



WRI INDIA



# DIGEST

News  
at a  
glance

August - November 2020



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Dear friends,

I write to you as the world works towards the development of vaccines that will put us on the post-COVID-19 recovery path. As a research organization, our focus in this context remains on how we can build back better as we move forward. With our India office currently following rules of mandatory teleworking, we continue to strive and demonstrate a deep sense of professionalism and urgency in these difficult times.

Rural India will play a major role in the recovery effort and our teams are working closely to help build resilient rural communities. WRI India recently signed an MoU with the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development (DP&RD), Government of Madhya Pradesh (MP) — a first step toward operationalizing WRI India's assessment of landscape restoration opportunity for the Sidhi district. We also convened a high-level conversation on 'Advancing Strategic Investments in Rural Energy Storage Systems'.

Our third edition of the 2020 newsletter covers all our initiatives over the past few months, a few I am listing below. Please read them in detail in the newsletter:

- We organized a series of transport sector stakeholder consultations on 'Opportunities for Transformative Climate Action in the Transport Sector in India'.
- Under the Energy for Development initiative, WRI India has worked with Burrows Memorial Christian Hospital (BMCH) a 70-bedded hospital in Assam, to set up a 16.65kW system that powers critical loads like the Operation Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, labour room and laboratory.
- Launch of the Smart Cities Mission and MoUHA #NurturingNeighbourhoodsChallenge, in conjunction with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BVLf), that aims to create safe neighbourhoods for children and caregivers.
- Convened the Accelerating Access Coalition (aaco) and India's first story challenge for independent scholars and writers that focuses on WASH and healthy spaces.

These capacity building initiatives at the subnational levels and national launches are very much part of WRI India's overall strategy to make big ideas happen. I am very proud of our teams for their willingness to think beyond the curve.

Lastly, I wish you and your families a safe and peaceful December. Stay safe and we look forward to a new year that works towards a more resilient and inclusive world. Please share comments, ideas, suggestions for us to improve further.

Warm regards,  
**Dr. O.P. Agarwal**

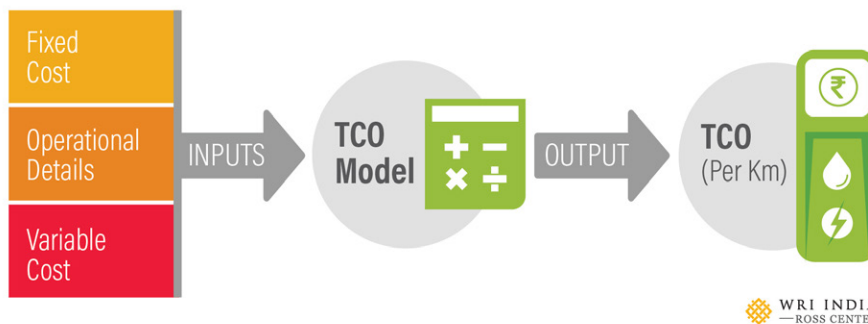
# UPDATES

## WRI India #TCOEvaluator

A key barrier to Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption, in India's price sensitive market, is the perceived notion of high capital costs. The WRI India [Total Cost of Ownership \(TCO\) Evaluator](#) compares and contrasts electric 2-wheelers, 3-wheelers, cars, and buses with their internal combustion engine (ICE) counterpart. It offers valuable insights to policy makers, fleet operators, manufacturers, and private/public vehicle owners. The TCO Evaluator was launched through a [webinar featuring experts](#) from the domain. The rollout #TCOEvaluator campaign included a [dedicated webpage](#), that allowed people to test out the #TCOEvaluator for themselves, a series of four insightful blogs that focused on each vehicular variant, and ongoing social media presence.

## The Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Evaluator

The WRI India TCO Evaluator performs an analysis, on key cost components and performance parameters, across all fuel segments



## TOD & road safety with World Bank capacity building

WRI India organized a series of capacity building workshops for the World Bank on “Integration of Road Safety Considerations in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Projects”, prepared with funding from UK AID, through the Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF). The four-part workshop highlighted the importance of road safety, in TOD projects, through the Five-Step process and Safe System approach. All material, resources and videos, from the sessions, can be accessed [here](#).

## Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

The #NurturingNeighbourhoodsChallenge, was launched by the Smart Cities Mission and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation and WRI India. The 3-year initiative is an open call to all city bodies in India. Selected entrants receive technical support and capacity-building to pilot and scale improvements in public space, mobility, neighborhood planning, access to early childhood services and data management to enhance the physical and psychological health of infants, toddlers and their caregivers. [Know more](#)

## Hyderabad flooding StoryMap

### 1. Paving the way for floods

Rainwater infiltrates into the ground, flows as surface runoff and evapotranspires into the atmosphere. Urban areas with impervious surfaces such as roads and buildings eliminate infiltration, reduce evapotranspiration, thereby drastically increasing surface runoff.



The city of Hyderabad (Telangana) faced extreme flooding and water stagnation across the city following a 24-hour severe rain event. Using the cataclysmic event as a trigger the Urban Water team, in conjunction with the Communications team, created an [ARC GIS Storymap](#) on why urban India constantly faces flooding issues. Interactive maps were used to show how the increase of built-up area in the city, impervious cover and other issues further aggravated the situation. The narrative was also shaped to link in with WRI India's on-going research on rapid urbanization and its impact on city resilience. [Read more](#)

## Raahgiri Day completes 7 years

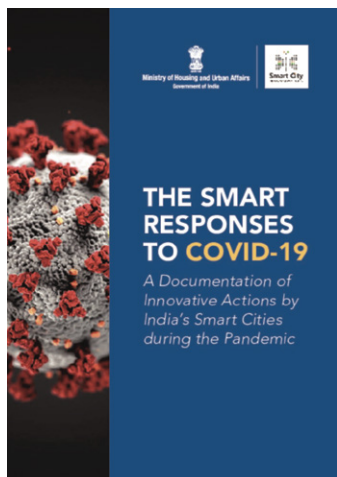
After a long break due to the pandemic, #RaahgiriDay returned to reclaim streets for people in Gurugram on 7 November 2020. As the movement completes seven years, it has continuously engaged with citizens in more than 70 cities in the country. Municipal Corporation of Gurugram and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority lead the program with the Raahgiri Foundation and WRI India to continue the conversation of making our streets safer, inclusive, sustainable, and healthy. The city chose a newly constructed cycle track as the location for the event, thereby making people aware of the developing cycling infrastructure in the city. There were multiple activities for people such as Zumba, street plays, tug of war, etc. All the norms of social distancing like wearing masks and regular sanitizing were adhered to. The program is also part of the #streetsforpeople challenge taken up by the MoHUA. [Know more](#)

## Accelerating Access Coalition (aac) Story Challenge

The image shows a screenshot of the AAC Story Challenge website on the left and a photograph of three women standing in front of a building on the right. The website screenshot includes the text: "aac STORY CHALLENGE", "CALL FOR ENTRIES", "Inviting independent writers &amp; scholars to write about 'improving citywide access to WASH and healthy spaces in India'", and a list of benefits: "Gain international exposure, expand your network", "Selected five proposals to document and report", and "All selected entries win a cash prize of INR 50,000 each". There is an "APPLY" button. The photograph shows three women standing in front of a building with a tiled roof. One woman is wearing a white patterned dress, another is wearing a blue sari, and a young girl is wearing a pink dress. The photo is credited to "Photo by Asian Development Bank/Flickr".

