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City bus in Mysuru

Photo: World Bank

Technology drives Mysuru's public transport systems

Its 'smart' bus services focus on safety

In today's rapidly urbanizing world, where towns and cities are bursting at the seams, providing safe and reliable public transport can be a game changer.

Now, Mysuru, home to almost a million people and a rapidly growing center for tourism, education and information technology, has become the first Indian city to transform its bus services into a safe, efficient and 'smart' system across its entire territory, benefitting both the people and the city.



“Good public transport is a basic requirement for a smart city,” explained R.K. Kataria, MD, Karnataka State Transport Corporation (KSRTC). “And for public transport to be successful, an ‘intelligent’ system is the need of the hour.”

Turning around the state public transport system

Earlier, as in most cities, Mysuru’s public buses were seldom on time, stopped wherever they liked, or skipped stops entirely. KSRTC never knew which bus was where, how many buses were running, or whether a bus had actually completed its assigned journey or not. What’s more, drivers often drove recklessly, and overtime claims were frequently inflated.



All this began to change after 2012 when a World Bank supported project helped KSRTC install GPS enabled mini-computers above the driver’s seat in each of the city’s 430 buses. In addition, each bus and bus stop was geo-mapped and tagged, and the details fed into an IT enabled intelligent system.

Today, at the central control room in the heart of the city, a giant screen displays the speed and location of every bus – blinking green, yellow, or orange depending on whether a bus is on time, late, or early. Moreover, lights flash whenever a driver speeds, accelerates sharply, slams the brakes, or stalls for more than 20 minutes.

“Running public buses in mixed and often unpredictable traffic is a very complex operation,” explained Dr. K. Ramamurthy, Divisional Controller and Project Manager of KSRTC’s Intelligent Transport System in Mysuru. “Until we got this system we never knew which bus was where. Now I know exactly what’s happening and can run the whole show from just the control room.”

Commuters and the city have benefited

The intelligent transport system has not only resulted in a more people-friendly bus service but has also led to smoother operations and considerable savings for the operator.



Today, at over 170 bus stops in the city, some in the city's oldest parts, LED boards display the next bus's time of arrival. And in more than 85 percent of cases, buses arrive and depart within five minutes of scheduled time. Moreover, the buses no longer stop wherever they like, or come bunched together, and the skipping of stops is down to a fifth.

With drivers being more careful, incidents of rash and dangerous driving have also dropped considerably. Speed and traffic violations have reduced to a third, and the number of fatal accidents is down by half.

"Earlier I used to drive rashly," admitted driver R. Manjunath, somewhat sheepishly. "But now they are checking ... and with training my driving has improved."

Besides, women now feel safer using public transport, even after dark. "Somewhere someone is looking after us, we feel somewhat secure," said Jyothi, travelling by an evening bus after her shift at Infosys was over.

Mysuru's roads are also less congested than before and there are fewer traffic jams – especially during major festivals when thousands of devotees use KSRTC's special bus services to reach the hilltop temple.

KSTRC, and consequently the city authorities too, have benefitted. Today they use fewer buses to cover the same distance as before, ringing up considerable savings in fuel - and overtime payments have fallen dramatically.

With constant monitoring, driving habits have improved, resulting in fewer breakdowns and lower maintenance costs for the fleet. "Today I save 15 liters of diesel a day," said a proud Manjunath, the bus driver. "My average has improved from 3.5 kms per litre to 4.3."

All told, KSRTC now saves over Rs. 1 crore a year on its city bus operations.

KSRTC's wealth of data is helping others too. "We can now pinpoint matters accurately up to 1/10th of a kilometer," explained Dr Ramamurthy. "So even the police come to us to resolve a traffic issue."





Teething troubles and some big surprises

Yet, being a pioneer has not been easy. It has taken over three years and a lot of learning on the job to get the system up and running. “We faced major challenges because no Indian city had implemented an intelligent public bus system before,” recalled MD Kataria.

As with any major change, not everyone was initially happy. Bus drivers and staff resented being watched and put up strong resistance. It was only when a bus driver was wrongly accused in a traffic accident, and the GPS data came to his rescue by proving he was not guilty, that the drivers finally came on board.

“This system has a lot of benefits for us,” said Driver Prakash. “It shows at what speed

the bus was going and also shows the police whose fault it was ...whether it was my fault or not. That is why it is better for us.”

The mapping exercise also threw up some big surprises. For instance, while KSRTC’s records showed that they had 600 stops in all, they found they actually had four times that many. They also found that their buses covered a shorter distance than they thought they did, and that the actual time taken for a bus to complete a trip was quite different from the schedules they had been following.

Once KSTRC figured out how to use this data, they were able to improve the system. “Even today we cannot sit back - we have to review our schedules and timings every two or three months to keep on top of the game,” explained Dr. Ramamurthy.





help them implement their own smart bus systems. “It has taken us four years,” said Kataria. “We have faced everything, and can now offer other states a product that has been tried and tested.”

