



POLICY matters

September 2021

Featured Story



The featured story for the month of August is the blog titled '[To Stay Afloat, India Needs to Adapt](#)', written by Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector. In light of the recently released 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), India needs to integrate climate risks into its development plans to stay afloat, writes Dr Murthy in this article.

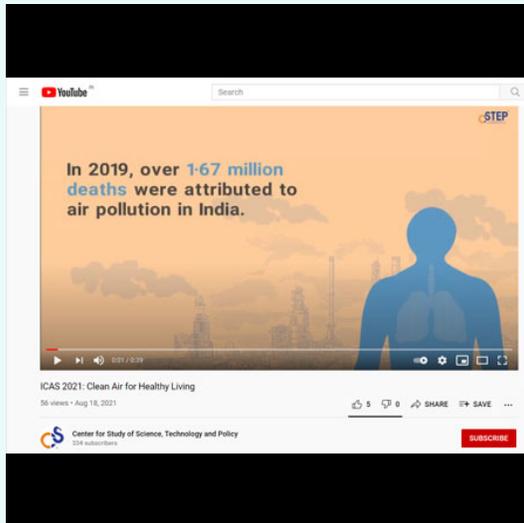


CSTEP Changemakers

The IPCC report brings into sharp focus the urgent need for all stakeholders to step up to address the climate emergency that we face, as the kind of world that future generations inhabit will depend on our actions.

– Dr Indu K Murthy - Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector

Events



This month, CSTEP hosted the third edition of its annual flagship event on Air Pollution – the India Clean Air Summit (ICAS 2021). The event had some renowned champions in the field of Air Pollution as guest speakers. Prior to the event, a [teaser video](#) was uploaded on the CSTEP YouTube channel.



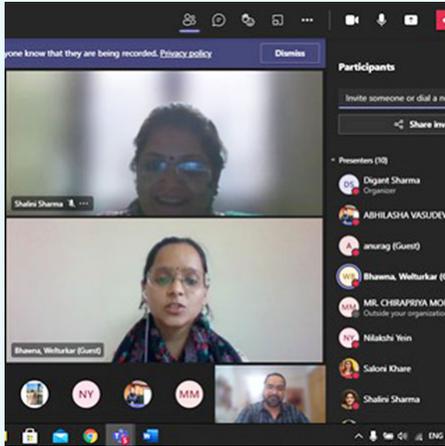
Shri Suresh Prabhu, 6-time Member of Parliament, presented the keynote address in a pre-recorded [video](#) for the inaugural session on Day 1 of ICAS 2021 and Shri Brijesh Kumar, IFS, Principal Secretary (Ecology & Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment; Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) was the keynote speaker on Day 2. While Shri Prabhu stressed on the need for concerted actions, Shri Kumar said making low-cost sensors as available as cell phones would help citizens keep track of pollution levels.



The other key speakers were Mr Daniel S Greenbaum, President of the Health Effects Institute; Dr Arvind Kumar, Chairman, Institute of Chest Surgery, Chest Onco Surgery and Lung Transplantation and Co-Chairman, Medanta Robotic Institute; Prof SN Tripathi of IIT-Kanpur, who has recently joined CSTEP as an advisor; and many other experts from the field of air pollution who shared their valuable insights with the audience. The event was very well-attended, with participants joining from different parts of the world. The consolidated Press Release for the entire event is available on our website [Events page](#). The summit received widespread coverage in the [national](#) and [regional](#) media.



Dr Vinay S Kandagal from the Materials and Strategic Studies sector was invited as a guest speaker to the 3rd Edition of 'EV Charging Infrastructure in India', organised by India Infrastructure on August 12–13. Dr Kandagal spoke on the topic 'Integrating Renewables and Storage in EV Charging' and expressed his views on the benefits and concerns of using renewables for charging EVs as well as the technology advancements in the space.



Ms Bhawna Welturkar from the Communication and Policy Engagement team was invited as a panellist for a discussion by industry experts on 'Future Workplace, Job Roles and Skills for Interior & Product Design graduates due to Emerging Disruptive Technologies of Industry 4.0 and Covid Pandemic', organised by Amity School of Design.



Mr Saptak Ghosh from the Energy and Power sector spoke at a session on 'Employee Sustainability Practices', organised by VMware. He spoke on rooftop solar options for residential consumers.

