



POLICY *Matters*

Featured Story



More than 70% of the investment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is on natural resource management activities. In this edition's featured [article](#), Dr Indu K Murthy, Principle Research Scientist heading the Adaptation and Risk Analysis group at CSTEP, writes about the need for a monitoring framework in India that will track the assets created under the Act and their sustainability and impact.

Also, do read the next [article](#) in the Empower Blog series, which provides a breakdown of what's in a consumer's electricity bill. This series features blogs from our researchers that explain the journey of electricity from generation to consumption and its implications for consumers.

CSTEP Change-makers

"CREST [CSTEP's Rooftop Evaluation for Solar Tool] is a free tool that tackles the technical uncertainty that most rooftop owners or house

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fact that sunlight is only from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and there are significant shadows falling from neighbouring buildings or trees. It is difficult for them to assess the payback period or what the value of such a system would be on their roof. This is a technical consideration but a primary one. With CREST, they will have an accurate estimate of the solar potential of their rooftop."

- Dr Jai Asundi, ED, CSTEP, quoted in this [video](#) by SmartSustain



"Air-quality monitoring forms a critical component of various stages of air-quality management. India has nearly 200 monitoring stations (operational during 2010-16). However, the country needs about 40,003 stationary monitors to capture the spatial and temporal variability of air quality."

- Sreekanth Vakacherla, Senior Research Scientist, quoted in [The Hindu](#)



"There is no doubt that a further low carbon mandate in the power sector beyond 2030 will benefit the country's air quality."

- Shweta Srinivasan, Research Scientist, quoted in [Mongabay](#)



"CSTEP has undertaken a feasibility assessment [for Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc)] for installing rooftop solar in 75 major bus stations, TTMCs [Traffic and Transit Management Centres], workshops, and depots. Around 3 MW will be installed by BESCOm [Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company] under their 13th Finance Commission project on 10 buildings. For the remaining 65 buildings, third-party developers will lease the roof from BMTc and sell all the generated electricity to BESCOm. In the first case, BMTc gets free electricity while BESCOm gets surplus generation for free. In the second case, BMTc gets a certain amount from the third party as rent for the roof while BESCOm gets clean power to fulfil Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs)."

- Saptak Ghosh, Research Scientist, quoted in [The Hindu](#)

CSTEP in the News

CSTEP has had a busy month with numerous renowned publications reaching out to us for insights from our research and publishing our work. *Deccan Herald* published an [article](#) on Zero-Budget Natural Farming. This article was appreciated by Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog, on Twitter in this [post](#). *The Wire's* Science page published an [article](#) on the implications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' recent notification delinking electric vehicles from batteries, and [ET EnergyWorld](#) published an article on grid-tied mini-grids for improved rural energy access. Do write to us (cpe@cstep.in) to share your thoughts on these articles.



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Sustainable Energy Revolution' where he talks about CREST—CSTEP's solution to create a win-win situation for all stakeholders involved in the rooftop solar segment (consumers, utilities, and developers). Dr Asundi was also a guest speaker in a webinar titled 'Innovation during the Pandemic and the Path ahead for the Development Sector' organised by Middle Road OPC Pvt. Ltd., a for-profit social impact enterprise.



Dr Indu Murthy has been nominated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Roster of Experts for India (for GHG inventory) and has been appointed a member of the REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) Cell constituted by the Government of Karnataka to understand climate change mitigation options and to execute REDD+ activities in Karnataka.

Solutions

The industrial sector currently accounts for about one-fourth of India's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and it is estimated that industrial heat would alone account for a quarter of the global energy-related CO2 emissions by 2040. However, the shift to biomass fuel has the potential to reduce the projected GHG emissions by 15%–20% by 2050. Learn more in this [policy brief](#).



Events

Our webinar [Digital DISCOMs: Moving Towards Efficient Operations](#) brought together policymakers and experts for a discussion on making electricity distribution companies financially viable. The chief guest at the event was Shri Mahendra Jain, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy Department), Government of Karnataka. Watch this [video](#) summarising the findings and recommendations from our four-year study of the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana.



Melton Foundation and CSTEP partnered for Climathon Bengaluru, an ideathon to solve Bengaluru's urban waste problem. Registrations for the 50hr #ClimathonBLR began in October and saw over a 100 students and researchers registering for the event.

On Our Minds

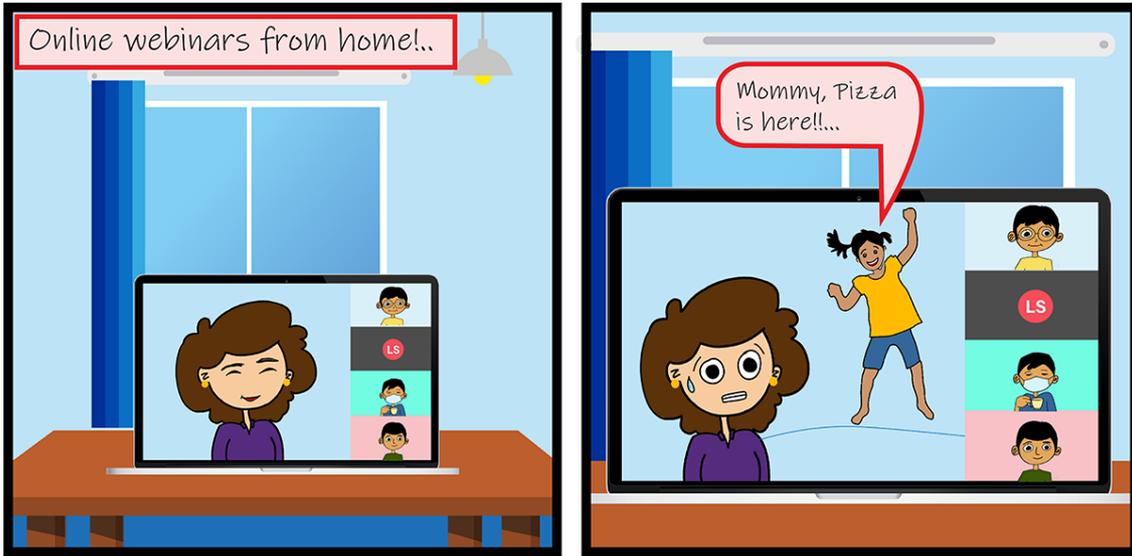
This month, we invite you to [read](#) about how the India Energy Transformation Platform (IETP) is trying to reshape India's energy sector for a cleaner future. Established in 2019 with support from the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) and with CSTEP serving as its secretariat, IETP undertook research in four areas: [urban space cooling](#), [industrial process heating](#), [technologies for renewable energy](#), and [decentralised energy systems](#).



explores issues and topics that happen behind the scenes at a think tank. The article talks about CSTEP's computational tools and the value that modelling exercises add to policy research.



Tickle Tales



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