

Welcome to the **second edition of Snapshots**, our quarterly newsletter highlighting WRI India's research and convenings, from **10 March - 15 June**. In the last few months, as India battled a severe second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, it also continued to face multiple climate stressors. As a large part of the country faced peak summer heat waves, several coastal states struggled with the effects of Cyclone Tauktae. Long-term resilience is critical to creating a steady infrastructure that is robust and able to withstand severe simultaneous short-term crises such as the current pandemic and persistent climate stressors. To further discussions on India's preparedness and strategies for extreme weather amidst the COVID-19, experts at WRI India authored publications, organized timely events and participated in sectoral engagements. This edition includes a selection of those thought-provoking publications, along with takeaways from key convenings.

Please write to us at IndiaCommunications@wri.org



IN MEMORIAM

WRI India is deeply saddened to announce the demise of **Ravi Ponnareddy**. Ravi who was the Head, Sustainable Transportation at WRI India, succumbed to COVID-19 on 31 May, 2021. Ravi joined WRI India in May 2020 and was a valued member of the Cities team. He was a well-liked colleague – humble, inclusive and deeply committed to his work and WRI. He previously worked in the United States as the Director of Transportation at the Capital Region Planning Commission in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was an accomplished transport planning professional with a deep and abiding passion for justice and equity. Ravi, who was 43, is survived by his wife and two young children. Our thoughts are with his wife, children and extended family during this time of unthinkable loss.

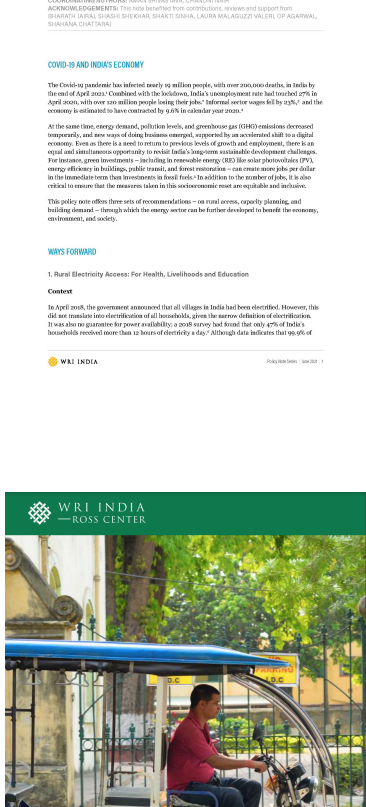
PUBLICATIONS



Powering Development in Climate Vulnerable Areas: The Role of Decentralized Solar Solutions in India

- *Namrata Ginoja, Harsha Meenavati, Amala Devi, Pamli Deka & Bharath Jairaj*

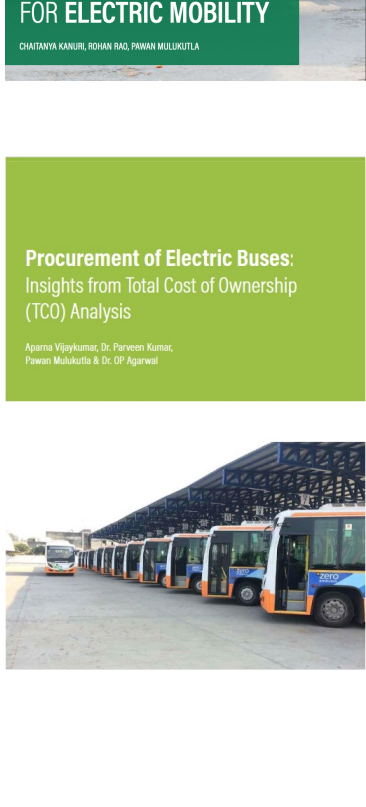
This is a compilation of 14 case studies where solar PV installations have helped achieve development outcomes in health, education, livelihood and public health sectors – specifically in climate vulnerable areas. It also highlights that DRE installations are not immune to climate impacts, as is widely assumed and hence these need to be planned with certain technological, organizational and financial considerations in mind to ensure their sustainability. [Executive Summary](#) | [Complete Report](#)