Roundtable Discussion
UNDERSTANDING THE SECTORAL CHALLENGES IN THE STATE OF PUNJAB

Keynote Speaker
Mr Krunesh Garg
Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB)

Moderator:
Dr Pratima Singh
Research Scientist, CSTEP

Problem Statement:
Mr Priyavrat Bhatti
Sector Head - Climate, Environment, and Sustainability, CSTEP

Panellists

- Mr Gulshan Rai**
Chief Environmental Engineer- Ludhiana (PPCB)
- Dr Jasvir Kaur**
Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Corporation - Patiala
- Dr Manpreet Singh Bhatti**
Professor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab
- Prof Ravindra Khaiwal**
Additional Professor, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research
- Prof Suman Mor**
Associate Professor, Punjab University
- Mr Surinder Singh Matharu**
GM - Technical, Chandigarh Pollution Testing Laboratory, Ex. PPCB

The Center for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) team at CSTEP organised a round-table discussion in collaboration with Chandigarh Pollution Testing Laboratory (CPTL) on 'Understanding the sectoral challenges in the state of Punjab'. The session had panellists from the Punjab Pollution Control Board, Municipal Corporation of Patiala, academia, and the industry.

Round-Table Discussion
PATHWAYS TO CLEAN AIR IN JHARKHAND

Keynote Speaker
Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava
Assistant scientific officer Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)

Moderator
Dr Pratima Singh
Research Scientist, CSTEP

Panellists

- Shri Rajesh Kumar Tiwari**
Under Secretary, Department of Industry, Jharkhand
- Mr Rupesh Ranjan and Ms Monalisa Pani**
City Manager, Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Jharkhand
- Dr Nitish Priyadarshi**
Assistant Professor, Department of Geology, Ranchi
- Dr Atri Gangopadhyay**
Consultant Pulmonologist, Pulse Hospital Ranchi
- Mr Manjit Bhattacharjee**
Associate Director, KPMG Consultant, Urban Development Department, Jharkhand

The CAPS team also organised another round-table conference on 'Pathways to clean air in Jharkhand', where experts from various government departments, academicians, and medical practitioners shared their views on air pollution in the state and ways to achieve pollution reduction.

In the News

In August 2021, CSTEP was featured **eleven** times in the media, which included **eight** opinion articles and **three** mentions of CSTEP studies in prominent publications.



The [Financial Express](#) published an article by Ms Sreerekha Pillai from the Communication and Policy Engagement team. In the article titled 'India Needs Urgent Climate Funding To Keep 1.5°C Alive', the author writes that in the backdrop of the recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, India will need climate funding at an unprecedented scale and speed to pace up climate action.



[ET EnergyWorld](#) published an article on hydrogen economy titled 'A hydrogen economy can have huge dividends for India' by Mr Viswanath Dibbur from the Computational Tools team. In the article, the author mentions that investment in hydrogen can fast track India's AatmaNirbhar aspirations and climate goals.



An article by Mr Abhishek Nath, Sector Head – Energy and Power, was published in the special '[ESG Edition](#)' of [Solar Quarter](#) magazine. In this article, the author opines that companies that are environmentally benign, create social value, and are backed by robust governance mechanisms are in demand among investors.



[The Wire Science](#) published an article titled 'The 'sweet' spot for ethanol blending', by Ms Ramya Natarajan from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector. The government's Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020–2025 lays out a plan to achieve a 20% ethanol blending target by 2025 using sugarcane and foodgrains. In this article, the author writes that it is E10 that hits a sweet spot when it comes to the benefits of sugarcane-based ethanol fuel-blending and sustainable practices.



Another article, written by Ms Trupti Deshpande from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector has been published by [Mobility Outlook](#) as part of a 3-article guest series. In the article, titled 'Charging Stations At Residential Apartments Are Key To EV-Charged Future', the author talks about the challenges faced by big apartment complexes that do not have a designated provision for EV charging and suggests potential solutions.



In an opinion piece titled 'Turn down the heat - Coping with energy demand and thermal comfort' in [ET Energy World](#), Ms Poornima Kumar from Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector wrote on how India can cope with soaring heat and stay thermally comfortable while minimising energy & emissions impacts of AC usage.



