

COVID-19: India's Challenges and Responses

Online Business Seminar by

UN-Habitat and Fukuoka Directive Council (FDC)

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India's Current State and Issues related to COVID-19

- In India, as on 19 October 2020, there have been **7,550,273 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 with **114,610 deaths**

India

CASES
7,550,273

RECOVERED
6,663,608

DEATHS
114,642

CFR (%)
1.52

World

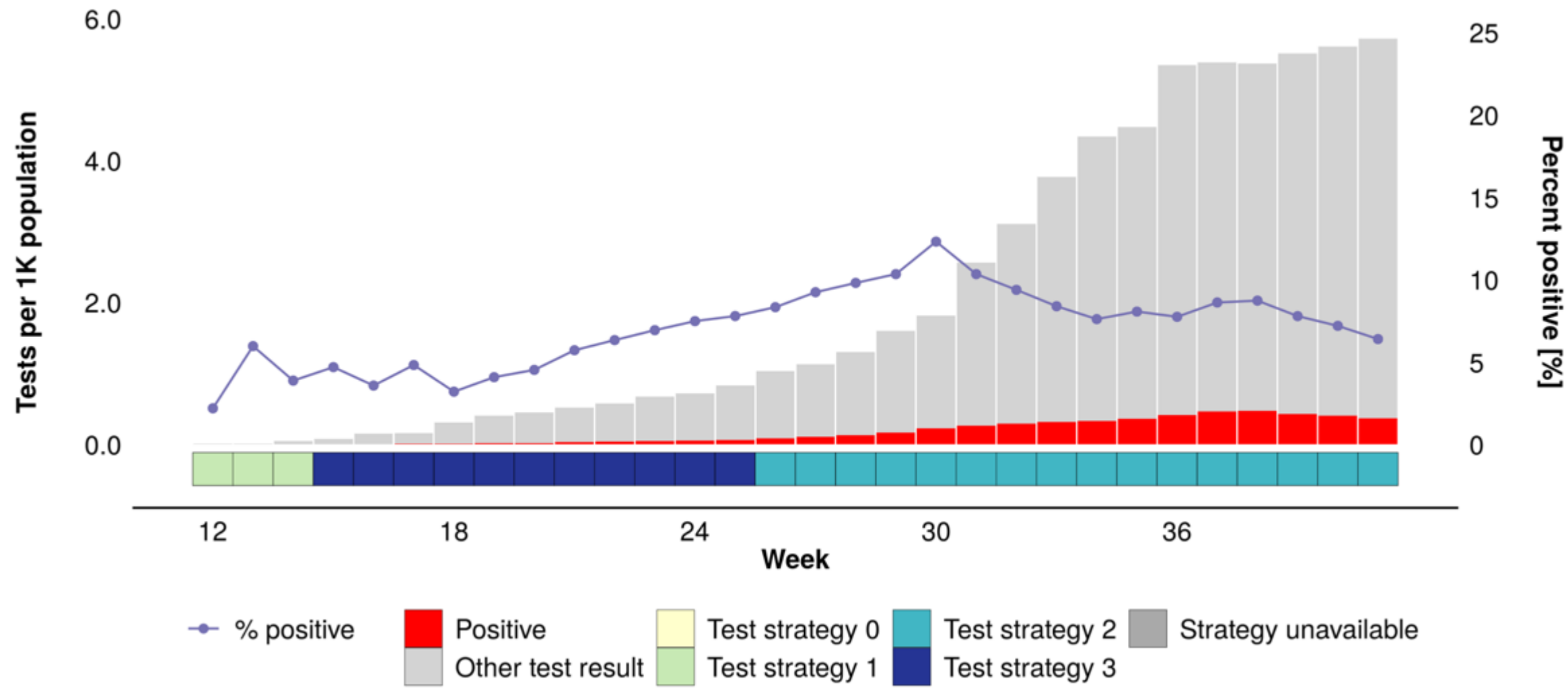
CASES
40,348,237

RECOVERED
29,660,224

DEATHS
1,119,305

CFR (%)
2.32

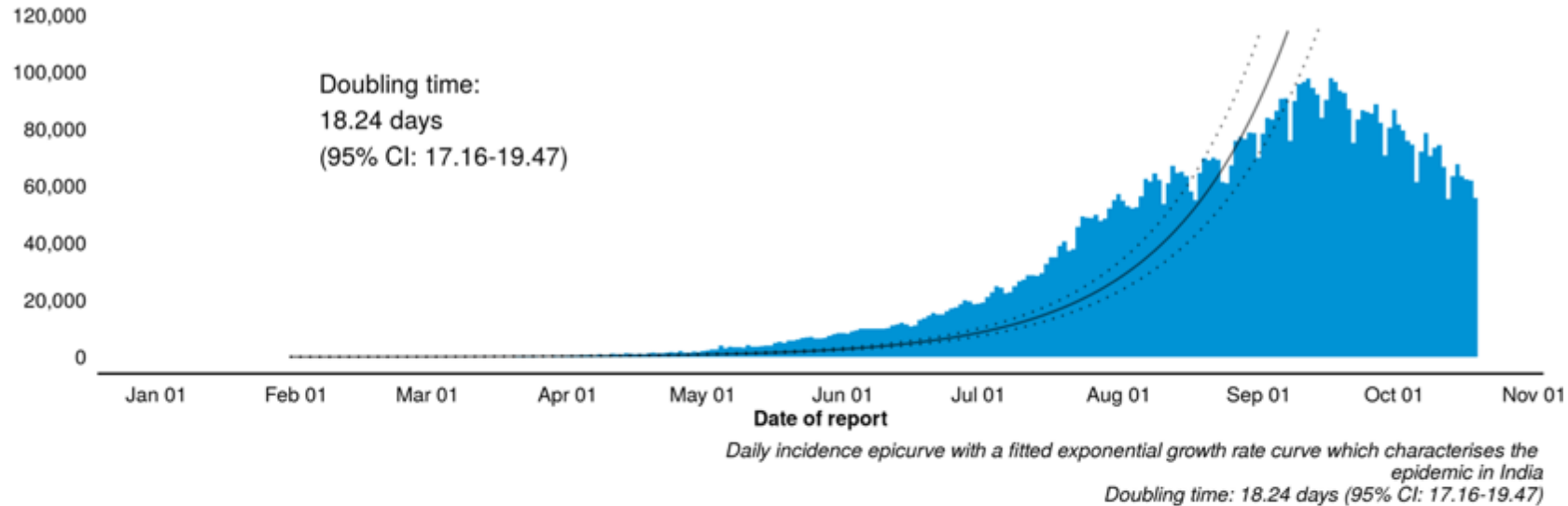
COVID-19 Testing – As at 18 Oct 2020 - 95 million tests conducted



Source: WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) explorer

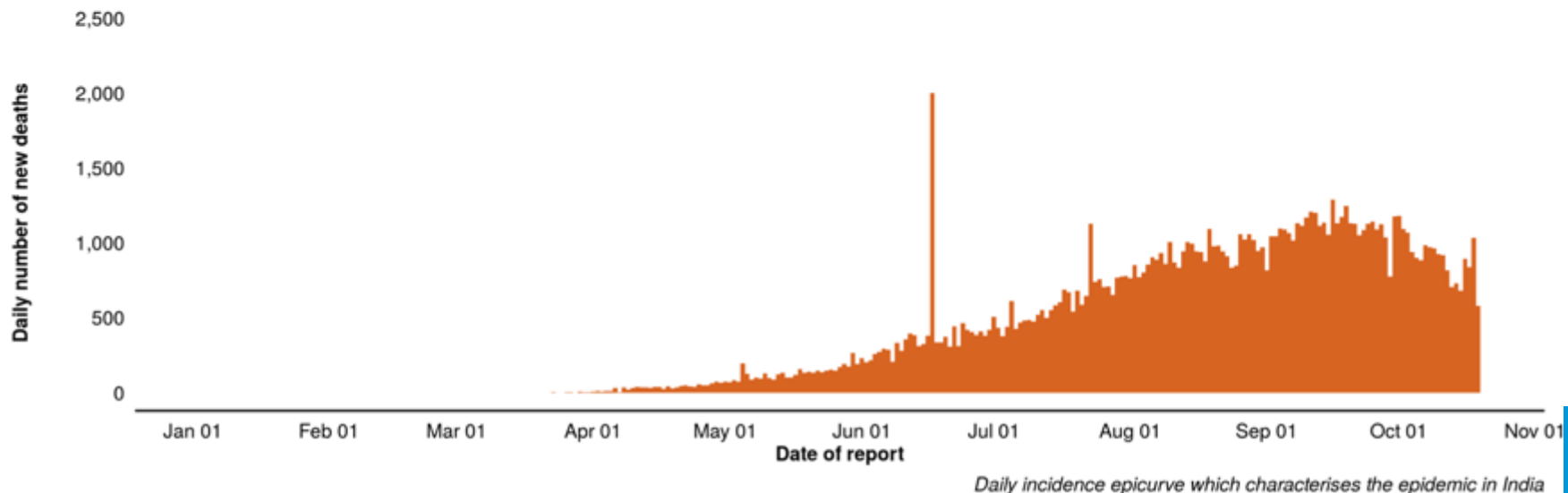
Doubling/ Halving time of COVID-19 cases and deaths