Secondhand Shopping: Understanding Consumer Behavior toward Pre-owned Clothing in India

- *Prigyal Shah & Chirag Gajjar*

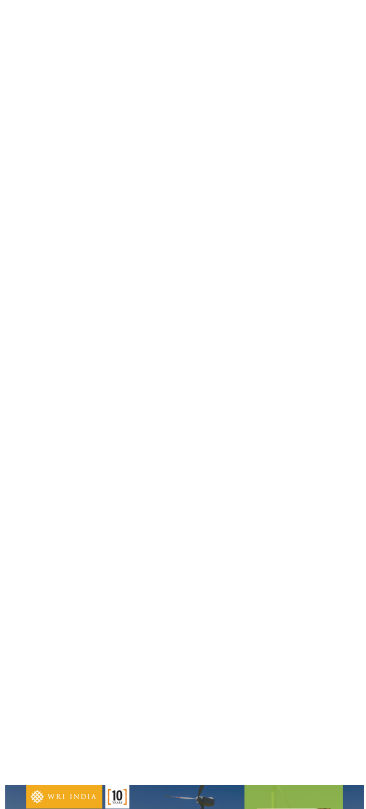
India's per capita apparel consumption has been lower than other countries, however, it is steadily rising. India is poised to be the world's sixth largest apparel market by 2022 (pre-COVID 19 estimate). The textile and apparel sector requires large amounts of non-renewable resource inputs causing social and environmental pressures. [Complete Working Paper](#)



Potential Impact of Corporate Climate Action in India

- *Ashwini Hingne, Varun Agarwal, Atik Sheikh & Vivek Adhia*

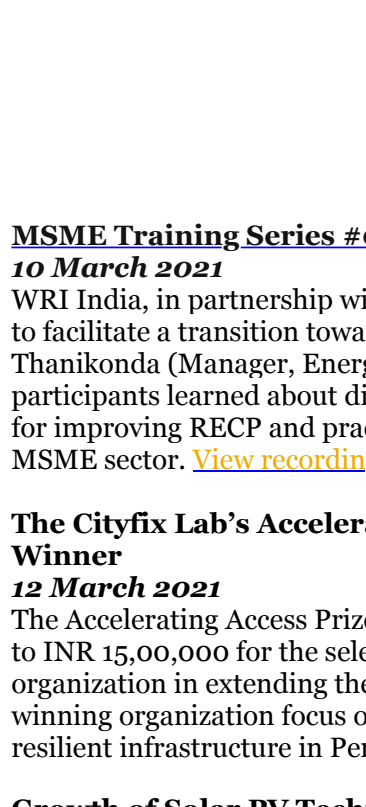
This working paper estimates the collective impact of voluntary climate actions by Indian companies. Many large Indian businesses have committed to ambitious climate initiatives, and a better understanding of their potential impacts can help draw better projections to support better climate policy planning and implementation. [Complete Working Paper](#)



Synergizing Land Value Capture and Transit-Oriented Development: A Study of Bengaluru Metro

- *Jaya Dhindau, Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy, Surya Prakash, Radha Chanchani & Amartya Deb*

In this practice note, we first assess the potential for transit-oriented development (TOD) and land value capture (LVC) to evolve in tandem with specific reference to the Bengaluru metro, and, posit strategies and recommendations to reorient policies to leverage TOD as an opportunity for LVC, and vice versa. [Complete Practice Note](#)



COVID-19 Policy Note Series: Building Forward Better - Pathways for a Sustainable Post-COVID Recovery for India