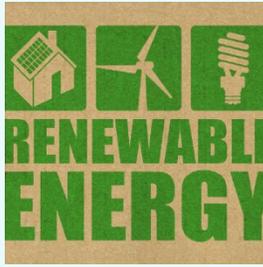
An opinion article by Mr Saptak Ghosh from the Energy and Power sector was published in [Renewable Watch](#). In the article, titled 'Revival Strategy', Mr Ghosh opines that business models driven by electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) could help increase the penetration of solar rooftop photovoltaic systems in India.



Another article on 'Battery Technology Roadmap', written by Dr NS Suresh and Mr Bhupesh Verma from the Materials and Strategic Studies sector, has been published in the [EMobility+](#). In this article, the authors opine that emerging battery chemistries can play a crucial role in the EV revolution.



Mr Abhishek Nath, Sector Head – Energy and Power, was quoted in an article published in the [Business Standard](#). The article quotes Mr Nath as saying that we should be "cautious in our optimism" about the new reforms scheme proposed for DISCOMs "as many good concepts earlier have not borne results".



Mr Saptak Ghosh from the Energy and Power sector was invited to provide his perspective in the August edition of [Solar Quarter](#) on extension of waiver on inter-state transmission system (ISTS) charges for renewable energy projects.



CSTEP was mentioned in an article in the [New Indian Express](#). The article referred to CSTEP's policy brief '[Seamless DBT for agricultural consumers](#)', which recommends certain prerequisites for installing meters, including validating authorised and unauthorised IP connections, awareness programmes for farmers on the benefits of metering, and state subsidy for installing meters.

Tipping the Scale

In a milestone for CSTEP, Dr Indu K Murthy's reaction to the recently released IPCC climate report was shared by the [COP26 official Twitter handle](#).



Dr Jai Asundi, Executive Director at CSTEP, featured in the Change-Transform India Podcast Series hosted by Eddie Avil, Founder and CEO of XROM. Dr Asundi spoke on the issue of climate change. You may listen to the podcast [here](#).



Dr Indu Murthy has joined the Editorial Board of *PLOS Climate* as an Academic Editor. PLOS Climate is a new open access journal for research that addresses the causes and effects of climate change and dynamics.



On Our Minds

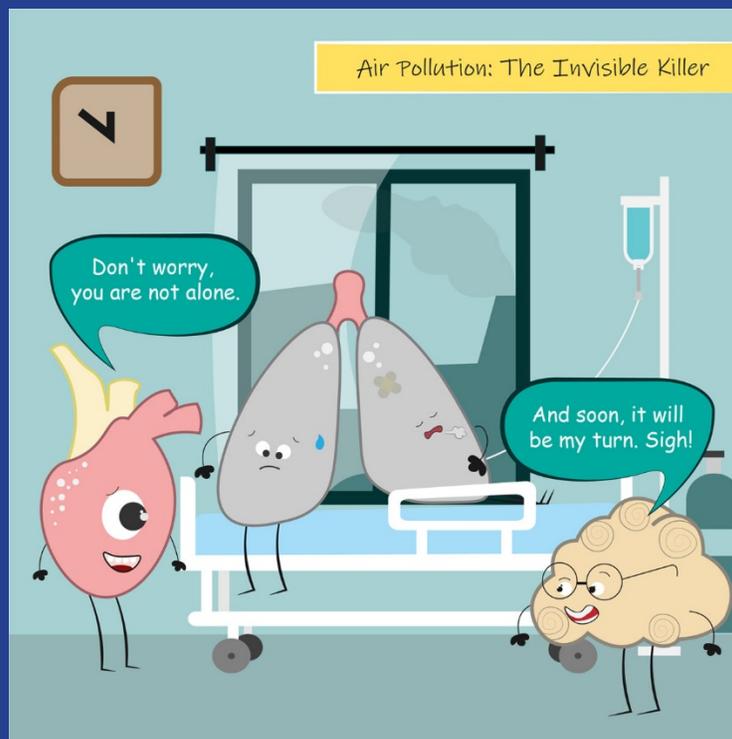


We published a blog, titled '[Unchained Melody: Beating Research Blues with Free Geospatial Data](#)', by Mr Pareexit Chauhan from the Computational Tools sector on the CSTEP Medium page. In the article, the author recounts his ordeal pertaining to geospatial data procurement and hopes that the liberalisation of rules in the sector this year will boost research in the country.



A blog related to the ICAS 2021 event was published on Medium. In this blog, titled '[Tackling Air Pollution at the Source](#)', Ms Ritika Saxena from the Center for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) writes that emission inventories can help draft effective policies to check air pollution.

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