Doubling time for cases in India



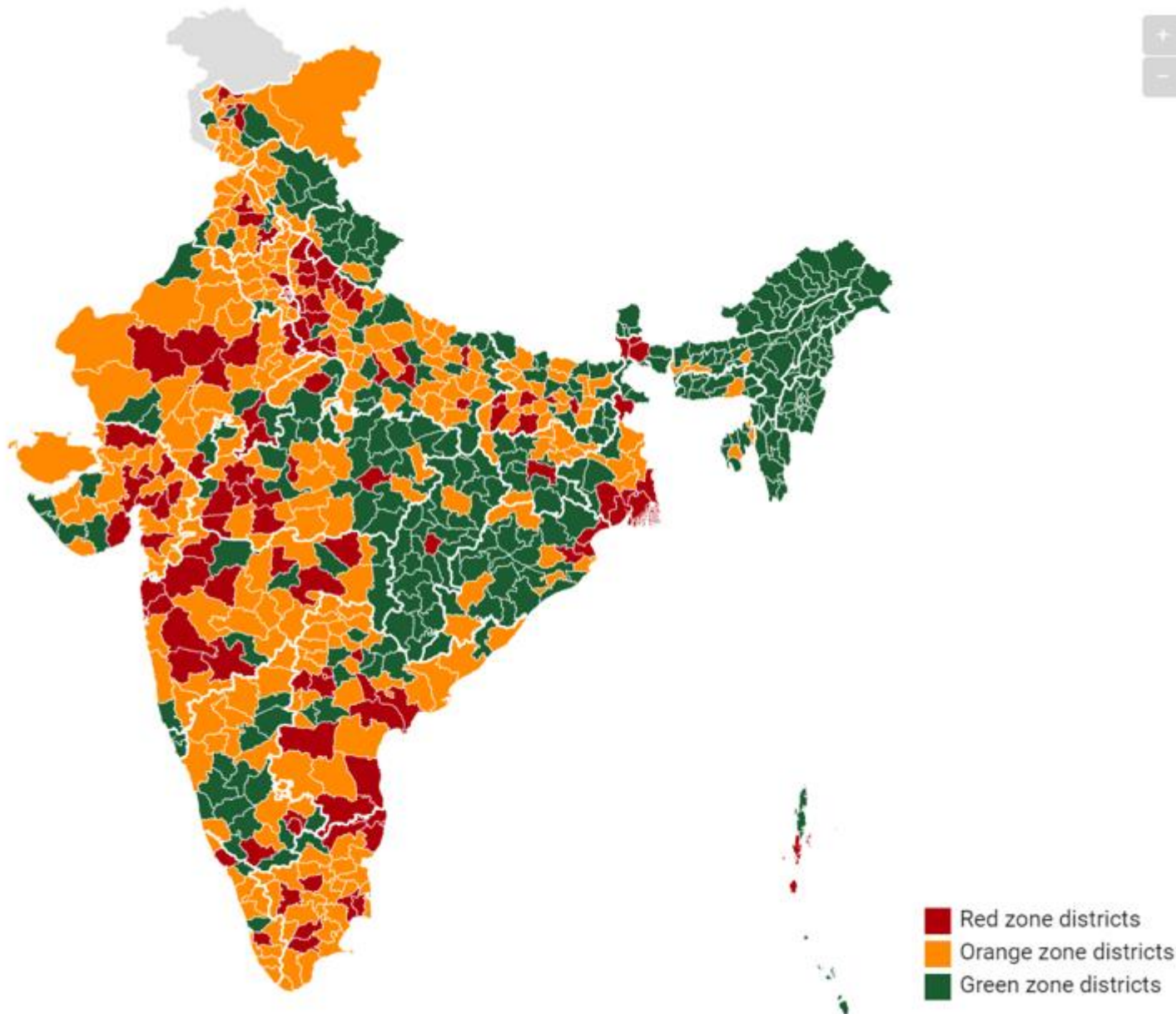
- Doubling time for new cases are now at **18.24 days**
- Doubling time for deaths are between **8.2 days** and **52.78 days**

New deaths in India by day



Source: WHO coronavirus disease (COVID-19) explorer

Mapping COVID-19 hotspots in India



- Indian Ministry of Health & Family Welfare classifies **170** out of **720 districts** as coronavirus hotspots.

** Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As on May 1, 2020. Districts marked grey are unassigned.*

Top 10 states Indian states with the maximum number of active Covid-19 cases

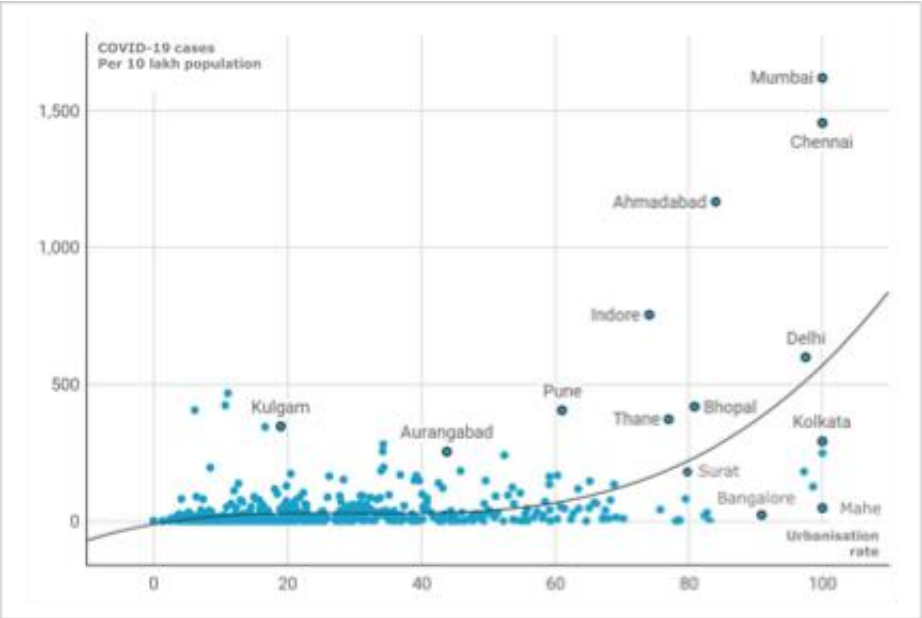
State/UT	Confirmed	Active	Recovered	Deceased	Tested
Maharashtra ⓘ	15,95,381	1,82,973	13,69,810	42,115	81.4L
Karnataka	7,65,586	1,09,264	6,45,825	10,478	66.7L
Kerala ⓘ	3,41,860	95,203	2,45,399	1,162	39.4L
Tamil Nadu ⓘ	6,87,400	39,121	6,37,637	10,642	89.5L
Andhra Pradesh	7,83,132	36,474	7,40,229	6,429	70.7L
West Bengal	3,21,036	33,927	2,81,053	6,056	39.9L
Uttar Pradesh	4,55,146	32,896	4,15,592	6,658	↑1.4L 1.3Cr
Assam	2,00,709	28,158	1,71,680	868	43.2L
Chhattisgarh ⓘ	1,60,396	26,750	1,32,168	1,478	15.3L
Delhi ⓘ	3,31,017	23,292	3,01,716	6,009	39.9L