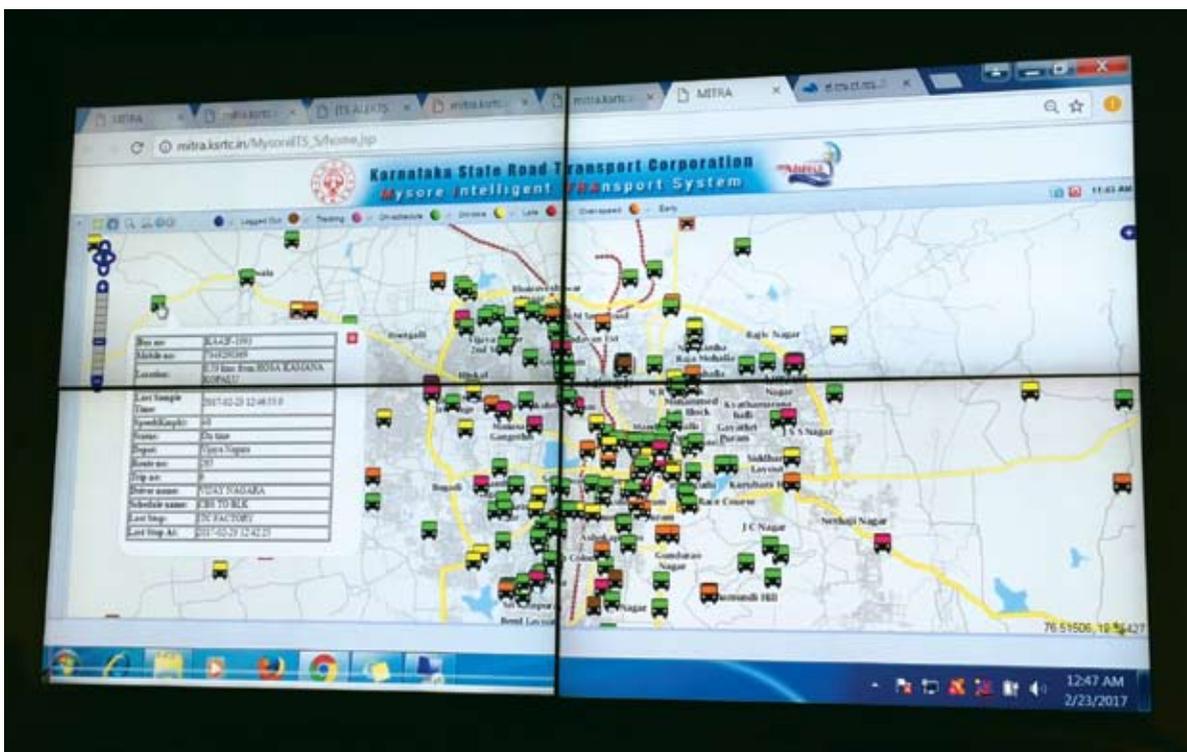
“Given the explosion of vehicles on roads across the country and the consequent congestion, declining air quality and growing road fatalities, providing efficient and attractive public transport alternatives becomes essential for ensuring that Indian cities are sustainable and livable,” said Nupur Gupta, the World Bank’s project lead. “And harnessing technology an important step in achieving this.” 🌐

Technology is only a small part of the effort

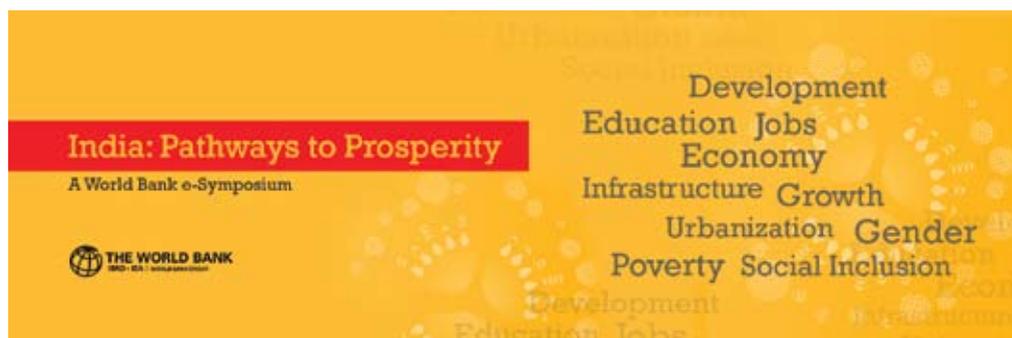
Importantly, Ramamurthy cautioned, technology is only a small part of the effort. “Technology is only a tool,” he said. “Seventy percent of the challenge lies in changing mind sets and introducing new ways of working. Most technology systems fail because institutions and people don’t adapt to use the system productively.”

He also advised that an intelligent public bus system has to be implemented on all the bus routes in a city - cities that use this system on only a few routes will not be able to reap the full benefits.

Going forward, rather than let other cities reinvent the wheel, KSRTC has the ability to



Tackling poverty in India: Jobs, not transfers, the big poverty-buster



By **Carlos Felipe Balcazar**

Co-authors: **Sonalde Desai, Rinku Murgai, Ambar Narayan**

The significant shift from farm work to non-farm sources of income accelerated the decline in poverty in India. Non-farm jobs pay more than agricultural labor, and incomes from both were propelled by a steep rise in wages for rural unskilled labor. While lower dependency rates and transfers – from remittances and social programs – have contributed to a reduction in poverty, they are not the primary drivers of the poverty decline between 2005 and 2012.

A previous article in this series examined how India's structural and spatial transformation – the shift from agriculture to services and industry, and from rural to urban areas – is changing the relationship between economic growth and poverty reduction. We now examine how household incomes grew and helped reduce poverty. We ask how different sources of income contributed to poverty reduction. We also examine how these contributions compare with the effect of changes in the composition of households, including demographic changes.^[1]

Our analysis shows that the changes commonly associated with structural transformation were the primary drivers of poverty reduction at the household level during 2005-2012. Increase in labour earnings was a major factor in reducing poverty.

While both agricultural and non-agricultural earnings increased, the rise was most rapid for non-agricultural wages and salaried work. This was in turn linked to workers shifting out of agriculture toward wage/salaried non-agricultural work that yields higher earnings. The largest shifts occurred among the poorest, which was accompanied by rising wages in casual employment. In broad sectoral terms, rising income from the non-agricultural sector was the most important driver of the observed changes, contributing to nearly 46 percent of national poverty reduction. In terms of employment categories, changes in wage/salaried work contributed to nearly half of the reduction in poverty.

As expected, there are urban-rural differences. Rising incomes from non-agricultural employment and self-employment were more important for poverty reduction in urban areas. In rural areas, on the other hand, shifts in employment away from agriculture contributed much more to poverty reduction. The pace of transformation was thus more rapid in rural areas, which had a much higher share of employment in agriculture than urban areas to start with.

Changes in the composition of households contributed to poverty decline as well. This occurred as the share of working members

Factors contributing to poverty decline



Note: Contribution of agricultural activities includes:

(a) income from agricultural wage employment; (b) income from agricultural self-employment; (c) share of workers in agricultural wage employment; and (d) share of workers in agricultural self-employment; and analogously for the contribution of non-agricultural activities.