WRI India launched Accelerating Access Coalition (aac), a collective action model that seeks to prioritize inclusive and resilient access to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and healthy spaces for all urban dwellers

with a focus on the vulnerable. As part of the initiative, [WRI India also launched its first Story Challenge](#) inviting independent scholars and writers to submit their proposals with the five shortlisted entries receiving an award of INR 50,000 each. [Visit aaco](#)



### **The smart responses to COVID-19: A documentation of innovative actions by India's smart cities during the pandemic**

This compendium, prepared by MoHUA in collaboration with WRI India, highlights the innovative practices adopted by India cities in their fight against the pandemic. The learnings and insights are synthesized into five key categories of action — Tracking & Monitoring, Diagnostics, Sanitization, Awareness & Capacity Building, and Citizen Support. Many of the practices documented here have the potential for wider deployment and can serve as powerful tools in our arsenal —in our fight against COVID-19. [Read more](#)

### **Assessment of Landscape restoration opportunity for the Sidhi Ddistrict**

On 9 November 2020, WRI India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development (DP&RD), Government of Madhya Pradesh (MP), as the first step toward operationalizing WRI India's assessment of landscape restoration opportunity for the Sidhi district. The proposed work will contribute to the Government of India's international commitments, including the Paris Agreement, Bonn Challenge and Land Degradation Neutrality target, and United Nations' SDGs.

### **Renewable sources for electricity in health facilities**

The Energy team at WRI India has been working with government and non-government partners to improve access to reliable, affordable and sustainable sources of electricity in health facilities. In remote parts of the country where [health facilities](#) suffer due to power outages and voltage fluctuations, renewable energy can play an important role. Under the [Energy for Development initiative](#), WRI India has worked with Burrows Memorial Christian Hospital (BMCH), a 70-bedded hospital in Assam, to set up a 16.65kW system that powers critical loads like the Operation Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, labour room and laboratory. In the neighbouring district of Karimganj, WRI India [partnered](#) with World Vision India to electrify an un-electrified health centre and to reduce dependency on diesel in another health centre that is connected to the grid. These health centres will be able to provide basic services like child deliveries and accommodate staff on campus with access to reliable electricity. With better electricity and additional support, large hospitals like BMCH can now aspire to set up blood banks and other facilities to cater to populations who would otherwise not have the resources to travel to critical health facilities.

# COMMENTARIES



## **Building a Resilient Kochi - A holistic approach to provide Safe Public Transport and Public Spaces in times of a pandemic and beyond** 4 August, 2020

*by Rajeev Malagi, Prerna Vijaykumar Mehta, Shabna Seemamu and Ambica Wakhloo*

Public transport and public spaces serve as lifelines for cities. With the occurrence of COVID 19 pandemic, public transport systems, streets, and public spaces were shut as they are highly prone to the spread of infection, thus putting cities to a grinding halt. Now, the cities are preparing to slowly exit from this ‘lockdown’ phase and embrace the ‘new normal’. This gradual exit requires a meticulous plan with short-term, mid-term, and long-term strategies especially for providing public transport services and opening public spaces. [Download](#)

## EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

This paper was published in Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, by Parveen Kumar and Subrata Chakrabarty on September 10. The paper is titled **“Total cost of ownership analysis of the impact of vehicle usage on the economic viability of electric vehicles in India”** and can be viewed [here](#)

# INSIGHTS



## Reimagining Indian cities for the youngest residents [Times Now News](#)

Rushda Majeed and Dr. O.P. Agarwal write on how cities can work to enhance access to public parks, gardens and open spaces, with dedicated and semi-dedicated areas for young children that incorporate natural, play and sensory stimulants.

## Smart Cities and COVID19: Emergency response and the new normal [Gaon Connection](#)



Perna Vijaykumar Mehta writes about how India's 100 smart cities have set an example of how innovation, technology and existing infrastructure can be harnessed to strengthen, balance and coordinate on-ground action during the crisis and hereafter, in

the new normal. Read the original WRI India blog [here](#).

## To resume its \$10 trillion journey, India must redefine 'compact cities' as small clusters that attract growth [Times Now News](#)

Dr. O.P. Agarwal writes about how the Paris region, often known as the Isle de France, which most of us think of as one city, is actually a cluster of over 1200 cities, each with its own mayors and can serve as an example of 'compact cities'.

## Investor support, consumer awareness, government inclusion key to boost innovation ecosystem post-COVID [Your Story](#)





Arathi Kumar writes about how, while MSMEs and local entrepreneurs stepped up to provide essential services during COVID-19, their innovation necessitates reciprocation from investors, government, and communities, if they are to be sustained and scaled.

## MGNREGA can help build climate resilient future for India's most vulnerable population

[Gaon Connection](#)



Parvathi Preethan, Shubham Gupta and Nakul Sharma note that given 70% of India's population still lives in rural areas, MGNREGA can help the transition to climate resilient development in India in a cost-effective manner. This task, however, is challenging. This article was first published as a blog on [WRI India](#).

## Life on char islands in the Brahmaputra a daily struggle in monsoon floods

[Gaon Connection](#), [Green Industry Platform](#)



Namrata Ginoya and Amala Devi take us through chars - islands in the Brahmaputra formed through silt deposits. During monsoons, many chars get

partially or fully submerged affecting delivery of basic services. This article was first published as a blog on [WRI India](#).

## Building resilience for an urbanizing India

[Business India](#)

Dr. A. Nambi Appadurai and Yasar Waheed Khan write that cities like Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru are part of a global network of megacities under C40 Cities, to collaborate, share knowledge and drive climate action.

## Financing nature conservation will enhance long-term wellbeing of the people, make way for sustainable economy

[Times Now News](#)

Pushpam Kumar and Madhu Verma write that for a truly holistic and informed revival, we must first admit that the pandemic has erupted due to a dysfunctional relationship between humans and nature.

## भारत में रोजाना 43 बच्चों की सड़क हादसों में होती है मौत, क्या इन मौतों को रोका जा सकता है?

[Gaon Connection Hindi](#)



प्रियंका सुल्खलान: देश में सड़को के निर्माण के समय अगर बच्चों की जरूरतों को ध्यान में रखा जाए तो बच्चों की ये मौतें रुक सकती हैं। अभी देश में रोजाना सड़क हादसों में 43 बच्चों की मौत होती है।

## भारत की सबसे कमजोर आबादी के लिए जलवायु के अनुकूल भविष्य बनाने में मदद कर सकता है मनरेगा

[Gaon Connection Hindi](#)

पार्वती प्रीतन, शुभम गुप्ता और नकुल शर्मा: अगर मनरेगा इन चुनौतियों को अवसरों में तब्दील करने में सफल रहा तो यह अधिक

सतत भविष्य के निर्माण और सबसे ज्यादा जोखिम के साये में जी रही आबादी की अनुकूलन क्षमता बढ़ाने की दिशा में भारत द्वारा किये जा रहे प्रयासों में बहुत मददगार साबित हो सकता है।

### High rises don't help [Indian Express](#)

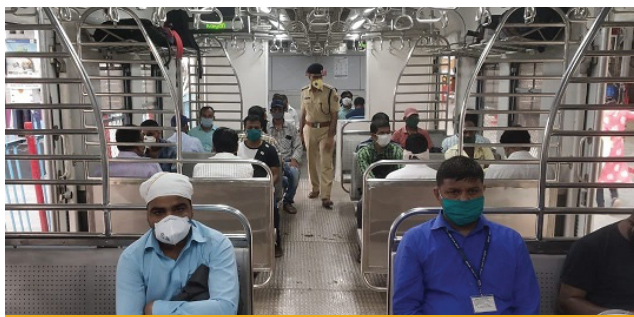
Rejeet Mathews and Madhav Pai write about the energy and maintenance costs of high rises. Their seismic vulnerabilities mean they are no solution for India's housing predicament, they write.

