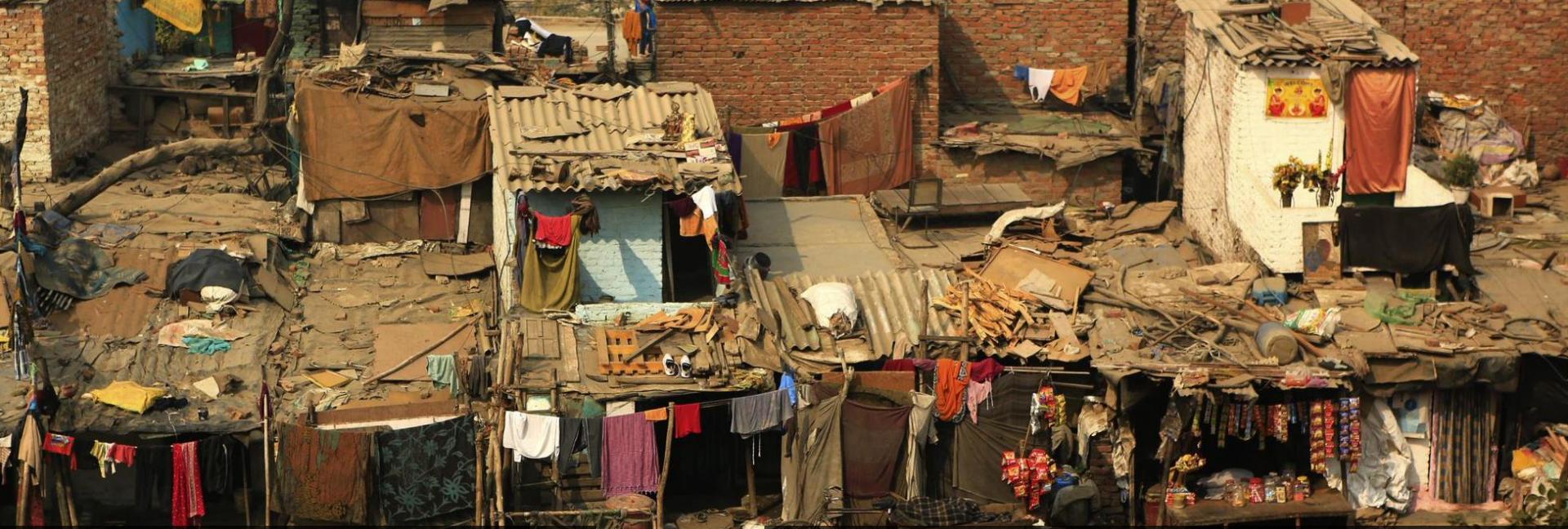
Image: Shutterstock

About 85%

workforce engaged in
the **informal sector**



Image: Shutterstock



Inhuman
living **conditions**

Image: Shutterstock

Lack access

to drinking water, sanitation, health care, affordable transport and job security

WHAT TO WATCH

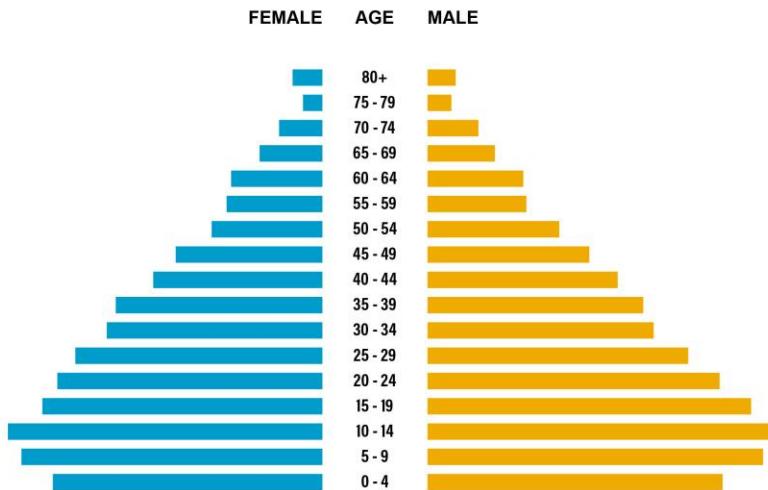
How will the Migrant Workforce Benefit from Portable Social Security Systems?