Contribution of wage/salaried work is the sum of contributions of:

(a) income from agricultural wage employment; (b) income from non-agricultural wage employment; (c) share of workers in agricultural wage employment; and (d) share of workers in non-agricultural wage employment; and analogously for the contribution of self-employment. Non-labor income includes remittances, benefits and other income.

Source: IHDS, 2005 and 2012

in households rose. These changes were partly due to a fall in the share of household members who were too young or too old to be of working age; in other words, due to a change in dependency ratios. This demographic dividend makes more workers available at the macro level and complements the structural transformation of the Indian economy.

Rising incomes from other sources - such as public and private transfers, rent, or interest income - contributed to poverty reduction as well. This was more so in rural areas. The largest share of non-labor income came from remittances, which increased significantly. The steep rise in domestic remittances, which form a part of total remittances, suggests that urban and rural areas are becoming increasingly integrated, highlighting another marker for structural transformation.

Thus, faster poverty reduction since 2005 appears to be closely linked to the pattern of structural transformation occurring in India. The falling dependency ratio and, crucially, the steep rise in wages for unskilled work, reinforced the effects of structural transformation. The growth in unskilled

wages however occurred due to a somewhat fortuitous confluence of factors, which we will examine in a future article in this series.

Looking ahead, important challenges remain. These include accelerating the speed at which the chronically poor - many of whom belong to Scheduled Tribes - escape poverty. Another challenge is to ramp up the pace of upward mobility so that households increasingly become part of an economically secure middle-class. This calls for the faster creation of higher-productivity jobs. Upcoming articles in this series will examine these challenges in detail. 🌐

Reference: Balcazar Salazar, Carlos Felipe, Sonalde Desai, Rinku Murgai and Ambar Narayan (2016) "Why did Poverty Decline in India? A Nonparametric Decomposition Exercise." Policy Research Working Paper 7602, World Bank, Washington DC

This blog was originally published in the Indian Express on 17th June, 2016.

^[1] We are able to do this analysis thanks to the India Human Development Survey - a nationally representative panel survey that provides data on the same set of households for two years (2005 and 2012) that are roughly identical to the period bookended by the official NSS surveys.

A new operation to lead the way in skilling India



India is the world's fastest growing economy, expected to grow at 7.2 percent in 2017-18, and at 7.7 percent by 2019-20. The government of India has ambitious plans to transform India into a competitive, high-growth, high productivity middle-income country. The economy is now diversifying from being largely agro-based to a manufacturing and service-based economy. These ambitious plans to transform the Indian economy are highly dependent on the availability of jobs and the quality of the labor force. This has resulted in an increased demand for skilled labor over the past few years.

More than 12 million youth between 15 and 29 years of age are expected to enter India's labor force every year for the next two decades. The government's recent skill gap analysis concludes that by 2022, another 109 million or so skilled workers will be needed in the 24 key sectors of the economy.

At present, however, school leavers have few opportunities to acquire job specific

skills; only 2.3 percent of India's workforce has received some formal skills training. To address the issue, skill development has emerged as a priority sector, and the recently-launched National Skill Development Mission aims to train approximately 400 million people across the country by 2022.

World Bank support

To support the country's vision, the World Bank has approved a US\$250 million Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO) to help India's growing young workforce acquire the market-relevant skills needed in today's highly competitive job market. The operation will support the Government of India's Skill India Initiative and attempt to address the dual challenge of ensuring greater access to training as well as providing quality training leading to employment.

The SIMO program will build on its decade-long partnership with the country in enhancing skills and, over the next six years

● Only 2.3% of total workforce in India has formal skills training

● By 2022, 24 key sectors will need an additional 109 mn skilled workers

● CSR Skills Fund will incentivize employers to invest in training

● Special focus will be to provide skills training to women

● By the end of SIMO, some 8.8 mn youth are expected to be skilled & employed

of its operation, focus on the creation of high quality training packages based on market-relevant skills. It will specifically target new labor market entrants and work to improve the quality of existing skills programs.

Public-private partnerships in preparing the curriculum for training packages will be encouraged. The program will also seek to set up a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Skills Fund through which incentives will be given to the private sector to use their CSR funds for skill development activities.

The program will especially encourage the creation of skill development programs for women, marginalized communities, tribals and people with disabilities to enable them to acquire the skills needed to enter today's labor market.

It is estimated that by 2023, when the project ends, about 8.8 million youth will have received some market-relevant training that will in turn open up better job opportunities for them in a changing job market. 🌐



India: Is a college degree worth it?



Only a comprehensive improvement in tertiary education can fuel India's growth, says Francisco Marmolejo, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank and Tara Beteille, Senior Economist, World Bank

The last 15 years have witnessed the largest global expansion of tertiary education in recent history due to a 60 per cent growth in student enrolment. India's performance is even more dramatic—tertiary education expanded almost a spectacular threefold, from 8.4 million students in 2000-01 to 23.8 million in 2013-14. The number of tertiary education institutions has also increased significantly. As Devesh Kapur and Pratap Mehta indicate, nearly seven colleges have opened daily in India over this period.

As World Bank studies show, students today prefer professional education. In 2008, only 25 per cent of tertiary education students opted for technical education; today nearly 50 per cent are enrolled in these programs. And importantly, the overwhelming majority of India's tertiary level students study in private unaided colleges. Over the past decade, access to tertiary education has become more equitable across all categories—caste or income—though

not so across regions and gender. Less positively, the quality of education imparted is mixed, and complaints about its relevance to changing labor market needs and employability issues are ubiquitous.

India is not alone in this predicament. It faces many of the same challenges that other countries face when enrolment in tertiary education rises rapidly. These include low levels of student learning and employability, weak research opportunities, and limited innovation.

India and the World Bank's TEQIP aims to improve employability through creating better colleges, industry interface and emphasis on soft skills.