### Reimagining agricultural systems [Business India](#)



Madhu Verma and Parul Sharma write that over the past 25 years the average cost of production of some major crops has risen from Rs48 per 100 output in 2007-08 to Rs64 for the same quantity in 2014-15.

### Physical Distancing on Mumbai's trains is nearly impossible; station design is a big reason [Gaon Connection](#)



Leona Nunes, Lubaina Rangwala and Madhav Pai write that as the system recovers from COVID19-related shutdowns, it is time to focus more on station infrastructure to improve safety in light of the

continuing public health threat. This article has been sourced from [WRI India](#), and was originally published on [TheCityFix](#).

### Constructing only drains and pumps to resolve storm-water issues will frequently bring Indian cities under water [Gaon Connection](#)



Sahana Goswami and Samrat Basak write about urban flood management in India which continues to focus only on improving grey infrastructure, rescue and relief. They further note that these are all necessary activities, but repeated floods indicate that these actions are insufficient.

### Integrating blue, green and grey water infrastructure to manage urban floods [Gaon Connection](#)



Ashwathy Anand and Sahana Goswami write about the need to explore eco-friendly infrastructure alternatives to manage recurring cases of urban flooding events across Indian cities that will bring urban centres closer to nature.

## महानगरों में मेट्रो बन रहा परिवहन सेवाओं का प्रमुख साधन, कनेक्टिंग फीडर सेवाओं से मलिन सकता है इसे और विस्तार [Gaon Connection Hindi](#)

सुभादीप भट्टाचार्यजी, चैतन्य कनूरी, सुदीप्त मैती और साई आर. चैतन्य: दिल्ली, मुंबई, बंगलुरु, कोलकाता और कोच्चि जैसे महानगरों में मेट्रो अब परिवहन का मुख्य साधन है। अब लखनऊ, जयपुर जैसे टियर-टू शहरों में भी इसका विस्तार हो रहा है लेकिन इन शहरों में यात्रियों की संख्या के लिहाज से मेट्रो सेवा को अपेक्षित सफलता नहीं मिल पाई है।

## क्यों डूब रहा शहरी भारत? [Gaon Connection Hindi](#)

सहाना गोस्वामी और सम्राट बसाक: भारत में नगरीय बाढ़ प्रबन्धन तंत्र सिर्फ वर्षा जल की निकासी के ढांचे में सुधार पर ही ध्यान दे रहा है जबकि उसे बाढ़ से निपटने के लिये सक्षम बनाने के टिकाऊ समाधान तैयार करने पर पहले ध्यान देना चाहिये।

## Six ways to make our cities child-friendly [Citizen Matters](#), [Gaon Connection](#), [Child in the City](#), [Deccan Herald](#)



Nikita Luke, Rohit Tak, Claudia Adriaola-Steil and Ariadne Samios write about how children are often under-prioritized or even disregarded in urban planning and design. This article was originally published as a blog in [The City Fix](#).

## Greening MSMEs [Indian Express](#)

Shubham Gupta writes about how India needs a roadmap to make MSMEs resilient, sustainable and a part of the nation's green development plan.

## Clean energy solutions for water access in the arid region of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

[Gaon Connection](#), [Green Industry Platform](#)



Namrata Ginoya writes about how there is no water to be had, without diesel, in the Thar. However, solar powered units are now enabling uninterrupted water supply in the region.

## Why we need mobility: The COVID pandemic is a reminder that travel cannot be replaced by technology [Times of India](#)

Vandana Vasudevan writes about how mobility is more than just movement from origin to destination. When we travel, the physical proximity of others and our interactions, silent and spoken, fulfil certain needs in us as social beings, she writes.

## Sustainable buildings for resilient recovery need national-subnational engagement [ET Energy World](#)



Sumedha Malaviya and Tirthankar Mandal write that for India to plan investments in buildings efficiency,

as a means of economic recovery, collaboration and trust between national and subnational state and non-state actors is critical.

### 34-km cycle lane coming up on outer ring road soon [Citizen Matters](#)



Rajeev Malagi notes that with the onset of COVID-19, Indian cities have been working towards finding alternative solutions for transporting citizens. Worries about maintaining social distancing have led more people to take up cycling and walking as their preferred modes of transport.

### Rural women must play a key role in COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery policies [Gaon Connection](#)

Ruchika Singh, Celine Salcedo La Vina, and Natalie Elwell write that the pandemic response must avoid increasing the inequalities faced by rural women. They share five ways to ensure gender-sensitive policies in the wake of COVID-19.

### Rethinking public engagement for safer streets [CitySabha](#)



Vibhav Kharagpuria writes about the way in which public engagement can be used to make streets safer for people.

### Ensuring supply reliability [Powerline](#)

Sumedha Malaviya along with Amit Khare of ICF writes about how disoms can use NWAs without high infrastructure investments.

# IN THE NEWS



## Mumbai readies for national cycle challenge

[\*Hindustan Times\*](#)

Organisations like WRI India, Smart Commute Foundation (SCF), and Project Mumbai are assisting the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in the challenge. “We had our first meeting on Sunday, during which we decided to undertake a survey of how Mumbaiites travel and also identify roads where pop-up lanes can be introduced,” said Firoza Suresh, Mumbai’s bicycle mayor.

## Covid-19: Paper tickets in Delhi buses canceled, now e-ticketing will be done through mobile

[\*The New Trace\*](#)

The task force includes officers from DTC and Delhi Integrated Multi-Model Transport System Limited (DIMTS), besides researchers from IIIT Delhi and experts from WRI India.

## Unless India invests in green infra, the future of cities is dark and grey [\*Hindustan Times\*](#)

Preliminary findings of an ongoing research by WRI-India indicate that 35% (428 sq.km) of new



development within 20 km of the city centre (2000-15) in the nation’s 10 top cities — Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Surat — has been on low-lying and high recharge potential zones.

## NITI Aayog to launch Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia(TIA) India component tomorrow, 27th August

[\*India Education Diary\*](#)

NDC-TIA is a joint programme, supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and implemented by a consortium of seven organisations including WRI India.

## Empower local communities for forest restoration and climate change mitigation [Times of India](#)

The research team employed data published by researchers at the Earth Innovation Institute, NASA, the Rights and Resources Initiative, the World Bank, and WRI India.