• Image: Shutterstock

India's Demographic Dividend

2011



2030



Ensuring Jobs is Critical



Demographic dividend
has a **finite life-time**

Lack of jobs – **potential
for social unrest**

WHAT TO WATCH

Can Jobs be Closer to Home?



WHAT TO WATCH

Can they be greener?

Image: Shutterstock



WRI INDIA

Can India's **Solar**
program enable this?



SOLAR INDIA

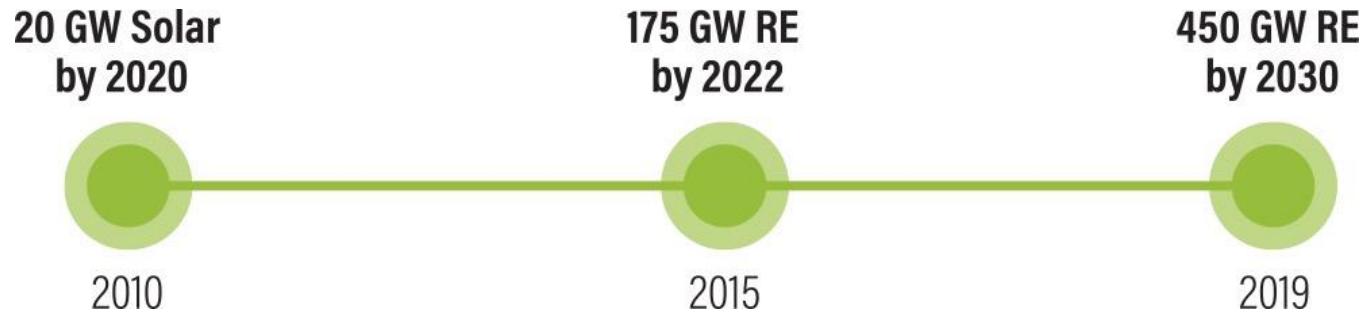


Image: IMWI/flickr



WRI INDIA

India's Evolving Renewable Energy (RE) Ambitions





KUSUM program

world's largest program
for solarising agriculture



Additional income
by selling surplus power
to the grid

Image: IMWI/flickr

Energy Access in Rural Areas



Image: Shutterstock

Potential for improved
healthcare, education
and decentralised
job creation



WHAT TO WATCH

Can Solar Energy Empower Rural India?



Agriculture, homes, livelihoods,
micro-enterprises, social infrastructure
such as hospitals and schools



