




STORIES TO WATCH
INDIA 2021

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#StoriesToWatchIndia

A group of people wearing white protective suits with blue trim and blue face masks are walking down a street. The suits have blue straps and zippers. They are walking in a line, and some are carrying white plastic bags. The background shows a busy street with buildings, other people, and a yellow vehicle. The overall tone is somber and urgent.

2020: THE YEAR THAT NEVER WAS



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



WRI INDIA



Millions
lost their jobs

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...



Jun 2020
Unlock 1.0

Jul 2020
Unlock 2.0

Aug 2020
Unlock 3.0

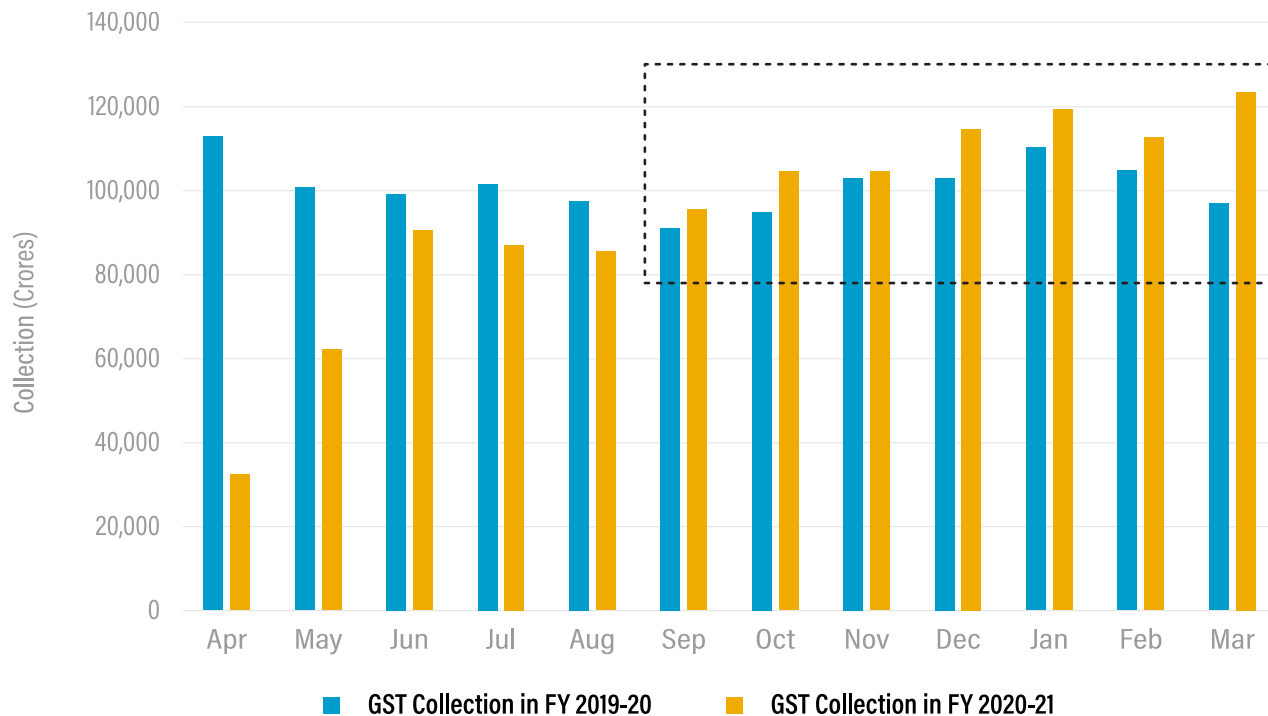
Sep 2020
Unlock 4.0

Oct 2020
Unlock 5.0

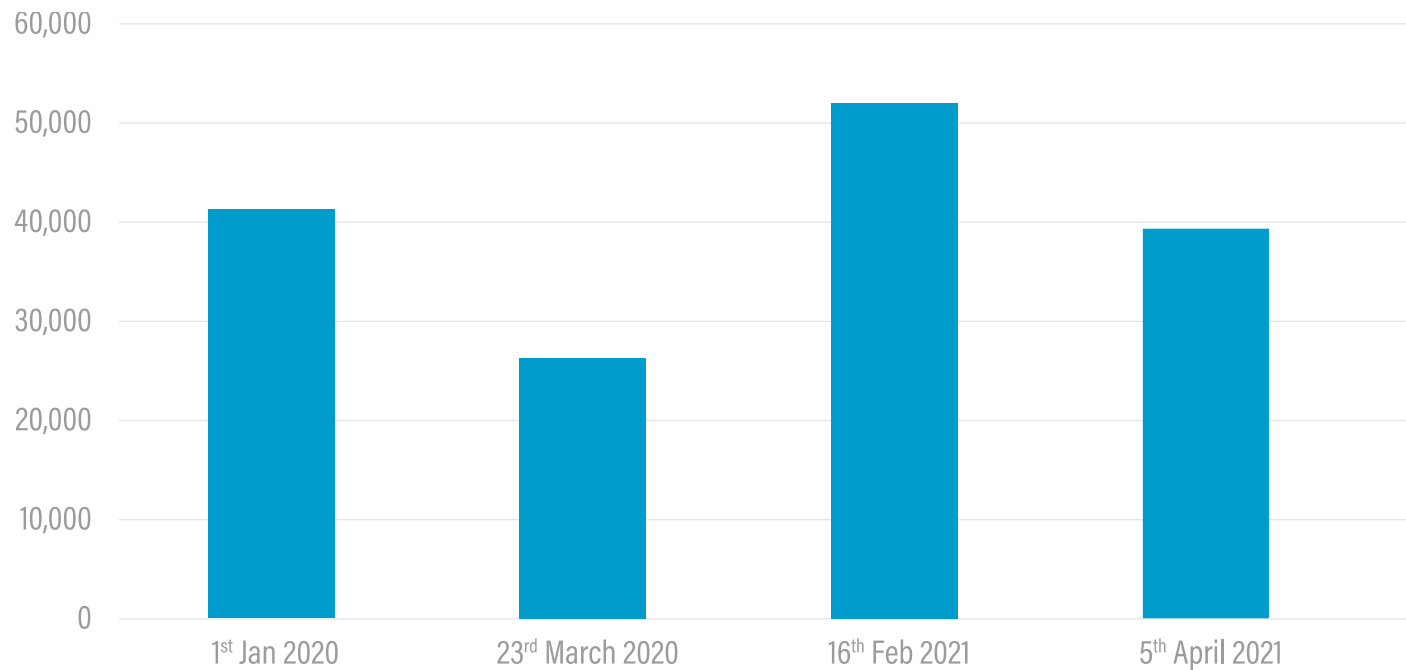
Nov 2020
Unlock 6.0



Economy back to Pre-COVID Levels



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

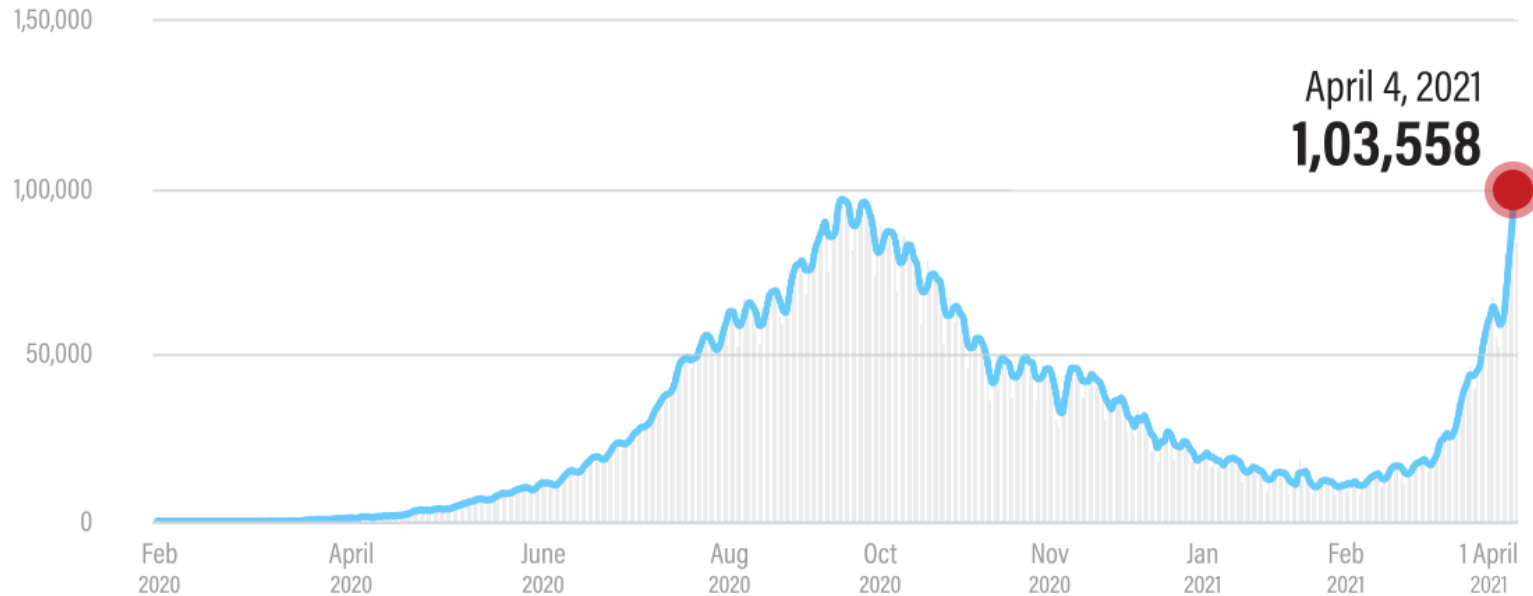
Logistics of the vaccination program



Image: Deccan Herald

WHAT TO WATCH

Second Wave: Will India Endure or Cure?



An aerial photograph showing a beach completely covered in a massive pile of plastic waste, including bags, bottles, and other debris. The ocean waves are crashing against the shore, creating white foam. The water is a vibrant turquoise color. The image is used as a background for a text overlay.

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

WORKING WITH NATURE

Image: Shutterstock

URBAN RESTORATION



Conservation of Mangroves in Mumbai







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



THE QUEST FOR A BETTER LIFE

Image: Shutterstock



WRI INDIA

About 85%

workforce engaged in
the **informal sector**





Inhuman
living **conditions**

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



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

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



A photograph showing a woman in a yellow and red sari and a man in a striped shirt and headscarf cleaning large solar panels in a field. The panels are tilted and arranged in rows. The sky is clear and blue. A blue banner with the text 'SOLAR INDIA' and a yellow square is overlaid on the left side of the image.