## 'We survived on two meals and charity after the cyclone' [Dhaka Tribune](#)



The WRI Global Water Risk Atlas 2019 revealed that 17 countries will face extremely high water stress within the next 20 years. Bangladesh currently faces medium-high risk in this ranking.

## Citizen groups come together for better public transport [The New Indian Express](#)



The campaign is an initiative of Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC), Environment Support Group (ESG), WRI India and Bengaluru Needs You (BNY).

## Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot inspects Phase-2 trial Of e-ticketing app In buses

[BusinessWorld](#)

The Delhi Transport Department has started the phase-2 trial of contactless e-ticketing app 'Chartr' in its cluster buses. The trial is being conducted by a special task force constituted for this purpose by the Transport Minister which consists of expert members from Transport Department, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-D), Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd. (DIMTS), Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and WRI India.

## 'A strong road safety strategy requires multi-sectoral collaboration ... speed management is crucial to save lives' [Times of India](#)

This initiative has efforts from leading global experts from WRI, the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), Vital Strategies, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National Association of City Transportation Officials-Global Designing Cities Initiative (NACTO-GDCI), Johns Hopkins University, the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), the World Bank and WHO.

## World must progress towards zero-carbon economy by 2050: ETC report [The Weather Channel](#)

It has in its fold leaders from global energy producers, energy-intensive industries, financial institutions and environmental advocates - including ArcelorMittal, Bank of America, BP, Development Research Centre of the State Council of China, EBRD, HSBC, Iberdrola, Arsted, Shell, Sinopec Capital, Tata Group, Volvo and the WRI, among others.

## Energy Transitions Commission: Global energy, industry and financial leaders outline next decade priorities for a net-zero-carbon economy

[Business World](#)

A coalition of 40 leaders from global energy producers, energy-intensive industries, financial institutions and environmental advocates - including ArcelorMittal, Bank of America, BP, Development Research Center of the State Council of China, EBRD, HSBC, Iberdrola, Orsted, Shell, Sinopec Capital, Tata Group, Volvo and the WRI among others - argue in this report that the world can and must achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century and that 'zero must mean zero' with no permanent reliance on negative emissions to balance continued energy and industrial emissions.

## Turning the corner: Three busy traffic junctions in Mumbai now safe for walkers

[Times Of India](#)

WRI India has tied up with the BMC for transforming junctions under the Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety.

## Bring back bike taxi in Bengaluru, say experts

[The New Indian Express](#)



Participants include Prof. Rajeev Gowda, former MP, N.A. Haris, MLA (Shanthinagar), Nandeisha Reddy, BMTC Chairman, Rajiv Aggarwal, Head of Public Policy South Asia - India, Uber, Pawan Mulukutla, Director, Electric Mobility, WRI India, World Resources Institute, and others.

## E-ticketing app of Delhi transport dept to cover all 6,600 public buses by Nov first week: Gahlot

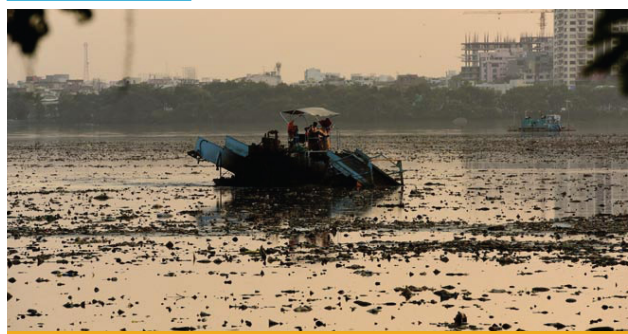
[Outlook Magazine](#)



The trial was conducted by a special task force constituted by the minister, which comprised of experts from the Transport Department, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-D), Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd (DIMTS), Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and WRI India.

## HMDA signs a tripartite MoU to remove floating solid waste from Hussain Sagar lake

[The Siasat Daily](#), [Deccan News](#), [Telangana Today](#), [The New Indian Express](#)



Intensifying its efforts to conserve the Hussain Sagar lake, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is working on installing a floating boom barrier at the Picket nala to arrest the flow of floating trash into the lake. To this effect, HMDA signed an tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WRI India and DESMI, Denmark's oldest company, which specialises in the development, manufacture, sale and service of environmental equipment for oil spill, seaweed.

## Cycling lanes to come up in CBD [The Hindu](#)



The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), in collaboration with WRI India, has prepared a detailed design drawing for the 5-km stretch from Minsk Square and Raj Bhavan Road to Chalukya Circle.

## India's first pop-up lane dedicated to bicycle riders debuts in Bengaluru [Times of India](#)

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), along with the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) Bengaluru and WRI India, has been continuously working to complete the project.

## The need to walk the green path in a Post-Covid world [Business World](#)

A paper published by WRI India in 2018 found that 14 out of 20 largest thermal utility companies in India experienced one or more shutdowns due to water shortages during 2013 to 2016, costing companies over \$1.4 billion in total potential revenue from the sale of power.

## Driving forth change [The New Indian Express](#)

The Mobility Champions program, hosted by Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC) in partnership with the #BengaluruMoving campaign, WRI India and Let Me Breathe (LMB), has proposed three solutions aimed at solving Bengaluru's traffic woes.

## City's young techies develop unique solutions to decongest Bengaluru [India Education Diary](#)

The Mobility Champions program, hosted by Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC) in partnership with the #BengaluruMoving campaign, WRI India and Let Me Breathe (LMB) proposed three unique solutions aimed at solving Bengaluru's traffic woes.

## C-HED bags urban governance best practice award [Times of India](#)

The agency is also the local partner for GIZ, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, the National Institute of Urban Affairs ICLEI, Wuppertal Institute and WRI India in Kochi.

## Navigating The Streets Of Bengaluru: A Story About Walkability [Youth Ki Awaaz](#)



Data on bus-stops in Bengaluru was obtained from WRI India. We then utilized a python-based open-source library called 'Pandan' to measure the accessibility scores of different areas and visualized it using 'Kepler', an open-source spatial visualization tool by Uber.

## Smart road to meet deadline, be ready in a week [The New Indian Express](#)

A team from the Directorate of Urban Land Transport and consultants from WRI India have been on-site to handhold and guide concerning drawings and design issues.



## Clean air is not 'green air' [Financial Express](#)



As per WRI, the US accounts for nearly a quarter of the cumulative global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1850, compared with India and China contributing 2% and 7.5%.

## Sustainable economic recovery roadmap after Covid-19 in the offing [India Climate Dialogue](#)



In this background, the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) hosted its seventh Annual Sustainability Conference on 28-30 October, 2020. The event, that saw WRI India participating, identified pathways to a sustainable and inclusive recovery post-COVID-19.

## T2 Science Podcast Ep 6: Is India on track to meet its climate action goals?

Ulka Kelkar was interviewed in Firstpost T2 Science Podcast, "Is India on track to meet its climate action goals?" [See recording here](#)

## WRI India & CII conduct MSME capacity building training [KNN India](#)

In a bid to help facilitate a shift towards a low-carbon, profitable and resilient MSME sector in India, WRI India, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has conducted a 'MSME capacity building training series'.

## Most Metro networks in India have not met projected ridership: Report [Hindustan Times](#)

Even though the country is investing hugely in laying a metro network in major cities, most of the Metro networks are not meeting their projected ridership, a recent analysis by WRI India has revealed.

## Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches child-friendly Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge [The CSR Journal](#), [Mangalore Mirror](#)

The Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA, held a kick-off event for the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge in collaboration with the Netherlands-based Bernard van Leer Foundation and WRI India.

# “QUOTES”

“This is the longest continuous stretch to have the least number of trees, but there are over a dozen other stretches, each spanning between 6 and 8km, where you would find negligible green cover. Delhi is becoming one of the world’s biggest concrete wastelands and this requires urgent attention from the government and civic agencies”

**Raj Bhagat Palanichamy** in [Hindustan Times](#)

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“In general, the tide is turning. All over the world the momentum is building. And the worry was that this severe, unprecedented economic recession would hinder these efforts. That’s why this call to action becomes more important. Businesses must still hold firm to the trends that we were seeing before the pandemic”

“Infosys was the first Indian IT company to put an internal price on carbon. This has helped them account for climate change while making business decisions and go for cleaner energy options.”

“Though there were power cuts, hospitals were able to use solar power in order to run ventilators during this coronavirus pandemic. That’s a very key pillar of how rural energy can be provided.”

**Ulka Kelkar** in [Mint](#)

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“Non-fare revenue becomes crucial for any metro, which is a very high-investment project. Many cities have started exploring ideas around non-fare revenue but have not yet been able to achieve significant revenue shares. One example would be to look at the Hong Kong model, where approximately 40% of the revenue is via non-fare box.”

**Sudeept Maiti** in [Hindustan Times](#)

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“What’s not taken into account is that people also walk, cross, rest, run businesses, and celebrate festivals on the street.”

**Dhawal Ashar** in [Citizen Matters](#)

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“The development in high recharge zones, which is nearly one-third of the total, has reduced the amount of water seeping underground and that is why you are seeing more instances of flooding after rain, especially during the monsoon.”

**Samrat Basak** in [Times of India](#)

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“The staffing and functioning of the proposed electric vehicle board and an EV cell within the transport department will be key to how this policy works out.” [Times of India](#)

“DMRC should also increase the frequency of metro services and develop a protocol for disinfection of surfaces.” [Huffington Post India](#)

**Amit Bhatt**

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“While India accounts for only 2% of global motor vehicles, it contributes over 12% of global road traffic deaths. Around 1.5 lakh people lose their lives on India’s roads every year.” [Financial Express](#)

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“Broadly, if you are breaking for less than a minute then you probably do not switch off.” [Scroll.in, Quartz](#)

**Amit Bhatt**

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“For a young, aspiring country that sees itself as having arrived at the global stage, depending on imports for something as basic as energy does not sit well.”

**Bharath Jairaj** in [Deutsche Welle](#)

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“Mumbai needs last-mile connectivity options and these initiatives are ideal for it.”

[Hindustan Times](#)

“Now, when traffic is lower than usual, is the time to experiment with changes.” [Mid-Day](#)

**Madhav Pai**

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“In India, we worked in Surat where heat stress is one of the bigger climate stresses for the city. We realized that communities don’t consider heat as a life risk or as a health risk. They see it more as a nuisance.”

**Lubaina Rangwala** in [Mint](#)

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“Our preliminary research has also revealed that the built-up area of the City has gone up by 65% in the last 15 years. But, about 50% of the new development has taken place in the

low-lying areas where there are high recharge potentials.”

**Sahana Goswami** in [Bangalore Mirror](#)

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“People find it difficult to maintain social distancing in share autos and cabs. The State government must come up with a plan on how bus services can resumed for commuters who do not have access to the Metro. Buses are better than share autos and cabs because commuters can maintain social distancing in those.”

**Chaitanya Kanuri** in [The New Indian Express](#)

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“Public spaces could be explored inside institutions with large landholdings and big campuses, such as schools, colleges and the likes of the Indian Institute of Science. The existing local parks should be open for the public the entire day, closing only at night.”

**Jaya Dhindaw** in [Deccan Herald](#)

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“This is a good time for policy makers to pivot from traditional power generation and speed up out of the box thinking.”

**Deepak Krishnan** in [Mint](#)

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“The notification touches upon ecological damage and economic benefit assessment but they are not interpreted in detail. No such listing and estimation of damage costs and loss of economic benefits has been provided, which leaves it open to being interpreted differently by different people.”

**Madhu Verma** in [India Today](#)

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# BLOGS



## TANGEDCO sees red amid lockdown blues

Naren Pasupalati and Harsha Meenawat write about how amid the financial crisis that emerged during the month-long lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in a letter to the Centre late April, sought a bail-out package for the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (TANGEDCO).

[Read more](#)

## These South Asian companies are restoring farms and forests



Kavita Sharma, Amanda Gant, Will Anderson and Ashna Rustagi, write about looking at how from developed to developing countries, the businesses are

shifting away from a narrow focus on profit to an inclusive approach that benefits the planet and the people. These innovators are taking sustainability as the starting point and developing businesses that focus on societal impact. [Read more](#)

## Crisis and recovery: Cycling in Kolkata city



Azra Khan, Swarna Dutt and Satanjib Gupta write about cycling in Kolkata during the pandemic. Local governments' response has varied across the globe, some lowering speed limits, some building pop-up bike lanes and others subsidizing e-bike purchases.

[Read more](#)

## Can school children return to safer streets after the pandemic?



Anusha Chitturi writes about how changing the way students commute to school can unlock numerous benefits for cities. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed cities across the world to prioritize more sustainable modes of transport, such as walking and cycling. [Read more](#)

## Moving from compulsion to choice: Ways to retain cycling as the forever normal



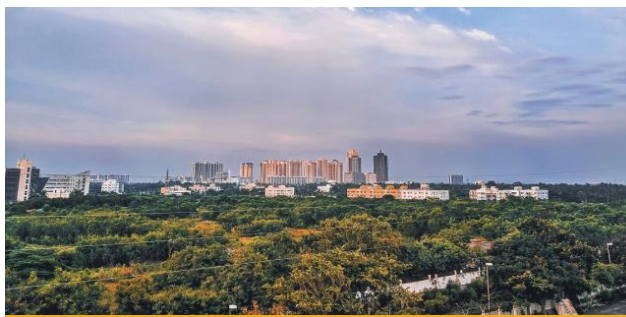
Azra Khan and Swarna Dutt write about mainstreaming cycling in India. The challenge to mainstream cycling in Indian cities is not new, but the pandemic has given the opportunity to convert this temporary surge in cycling to a sustained new normal. [Read more](#)

## Buried waters: Clean energy solutions for water access in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Namrata Ginoya writes about how until recently, the only source of drinking water were the borewells installed by the Rajasthan Public Health and

Engineering Department (PHED). Diesel pumps extract water from these wells about 3 hours per day, consuming close to 50 litres of diesel. [Read more](#)

## Nature-based solutions for reimagining the pathway to a sustainable future



Parvathi Preethan and Shubham Gupta write about how there is a need to build a knowledge base and research evidence, particularly on how NbS can help address climate risks and contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts, move from pilots and be scaled up to cover wider geographies. [Read more](#)

## Total cost of ownership of electric vehicles: Implications for policy and purchase decisions



Parveen Kumar and Chaitanya Kanuri note how the wider range of EV models is also expected to be launched in the coming years, offering more affordable options for consumers. This is the first blog in a series on Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis of electric vehicles in the Indian market. [Read more](#)