Image: (clockwise) WRI India, Selco Foundation, ET Energy World



India's energy demand
is set to increase by
165% by 2040

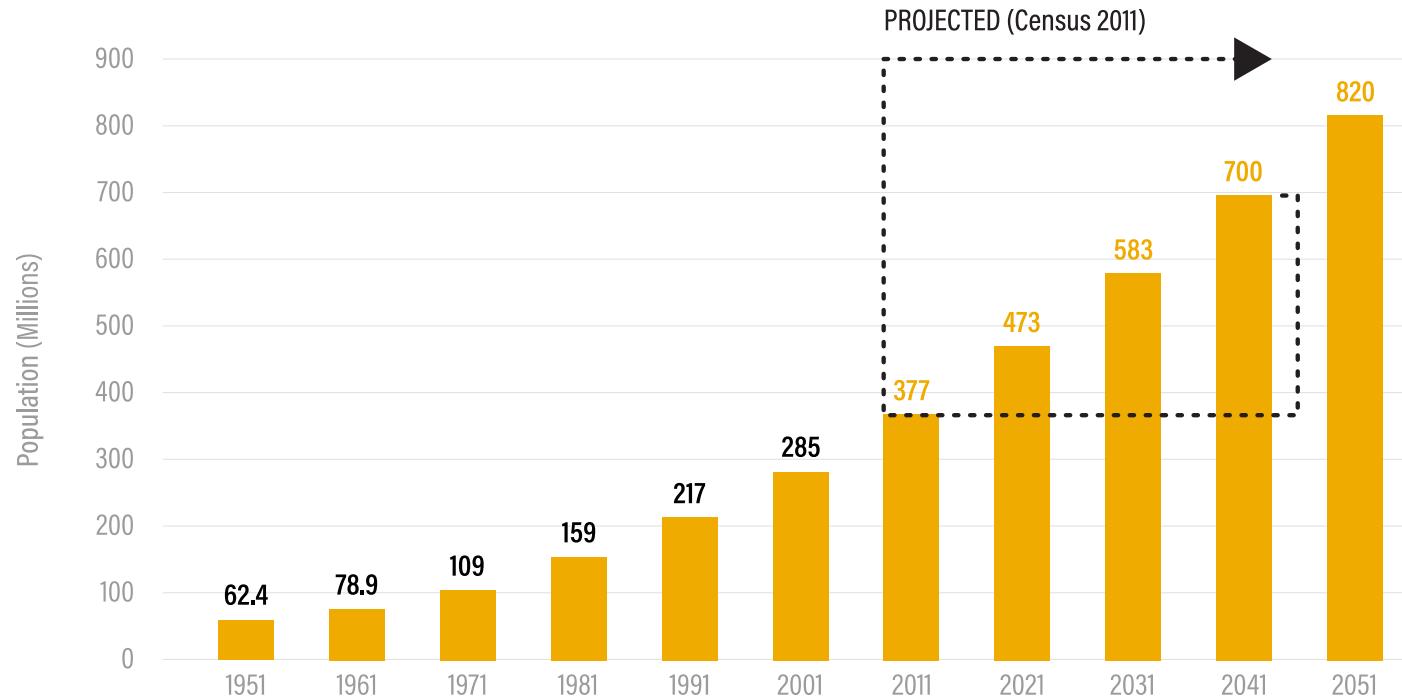
Image: Unsplash



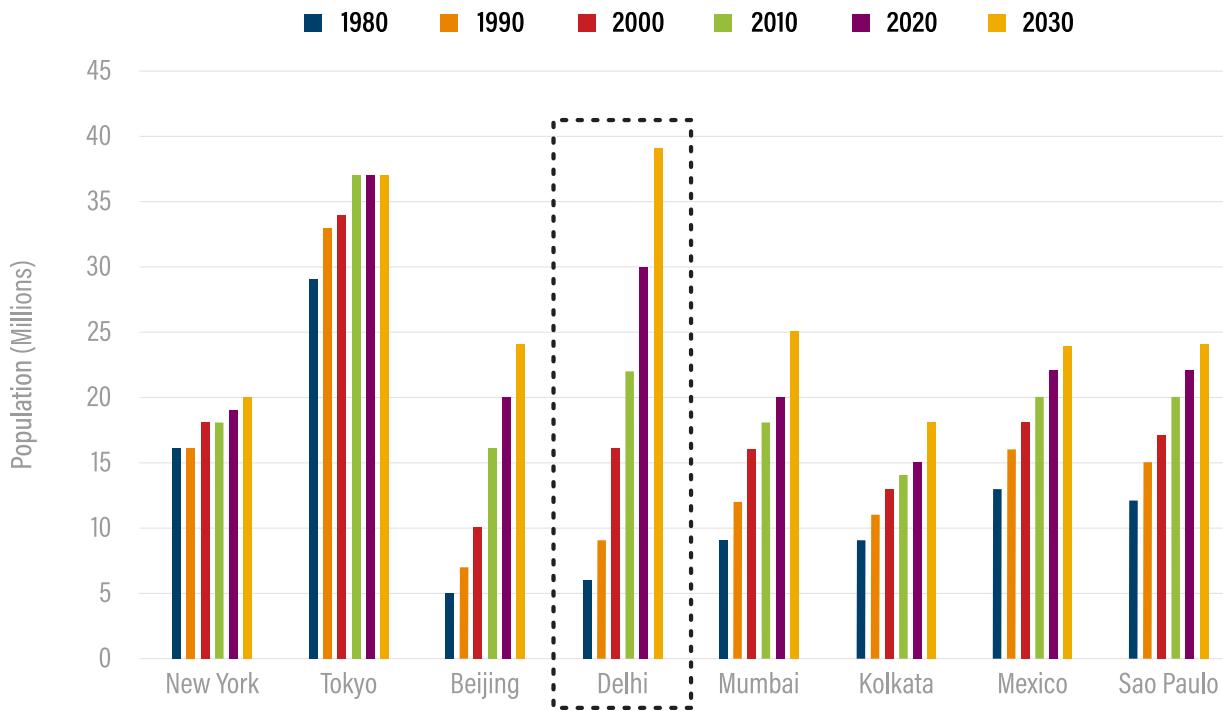
GROWING CITIES

Image: Wikimedia Commons

India's Urban Population Growth

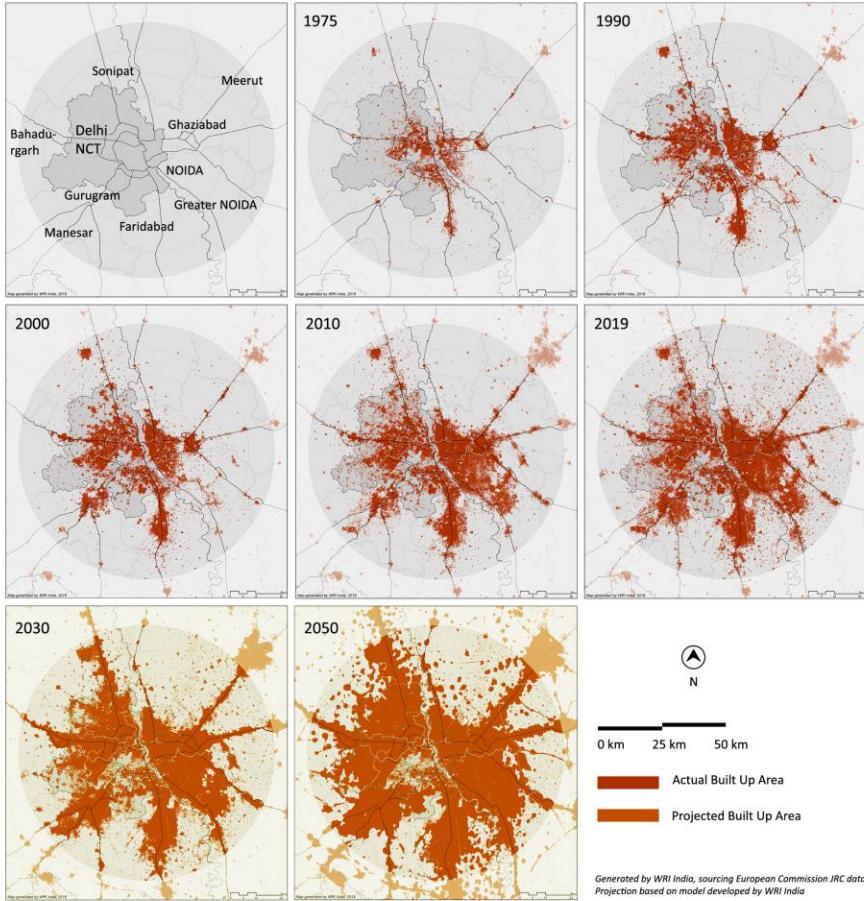