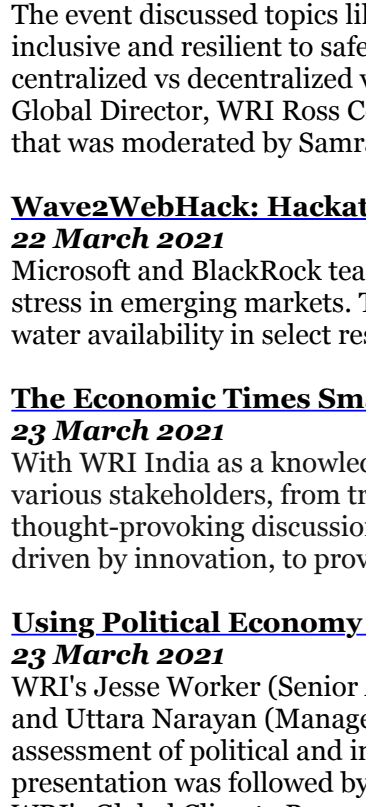
1. Urban Transport
2. Cities & Urban Planning
3. Energy & Power

- *Aman Srivastava & Chandni Nair*

This series of WRI India expert notes outlines sector-specific recommendations through which the country can continue to develop its economy, while improving the environment and strengthening society, in an integrated manner with post-COVID recovery:

1. The [first note](#) outlines ways in which urban transport and its associated infrastructure can be reimagined to benefit the economy, environment, and all sections of society.
2. The [second note](#) outlines ways in which cities and urban planning can be reimagined to benefit the economy, environment, and all sections of society.
3. The [third note](#) offers recommendations – on rural access, capacity planning, and building demand – through which the energy sector can be further developed to benefit the economy, environment, and all sections of society.

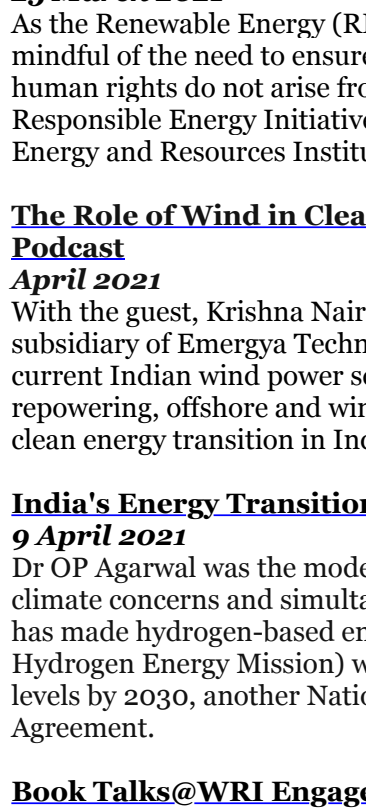
COMMENTARIES



A Review of State Government Policies for Electric Mobility

- *Chaitanya Kamuri, Pawan Mukulkutla & Rohan Rao*

This review of EV policies of 12 Indian states, with notified or draft policies in place, provides a comprehensive overview of policy incentives and mechanisms being deployed for promoting electric mobility. It shows that disparities exist in the incentives defined by different states, and some states have focused more on demand generation and others on industrial promotion. [Executive Summary](#) | [Complete Paper](#)



Procurement of Electric Buses: Insights from Total Cost of Ownership

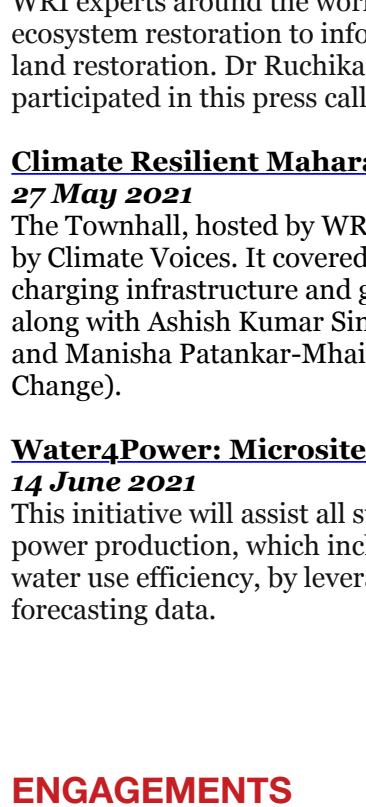
- *Aparna Vijaykumar, Dr Parveen Kumar, Pawan Mukulkutla & Dr OP Agarwal*