## Powering India's shift to electric mobility: Big opportunity in two-wheelers segment



Parveen Kumar and Sanjana Singh write about how the electrification of two-wheelers in India provides an enormous opportunity to cut down on carbon dioxide emissions and improve air quality levels. This is the second blog in a series on TCO analysis of electric vehicles in the Indian market. [Read more](#)

## Wind energy technology in Tamil Nadu: What the future holds



Kajol writes about the recent WRI India webinar that focused on how to enhance knowledge, gain valuable insights and disseminate new and innovative ideas amongst the wind energy community with a particular focus on accelerating development in the offshore wind space in Tamil Nadu. [Read more](#)

## Busting the cost barrier: Why electric three-wheelers make business sense



Parveen Kumar and Tarun Cherian George, through this blog, discuss the cost of owning and operating different variants of electric three-wheelers vis-à-vis their ICE variants. This is the third blog in the TCO Evaluator series. [Read more](#)

## Rural women must Be at the heart of COVID-19 response and recovery



Celine Salcedo-La Viña, Ruchika Singh and Natalie Elwell write that with rural populations making up three-quarters of the world's poor, the impact of the pandemic will inevitably be most devastating in developing nations. [Read more](#)

# PROGRAM WEBINARS



## **Managing growth for startups (Land Accelerator, South Asia) *August 5, 2020***

Companies had an exposure to the art of developing a replicable model and accessing customers to sustainably scale their businesses to predictable revenues and profitability. It was a closed workshop which was attended by the 15 companies along with the Land Accelerator team. [See full recording here](#)

## **Financial reporting (Land Accelerator, South Asia) *August 19, 2020***

This closed workshop for the 15 companies was organized to support them in understanding and documenting their financial parameters. Ready to use templates were shared with the companies to manage their financial reporting process. [See full recording here](#)

## **How cities can build back better with nature based solutions *August 28, 2020***

For this session, WRI India and the Kochi Municipal Corporation brought together leading experts and practitioners in the field of NBS to discuss points like: What is an effective NBS financing model, key instruments that we need to look for; where and how is assistance required in financing an NBS model, etc. Speakers in this webinar include: Chantal van Ham, EU Programme Manager, Nature Based Solutions, IUCN European Regional Office, Brussels; Monalisa Sen, Programme Coordinator (Biodiversity), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), South Asia; Hari M.R., Crowd forestry, Kerala; Meenakshi Pawar, Environmental Planner, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA); Suzanne Ozment, Senior Associate, Natural Infrastructure for Water; Rajan Chedambath, Director, Centre for Heritage, Environment and Development, Kochi. It was moderated by Jaya Dhindaw, Director, Integrated Urban Planning, WRI India.



## Transport Sector Stakeholder Consultations | Session 01: Opportunities for transformative climate action in transport sector in India *August 31, 2020*

India seeks to address future energy requirements through sustainable transportation options. There are several actions that have been initiated or implemented in India with a focus on “Shift” and “Improve”. These actions have the potential to accelerate the transition to low-carbon sustainable transport in India.

[See recording here](#)

## MSME Training Series | #01: Fundamentals of Climate Change and the Business Case for Action *September 3, 2020*

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the highly inequitable nature of economic impacts with MSMEs being the worst hit, despite playing a critical role in the economy. Climate change poses a similar challenge, with disastrous and inequitable impacts across economies, industry and vulnerable communities. The Indian MSME sector employs ~110 million people and is the backbone of the economy. The sector thus presents a huge opportunity for mitigating climate impacts, building a resilient economy and safeguarding millions of livelihoods. [See recording here](#)

## Transport Sector Stakeholder Consultations | Session 02: Towards Decarbonization of Urban Transport in India *September 10, 2020*

Rapid urbanization has led to a significant rise in travel demand, with passenger activity increasing by 267% during 2005-15. Longer trip distances, increased share of private motorized transport, and declining share of public and non-motorized transport have resulted in increased congestion, deteriorating air quality and significant greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas. [See recording here](#)



## **Book talks at WRI Engage: Climate change from the streets: Poor communities and environmental justice & India moving: How migration shapes India's economy and society** *September 15 and 29, 2020*

In this series of virtual Book Talks, organized by WRI India, the speakers engaged with timely and compelling new books and discussed their implications on policy and action. Moderated by WRI India, the discussions were with Prof. Michael Mendez, author of *Climate Change from the Streets: How Conflict and Collaboration Strengthen the Environmental Justice Movement* and Prof. Chinmay Tumble, author of *India Moving: A History of Migration*. [See recording here](#)

## **Advancing strategic investments in rural energy storage systems** *September 22, 2020*

Moderated by Dr OP Agarwal, CEO, WRI India, this discussion was about how India is predominantly a rural country with two-thirds of its population and 70% of its workforce residing in rural areas. The Indian rural economy constitutes 46% of the national income and, despite the rise of urbanization, more than half of India's population is projected to be rural by 2050. Thus, rural growth and development is key to the overall growth and inclusive development of the country.

Speakers at the webinar were Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Industry and Commerce Secretary, Govt. of Telangana; Dr. Tom Chapin, Vice President – Research, Underwriters Laboratories; Reji Kumar Pillai, President, India Smart Grid Forum; Rajnath Ram, Advisor, Niti Aayog; Ruchir Shukla, Director, Electric Mobility, Shakti Foundation; and Aparna Mangla, Regional Manager, Shell Foundation.

## **Transport sector stakeholder consultations | Session 03 – Towards decarbonization of freight transport in India** *September 24, 2020*

Road transport in India is dominant both in terms of traffic share and contribution to the economy. Road transport – the largest consumer of commercial fuel energy within the transportation system – accounts for 87% of the emissions from this sector. Despite its impact on transport sector emissions, road transport has largely remained untouched by transitions towards decarbonization. Fragmentation of surface freight transport to small fleet operators, heavy reliance on road transport (compared to rail), and a lack of academic research on technological needs, pose challenges to this transition.

Speakers at this webinar were K. Sanjay Murthy, CEO & Managing Director, National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC); K.R. Jyothilal, IAS, Principal Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Kerala; Sharmila Chavaly, Principal Financial Advisor, Ministry of Railways; Pierpalo Cazzola, Advisor, Energy, Technology and Environmental Sustainability, ITF; Dr OP Agarwal, CEO, WRI India; Ulka Kelkar, Director, Climate Program, WRI India; and Chirag Gajjar, Head, Subnational Climate Action, Climate Program, WRI India.

## **Wind energy technology in Tamil Nadu: What the future holds** *September 25, 2020*

India's transition to clean energy has largely been driven by the Renewable Energy (RE) sector. The total wind energy installed in India is close to 36.5 GW, fourth highest in the world after China, US and Germany (March 2019). [See recording here](#)



### **Promoting forest conservation through public funding** *September 30, 2020*

Governments around the world are grappling with the twin-edged challenge of a distressing pandemic and painful economic recession. As economic revival becomes the top priority, WHO has reminded everyone of an ‘intimate and delicate relationship between people and planet’ and emphasized on the need for a healthy and green recovery. In this context UNEP, TNC and WRI India organized a webinar to discuss questions like: How do investments in forests and trees contribute to other key priorities of the states such as food security, public health, and employment? How can a strong case be presented to the state decision makers for enhancing public investment in forests, especially for the critical field-level activities?