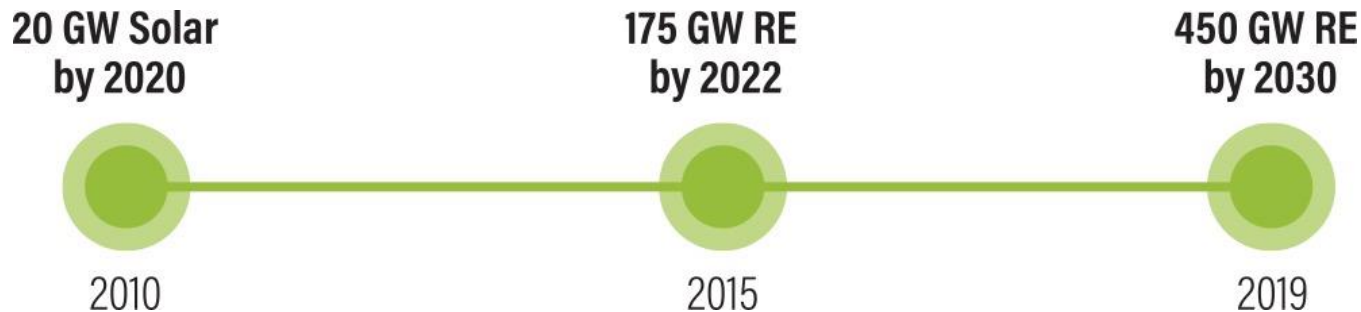
SOLAR INDIA

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

Energy Access in Rural Areas



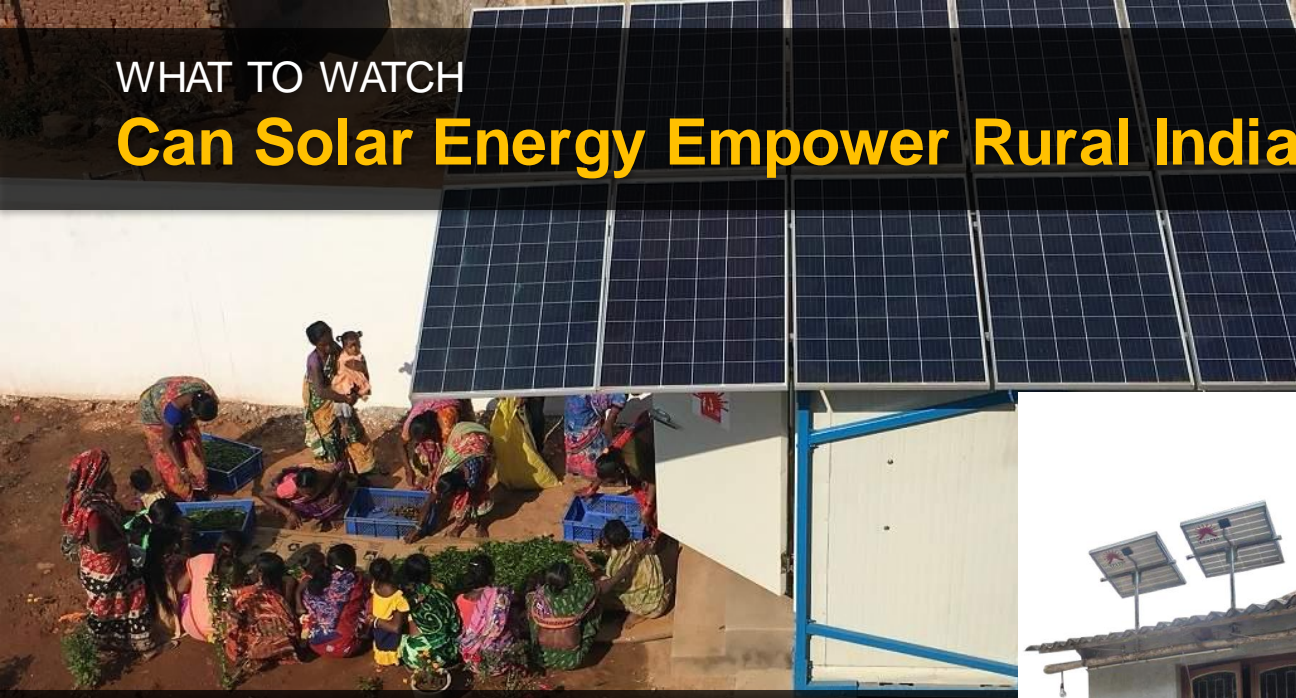
Image: Shutterstock

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



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