The commentary provides a deep understanding of possible areas of advancement and the associated pressure points in what is touted to be the future of Indian transportation. It provides a detailed assessment of innovative business models that will be handy for decision-makers, transport corporations, operators, financing partners, OEMs, and other allied stakeholders. [Complete Paper](#)



India's Approach to Green Hydrogen with Amitabh Kant

This webinar on 23 April, 2021 was moderated by Madhav Pai (Executive Director, WRI India Ross Center for Sustainable Cities), with Amitabh Kant (CEO, NITI Aayog) as the speaker. The discussion was about how in the global context, it is crucial for India to get ahead in the race for new and upcoming green technologies and become self-reliant and a world leader. Being an early adopter of hydrogen energy technology will pay off in the long-term, given hydrogen's cross-sectoral sustainability. [View recording](#)



MSME Training Series #04: Resource Efficient Cleaner Production

10 March 2021
Microsoft and BlackRock teamed up with the WRI India to help develop new datasets on water stress in emerging markets. The Wave2Web Hackathon developed a predictive model to forecast water availability in select reservoir(s) supplying water in Bengaluru, India.



The Economic Times Smart Mobility Conclave

23 March 2021
With WRI India's knowledge partner, The ET Smart Mobility Conclave brought together various stakeholders, from transport experts and professionals, in a virtual summit to initiate thought-provoking discussions and advocate for a smarter blueprint that can help develop cities, driven by innovation, to provide cleaner, safer and faster transportation infrastructure.



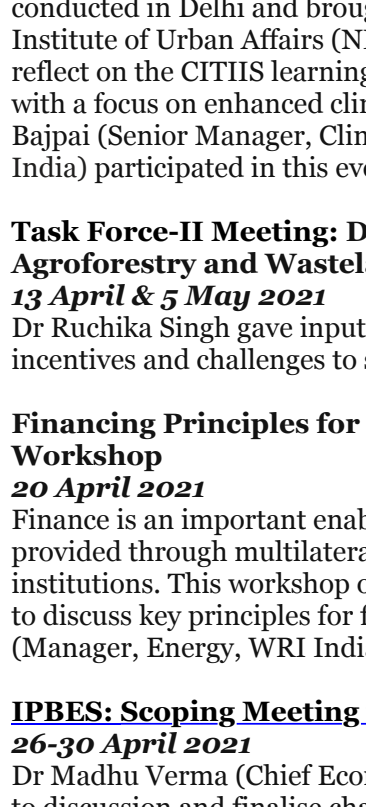
Using Political Economy to Address Climate Change Policy Challenges

23 March 2021
WRI's Jesse Worker (Senior Associate, Environmental Democracy Practice, Governance Center) and Uttara Narayan (Manager, Energy Governance, WRI India) presented a new systematic assessment of political and institutional contexts to inform domestic climate governance. This presentation was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Kelly Levin (Senior Associate, WRI's Global Climate Program). [View recording](#)



Renewable Energy to Responsible Energy - A Call to Action

25 March 2021
As the Renewable Energy (RE) sector continues to grow and evolve, it will need to be increasingly mindful of the need to ensure that adverse impacts on the environment, communities and institutions. This workshop organized by the Lead IPT Secretariat brings together leading experts in Responsible Energy Initiative is a collaboration between WRI India, Forum for the Future, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Landesa and WRF India. [View recording](#)



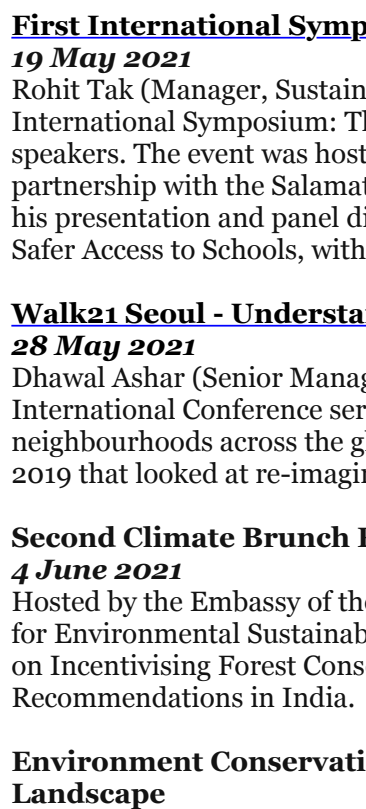
The Role of Wind in Clean Energy Transition in India with Mr. Krishna Nair: Podcast

