Stories to Watch
India 2021

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#StoriesToWatchIndia
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
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…
Economy back to Pre-COVID Levels

Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India
Sensex Rebounds

Source: Bombay Stock Exchange
Phase 1
Healthcare Workers
Frontline Workers

Phase 2
60+ Citizens
45+ Citizens

Phase 3
All citizens
65+ Million vaccinated

Image: Shutterstock
Vaccine *Maitri* - A Humanitarian Initiative

Source: Ministry of Health
WHAT TO WATCH

Logistics of the vaccination program
WHAT TO WATCH

Second Wave: Will India Endure or Cure?

Source: Hindustan Times
The Pandemic showed us the Risk of colliding with Nature.
WORKING WITH NATURE
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
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?
India’s Demographic Dividend

Source: Economic Census 2011
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?
Can India’s Solar program enable this?
SOLAR INDIA
India’s Evolving Renewable Energy (RE) Ambitions

- **20 GW Solar by 2020**
  - 2010
- **175 GW RE by 2022**
  - 2015
- **450 GW RE by 2030**
  - 2019
KUSUM program
world's largest program for solarising agriculture

Additional income
by selling surplus power to the grid
Energy Access in Rural Areas
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.
GROWING CITIES

Image: Wikimedia Commons
India’s Urban Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population (Millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>62.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
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<td>2031</td>
<td>583</td>
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<tr>
<td>2041</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2051</td>
<td>820</td>
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</tbody>
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PROJECTED (Census 2011)
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?
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
BUILDING A NEW INDIA
Low-Cost Solution using local wisdom

Frugal Innovation
70% of the building infrastructure needed by 2050 is yet to be built.
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
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?
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
STORIES TO WATCH
INDIA 2021

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