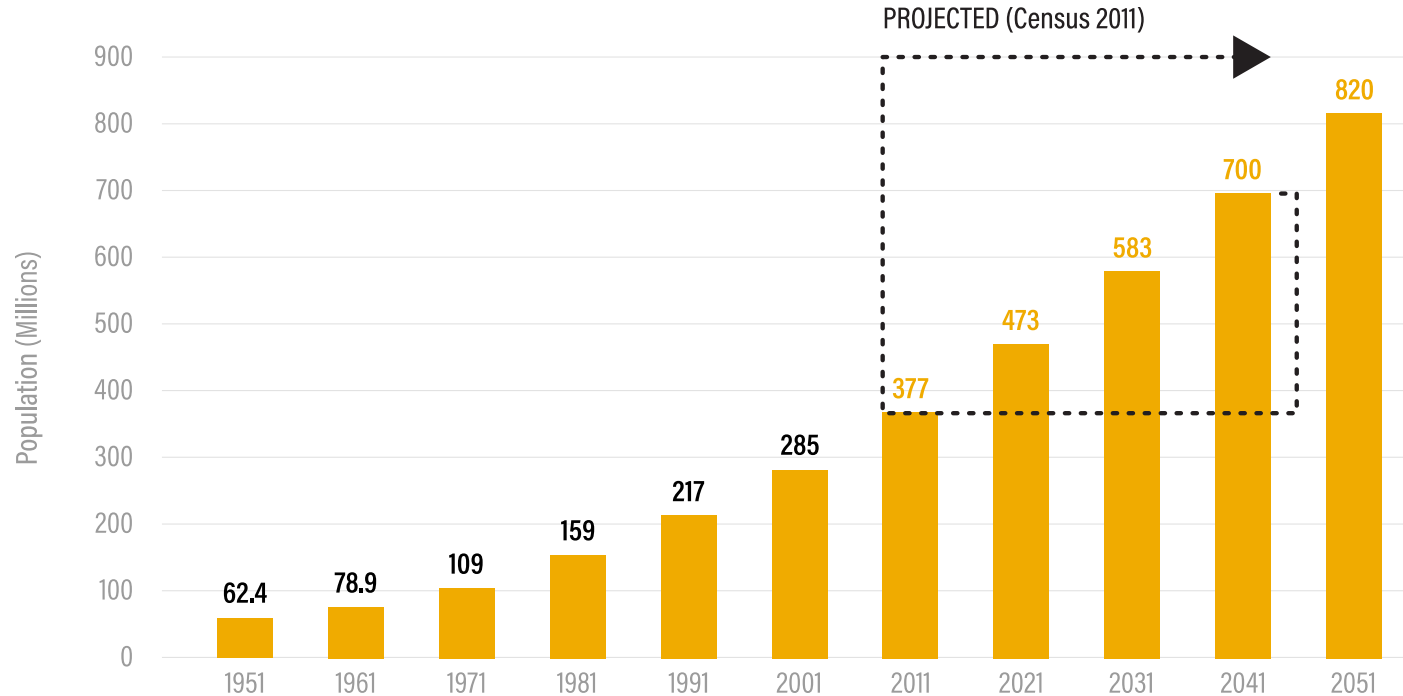


An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. A blue horizontal bar with a yellow square on its right side is overlaid on the left. The city features a mix of old and new buildings, a busy road with cars and buses, and a body of water in the distance.