April 2021
With the guest, Krishna Nair, Director in the Board of Emergya Wind Turbines Limited, a subsidiary of Emergya Technologies BV Netherlands, the energy team at WRI India discussed the current Indian wind power scenario and how the new technology interventions such as repowering, offshore and wind to hydrogen nexus can impact the wind power scene and overall clean energy transition in India.



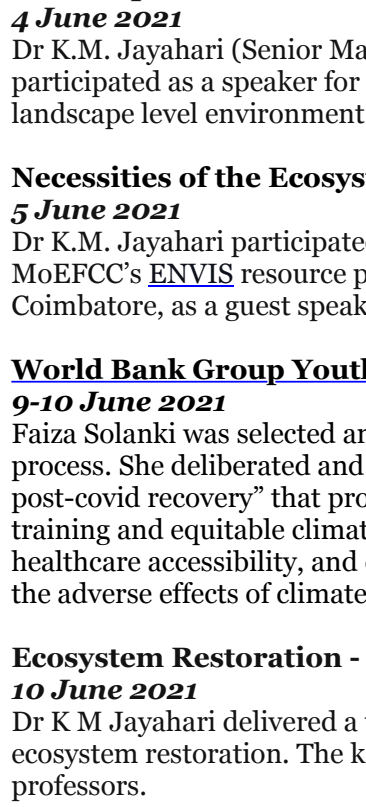
India's Energy Transition Towards a Green Hydrogen Economy

9 April 2021
Dr OP Agarwal was the moderator and Pawan Mukulkutla gave a presentation on how today climate concerns and simultaneously increasing focus on zero-carbon renewable energy globally, has made hydrogen-based energy sources more relevant than ever. The NHEM (National Hydrogen Energy Mission) will help India lower its emission intensity by 33-35% from the 2005 levels by 2030, another Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target under the Paris Agreement.



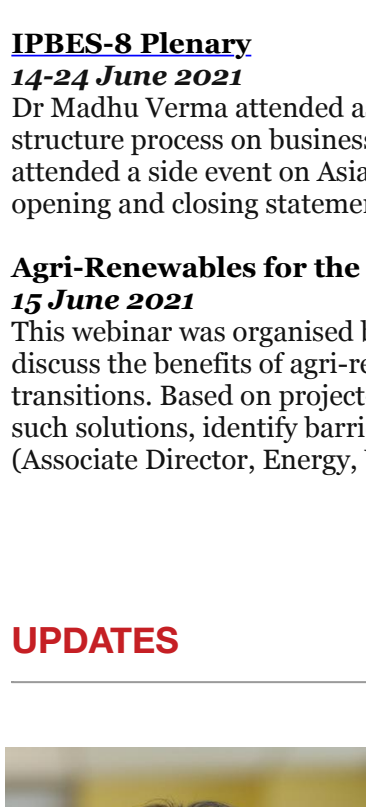
Book Talks @WRI Engage - How Urban is India? The State of the Cities Report

10 April 2021
Dr Prakash Mathur (Senior Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi) author of 'State of the Cities: India' in conversation with Dr OP Agarwal, moderated by Dr Shahana Chatteraj (Director of Research Data and Innovation, WRI India). The discussion centered around topics like: how urban is India and why does it matter; whether Indian urbanization diverge from conventional wisdom as well as theoretical models of urbanization; development and the goals and strategies of urban policy in India. [View recording](#)



Powering Development in Climate Vulnerable Areas: Report Launch

20 April 2021
Decentralized solar energy solutions are increasingly considered for bringing reliable electricity to community facilities, especially in climate-vulnerable areas. New World Resources Institute research examines the impacts of climate-related events on electricity needs and analyses 14 decentralized solar energy systems installed in community-level healthcare, education and livelihood facilities across three states in India. [View recording](#)



Bus Karo XVII: Reimagining Bus-based Public Transport in the New Normal

28-29 April 2021
Moderated by Dr OP Agarwal and Amit Bhatt, this workshop focused on discussing the needs and methods to secure financial support for bus agencies and how to plan towards developing resilient bus systems in the long-term. Day 2 of the workshop focused on intelligent technologies and data analytics that can be used to plan and monitor bus systems.



