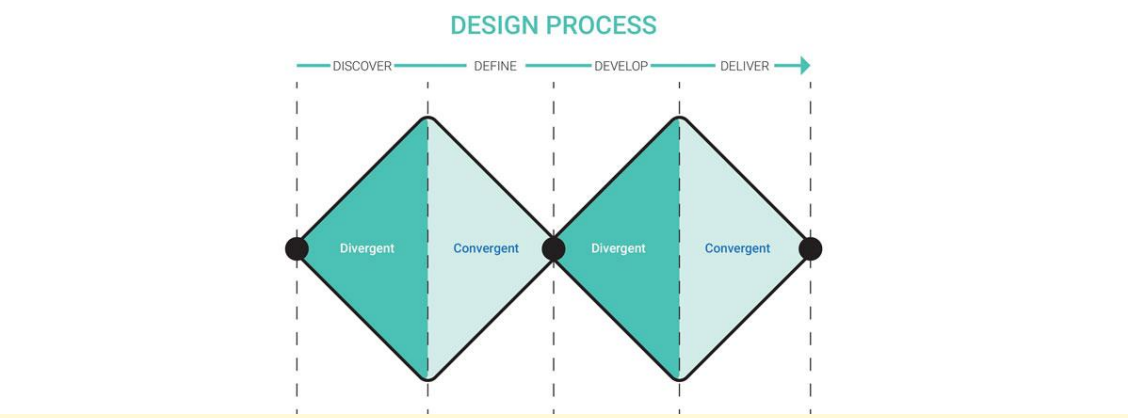
POLICY *Matters*

Featured Story



Blog of the Month, September: Our visual designer published an article titled 'Design Thinking: Meaning and Application' in the *Medium*. She discusses how design thinking can be applied in real-world solutions for more fruitful outcomes. Do take a look at the other articles on our *Medium* page (@cstep).

CSTEP Change-makers

'The privatisation of distribution companies (DISCOMs) in India has always been a hot topic whenever there is a discussion on DISCOMs' performance. With the central government issuing draft bidding guidelines for DISCOM privatisation, the issue has come to the fore once again. But irrespective of the ownership of DISCOMs, it is accountability that matters. CSTEP's feeder-wise revenue analysis and monitoring of energy sales (FRAMES) model would help promote the commercial accountability of DISCOMs and help them become financially sustainable in the long run.'

—Rishu Garg, Research Scientist

CSTEP in the News

Our researchers have been sharing their thoughts and ideas on policy solutions with citizens through various newspaper articles. *The Quint* published 'Delhi Metro Reopens: How to Make Public Transport Safe Post-COVID?' where authors argue why behavioural change is a critical aspect for ensuring public safety during travel as cities open up post lockdowns.

Deccan Herald published an article titled 'Karnataka Should Trade Excess Solar Power', which deliberates on the need for solar developers in Karnataka to look at new power markets and trade their excess solar power with other states through the interstate transmission system (ISTS) model.

Down to Earth published an article titled 'Zero-budget natural farming brought big gains for Andhra farmers, shows study' in which authors share findings about a preliminary study conducted by CSTEP in Andhra Pradesh. The article considers the potential savings in water, electricity, and emissions resulting from the ZBNF farming practice.

Tipping the Scale

CSTEP's technology-supported solution for improving the uptake of rooftop photovoltaics in India, called CSTEP's Rooftop Evaluation for Solar Tool (CREST), was well received during its online launch conducted in September. CSTEP used airborne LiDAR technology to identify the most suitable rooftops in Bengaluru and developed CREST to provide this information to both consumers and DISCOMs. CREST can help consumers locate the most ideal location for setting up rooftop solar, and DISCOMs can use this information to aggregate the most suitable rooftops and formulate policies that enable a win-win situation for citizens, DISCOMs, and industries.

In another online event, we shared lessons from the experience of electrifying Kudagaon, a remote village in Odisha, using microgrid. The webinar, 'Solar Micro-grid for improved energy access', looked at how microgrids can help India truly electrify the country, including villages that are located in hard-to-access terrains. The project, done in collaboration with Good Energies Foundation and SunMoksha Power, showed how community involvement is a crucial step in ensuring the sustainability of such solutions.

Solutions

Electric vehicles (EVs) and rooftop photovoltaics are two technologies that can benefit from each other. In this policy brief published by CSTEP, we examine how steps in this direction are not only just environmentally advantageous but also form a true approach towards green mobility. If solar energy is generated close to EV charging points, it can also help lower transmission losses and manage impacts on the grid due to a rise in demand for EVs.

Events

Many DISCOMs across India are on the verge of a financial crisis. The Government of India has implemented numerous policies to get them out of this quandary. CSTEP's Energy and Power team studied one recent scheme, the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), to assess the situation of two DISCOMs in Karnataka. We are hosting an online webinar in October to share the findings of this study and discuss the way forward for the financial sustainability of DISCOMs. Register here to participate in the webinar.

In November, CSTEP and Melton Foundation are collaborating for ClimathonBLR. We are inviting registrations from students, researchers, and social groups to participate in a 50-hour climate action hackathon that would seek efficient solutions for waste management challenges in Bengaluru. To participate, register here. If you are interested in attending the event or want to know more details, please visit this page.

Climathon is an initiative by EIT-Climate KIC's Global Climathon movement and brings together change-makers and innovators from around the globe for solving humanity's most pressing issues.

On Our Minds

Our researchers have written on diverse topics in September. Follow us on *Medium* to read our latest thoughts on issues ranging from how building self-sufficient communities and managing urban density can help make cities more resilient to future pandemics to why India's climate strategy needs to consider market-based incentives.

Tickle Tales

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