- **Maharashtra, Karnataka** and **Kerala** are among highest active COVID cases
- Cities like **Thane, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Jaipur** are worst hit with fresh active cases

COVID19 – Urban trends

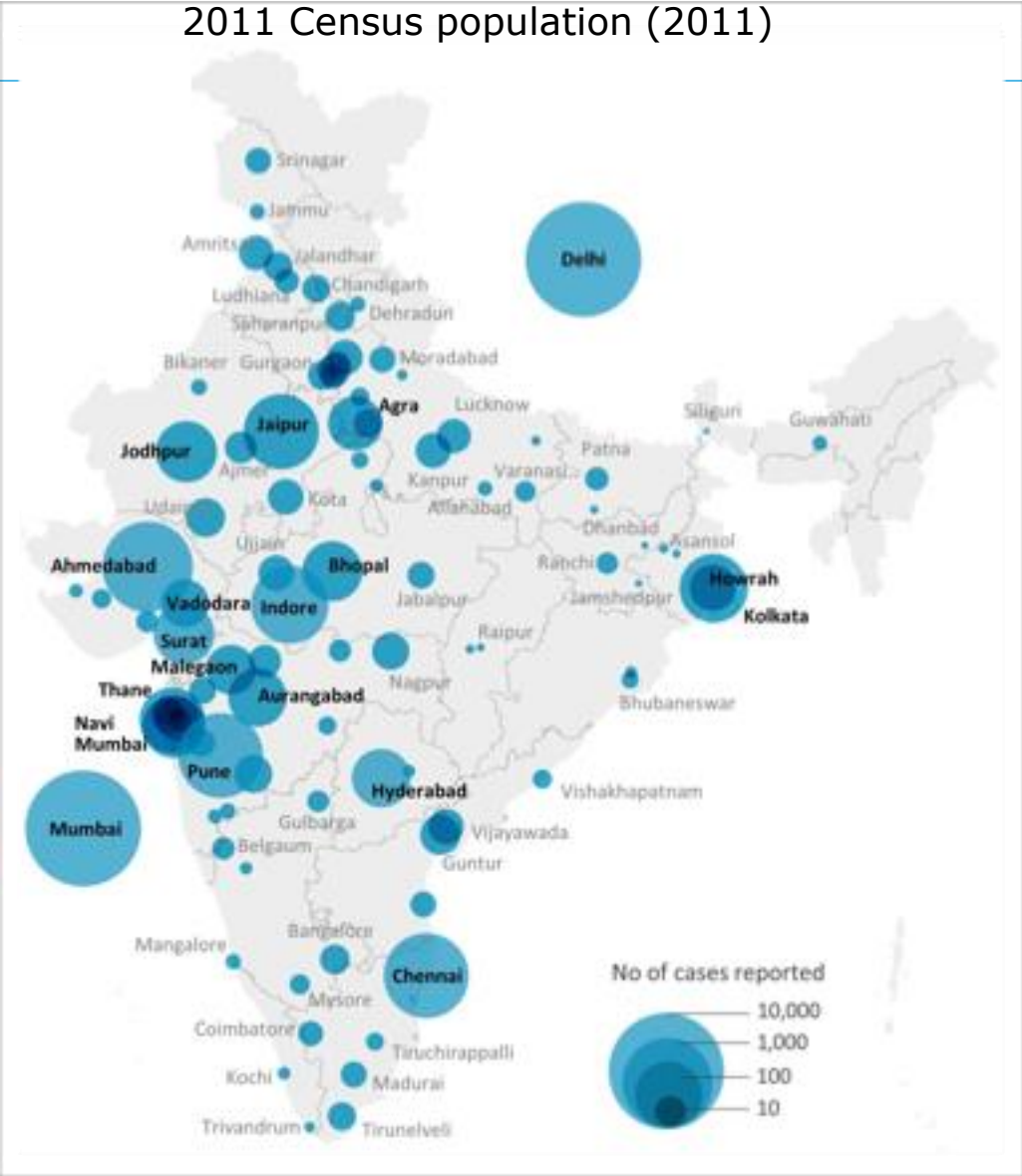
State	Confirmed Cases	No of 10 lakh+ cities	Total cases in 10 lakh+ cities	% share
Maharashtra	33,053	10	31,018	94%
Gujarat	11,380	4	10,209	90%
Tamil Nadu	11,224	3	7,066	63%
Rajasthan	5,432	3	2,959	54%
Madhya Pradesh	4,977	4	3,966	80%
Uttar Pradesh	4,464	7	2,178	49%
West Bengal	2,677	2	1,882	70%
Andhra Pradesh	2,432	3	875	36%