India's Urban Population Growth



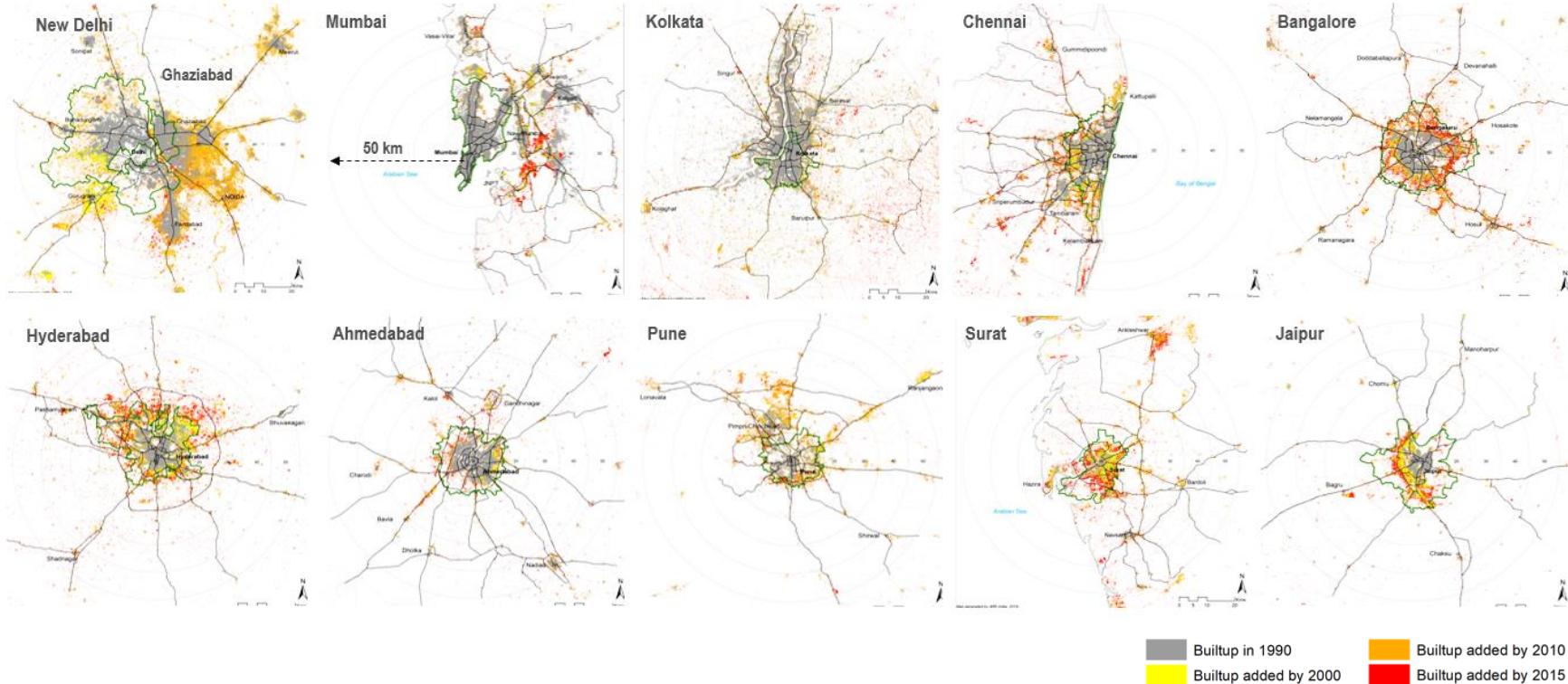
Source: World Urbanization Prospects 2018, by UN DESA

Spatial Growth of Delhi



Source: WRI India Analysis

66% Growth Outside Municipal Limits



Source: Generated by WRI India, Data from European Commission JRC 2011, Landsat(USGS / NASA)

Causes Unsustainable Public Service Delivery



WHAT TO WATCH

What Will Happen When the Urban Population Doubles?



Slums



Congestion



Depleting Water



Solid Waste

WHAT TO WATCH

Urban Clusters: A Possibility?



Image: NASA Images

WHAT TO WATCH

Will Cities Move Towards Greater Decentralisation?