### **Launch of Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Evaluator** *October 8, 2020*

A key barrier to EV adoption, in India’s price-sensitive automobile market, is the high capital cost that dominates an EV's otherwise lower operating costs. A more accurate assessment of the economic efficiency of an EV is gained by looking at owning and operating an EV through the lens of Total Cost of Ownership (TCO). To this effect WRI India launched the #TCOEvaluator that gauges the economic efficiency of electric 2-wheeler, 3-wheelers, cars and buses. [See recording here](#)

### **Transit oriented development and road safety | Session 2 | Assessing and enabling road safety for TOD** *October 8, 2020*

This session of the workshop series on ‘Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Road Safety’ delved into assessing the road safety readiness of a city for implementing a safe TOD and ways of using road safety as a messaging for setting up an enabling environment for TOD. It was chaired by Shigeyuki Sakaki, Senior Transport Specialist, Transit-Oriented Development COP Lead, World Bank. [See recording here](#)

### **Transit oriented development and road safety session 3 | Planning and designing road safety measures in TOD** *October 15, 2020*

During this session, a case study presentation highlighted the ‘Tianjin Urban Green Mobility Project’ emphasizing on alignment with the city’s vision and goals for ensuring road safety, identifying challenges and applying design solutions within the TOD station areas in Tianjin, China. [See recording here](#)

### **Transit oriented development and road safety session 4 | Financing & implementing road safety in TOD** *October 22, 2020*

The session included case study presentations and a virtual panel discussion on the challenges related to the incorporation of road safety considerations in the five-steps of TOD framework. It was chaired by Felipe Targa, Senior Transport Specialist, The World Bank. [See recording here](#)

### **Discussion on depot and charging management for electric buses** *October 23, 2020*

This webinar saw Eric Nöh, Head of Sales Public Transport, PSI Transcom GmbH, Germany throw light on related topics and offer key takeaways. This 60-minute session included a speaker presentation followed by Q&A. [See recording here](#)

### **Online training: Greenhouse gas inventory and inclusive climate action planning for urban local Bodies - Kerala and Goa** *October 27-28, 2020*

In order to enable cities to take climate action, IUC-India, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia and WRI India partnered to develop and deliver a two-day interactive virtual training. Speakers at the session were from WRI India, IUC-India and ICLEI-SA helped build the capacity of ULBs on the basic science of climate change and the role of cities in addressing climate change. The session also helped facilitate building capacities to develop city-level inclusive climate action plans.

### **Re-powering wind energy in Tamil Nadu** *October 28, 2020*

The renewable energy sector has largely helped shape the clean energy transition in our country. Within it, the contribution of wind energy is substantial – close to 38 GW of installed capacity in July 2020.

[See recording here](#)

### **MSME Training Series #02: Tracking your emissions - Corporate GHG accounting and reporting**

*November 3, 2020*

The second session of the MSME Training Series facilitated by WRI India in partnership with CII introduced the concepts of GHG accounting and management to the Indian MSME sector. The training session was conducted by GHG accounting experts and included hands-on exercises on accounting concepts.

[See recording here](#)



### **Online Training: Greenhouse gas inventory and inclusive climate action planning for urban local bodies - Gujarat** *November 5-6, 2020*

In order to enable cities to take climate action, IUC-India, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia and WRI India partnered to develop and deliver this two-day interactive virtual training. Training objectives through this session were: Build the capacity of ULBs on the basic science of climate change and role of cities in addressing climate change. Understand principles to develop city-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory and its benefits. Officials from the following Gujarat cities participated in this training: Surat, Bhavnagar, Gandhinagar, Rajkot and Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar, Junagadh and the Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat.

### **Building a post-COVID climate resilient future: State-level experiences from Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh** *November 19, 2020*

The various vulnerabilities and developmental threats faced by the states have been thrown into sharper focus in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. As states struggle to flatten the curve and revive the economy, what does this mean for climate action? With this background, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) and WRI India in partnership with the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) in Sikkim and Environmental Planning and Coordination Organization (EPCO) in Madhya Pradesh hosted this webinar bringing together key stakeholders working in the climate change and development space, to share their learnings, challenges and how the priorities are shifting in the wake of COVID-19 for mainstreaming resilience and adaptation.

Speakers at the webinar were: Rinzing Chewang, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Sikkim; Vinod Sharma, Vice Chair, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA); Lokendra Thakkar, Senior Scientific Officer, Environmental Planning & Coordination Organization (EPCO), Madhya Pradesh; Aditya Bahadur, Principal Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Representative from Ministry of Finance/MoEFCC (TBC); and Anu Jogesh, Policy and Governance Lead, South Asia, Acclimatise (Moderator).

# EXTERNAL WEBINARS



## **Maharashtra state innovation society's StartUp Week 2020** *August 4- 8, 2020*

Kajol, Prateek Diwan and Sudept Maiti from WRI India were jury members for Maharashtra State Innovation Society's StartUp Week 2020.

## **Socio-economic costs of climate change** *August 6, 2020*

As part of the 5-day training program on 'Audit of Climate Change and Disaster Management' conducted for the Comptroller Auditor General's officer by the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Namrata Ginoya conducted a session on the 'Socio-Economic costs of climate change'.

## **Reconfiguring cities in the new normal** *August 6, 2020*

Jaya Dhindaw joined a discussion on 'Reconfiguring Cities in the New Normal' organised by The Blue Circle.

## **Webinar on climate resilience and urbanization** *August 10, 2020*

Ulka Kelkar participated in a webinar on 'Climate Resilience and Urbanization' organized by Commonwealth Youth Quorum and British High Commission.

## **Along the Betwa** *August 12, 2020*

Ulka Kelkar and Shahana Chattaraj participated in a panel discussion on 'Along the Betwa: Stories on Rivers in Water Scarce Regions' organized by MIT India on 12 August.

### **Green tariff design and deployment for enhanced RE integration** *August 22, 2020*

Bharath Jairaj was a panelist at a webinar organized by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), under the second phase of ‘Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Deployment’ (PACE - D 2.0 RE) Program’.

### **Jharkhand stakeholder meet** *August 24, 2020*

Uttara Narayan and Dheeraj Gupta participated in a workshop organized by Power For All that saw participation by critical stakeholders of Jharkhand.

### **Energy benchmarking to realize improved energy efficiency in building** *September 1, 2020*

Dhilon Subramanian presented interim results from WRI India’s study on benchmarking energy performance of office spaces in Kochi, Kerala in a webinar organized by the Asia LEDS Partnership, Building Efficiency Community of Practice (CoP) on “Energy Benchmarking to realize improved Energy Efficiency in Buildings”.

### **Role of energy access in community health and education** *September 3, 2020*

Pamli Deka was part of a panel discussion organized by Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe).

### **Public avenues of support by Startup India** *September 9, 2020*

This open webinar was hosted by Startup India and Invest India. It focused on highlighting the array of support programs, grant and networking opportunities, and enabling government policies in the Indian startup ecosystem. [See recording here](#)

### **Renewable energy transition in Gujarat webinar** *September 11, 2020*

Pamli Deka spoke at a webinar on Renewable Energy Transition in Gujarat. The webinar was organized by the Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India and Institute of Climate Change Research, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda.