Share of COVID cases contributed by cities (>10 lakh population) to State totals



Correlation between district level urbanisation rate and COVID cases

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Top 100 cities by 2011 Census population (2011)



Challenges

India's GDP Decline and Forecast

- India's economy plunged to double-digit decline as COVID spikes
- IMF projects India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020
- The projection reflects a severe-than-anticipated contraction in economic activities in the first quarter as a result of the nationwide lockdown as well as the rapidly spreading pandemic.

GDP Growth Forecast Update

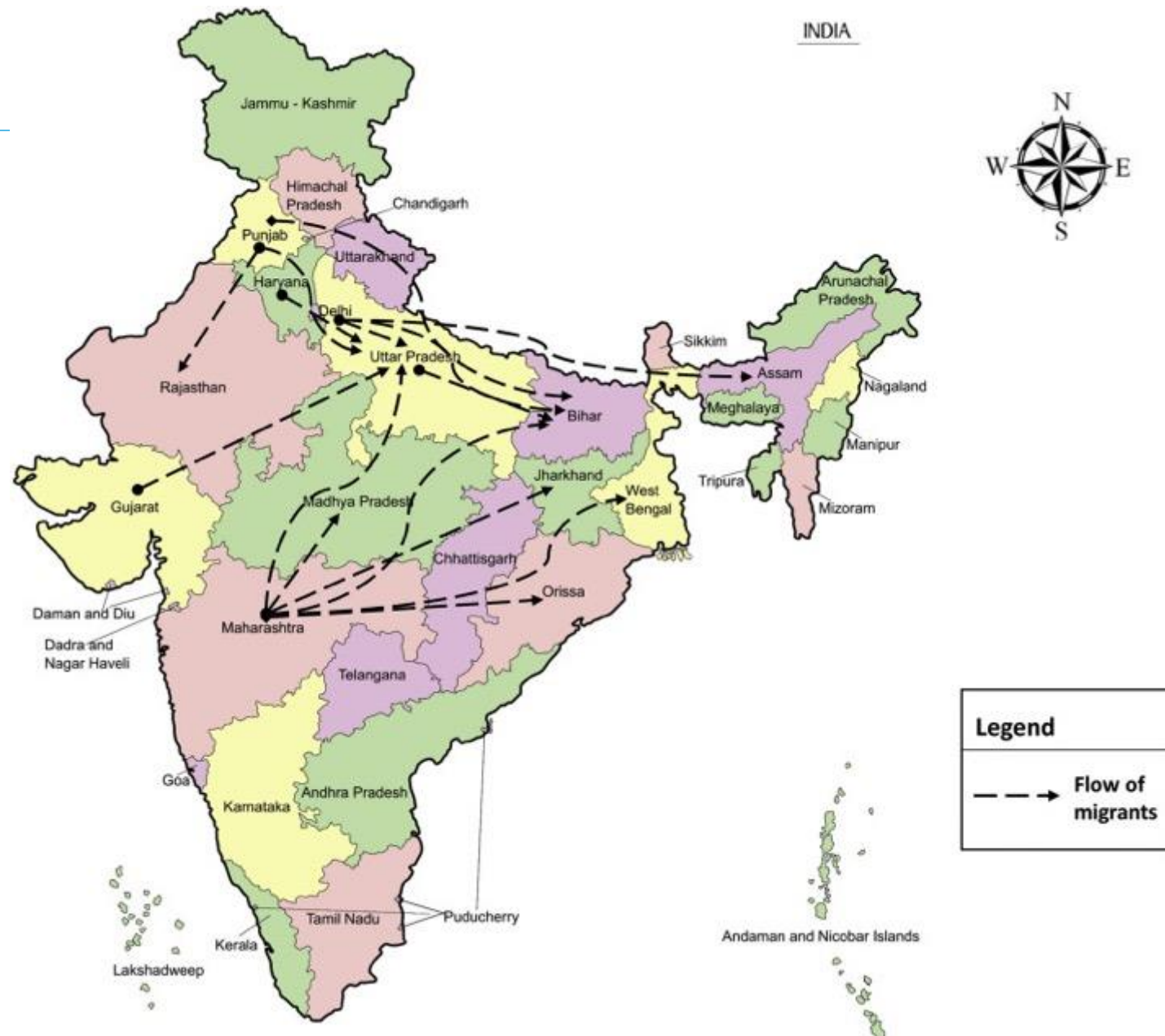


India



COVID19 & Migration

- Internal migrants in India is 453.6 million or 37% of the country's population
- More than 40 million internal migrants have been affected due to COVID-19 and around 50,000–60,000 individuals migrated from urban to rural areas of origin in a period of few days. (WB)



State of Cities amid COVID-19

- 3,894 Census Towns– 2nd largest urban system in the world
- Urban **housing shortage** of 12 million units mostly in Low Income Groups and Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) (Census 2011)
- **Overcrowding**: 32 percent of urban households lived in 1 room unit, and 30 percent of urban households lived in 2-room units
- 1 in every 6 persons, lived in slums/informal settlements (2011).
- **Absence of basic WASH** facilities in 33,510 slums (2013)
 - 43.3% households did not have water inside their homes;
 - 44% did not have toilets inside houses.

