



June 2021

## Featured Story



In this month's featured article, '[Information technology: The digital vaccine during the pandemic](#)', Ms Pratah Jain from the Communication and Policy Engagement team shares her views on how technology has become the new-age digital vaccine, helping us stay safe yet connected with family and friends. The article was published on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2021 on 17 May.



### CSTEP Changemakers

*"The deployment of clean energy technologies on a large scale can help India achieve its net-zero emission target by 2050. Rooftop solar can be a catalyst for this."*

– Mr Jaymin Gajjar, Energy and Power Sector

## Solutions

CSTEP has come up with a slew of possible solutions for buffering agricultural losses and building the resilience of rainfed crops in Karnataka. Our study on the impact of climate change over a short-term period (the 2030s) emphasises the need for tying crop insurance and



## Events

On 26 May, CSTEP organised a webinar titled '[Rooftop solar: A catalyst for achieving net-zero emissions](#)', to discuss how the rooftop solar segment can contribute to achieving India's net-zero aspirations. Speakers at the programme included key representatives from energy organisations—including the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA)—that are playing a pivotal role in ensuring that net-zero becomes a reality.



The event was well attended, with over 60 participants logging in from different parts of the world, and was reported in real-time via live [tweets](#). Mr Saptak Ghosh from the Energy and Power sector, CSTEP, moderated the first session, where Mr Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, Chief Executive Officer, National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), and Mr Heymi Bahar, Senior Analyst, Renewable Energy Markets and Policy, International Energy Agency (IEA), shared some incisive insights on '**India's RTPV potential and strategies required to achieve RTPV targets**'. The second session, moderated by Dr Jai Asundi, Executive Director, CSTEP, had Mr Chintan Shah, Director (Technical), Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), and Mr Manu Maudgal, Director - Clean Power Programme, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), engaging in a lively discussion on '**How RTPV can contribute to 100% GHG emission reductions in India by 2050**'.

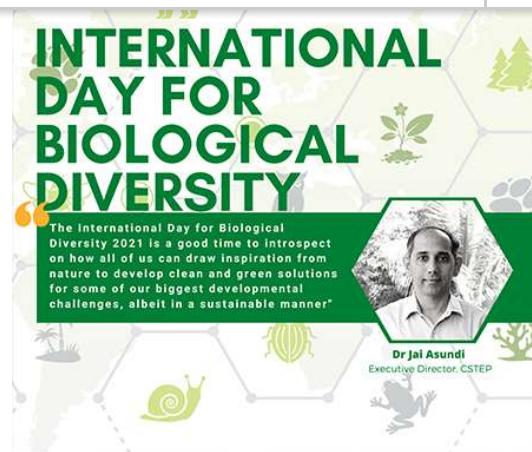
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We observed World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2021 on 17 May, and International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 on 22 May, with special posts and articles.



On **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**, we posted a special [quote](#) from Dr Jai Asundi on how information technology has been a great enabler during the pandemic, bridging the gaps and keeping us connected.

We also posted a [comic strip](#) highlighting the theme for the year: 'Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times'.



On **International Day for Biological Diversity**, we posted a [quote](#) by Dr Jai Asundi on how we can draw inspiration from nature to develop clean and green solutions for some of the biggest developmental challenges, along with a [video](#) highlighting the theme for the year: "We're Part of the Solution."

We also posted a blog '[Connecting people and nature](#)' by Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, which discusses how citizen science initiatives can help involve citizens effectively in promoting sustainable development goals.

In May 2021, we published two episodes of our **Perspective Xchange** podcast series.



The first one, titled '[Strengthening the innovation ecosystem in India](#)', has Dr Jai Asundi in conversation with renowned scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee, Dr R A Mashelkar, Governing Council Chairperson, Marico Innovation Foundation, and former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), on how we can nurture an innovation ecosystem in India that maximises the

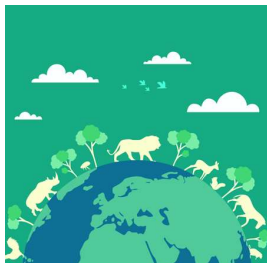


In the second podcast '[Business as a force for climate good](#)', Dr Jai Asundi is in conversation with Mr Pramod Bhasin, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The episode discusses the need for industry to view climate change as an opportunity to create climate-friendly businesses.



## In the News

In May 2021, **eight** opinion articles by our researchers were published in some of the leading print publications and digital platforms.



On International Day for Biological Diversity, **The Wire Science** published an article '[The sooner we see the web of life, the better](#)' by Ms Sreekha Pillai from the Communication and Policy Engagement team. The article calls for acknowledging that our well-being is closely tied to the well-being of other species and the planet.



