

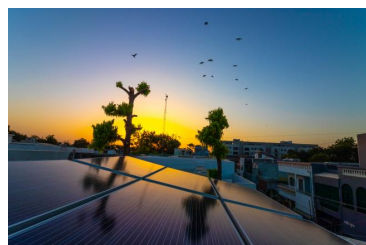


Welcome to DIGEST, WRI India's monthly newsletter. This edition covers **February-March 2021** and features blogs and editorials written by our staff members that provide unbiased and expert analysis, insights and commentary on the latest and important issues concerning India's natural resources, environment, urban development and economy. Please connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## EDITORIALS

- **[India shows intent with new Hydrogen Energy Mission](#)**  
by Pawan Mulukutla & Soham Kshirsagar | [ThinkESG](#)
- **[Not an urban transport project, but an urban transformation one](#)**  
by OP Agarwal & Nitya Kaushik | [The Economic Times](#)
- **[The new geospatial data guidelines are revolutionary - But can also do more](#)**  
by Raj Bhagat Palamichamy | [The Wire](#)
- **[Who has the time for it? Commuting in an age of attention economy](#)**  
by Jagriti Arora & Amit Bhatt | [Swarajya](#)
- **[Prepping our buildings today for an EV-ready future](#)**  
by Chaitanya Kanuri & Pawan Mulukutla | [ET Energy World](#)
- **[What India can learn about effective rental housing for migrant workers](#)**  
by Prayash Gira & Rejeet Mathews | [India Development Review](#)
- **[5 lessons for entrepreneurs and investors restoring India's farms and forests](#)**  
by Kavita Sharma, Will Anderson & Amanda Gant | [YourStory](#)
- **[Estimating energy storage requirements for the Tamil Nadu state grid](#)**  
by Sandhya Sundararagavan, Harsh Thacker & Deepak Krishnan | [IEEE SmartGrid](#)
- **[Smart implementation of budget funds could support green, sustainable recovery](#)**  
by Madhu Verma & Aman Srivastava | [Mongabay](#)
- **[The real air quality budget: Including the excluded](#)**  
by Mani Bhushan, Bhavay Sharma & Ajay Singh Nagpure | [Let Me Breathe](#)

## BLOGS



### **[Inclusivity as a climate action planning strategy](#)**

by Avni Agarwal, Chirag Gajjar & Faiza Solanki  
The COVID-19 pandemic has hit health, livelihoods, and the economy across India. [Read more](#)



### **[Air quality management in Indian cities and challenges](#)**

by Dr. Ajay Nagpure  
The air quality in most Indian cities is quite poor with high concentration of PM2.5. [Read more](#)



### **[Prioritising safer roads to ensure safer users](#)**

by Vaibhav Kush  
Road traffic injuries (RTI) are a global epidemic. [Read more](#)



### **[Urban greening for cooling cities](#)**

by Priya Narayanan & Jaya Dhindaw  
Over the past two decades, extreme temperature events have increased in frequency and severity around the world. [Read more](#)



### **[Metro lines: Game changing opportunity for locating jobs in Mumbai](#)**

by Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy, Madhav Pai & Kaustubh Chuke  
The Union Budget 2021 laid out an elaborate financial package to develop metro rail lines across cities. [Read more](#)



### **[Battery swapping: An alternative fast re-fueling option for E-2Ws and E-3Ws in India](#)**

by Dr. Praveen Kumar, Arya Bhat & Vishal Srivastava  
With the Indian government making persistent efforts for deeper penetration of the EV industry... [Read more](#)

## EXTERNAL ACADEMIC JOURNALS

### **[Power outages and bill savings: A choice experiment on residential demand response acceptability in Delhi](#)**

by Aman Srivastava  
[Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews](#)  
This paper, authored by Aman Srivastava along with S. Van Passel, P. Valkering and E.J.W. Laes describes a choice experiment among households in Delhi to design a demand response program in Delhi. Results indicate a preference for time-of-use pricing over real-time pricing. The experiment reveals that people care about the reductions in power outages and the potential expenses, and that ages and incomes affect the value that respondents attach to reducing power outages. Read the [full paper](#).

## IN THE NEWS

- [India business leaders affirm proactive action for zero carbon](#)  
[United News of India](#)
- [Meet Hydrogen, the new fuel in town](#)  
[The Bastion](#)
- [Flash droughts set to increase in India, finds study](#)  
[Mongabay India](#)
- [Poor infra poses a speed bump as Mumbai aims to become bicycle capital of India](#)  
[Hindustan Times](#)
- [Nagpur chosen for program to improve public spaces](#)  
[Times of India](#)
- [Delhi govt launches campaign to encourage shift to electric vehicles](#)  
[Business Standard](#)
- [Rented cycle cheapest transport in Delhi but lack of infra a hurdle: WRI](#)  
[Hindustan Times](#)
- [Few takers for electric vehicle charging stations in Bengaluru; Bescom to add 140](#)  
[Times of India](#)
- [Experts are lobbying for a shift to e-vehicles](#)  
[Bangalore Mirror](#)
- [Gahlot urges people in Delhi to switch to EVs](#)  
[The Statesman](#)
- [In Covid-struck India, Ola and Uber face a bumpy ride](#)  
[Scroll.in](#)
- [First pedestrian refuge island constructed at Sector 44 intersection](#)  
[Hindustan Times](#)
- [The Sustainability 100+ Dialogues 2021: Haryana Roundtable](#)  
[CNBC-TV18](#)
- [Ease of Living Index: Despite edge, Greater Mumbai gets middling score](#)  
[Hindustan Times](#)
- [Delhi is second among 5 worst cities in terms of public transport availability](#)  
[Hindustan Times](#)
- [Airbags now a must for front passenger seats in cars manufactured on & after 1 April](#)  
[The Print](#)
- [GHMC sets up paid parking at Kukatpally, dividing opinion among residents](#)  
[The News Minute](#)

## OTHER NEWS

**Dr. Madhu Verma**, Chief Economist at WRI India, has been appointed as [Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for Environment Accounting](#) [via an order dated 28 December 2020 from [Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation \(MoSPI\)](#)], constituted by the National Statistical Office, Social Statistics Division, MoSPI to provide scientific and technical guidance for assessing economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity for the different ecosystems being studied.

She has also been nominated by Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the United Nations supported [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) as a member of scoping expert group to assist work on the [Methodological Assessment of Business and Biodiversity](#).

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