### **#GreenTalks on urban forests: A nature based solution for building resilient cities** *September 12, 2020*

Jaya Dhindhaw participated in a talk organized by Panache Green on 'Urban Forests: A Nature Based Solution For Building Resilient Cities' where she touched upon global experiences on establishing resilient cities with urban forestry.

### **Climate Pathshala, training program organized by EPCO, Madhya Pradesh**

Chirag Gajjar and Saransh Bajpai from WRI India participated in the Climate Pathshala training program on September 21 and 14 respectively.

## **Fireside chat with Shri Anjum Parvez, IAS, Principal Secretary, Transport Department on Karnataka's Smart Mobility Plan** *September 17, 2020*

Pawan Mulukutla was in conversation with Anjum Parvez (IAS) Principal Secretary, Transport Department, GoK. They discussed the government's Smart Mobility plan and how it needs to adapt to meet new guidelines and norms. [See more](#)

## **Bengaluru moving** *September 19, 2020*

During this session, Pawan Mulukutla Director, Electric Mobility, WRI India, shared his views on first and last mile connectivity. [See more](#)

## **CarbonPositive RESET! 1.5°C global teach-in** *September 22, 2020*

Sumedha Malaviya presented at the Global Teach-in organized under the Carbon Positive RESET, a free interdisciplinary, practice-focused event for architects, planners, engineers, builders, developers and policy-makers.

## **Tracking your impact, Kavita Sharma & Michael Scott Brick** *September 23, 2020*

Kavita Sharma and Michael Scott discussed identifying, documenting and communicating the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of business ventures. [See recording here](#)

## **International conference on circular economy and technology transfer for small and medium sized enterprises** *September 23, 2020*

Deepak Krishnan presented at the International Conference on Circular Economy and Technology Transfer for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

## **Climate week NYC 2020 round table** *September 24, 2020*

Ulka Kelkar participated in the Climate Week NYC 2020 round table on 'India States' Climate Leadership Forum'. [See recording here](#)

## **Regional workshop on technology transfer renewable energy technologies for climate change mitigation** *September 24-25, 2020*

Tirthankar Mandal spoke at the 'Regional Workshop on Technology Transfer Renewable Energy Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation'.

## **Gujarat climate change webinar** *September 25, 2020*

In the last edition of the series of webinars on 'Climate Change and COVID-19' ([recording here](#)) organized by the Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India and WRI India, Dr. Shahana Chattaraj, Director, Research Data and Innovation (RDI) spoke on the Importance of Climate Change in Education System. Pamli Deka spoke in another webinar which was a part of this series on 'Renewable Energy transition in Gujarat' ([recording here](#)); Lubaina Rangwala spoke on 'Climate adaptation of vulnerable communities' on 8 August ([recording here](#)) and Dnyanada Deshpande spoke on 'Climate change communication in Gujarat through community science centers'. [See recording here](#)

## **Climate change and Omnivore's vision 2030** *September 30, 2020*

Ulka Kelkar participated in a panel discussion on Climate change And Omnivore's Vision 2030.

[See recording here](#)

## **Webinar on transit oriented development** *September 30*

To address issues arising as a consequence of urban sprawl, MobiliseYourCity India, UMTC and WRI India brought together Vincent Lichere, Jaya Dhindaw and Prof. Shivanand Swamy to discuss the topic of 'Transit Oriented Development'. See the full recording [here](#).

## **SAFAR launch**

During this virtual launch of the report 'SAFAR: Safer Actions for Accident Reduction' Amit Bhatt recommended the launching of a Sadak Suraksha challenge in the lines of Swachh Bharat.

## **Weather channel event**

Samrat Basak participated in an engaging panel discussion on 'Let's Talk Weather' organized by The Weather Channel.

## **India: Scaling up of renewable energy investments in the time of COVID-19** *October 5, 2020*

Deepak Krishnan was an invited discussant at this webinar organized by IRENA Coalition for Action Team.

## **Scaling-up your ventures by angel investor Mr. Nagaraja (Naga) Prakasam** *October 5, 2020*

This was an 'ask me anything' (AMA) session with a dedicated angel investor focused on ways and methods to build up the resources for scaling up startup businesses. Nagaraja Prakasam (Lead Angel Investor and Founding Angel, IAN Impact) spoke to Land Accelerator companies about how to build upon the resources for scaling up and expanding businesses. [See recording here](#)

## **TedXVIT** *October 11, 2020*

Ulka Kelkar, spoke on how the threat of climate change is being addressed globally. She expanded on how climate change policies come into action and how they are enforced in different sectors.



### **The investor mindset for your land restoration business by Ankur Capital** *October 13, 2020*

The session was a high-level overview of what external capital providers are looking for before they 'invest' in an organization. Shiva from Ankur Capital covered the equity investor mindset. [See recording here](#)

### **Circular economy Symposium** *October 16, 2020*

During this session, Chirag Gajjar took a deep dive session to help understand examples and opportunities at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce And Industry's (FICCI) Circular Economy Symposium.

### **EMPRI climate change training** *October 21, 2020*

In this training session by Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Karnataka's state nodal agency for climate change and Chirag Gajjar and Avni Agarwal from WRI India presented the "Climate Smart Cities Self-Assessment Tool"

### **Brazil India dialogue** *October 22, 2020*

During this session, Jaya Dhindaw discussed ways to boost the economic, social and environmental potential to make cities more inclusive, livable, climate-resilient, economically vibrant and competitive.

### **WRDLCTY** *October 24, 2020*

As a panelist for WRDLCTY, Madhav Pai was part of the World Stage 'Rising Cities' panel conversation along with fellow panelists Monika Bik (Director, Broadway Malyan Ltd.) and Dori Nguyen (Managing Partner, @Utopia).

### **Sales and marketing strategies to grow your startup** *October 27, 2020*

This webinar helped start-ups identify the need for a clear marketing and sales strategy with a focus on being lean with limited resources. Shyam Paliwal and Kavita Sharma of WRI India discussed the key marketing matrices, startup marketing tactics and KPIs with the companies. [See recording here](#)

### **Chat for change** *October 29, 2020*

Organized by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), this session on 'Towards building a resilient urban future,' saw Madhav Pai headline and speak about the need to prioritize buses.

### **Panel discussion on food loss in India at the Centre for Responsible Business's Annual Sustainability Conference** *October 30, 2020*

It has become imperative to reduce food loss in India for improved food security and nutrition of our increasing population, environment health, and enhancing income of the food producers and other actors in the supply-chain. WRI India and Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) India co-hosted a panel discussion at the [Centre for Responsible Business's Annual Sustainability Conference](#) to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities for managing food loss in India. [See recording here](#)

## ABOUT WRI INDIA

WRI India is a research organization with experts and staff who work closely with leaders to turn big ideas into action to sustain a healthy environment - the foundation of economic opportunity and human well-being. We envision an equitable and prosperous planet driven by the wise management of natural resources. We aspire to create a world where the actions of government, business, and communities combine to eliminate poverty and sustain the natural environment for all people.

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