Land Accelerator South Asia 2021: Application Launch

30 April 2021
WRI India and Sangam Ventures are jointly hosting The Land Accelerator for South Asia in New Delhi this July to October 2021. A four-month program, anchored by a six-day workshop, the Land Accelerator trains and supports entrepreneurs working towards restoring land (farms and forests) by planting trees, boosting crop yields and introducing innovative technologies.



Previewing the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Press Call

31 May 2021
WRI experts around the world outlined the major themes, challenges and opportunities in ecosystem restoration in media stories on the UN Decade, tree planting or any type of land restoration. Dr Ruchika Singh (Lead, Sustainable Landscapes & Restoration, WRI India) participated in this press call. [View recording](#)

Climate Resilient Maharashtra: Electric Mobility Townhall

27 May 2021
The Townhall, hosted by WRI India Ross Centre and Waatavaran Foundation, was organized by Climate Voices. It covered the role of EVs in a sustainable and green recovery, building charging infrastructure and government commitments. Madhav Pai was one of the panelists along with Ashish Kumar Singh (Additional Chief Secretary, Transport, Maharashtra) and Manisha Patankar-Mhaikar (Principal Secretary, Maharashtra Environment & Climate Change).

Water4Power: Microsite Launch

14 June 2021
This initiative will assist all stakeholders in transitioning from water-intensive to water prudent power production, which includes transitioning to clean energy, decarbonization and improving water use efficiency, by leveraging the power plant specific water risk information and forecasting data.

ENGAGEMENTS

CLEAN's Regional Member Meeting for the North-East Region

This event was organized by Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN) to discuss challenges related to technology, policy and finance in the renewable energy space. CLEAN has developed the [India Renewable Energy Appliances Portal \(I-REAP\)](#) to track technological innovations in terms of productive use appliances in the DRE space. The event highlighted the need for innovative financing models to implement clean energy technologies and a convergence effort of various stakeholders to implement projects to ensure system sustainability.

Future Earth South Asia Webinar Series

11-12 March 2021
Future Earth South Asia and Divecha Centre for Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science organized a two-day event to build partnerships between academia, communities and decision-making bodies in civil society, public and private sectors in South Asia, and to develop a community-focused Sustainability Program for Future Earth in India. Ulka Kelkar (Director, Climate, WRI India) spoke in two panels on 'Bridging the gaps between science, policy and practice', and 'Turning challenges into opportunities: working the water-energy-food nexus'.

First Project Steering Committee on Sidhi Landscape Restoration Project, Madhya Pradesh

17 March 2021
The first virtual state-level Steering Committee meeting was held on 17 March, 2021 under the chairmanship of Manoj Shrivastava (Additional Chief Secretary of MPPRDD, GoMP). Senior officials from GoMP and senior management at WRI India and ASA, Bhopal, attended the meeting. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the project coordination mechanism, approve the annual project plan and obtain the convergence support required for project activities of landscape restoration in Sidhi district. All committee members approved the annual plan of the Sidhi Landscape Project. In addition, the committee also recognized the importance of stepping up NBS activities in the state and agreed to provide convergence support for landscape restoration efforts in the Sidhi district for the regular coordination of the project. It was agreed to organize biannual meetings of the project steering committee at state level and monthly coordination meetings at district level.

Mahindra Lifespace Developers Limited Stakeholder Meet 2021: Changing Contours of Supply Chain in Built Environment - Beyond Tomorrow

19 March 2021
MLDL's annual suppliers meet focused on discussing and deliberating the ideas to move the building and construction sector to a low carbon pathway and ensure the cause of sustainable development across the value chain. Chirag Gajjar (Head, Subnational Climate Action, WRI India) presented on the 'Future of Construction – Climate Action in Built Environment through Engagement'.