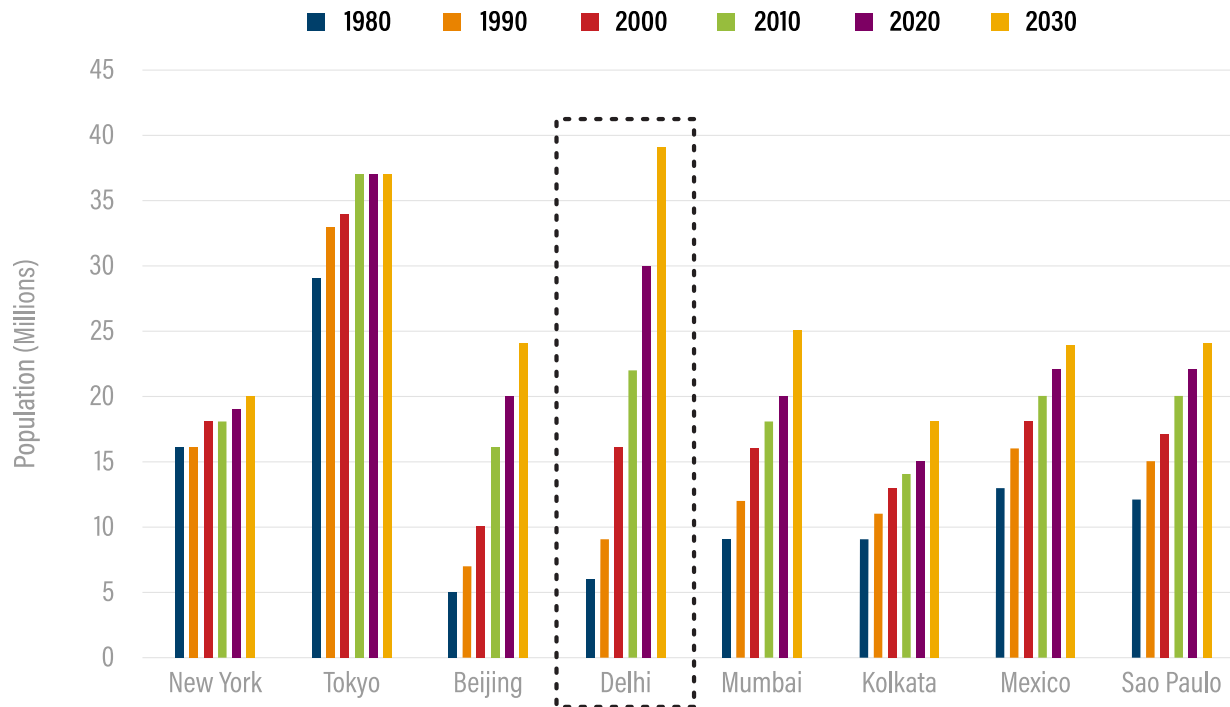
GROWING CITIES

Image: Wikimedia Commons

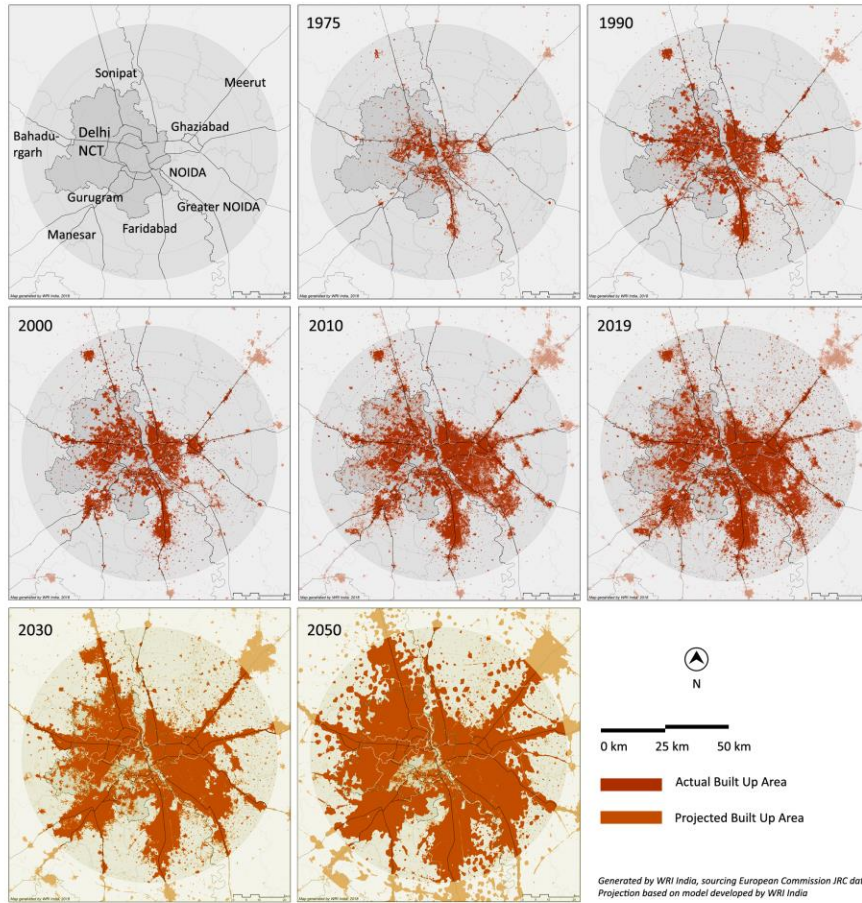
India's Urban Population Growth



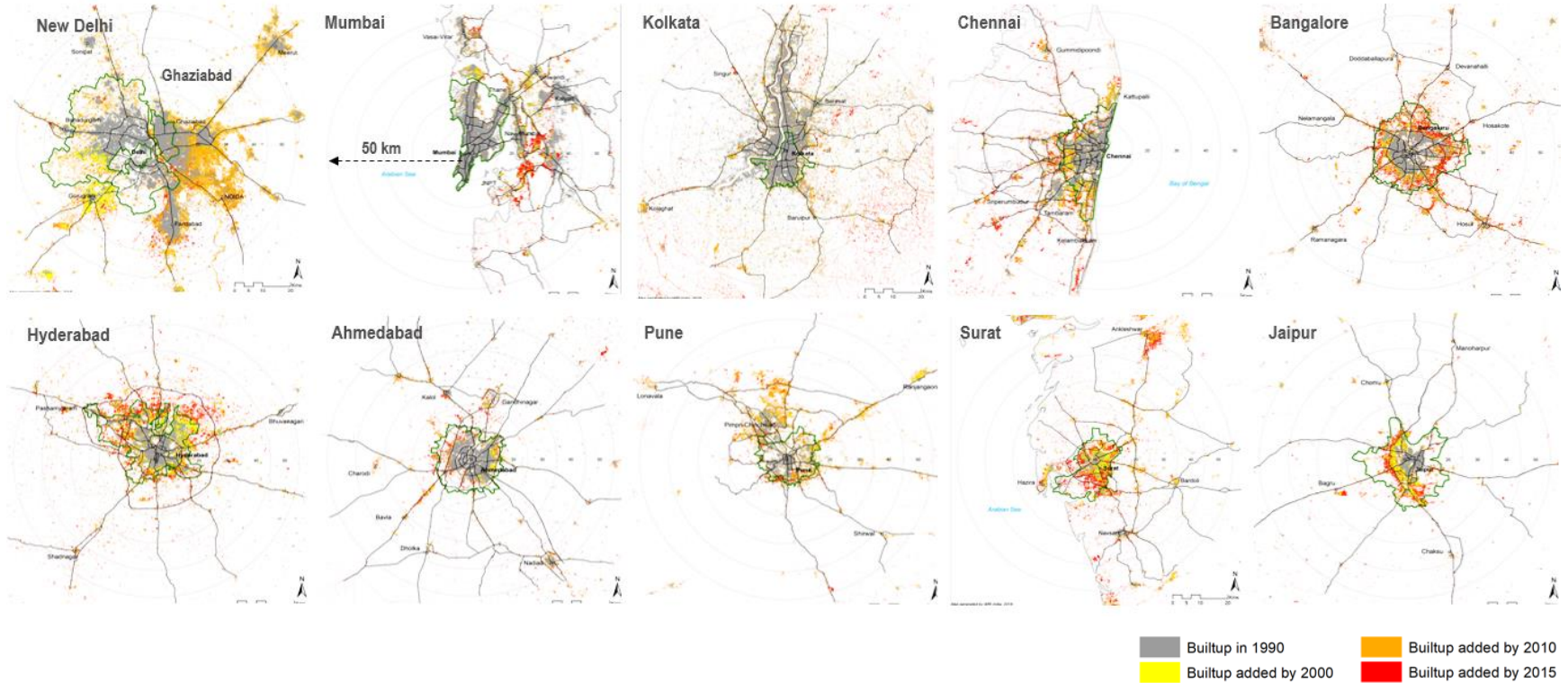
India's Urban Population Growth



Spatial Growth of Delhi



66% Growth Outside Municipal Limits



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

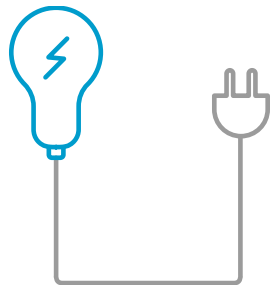
Will Cities Move Towards Greater Decentralisation?

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

Innovating for Public Service Delivery