Three key factors constrain learning and employability in India: low levels of student preparation for college; high faculty vacancies and little autonomy in institutes. While government efforts have led to more students completing secondary education,

many of them are just not prepared for college. A large number lack the skills—low academic preparation, inadequate language capabilities, little socio-psychological readiness—needed to succeed. Secondly, as regards the shortage of faculty, in the average government engineering college, vacancies can be as high as 45-50 per cent. While colleges tend to cover this gap with guest faculty, even students in top-notch colleges find they have no regular teacher. Thirdly, many government colleges and private colleges affiliated to state universities have little autonomy. This means they have little say in determining goals and priorities—in selecting leaders, deciding faculty appointments or research priorities, on designing the curriculum, structure and content of programs and examinations. With little flexibility in determining what students learn, they cannot equip students with the skills needed by a changing industry.

Next, most colleges have little resources to conduct research. Private engineering colleges—forming the bulk of the sector—seldom have the money to invest in research, and their affiliating universities rarely have the facilities to encourage institutes to collaborate. Moreover, when compared to other countries, Indian industry has underinvested in R&D in technical institutes due, among other factors, to the weak enforcement of intellectual property rights. This is exacerbated by an overall lack of opportunities for student mobility and faculty exchanges.

But, change is within reach. Take, for example, India and the World Bank's nearly 15-year collaboration under the Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP) that sought to improve quality of technical education. Participating colleges were helped to develop their academic and non-academic programs so that students, especially first-generation college-goers, could improve employability.

A study by Rudraksh Mitra et al shows how the establishment of placement cells in TEQIP-funded colleges improved students' work-readiness through closer collaboration with industry and through focus on soft-skills, like oral communication, teamwork and time management. Students are

encouraged to take tests to identify areas of deficiency, and cells organize talks on employability, conduct pre-placement tests, group discussions and interview sessions.

Also, colleges in TEQIP are expected to become autonomous. As observed,



autonomy, along with collaboration with IITs and IIMs, has helped them improve their research and innovation capabilities. The third phase of TEQIP supports affiliating universities as well. They will be required to build research facilities for use by affiliated colleges (including private colleges).

While we have focused on technical education, this is not the only area worth investing in. For, no advanced economy trains only engineers or doctors. It also prepares educators, administrators, social scientists, lawyers, historians, philosophers etc.

A comprehensive improvement of the overall tertiary education system in India is viable and sorely needed. The government, employers and society concur that improving tertiary education is essential to marshal India's human resources and position the country as a hub of human capital for future growth. 🌐

This opinion piece was originally published in the Outlook Magazine on 5 June, 2017

ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank's website.

To access this document, go to www.worldbank.org/reference/ and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project



Context

In 2005, the water sector in Maharashtra faced many challenges. With a rapidly growing urban population, competition for water among different sectors had increased dramatically. Moreover, planning and management of water resources in the state was fragmented and un-coordinated. Limited cost recovery in the irrigation sector contributed to inefficient on-farm use of irrigation water, which added to the state's fiscal burden.

Project Development Objectives

The objective of this Project was to strengthen the state's capacity for multi-sectoral planning, development and sustainable management of the water resources and to improve irrigation service delivery and productivity of irrigated agriculture.

Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project

Approval Date:	23 June, 2005
Closing Date:	28 March, 2014
Total Project Cost	US\$ 329 million
Bank Financing:	US\$ 292 million
Implementing Agency:	Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra
Outcome:	Moderately Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Moderate
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

Achievements

The Project had a significant poverty impact, as the average agricultural income increased more than 200 percent from Rs 29,245 each year at baseline to Rs 64,220 each year at the time of closing of the Project. The majority of the small farmers constituting the rural poor, were able to increase their income by over 250 percent.

Agricultural support services were provided to 66 schemes (against the target of 38), covering an area of 481,000 ha (target of 450,000 ha). The Project also trained 763,650 farmers, 20 percent of whom were female. Around 42,115 minor canals were rehabilitated and modernized to augment the water resource for irrigation. With improved water use efficiency, the gross area irrigated increased to 129,305 ha, against a target of 100,000 ha, an increase of 129 percent.

Under the Agro Entrepreneurship Development Program, some 336 projects were approved, mainly on post-harvest management farm services, innovations and agro processing. The program benefited an estimated 13,000 farmers and created close to 3,000 jobs.

Revenue collection (water charge collected or water charge invoiced) for irrigation water increased from 45 percent to 62 percent compared to the target of 54 percent (which is above the target by 114 percent).

Such services helped the cropping intensity to grow from 120 percent to 130 percent in 2012-13. Around 77 percent of the gross irrigated area under the Project used better farming practices and reduced the use of chemical fertilizers.

An Integrated Computer Information System, set up under the Project, is now helping the government improve the availability of real time data for better water planning as well as in facilitating an efficient management information system across departments.

Lessons Learnt

- **Success of institutional reforms depends on level of government commitment:** The success of any broad sector-wide institutional reforms, similar to those undertaken by this Project, needs substantial political commitment, effective dialogue with the government as well

as technical assistance so as to have the key legal, policy and legislative frameworks in place before a project can be commissioned.

- **Build client capability for effective Monitoring and Evaluation(M&E):** The focus should be on building client capacity for M&E through training and investment in computerized systems instead of mostly relying on consultants to carry out project M&E.
- **Importance of well-designed agricultural support services:** A well-designed and well-implemented agricultural support services component can go a long way in enhancing water use efficiency and productivity in any large infrastructure investments for rehabilitating or modernizing irrigation systems.
- **Effective Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities:** IEC activities were an important part of this Project because of the significant and complex policy and institutional changes. IEC activities are more effective and far better coordinated when they are designed as an integral part of a particular component or sub-component, rather than as a standalone sub-component.
- **Operation & Maintenance (O&M) funding:** A fundamental change in government procedures is needed to address the disconnect between increased water charges and collections that reflect full O&M costs and low budget allocations for O&M. 🌐



Recent Project Approvals

Skill India Mission Operation

The World Bank will support the Government of India's efforts to better equip its young workforce with employable skills so that youth who enter the labor market every year can contribute to India's economic growth and prosperity.