Task Force-I Meeting: Identifying Potential Area for Agroforestry and Suitable Agroforestry Models by NITI Aayog

17 March, 9 April & 5 May 2021
Dr Partha Sarathi Roy (Senior Fellow, Sustainable Landscapes & Restoration, WRI India) and Dr Ruchika Singh participated in the Task Force-I meeting and gave inputs on ongoing discussion on identifying suitable area using ecological approach and strategies for ground truthing.

State Level Clean Energy Solution Network State Conference

23 March 2021
Dheeraj Kumar Gupta (Project Associate, Energy, WRI India) was a panelist at the clean energy solution network conference for the state of Jharkhand. This conference was organized by Life Education and Development Support (LEADS). Many governmental and non-governmental stakeholders including communities attended the conference. The panel discussion was organized to create a state-level network to sensitize, promote, advocate and collaborate around the issues related to clean energy solutions.

Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) Proceedings on Solarizing Public Schools

25 March 2021
WRI India participated in the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) proceedings on solarizing public schools. We provided suggestions to the commission on their sun-moto draft to include other public facilities under the purview of the order, provisioning for net metering arrangements for the installations, defining expenses that can be counted under CSR and integrating battery back-up for the energy installations.

Design Workshop for CITIIS 2.0 (City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain) Project

8-9 April 2021
The Design workshop was jointly organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India (MoHUA) and Agence Française De Développement (AFD). This two-day workshop was conducted in Delhi and brought together key CITIIS stakeholders from MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIIUA), European Union (EU), AFD, KfW, CRDF and Janagraha to reflect on the CITIIS learnings till date, and jointly finalize the design of the CITIIS second phase with a focus on enhanced climate impact and strengthened state role in the program. Saransh Bajpai (Senior Manager, Climate WRI India), and Faiza Solanki (EPP Consultant, Climate, WRI India) participated in this event.

Task Force-II Meeting: Development of Policy Framework for Promotion of Agroforestry and Wasteland Greening by NITI Aayog

13 April & 5 May 2021
Dr Ruchika Singh gave inputs in the task force meeting on developing a policy framework, policy incentives and challenges to scaling agroforestry in India.

Financing Principles for Industry Transition in Developing Countries: Expert Workshop

20 April 2021
Finance is an important enabler of rapid decarbonization of industry in emerging economies, provided through multilateral development banks, national governments, and private institutions. This workshop organized by the Lead IPT Secretariat brings together leading experts, to discuss key principles for financing industry transition in emerging economies. Kajor (Manager, Energy, WRI India) participated as lead discussant in this event.

IPBES: Scoping Meeting for the Business and Biodiversity Assessment

26-30 April 2021
Dr Madhu Verma (Chief Economist, WRI India), participated as lead author and expert member to discussion and finalize characterization scheme of scoping report for business and biodiversity at this event organized by Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Technical Considerations Surrounding Green Hydrogen Certification

April 2021
This was a discussion about green hydrogen certification and put forward technical considerations that should inform the establishment of certification schemes. Kajol participated as lead discussant.

Forests For The Future: Advancing Forests and Landscapes Action to Achieve Climate Change Goals in India

29 April 2021
At the World Bank Forest Sector Technical Roundtable, Dr Madhu Verma spoke as an expert on strategies that could facilitate the forest linked NDC targets; addressing climate change through forestry, strategies that can ensure that interconnected areas of biodiversity and community livelihoods are integrated; innovative examples of forest landscape restoration that can be scaled up.

Regional Technical Cooperation Program for Scaling up Forest and Landscape Restoration: Inception Workshop by FAO

4 May 2021
Dr Ruchika Singh participated in the regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for scaling up forest and landscape restoration focusing on seven countries (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG, and Timor-Leste).