State of Cities amid COVID-19

- **Food insecurity** an existential crises for slum communities.
 - In Mumbai, almost 60 percent of the slum households were found to be severely food insecure according to one study (2012).
- **Loss of livelihoods** in urban centers
 - More than 121 million people lost jobs in April '20 (national), pushing the unemployment rate to a record 23%
 - Appx 19 million salaried, formal economy jobs lost (CMIE)
 - 4.1 million youth lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic while construction and farm sector workers account for the majority of job losses (ILO-ADB)

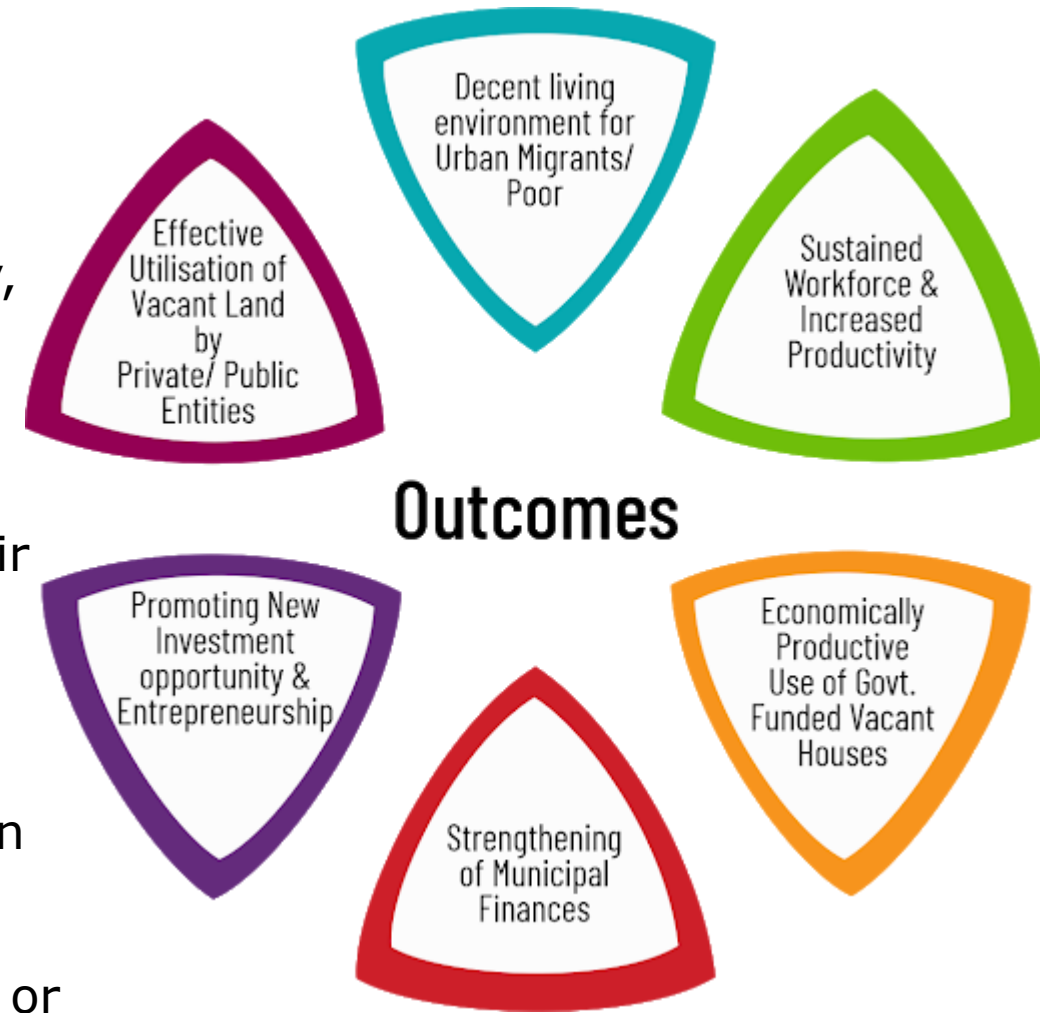
Government Response

COVID-19 Response/ Interventions at Central level

- Union Health Ministry issued detailed guidelines for preparedness and response to COVID-19 in Urban areas on 17 May 2020;
- Highlights surveillance, containment and clinical management measures among others for densely populated urban settlements;
- Orientation on basic “Dos and Don’ts” with focus on hand and respiratory hygiene, environmental sanitation and use of face covers/ masks;
- Adoption of home care remedial measure - Recording temperature with infrared thermometer, oxygen saturation with pulse oximeter;
- Addresses stigma, health seeking behavior and other issues.

Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) for urban migrants/ poor scheme under PMAY-Urban

- On 31 July 2020, the urban Ministry initiated ARHCs for urban migrants/ poor as a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All Mission);
- Target beneficiaries are majorly migrant workforces in manufacturing industries, service providers in hospitality, health, domestic/ commercial establishments, and construction, other sectors incl. labourers, students etc.
- Aims to provide ease of living to urban migrants to get access to dignified affordable rental housing close to their workplace;
- Implemented through: (1) utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs; or (2) construction, O&M of ARHCs by public/ private entities on their own vacant land;
- It will be a mix of single/ double bedroom dwelling units or Dormitory of 4/6 beds including all common facilities.



COVID-19 Response/ Interventions at Local level



TRACKING & MONITORING

Many cities are utilizing their Smart Cities resources or deploying mobile apps and dashboards for rapid response.



DIAGNOSTICS

From drive-through testing to telemedicine, cities are testing different platforms to lessen the burden on hospitals.



SANITIZATION

All cities are conducting regular sanitization drives across the city and also work to sanitize vehicles for public use.

COVID-19 Response/ Interventions at Local level



AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Social media, public address systems, mass media and apps are being used to convey facts along with capacity building modules for officials.



CITIZEN SUPPORT

Websites, helplines and ingenious apps that connect the vulnerable with help are some of the many ways cities are supporting citizens.

COVID-19 Response - Examples

Home Delivery of Essentials

The Municipal Corporation Bareilly website displayed a list of vegetable and grocery vendors who offered home delivery during the lockdown. Citizens could locate vendors by ward and call to place their order.



Agra Lockdown Monitor App

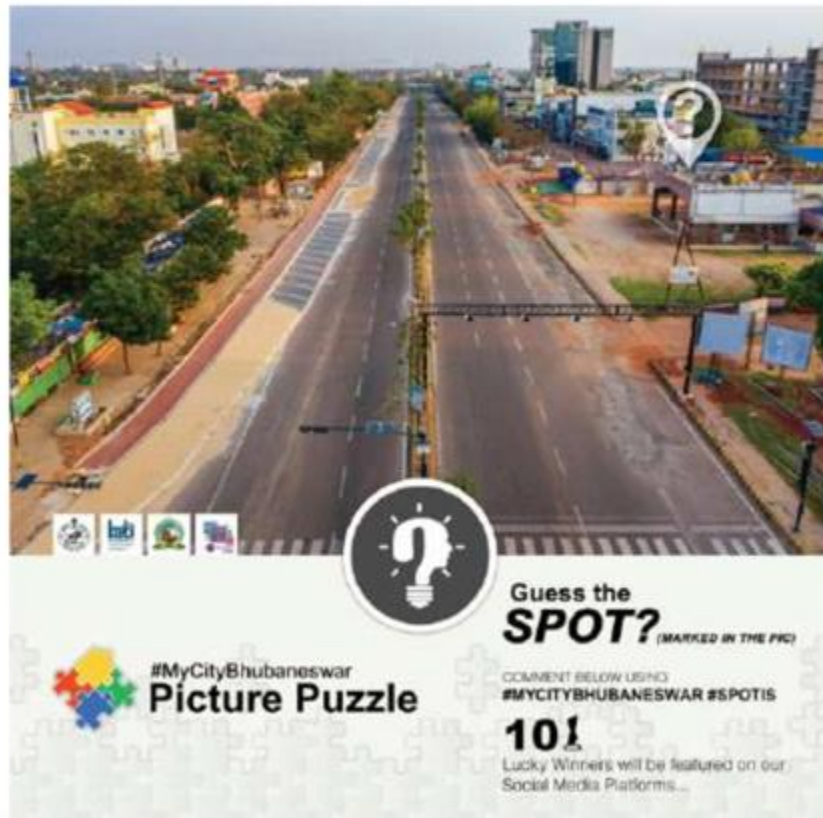
The Agra Lockdown Monitoring App was made available to the administration and police personnel as required. The technology enabled video analytics that detected groups, crowds, and close proximity of people to raise an alert on field staff's mobile phones thus helping the police administration monitor the situation on ground.



COVID-19 Response - Examples

Citizen Engagement: Keeping Spirits Up

The hashtag #MyCityBhubaneswar on Twitter has become a popular trend with citizens during the lockdown. Various online activities and games such as #PicturePuzzle, #GuessThePark, #SpotIs etc. has helped relieve lockdown stress and kept citizens engaged and entertained during trying times.



TickMe App: The Neighborhood Store Aggregator

TickMe is an innovative app promoted by BMC and BSCL to prevent crowding and ensure social distancing. Through this app, citizens can place online orders for groceries, medicines, and other essentials from stores in their neighborhood and choose a convenient pick-up time. Upon confirmation from the store, the citizen can go across for their order.