The \$250 million Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO), approved by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors, will increase the market relevance of short-term skill development programs (3-12 months or up to 600 hours) at the national and state level. The focus will be on providing skills training opportunities for adult workers between the ages 15 to 59 (underemployed or unemployed) who are either illiterate or who have completed primary education or less as well as the 12 million young people (age group 15–29 years) who are moving into the labor force every year with various levels of educational qualifications.

A special focus of the Program will be to provide placement and entrepreneurship opportunities to women and increase their exposure to skills training. 🌐

Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project

The World Bank will support India in developing an innovative biopharmaceutical and medical devices industry, which is globally competitive and addresses the country's major concerns around barriers to affordable healthcare.

The \$125 million Innovate in India for Inclusiveness Project (I3), approved by the



World Bank Board of Executive Directors, will nurture next generation technical skills; provide companies with advanced shared facilities to conduct clinical validation; link clinical trial sites with networks of expert advisors and international bodies; and strengthen all institutions involved in the facilitation and adoption of global innovations, technologies, and licensing models.

This Project will support Government of India's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Program (BIRAC), set up five years ago to support innovative start-ups and collaborations through strategic partnerships. 🌐

Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth Project



The World Bank will support the Government of Jharkhand in enhancing and diversifying household incomes in the farm and non-farm sectors of Jharkhand.

Over 200,000 rural households and some 3,500 farmer producer groups are expected to benefit from the Project with women as principal actors in production, processing and marketing.

The \$100 million Project (also known as JOHAR), approved by the World Bank Board, will support some 3,500 collectives of small producers to enhance their agricultural incomes by diversifying and improving farm productivity, strengthening market linkages, building skills, promoting self-employment and increasing access to credit and other formal financial services. 🌐

Recent Project Signings

Andhra Pradesh 24x7 Power for All Project

The Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and the World Bank have signed a \$240 million loan agreement to support the Government of Andhra Pradesh provide reliable, quality, and affordable 24x7 power to its citizens.

The Project will build new transmission and distribution infrastructure, as well as put in place systems to improve the technical efficiency and commercial performance of the state power sector utilities. It will help bring in modern technology solutions such as automated sub-stations and network analysis and planning tools to provide reliable power supply and enhance customer satisfaction.

While a significant portion of the proposed investments are aimed at improving power supply to rural areas, the Project will also focus on demonstrating the deployment of smart grids in selected towns. 🌐

Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project

The Government of India, the Government of Assam and the World Bank have signed a \$35 million loan agreement to support Assam in utilizing its public resources more efficiently through better management of its finances, increasing the efficiency of its tax administration as well as improving the transparency and predictability in the execution of its budget.

The Project, also known as ASPIRe, will be implemented over a period of five years. It will help the Government of Assam put in place a financial management architecture that will support it to execute the budget more efficiently; modernize the entire revenue administration, collection and payment systems in order to reduce the turnaround time in delivering public services to other departments/citizens; strengthen

the public procurement framework and scale up e-procurement; and enable more efficient online tax services and assessment procedures such that the revenues of the state are monitored and managed more effectively. Capacity building of staff is an important intervention under the Project. 🌐

Assam Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Project

The Government of India, the Government of Assam and the World Bank have signed a \$39.20 million loan agreement to support the government in providing citizens in Assam, particularly in tribal districts, access to public services in a timely, efficient, and accountable manner.



This blend of technological intervention and administrative reform will be initiated for 18 key services in four major government agencies, including the Transport, Revenue, and Welfare Departments as well as the Guwahati Municipal Corporation.

The initiative will cover the various government authorizations, approvals, licenses or certificates needed to secure core social services or to access government records such as those pertaining to land and property.

In the case of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation, the Project will focus on issuing birth and death certificates, trade licenses and building authorizations. 🌐

Bihar Rural Roads Project

The Government of India, the Government of Bihar and the World Bank have signed a \$235 million credit for the Bihar Rural Roads Project to improve and effectively manage the state's rural road network.

The agreements for the Bihar Rural Roads Project were signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Vinay Kumar, Secretary Rural Works Department (RWD), Bihar, on behalf of the Government of Bihar; and

Junaid Ahmad, Country Director, World Bank, India on behalf of the World Bank. 



Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management Capacity Building Program

The Government of India, the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank have signed a \$36 million loan agreement to



support Himachal Pradesh in its efforts to spend money more efficiently by improving the financial planning, budgeting and accounting of public funds in key government departments.

The agreements for the Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management Capacity Building Program were signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Deepak Bhardwaj, Additional Director, Department of Treasuries, Accounts and Lotteries, on behalf of the Government of Himachal Pradesh; and Junaid Ahmad, Country Director, World Bank, India on behalf of the World Bank. 

Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company Ltd (MPUDC)

The Government of India, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the World Bank Board have signed a \$116.20 million loan to strengthen the financial and administrative capacity of the Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company Ltd (MPUDC). MPUDC will serve as a nodal implementing agency for the state and support Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to implement citywide infrastructure improvement projects.

The Project will help improve key urban services, and increase the revenue potential of the participating ULBs. It will also help prepare a plan for developing the Bhopal Indore Super Corridor (BISCO) region.



In addition, the Project will support urban policy reforms in the state as identified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), a mission aimed at transforming 500 cities and towns into efficient urban living spaces. At least 51 ULBs have been selected to implement these reforms. 