First International Symposium on Kid's Utopia, Child Friendly Cities

19 May 2021
Rohit Tak (Manager, Sustainable Cities and Transport, WRI India) participated in the First International Symposium: The Kid's Utopia, Child Friendly Cities, as one of the keynote speakers. The event was hosted by the Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran, in partnership with the Salamati Iran Social Responsibility Institute, and the UN-HABITAT. During his presentation and panel discussion, Tak spoke the Role of "Data" and "Children" in Planning Safer Access to Schools, with a case-study from Mumbai.

Walk21 Seoul - Understanding and Creating Safe Places for People to Walk

28 May 2021
Dhawal Ashar (Senior Manager, Integrated Transport, WRI India) spoke at the Walk21 International Conference series, that celebrates the work undertaken for creating walkable neighbourhoods across the globe. Ashar spoke about WRI India's Mumbai Street Lab Initiative 2019 that looked at re-imagining the streets of Mumbai.

Second Climate Brunch Roundtable on Forest and Ecosystem Restoration

4 June 2021
Hosted by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi and International Forum for Environmental Sustainability & Technology (FOREST), Dr Madhu Verma spoke as an expert on incentivizing Forest Conservation in India: 13th, 14th & 15th Finance Commissions' Recommendations in India.

Environment Conservation & Climate Change Issues and Problem: Kannur Landscape

4 June 2021
Dr K.M. Jayahari (Senior Manager, Sustainable Landscapes & Restoration, WRI India) participated as a speaker for a webinar organized by Kerala Forest Department to discuss on landscape level environment conservation climate change challenges and opportunities.

Necessities of the Ecosystem Restoration in India

5 June 2021
Dr K.M. Jayahari participated in the World Environment Day event organized by MoEFCC's ENVIS resource partner on biological invasion, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, as a guest speaker at the webinar.

World Bank Group Youth Summit 2021: Resilient Recovery for People and Planet

9-10 June 2021
Faiza Solanki was selected and invited as a delegate to this summit after an intense screening process. She deliberated and engaged with delegates across other regions on a "people centric post-covid recovery" that promotes wellbeing, encourages inclusion through job creation, skill training and equitable climate impacts while addressing gender and inequality, housing and healthcare accessibility, and creating opportunities for fragile nations to benefit and to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

Ecosystem Restoration - How we can do it?: Webinar

10 June 2021
Dr K M Jayahari delivered a talk at a webinar organized by MES College of Mampad, Kerala on ecosystem restoration. The key agenda of the webinar was students, researchers and professors.

IPBES-8 Plenary

14-24 June 2021
Dr Madhu Verma attended as an expert observer member for scoping and detailed report structure process on business and biodiversity and for finalizing the cause of sustainable development and side event on Asia Pacific Regional Group proceedings and contributed to submit the opening and closing statements to the plenary on 14, 21 and 24 June 2021.

Agri-Renewables for the Energy-Water-Food Nexus: Webinar

15 June 2021
This webinar was organized by the IRENA Coalition for Action and invited experts in the field to discuss the benefits of agri-renewable solutions to jointly advance food security and energy transitions. Based on project-level experiences, the webinar will also highlight the economics of such solutions, identify barriers for scale-up and discuss potential solutions. Deepak Krishnan (Associate Director, Energy, WRI India) participated as a lead discussant.

UPDATES

Aniruddha Dasgupta named as new CEO of World Resources Institute

On 23 June, 2021 WRI announced that its Board of Directors has selected Ani Dasgupta to be the next President and CEO of World Resources Institute (WRI), Ani, who currently leads WRI's Cities program, becomes just the fourth President in WRI's nearly 40-year history, succeeding Andrew Steer, who recently departed WRI to head the Bezos Earth Fund.

Dr Madhu Verma appointed as the Chairperson for the Technical Committee under Wetland Authority of Delhi

On 5 July, 2021 Under an order from the Office of the Wetland Authority, Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi, Dr Madhu Verma was appointed as the Chairperson for the Technical Committee under Wetland Authority of Delhi. The Technical Committee shall review the management plans of wetlands, advise on technical matters, and list out activities to be prohibited or to be regulated for wetlands.

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