COVID-19 Response - Examples



Urban shelter homes have been converted into COVID-19 isolation wards



Goods vehicles are regularly sanitized at containment zone exit points



COVID-19 Response - Examples of Municipal interventions

- Vijayawada Municipal Corporation appointed 32 Special Officers to monitor COVID situation and facilitate assistance in 64 wards, with 24/7 city level Command Control Center operating in 3 shifts;
- Corporation has been spraying Sodium Hypochlorite Solution at all main roads and internal roads with Fire Engines, Drones using Taiwan Sprayers and pit pumps
- Town planning team identified 25 locations in the city for sale of essential and daily commodities with all precautionary measures and provisions of clean water, handwashing facilities, sanitizers and drinking water
- Setup 9 shelter homes, accommodates 940 homeless and 3 colleges converted into temporary shelter home with food supply and sanitation facilities



COVID-19 Response - Examples of NGO Interventions

- As per official records, there are more than 400 million people who work in the informal sector as daily wage earners, street vendors, farm labourers, etc. Majority of them were already living a hand-to-mouth existence and are now suffering even more without livelihoods.
- Government is operating community kitchens and giving free dry/ raw food to the poor and homeless, but out of reach to many. To complement the state and central governments' efforts, many countless NGOs along with volunteer groups are working tirelessly to provide food and other essentials to those in dire need.
- Few non-profits who are at the forefront of the on-going relief efforts and are aiming to:
- Provide face masks to health workers/ frontline warriors, essential food item and preventive kits to the construction workers stuck at construction sites in metro cities
- Provide hygiene kits to sanitary/ health workers, police personnel to keep them safe while they deliver their duties

COVID-19 Response - Examples of NGO Interventions

- **Goonj, an Indian NGO**, undertakes disaster relief, humanitarian aid and community development in parts of 23 states across India. For COVID-19 relief mission, it has reached out to over **17,000 families and individuals** with ration kits, supported 12 community kitchens and distributed more than **77,000 cooked meals**;
- **Oxfam India, an International NGO**, has responded to numerous humanitarian disasters and in COVID-19, it has reached out to around **4.5 million people to create mass awareness** about the disease, supplied dry rations to 8,000 households and provided 48,000 packets of cooked meals to migrant workers and the homeless;
- **Action Aid India** is voluntarily contributing towards the current crisis by supporting the most vulnerable communities across **171 districts in 21 states**. Over 87000 families have been provided dry ration, **57000 with sanitary and dignity kits** and over **3,00,000 individuals** have received cooked meals. The NGOS plans to deliver support material to 80,00,000 more people;

UN-Habitat India Response

COVID-19 Response – UN-Habitat India

- UN-Habitat India office has been providing advisory support to municipal corporations to strengthen institutional and procedural resilience in urban planning and management of five cities, Bhopal, Jaipur, Mysore, Vijayawada and Guntur under ongoing SCIAP project;
- In addition, we are spreading awareness and conducting various advocacy activities:
 - An online World Habitat Day celebration event was hosted by MoHUA on 05 October 2020, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs chaired the event. UN-Habitat contributed a **WHD2020 theme paper on 'Building Resilience through Integrated Community Planning and Housing for All'** with special attention to COVID impact towards housing crisis;
 - On 05 October 2020, **radio interview on All India Radio** to mark the India-UN Partnership @75 years with a view to provide solutions for sustainable and adequate housing for all in the COVID and post COVID era;
 - Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC-5) was organized by CEPT University on 16 October 2020 on **Reimagining Urban Planning: Perspectives on Policy, Practice and Pedagogy during and post COVID-19**

COVID-19 Response – UN-Habitat India

- UN-Habitat India hosted a ***Webinar on Landfill Remediation: Exploring Opportunities for adoption of Fukuoka Method in Indian Cities*** in coordination with ROAP Japan on 29th July, 2020, 94 participants from local governments, state urban departments and other bilateral and UN agencies participated and the method was explained by Dr. Matsufuji Yasushi, Professor Emeritus, Fukuoka University;
- A ***webinar on 'Integrating Health in Urban Planning' on 26 August 2020***, by MoHUA, NIUA, WHO and UN-Habitat - sourcebook, "Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning" jointly published by WHO and UN-Habitat to highlight and address COVID challenges in cities;
- Waste Management Specialist, IND office participated/ moderated the following online events:
 - Panel Discussion on **Challenges of Waste Management during COVID-19** on July 9, 2020, organised by the Center for Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development
 - **EMG Nexus Dialogues on COVID 19 and the Environment**: A 3-Part Series Dialogues with a nexus area of Pollution & Waste on 14 July 2020
 - **Safe Management of COVID Waste in India**
 - **Global Waste Response to COVID-19**, webinar moderated by UN-Habitat India

COVID-19 Response – UN-Habitat India

Articles and Publications:

- A joint article by UN-Habitat India and NIUA was published on 'Can COVID-19 fill the void of City Governance for Urban Transformation?'
- Paper on 'Local Level Mobilisation: Actions and Interventions' by UN-Habitat India
- Article on 'COVID-19 Response: Priority Actions of National Flagship Missions of India'
- India's Urban Context: Impact of COVID-19 on Urban Poor and Migrants by UN-Habitat IND
- Documented 'Good Practice of State Level Mobilization for COVID-19: Case Study of Kerala'

Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERF)

- UN-Habitat has been contributing towards development of a joint COVID-19 Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan, in partnership with UN Agencies and the government;
- As UN's response, the health systems reform and urban dimensions of the COVID crisis are outlined in SERF;
- SERF focuses on five pillars: (1) Health systems strengthening, (2) Economic Sector Immediate Response, (3) Social Sector Immediate Response, (4) Environment and (5) Cross sectoral support

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Thanks for your attention!!!