This is a select listing of recent World Bank publications, working papers, operational documents and other information resources that are now available at the New Delhi Office Public Information Center. Policy Research Working Papers, Project Appraisal Documents, Project Information Documents and other reports can be downloaded in pdf format from 'Documents and Reports' at www.worldbank.org

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India Publications

India Development Update: Unlocking Women's Potential



By World Bank
Available On-line
Published: May 2017;
78 pages English Version
Paperback
Report No.: 115297

India has among the lowest female labor force participation rates (LFPRs) in the world. In particular,

low female LFPR is a drag on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and an obstacle towards reaching a higher growth path. Women are also an untapped source of managerial and entrepreneurial skills. By excluding women, the pool of such talent becomes shallower and growth suffers. If the overall lack of jobs, especially regular salaried jobs, plays a large role in India's female LFPR, only a combination of gender-targeted and broader policies towards formal job creation can sustainably raise female LFPR and accelerate India's GDP growth and broader social development. Policies that promote job creation in women-friendly sectors such as apparel, or that help fast-growing modern service sectors absorb more educated women workers would be particularly helpful.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 8109

Are caste categories misleading? The relationship between gender and Jati in three Indian states

By Shareen Joshi, Nishtha Kochhar and Vijayendra Rao

This paper examines the relationship between caste and gender inequality in three states in India. When households are grouped using conventional, government-defined categories of caste, the paper finds patterns that are consistent with existing literature: lower-caste women are more likely to participate in the

labor market, have greater decision-making autonomy within their households, and experience greater freedom of movement. When households are grouped by the narrower sub-caste categories of jati, where caste is lived and experienced, the paper finds the relationships to be far more varied and nuanced.

These results suggest that focusing on broad caste categories such as “scheduled castes” and “scheduled tribes” can be misleading for understanding the relationship between caste and gender, and for targeting anti-poverty programs.

WPS 8044

Underreporting of gender-based violence in Kerala, India: An application of the list randomization method

By George Joseph, Syed Usman Javaid, Luis Alberto Andres, Gnanaraj Chellaraj and et.al.

This paper analyzes the incidence and extent to which domestic violence and physical harassment on public/private buses is underreported in Kerala, using the list randomization technique. The results indicate that the level of underreporting is over nine percentage points for domestic violence and negligible for physical harassment on public/private buses. Urban households, especially poor urban households, tend to have higher levels of incidence of domestic violence.

Further, women and those who are professionally educated tend to underreport more than others. Underreporting is also higher among the youngest and oldest age cohorts. For physical harassment on public/private buses, rural population—especially the rural non-poor and urban females—tend to underreport compared with the rural poor and urban males.

WPS 8041

Structural change, fundamentals, and growth: A framework and case studies

By Margaret Mc Millan, Dani Rodrik and Claudia Paz Sepulveda

This report examines how seven key countries fared from 1990-2010 in their development quest. The sample includes Brazil, India, Vietnam and four African countries – Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia – all of which experienced rapid growth in recent years, but for different reasons.

The patterns of growth are analyzed in each of these countries using a unifying framework that draws a distinction between the “structural transformation” and “fundamental” challenges in growth. Out of the seven countries, the traditional path to rapid growth of export oriented industrialization only played a significant role in Vietnam.

WPS 8039

On the frontlines of scaling-up: A qualitative analysis of implementation challenges in a CDD project in rural India

By Shruti Majumdar, Vijayendra Rao and Paromita Sanyal

This paper analyzes four years of qualitative data observing a large participatory anti-poverty project in India as it scales up from its first phase (covering 400,000 households) to its second (covering 800,000 households).

Focusing on the frontlines of change – at the village level, the analysis finds that the key difference between implementation in the two phases of the project was that facilitators in the first phase deployed a discourse that was carefully “co-produced” with its beneficiaries. Through careful groundwork and creative improvisation, facilitators incorporated the interests of multiple stakeholders on the ground while bringing beneficiaries into the project.

Other Publications

Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2017: From World Development Indicators



By Umar Serajuddin, Neil James Fantom, Haishan Fu, Elizabeth Purdie, Ana Florina Pirlea, Tariq Afzal Khokhar and et.al.

Available On-line

Published: May 2017;

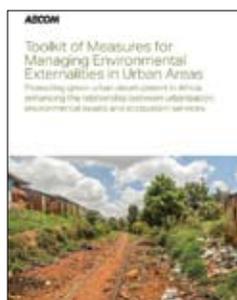
128 pages **English Version**
Paperback

ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-1080-0

ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-1081-7

The Atlas is built around World Development Indicators 2017 – the World Bank’s compilation of statistics from over 200 economies about global development and the quality of people’s lives. For each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, selected indicators have been identified and visualized to analyze trends and challenges, and to stimulate discussion on measurement issues.

Toolkit of Measures for Managing Environmental Externalities in Urban Areas



By Petrina Rowcroft and Jennifer Black

Available On-line

75 pages **English Version**
Paperback

Published: May 2017

This toolkit focuses on instruments that may be able to help leverage finance

(from private sector, national government and donors) to address the range of environmental problems faced by cities in developing countries, including low quality housing, poor access to services, pollution and safety hazards, and to support the implementation of green urban development measures.

The instruments that are included have been specifically selected because they address some of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by rapidly growing African cities while at the same time contributing to the achievement of wider sustainable development goals.

Carbon Pricing Watch 2017



By World Bank and Ecofys
Available On-line
20 pages **English Version**
Paperback
Published: May 2017

As of 2017, over 40 national and 25 subnational jurisdictions representing almost a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions

are putting a price on carbon. Over the past decade the number of jurisdictions with carbon pricing initiatives have doubled. On average, carbon pricing initiatives cover about half of the emissions in these jurisdictions, which translates to a total coverage of about 8 Gigatons of carbon dioxide or about 15 percent of global emissions (a fourfold increase over the past decade).

Results-Based Climate Finance in Practice: Delivering Climate Finance for Low-Carbon Development

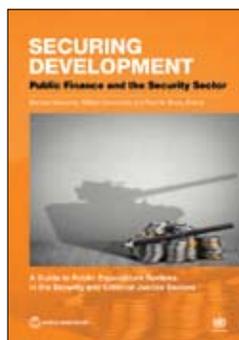


By World Bank Group and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
Available On-line
English Version Paperback
Published: May 2017

This report reviews 74 results-based climate financing (RBCF) programs implemented in developing countries.