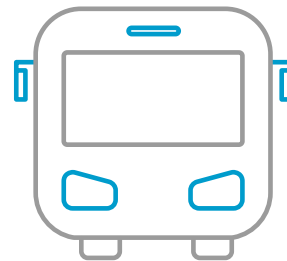
DRINKING WATER



ELECTRICITY



**WASTE
MANAGEMENT**



**PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**



A photograph of a middle-aged man with a grey beard, wearing a red headband and a light-colored striped shirt, sitting outdoors and looking at a tablet. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a blue sky. A dark blue horizontal bar with a yellow square on the right side is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'BUILDING A NEW INDIA'.

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



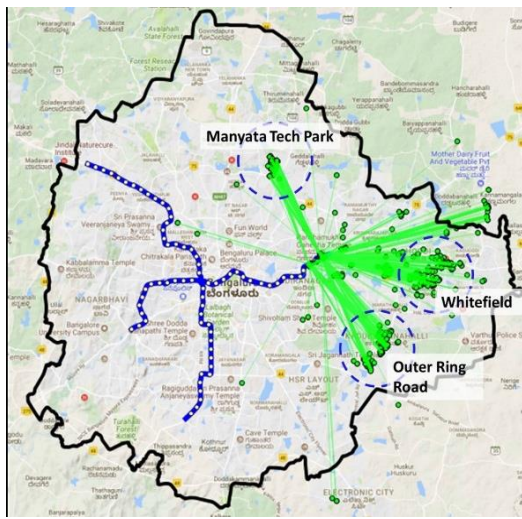
WRI INDIA

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

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



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



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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

2020 turned out to be a
year of thinking and planning

2021 has to be about
implementation





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INDIA 2021

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