

CSTEP CLEAN ENERGY CONCLAVE 2026

Transitioning Towards a Clean and Sustainable Power System

 5 and 6 October | New Delhi

Concept Note

Over the past decade, India's clean energy transition has crossed a significant threshold. The country has over 250 GW of installed renewable energy (RE) capacity and is on course towards its 500 GW target by 2030. The first phase of this transition—adding renewable capacity at scale—is well underway.

The harder questions are now in front of us. How does transmission infrastructure get redesigned for variable, decentralised generation? How does energy storage get integrated into grid planning and procurement? How do regulatory frameworks—built for a coal-dominated system—keep pace with a rapidly changing power sector? And how do the benefits of this transition reach consumers, communities, and financially stressed distribution companies (DISCOMs), not just developers and generators?

These are not questions any single institution can answer alone. They sit at the intersection of policy, technology, design, implementation, and finance and require sustained, structured dialogue between the people working on each piece.

The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is pleased to announce the inaugural edition of its flagship event on power sector transitions, the **CSTEP Clean Energy Conclave**, to be held on 5 and 6 October 2026 at The Claridges New Delhi. The theme for this edition is '**Transitioning Towards a Clean and Sustainable Power System**'.

The Conclave's focus areas—transmission grid infrastructure, energy storage integration, regulatory design, and the utility of the future—are treated not as separate tracks but as interconnected challenges requiring a common framing. Sessions will combine curated panel discussions, technical presentations, and fireside conversations to initiate a sustained dialogue on these issues.

The sessions will examine critical questions, including the following:

- How can grid decarbonisation accelerate while ensuring reliable, round-the-clock power, and what roles do market design and thermal-to-renewable transition play?
- How must transmission planning methodologies and technologies evolve to reliably integrate high RE penetration, storage, and new loads such as data centres and green hydrogen?



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- How can advanced modelling and digital tools help India's power sector plan with confidence for 2047 amid demand growth, technology-cost uncertainty, and large-scale electrification?
- How should utilities and DISCOMs determine the storage capacity, duration, and siting needed to move from variable renewable generation to firm, round-the-clock clean power, and which storage value streams can be monetised today?
- What does a decarbonised, 'net-zero-ready' DISCOM look like, and what single policy or regulatory reform would do the most to get there over the next 5 years?
- Looking back at two decades of reform, what has been the real turning point in India's power sector, and where does the unfinished business of the transition sit today?

Recognising the role of the private sector and financing institutions in this transition, the Conclave will bring industry, regulatory, and philanthropic perspectives into the dialogue, alongside government and research outlooks, to identify practical and implementable pathways forward.

The CSTEP Clean Energy Conclave aims to build a sharper, shared understanding of the post-RE transition's policy and systems challenges; a network of practitioners, policymakers, and researchers who engage consistently over time; and concrete directions that feed into ongoing research and policy decisions.

Join us at the CSTEP Clean Energy Conclave 2026.

About CSTEP's Energy and Power Sector: The Sector works at the intersection of data analytics, scenario modelling, and policy engagement. Spanning energy storage, grid modernisation, regulatory policy, and decentralised renewable energy, it supports government and utility decision-making with independent, evidence-based research.

About CSTEP: CSTEP is a research-based think tank with a mission to enrich policymaking using innovative approaches for a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society. Our interdisciplinary work cuts across energy, air quality, climate, development, and technology. CSTEP provides policy recommendations to governments, industries, and not-for-profit organisations for informed decision-making and actively participates in government committees and national and international research collaborations.