The report finds that RBCF can facilitate carbon pricing and market building, support host countries' policy processes to achieve their NDCs, and leverage private sector activity and financing. RBCF can thus play a critical role in mobilizing the resources and supporting the policies and actions needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

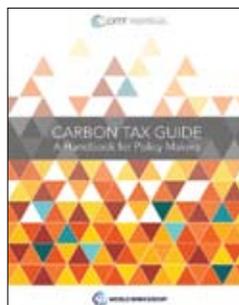
Securing Development: Public Finance and the Security Sector



By Bernard Harborne, William Dorotinsky and Paul M. Bisca
Available On-line
515 pages **English Version**
Paperback
Published: April 2017;
ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-0766-4
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-0767-1

This book highlights the role played by public finance in the delivery of security and criminal justice services. It seeks to strengthen policy and operational dialogue on security sector issues by providing national and international stakeholders with key information on security expenditure policy and management.

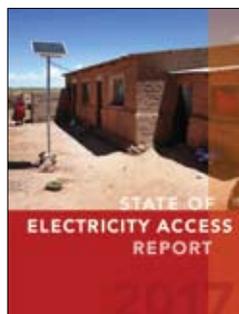
Carbon Tax Guide: A Handbook for Policy Makers (Partnership for Market Readiness 2017)



By World Bank Group and Partnership for Market Readiness
Available On-line
172 pages **English Version**
Paperback
Published: March 2017;
Experience has shown carbon taxes to be versatile instruments that are capable

of being adapted to a wide range of policy goals and national contexts. This Handbook provides a tool to help policymakers determine whether a carbon tax is the right instrument to achieve their policy goals and to support them in designing and implementing a tax that is best suited to their specific needs, circumstances and objectives.

State of Electricity Access Report 2017



By Energy Sector Management Assistance Program
Available On-line
English Version Paperback
Published: May 2017
(ESMAP Papers)

The State of Electricity Access Report, 2017, aims to prompt governments, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, and practitioners to develop interventions to close the electricity access gap by integrating lessons learned

with insights drawn from emerging innovative business and delivery models.

The key findings are that urgent measures are needed to speed up access to modern energy services or there will still be several countries in 2030, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a significant percentage of the population going without electricity. Both grid and off-grid approaches will be critical, but they will have to be supported by a conducive enabling environment of the right institutions, policies, strategic planning, regulations, and incentives.

The good news is that lower costs for renewable energy technologies, adequate energy efficiency measures, and innovation should make it possible for countries to be creative in meeting this challenge.

Harnessing the Power of Big Data for Trade and Competitiveness Policy



By World Bank Group
Published: March 2017
Other Paper

This paper, prepared in collaboration with Deloitte and with other global practices within the Bank Group, highlights data-driven pilot projects

underway in the Trade & Competitiveness Global Practice and shares compelling cases of how big data is changing the way we look at the challenges countries are facing and how we can best support them.

India Project Documents

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State Community based Tank Management Project

Date 15 May 2017
Project ID P100789
Report No. ICRR0020638 (Implementation Completion Report Review)

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Road Sector Project

Date 21 June 2017
Project ID P096021
Report No. ISR27777 (Implementation Status Results Report)

Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project

Date 12 May 2017
Project ID P154847
Report No. STEP2515, STEP2502, STEP1932, STEP1648, STEP1442, STEP1408, STEP1407 (Procurement Plan)

Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project

Date 21 May 2017
Project ID P157198
Report No. STEP2016 (Procurement Plan)

Assam State Roads Project

Date 04 May 2017
Project ID P096018
Report No. STEP1838 (Procurement Plan)

Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project

Date 03 May 2017
Project ID P127725
Report No. STEP2471STEP1805, STEP1552, STEP1424, STEP1425 (Procurement Plan)

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project

Date 18 April 2017
Project ID P090764
Report No. ICR3925 (Implementation Completion and Results Report)

Capacity Building for Urban Development Project

Date 26 April 2017
Project ID P099979
Report No. STEP1727 (Procurement Plan)

Himachal Pradesh Public Financial Management Capacity Building Project

Date 24 April 2017
Project ID P156687
Report No. 109448 (Project Appraisal Document)

Bihar Panchayat Strengthening Project

Date 21 April 2017
Project ID P102627
Report No. STEP1642, STEP1173 (Procurement Plan)

Second Kerala State Transport Project

Date 10 April 2017
Project ID P130339
Report No. STEP1527, STEP1492, STEP1208
(Procurement Plan)

Andhra Pradesh Rural Inclusive Growth Project

Date 01 March 2017
Project ID P152210
Report No. STEP1115 (Procurement Plan)

Bihar Integrated Social Protection Strengthening Project

Date 16 May 2017
Project ID P118826
Report No. STEP1963, STEP1786,
STEP1415, STEP1154, STEP1133
(Procurement Plan)

Tamil Nadu Health Project

Date 27 March 2017
Project ID P075058
Report No. ICRR0020395 (Implementation
Completion Report Review)

Technical Engineering Educational Quality Improvement II Project

Date 31 March 2017
Project ID P102549
Report No. STEP1409 (Procurement Plan)

Technical Educational Quality Improvement III Project

Date 22 June 2017
Project ID P154523
Report No. STEP2505 (Procurement Plan)

Accelerating Discovery Research to Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals Innovate in India Project

Date 10 April 2017
Project ID P156241
Report No. SFG3134 (Environmental Assessment)

Madhya Pradesh Rural Connectivity Project

Date 01 May 2017
Project ID P157054

Report No. STEP2530, STEP1789, STEP1739
(Procurement Plan)

Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Project

Date 16 May 2017
Project ID P155303
Report No. STEP1950, STEP1295, STEP1261,
STEP1235 (Procurement Plan)

Maharashtra Agricultural Competitiveness Project

Date 22 May 2017
Project ID P120836
Report No. STEP2020, STEP1725, STEP1725
(Procurement Plan)

Mizoram State Roads II – Regional Transport Connectivity Project

Date 01 May 2017
Project ID P145778
Report No. STEP1784, STEP1761, STEP1493
(Procurement Plan)

Neeranchal National Watershed Project

Date 25 May 2017
Project ID P132739
Report No. STEP2062, STEP2015,
STEP1806, STEP1850, STEP1849 ...
(19 Procurement Plan)

North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project

Date 03 May 2017
Project ID P127974
Report No. STEP1809, STEP1787, STEP1431
(Procurement Plan)