**ETEnergyWorld** published an opinion article '[Why renewable energy projects need smart siting](#)' by Mr Gautham Molleti from the Energy and Power sector. The article emphasises the need for low-impact siting to minimise project costs and delays, while expediting installation of renewable energy systems.



Another article published in **ETEnergyWorld** underlines the need for the Government to engage with independent platforms and research institutes to capture the finer details of emissions and keep the inventory updated. Written by Ms Riya Rachel Mohan from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, the article titled '[Up-to-date emission inventories will guide India on climate goals](#)' was also published on [GHG Platform India](#).



**Energy Storage Pro** magazine published two articles by our researchers. The first article titled '[How battery storage technology paves way for a renewable-powered future](#)', is written by Mr Bhupesh Verma and Dr Anjali Singh from the Materials and Strategic Studies sector, and suggests a roadmap for large-scale adoption of lithium-ion batteries (LiB).



The second article titled '[Energy storage considerations: Applications, issues, and solutions](#)', is written by Dr Ammu Susanna Jacob from the Energy and Power sector, and suggests ways to use a single storage device for different applications in the grid to improve profitability.



**EMobility+** magazine also published two articles by our researchers from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector. The first article titled '[How supportive is the current EV policy ecosystem to drive the sector forward?](#)', is written by Ms Anantha Lakshmi Paladugula, and notes that for a smooth transition to electric mobility, central and state policy schemes need to be in sync.

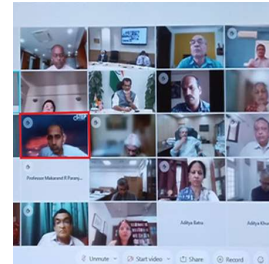
The second article titled '[Analysis of India's electric vehicle transition over the years and the present scenario](#)', is written by Ms Trupti Deshpande, and talks about initiatives on better charging infrastructure and how the introduction of a universal charger and battery type can encourage better adoption of EVs.

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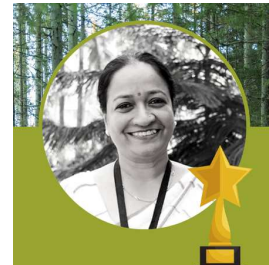

[THE HOW & HOW OF IT](#), written by Mr Jaymin Gajar from the Energy and Power sector. In the article, the author makes a pitch for domestic manufacturing of Floating Photo Voltaic (FPV) components.

### Tipping the Scale

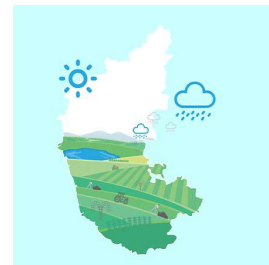
Dr Jai Asundi, Executive Director, CSTEP, attended a high-level meeting convened by *NITI Aayog* with 35 select think tanks. The meeting discussed ways to revive the economy and mitigate the sufferings of vulnerable sections of the population in the wake of the pandemic. During the meeting, Dr Asundi proposed using rooftop photovoltaic (RTPV) to power essential services in rural areas.



The American Association of Publishers has recognised the contribution made by Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, to the sixth UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), which has been awarded the 2020 PROSE Award in the category of Environmental Sciences. Dr Murthy was the Coordinating Lead Author for the chapter 'Drivers of Environmental Change'.



We published a policy brief '[Climate-resilient rainfed agriculture](#)' authored by Dr Indu K Murthy, Dr Kritika Adesh Gadpayle, and Ms Vidya S from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector. The brief examines the implication of climate change for the dominant rainfed crops of Karnataka such as maize, sorghum, and groundnut, and also recommends measures for buffering agricultural losses and building long-term resilience of crops.



### On Our Minds



A journal article co-authored by Ms Kaveri Ashok, Ms Ramya Natarajan, and Ms Poornima Kumar from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, has been published in *Environmental Research Letters*. In the article titled '[Sustainable alternative futures for agriculture in India—the energy, emissions, and resource implications](#)', the authors present two novel system dynamics simulation models that can be used to develop and analyse specific interventions required at the national and regional levels to sustainably maintain food security.

Another journal article, co-authored by Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, has been published in *PLOS ONE*. Titled '[Mitigation co-benefits of carbon sequestration from MGNREGS in India](#)', the article is based on a study which attempts to estimate the



Also, a blog article '[Video conference? Be camera-ready!](#)', written by Ms Lydia Sareena from the Communication and Policy Engagement team, has been published on our *Medium* page. In this article, the author hands out tips on how to look your best during virtual meetings.

### Tickle Tales



It has been our endeavour to keep you abreast with the significant monthly developments at CSTEP through POLICY Matters. Please feel free to share your suggestions, if any, by writing to us at [cpe@cstep.in](mailto:cpe@cstep.in)

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