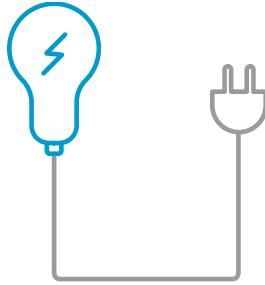
- Emphasis on resilience
- Future for clean fuels
- Adoption of cleaner mobility choices

Image: Unsplash

Innovating for Public Service Delivery



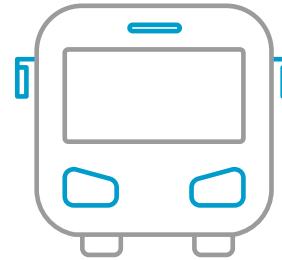
DRINKING WATER



ELECTRICITY



WASTE
MANAGEMENT



PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

BUILDING A NEW INDIA

Image: Shutterstock





Low-Cost Solution using
local wisdom
Frugal Innovation



GLOBAL
HOUSING
TECHNOLOGY
CHALLENGE INDIA

70% of the building
infrastructure needed by
2050 is yet to be built

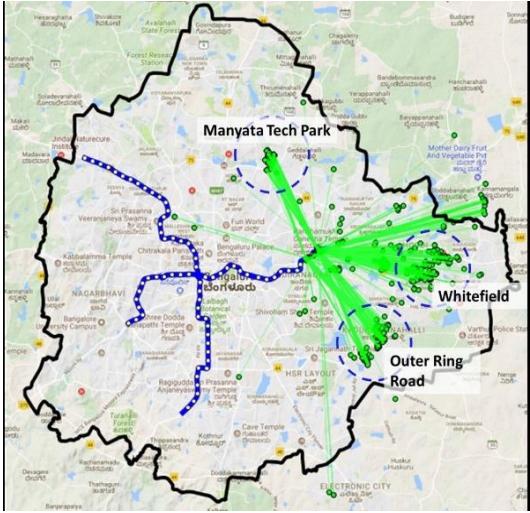
Image: Shutterstock

Six Lighthouse Projects

- Agartala
- Chennai
- Indore
- Lucknow
- Rajkot
- Ranchi

Image: GHTC India





Station Access and Mobility Program for improved Last Mile Connectivity



Space for innovations in public procurement

Seek outcomes instead of products

34,000 indigenous start ups

Employed 420,000 persons

Image: Shutterstock

Leading Climate Change



Image: Shutterstock

SUM TOTAL OF **NDCs**
NOT ENOUGH FOR A
1.5 DEGREE GOAL

Commitments to Go Carbon Neutral



- Airports
- Rural *Panchayats*
- Union Territories and States like Bihar, Ladakh

Corporate Sector Gets Into Climate Action

India ranked **5th** among corporate commitments to science based targets

Mahindra & Mahindra announced being
carbon neutral by 2040

Godrej pledged to double its energy
productivity and implement an energy
management system by 2030

The Declaration of the Private Sector on Climate Change



ACC

JSW

SRF



**Tech
Mahindra**



TATA MOTORS

**Mahindra
Rise.**

SUZLON
POWERING A GREENER TOMORROW

adani
Transmission



**AM/NS
INDIA**

**Ambuja
Cement**

ESSAR
OIL & GAS

**ReNew
POWER**

vedanta
transforming elements

Dr. Reddy's

HINDUSTAN POWER

TATA
CHEMICALS LIMITED

**NAYARA
ENERGY**

WHAT TO WATCH

How Will India Scale Up its Climate Action?



WHAT TO WATCH

Will 2021 See New Pathways that Position India as a Global Climate Leader?



Image: Shutterstock

SUMMARIZING

- Will the virus go away or stay a while
- Will we stop colliding with nature
- Can we decentralize job creation
- Can our solar program enable this
- Can cities emerge around clusters
- Can innovations get more space
- Can India contribute further towards a 1.5 degree goal

A photograph of a woman in a green sari with gold trim, working in a lush green banana plantation. She is reaching up towards the hanging bunches of bananas, likely harvesting them. The background is filled with large green leaves and branches.

2020 turned out to be a
year of thinking and planning

2021 has to be about
implementation



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