Odisha Disaster Recovery Project

Date 29 May 2017
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Report No. STEP2095, STEP1831, STEP1151
(Procurement Plan)

Odisha State Roads Project

Date 21 June 2017
Project ID P096023
Report No. (Implementation Completion and
Results Report)

Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project

Date 09 May 2017
Project ID P150520
Report No. STEP1888, STEP1887, STEP1723, STEP1650- STEP1653 (Procurement Plan)
ISR28215 (Implementation Status and Results Report)

Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Project

Date 17 May 2017
Project ID P102329
Report No. STEP1479, STEP1975, STEP1857, STEP1210, STEP1181 (Procurement Plan)

Second Gujarat State Highway Project

Date 29 May 2017
Project ID P114827
Report No. STEP2101 (Procurement Plan)

Second Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project

Date 09 May 2017
Project ID P143751
Report No. STEP1783, STEP1721, STEP1470, STEP1293 - STEP1653 (Procurement Plan)

Strengthening Public Finance Management in Rajasthan Project

Date 24 May 2017
Project ID P156869
Report No. STEP2056 (Procurement Plan)

Tamil Nadu Rural Transportation Project

Date 01 April 2017
Project ID P157702
Report No. SFG3366, SFG3370 (Indigenous Peoples Plan)

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project

Date 30 May 2017
Project ID P150395
Report No. STEP2107, STEP1697, STEP1562, STEP1473, STEP1364, STEP1368, STEP 1224 (Procurement Plan)

Technology Center Systems Project

Date 22 May 2017
Project ID P145502
Report No. STEP2025, STEP1771, STEP1308, STEP1156 (Procurement Plan)

Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women Project

Date 01 May 2017
Project ID P150576
Report No. STEP1785, STEP1807 (Procurement Plan)

Uttar Pradesh Core Road Network Development Program

Date 09 May 2017
Project ID P147864
Report No. STEP1807, STEP1752 (Procurement Plan)

Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project

Date 24 April 2017
Project ID P146653
Report No. STEP1691, STEP1649, STEP1183 (Procurement Plan)

West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project

Date 22 May 2017
Project ID P105311
Report No. STEP2023, STEP2024, STEP1993, STEP1640, STEP1630 (Procurement Plan)

From the Blogworld

Taking lessons from rural India to Azerbaijan

By Ahmed Ailyev



"When the Anganwadi worker doesn't turn up for work, we don't pay her salary."



I have always believed that communities are like musical instruments. You need to tune them properly to hear their divine music. I actually heard this music from rural communities in India. And their song, which still resonates within me, is something I will now take back to my own country.

"I have set up a grievance redressal mechanism to make public services accountable to villagers."

In May 2017, my colleagues and I from the World Bank's Azerbaijan Rural Investment Project were on an exposure visit to India to see firsthand how self-help groups and cooperatives were impacting the lives of rural people.

These were some of the statements made to us by Anita, a once-diffident village woman in rural Jharkhand. What struck us most was the confidence and deep sense of empowerment with which Anita spoke to us. She had started out as a member of a village SHG and now headed the Masaniya village Gram Panchayat (local government) where she worked with other women members to protect the interests of her community.

In my years of work in rural development, I have found that the unique feature we as human beings have is the ability to share skills, values and experiences. As we travelled across six states, this proved to be true in all the people we met, be it in large commercial companies or in remote rural communities.

We – a World Bank team led by Junaid Ahmad the India country director – were visiting rural Jharkhand, one of the poorest parts of the country, to see the work done under the Bank-supported **National Rural Livelihood Project (NRLP)**. As we listened with rapt attention, the women poured out their stories, telling us how their lives had changed thanks to the resolve and positivity that the project had instilled within them. Time and again we heard how it was now possible for them to think of escaping the clutches of poverty and chart out a new future for themselves and their families.

The people told us that transparency and honesty were an essential factor in their success. I also found that the spirit of cooperation was clearly present. Cooperatives belong to all members, they said, and the managers were there to serve the members. The leaders of self-help groups, producer organizations, cooperatives, and micro enterprise groups also told us that they must be party to the risk taken by the group, and should lead by example in order to motivate others.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/kumergu>

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/y86bu6ke>

Charting an inclusive approach to rural transformation in Jharkhand, India

By Priti Kumar

"We want teachers to come to school and educate our children."

From subsistence laborer to Amazon seller: A story from Bihar, India

By Mio Takada

Kuraisa lives in the Majhaulia village in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, India. As an artisan, she and her family create traditional lac bangles – colorful bracelets made of resinous materials and usually molded in hot kilns – in their small home production unit.

In early 2016, Kuraisa joined a self-help group made

From the Blogworld



up of other lac bangle producers and supported through the World Bank's Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP), also known locally as JEEViKA.

The self-help group taught Kuraisa new design techniques and loaned her \$2,300 to start her own business. One year later, Kuraisa has added two more production units to her home, which provide full time jobs to her relatives and to as many as 6 additional workers during peak season.

Kuraisa's annual business income has now tripled to \$10,000. The self-help group has expanded and nearly 50 artisan families in the village have joined, giving rise to a village enterprise cluster with an annual revenue of \$450,000.

This enterprise has become an apprenticeship program that employs an additional 100 young artisans. Kuraisa's group expects to sell soon online on Amazon.in, which already features artisanal products like paintings and wall hangings from artisan members of JEEViKA-supported groups.

Last year, when we visited Bihar, which remains one of India's poorest states, we were impressed by Kuraisa's and many similar transformational stories. Kuraisa is one of seven million women who joined a self-help group and, while we managed to meet only a small number of them, shared with us their stories with smile, laughter and tears.

These women now have control over their lives and can envision a brighter future.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gktqtw>

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Public Information Center

The Hindustan Times House (Press Block)
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
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Tel: +91-11-4294 7000, Ext. 753
Contact: Sunita Malhotra

Media Inquiries

The World Bank
70, Lodi Estate
New Delhi - 110 003

Contact: Sudip Mozumder
Email: mediaindia@worldbank.org
Tel: +91-11-4147 9220

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