

Press Release

Think tank launches Rooftop Solar Explorer Tool for Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal, 21 March 2023:

Madhya Pradesh has made great strides in leveraging solar energy to meet its rising energy demand, making the 'solar state' an important contributor to India's climate aspirations and net-zero goals. Market nudges and policy levers applied by the state saw its renewable energy sector grow significantly between 2010 and 2022. But this growth is largely centred around ground-mounted large-scale solar plants. Much like the rest of India, the growth of rooftop solar systems has been slower here. The state missed its 2022 deadline for installing 2.2 GW of rooftop solar systems. How do we change this?

On Tuesday, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) a research-based think tank launched the Rooftop Solar (RTS) Explorer Tool for Madhya Pradesh. With its unique experience in using aerial imagery to assess rooftop solar potential and the decades it has spent in providing evidence-based policy recommendations, CSTEP is well-placed to assist the state in improving its policies and finding innovative approaches for deploying rooftop solar.

The RTS Explorer for Madhya Pradesh draws on CSTEP's experience of using LiDAR (light detection and ranging) technology to map Bengaluru's rooftop solar potential. The images collected were processed to develop 3D maps of each rooftop in Bengaluru city (including information on elevation and shading).

The Rooftop Solar Explorer educates consumers on system design, technology, and financial mechanisms to inform and ease their decision-making process. The information generated by the tool can also be used by distribution companies, developers, and financiers to visualise possibilities and design appropriate strategies for installing rooftop solar.

Launching the tool, Shri Sanjay Dubey, Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Madhya Pradesh, said: "For people who want to invest in rooftop solar the time is now. Distributed Renewable Energy is useful in many ways. CSTEP has done the groundwork and by developing the Rooftop Solar Explorer we now have a ready reckoner for understanding MP's rooftop solar situation. Using the tool we can now develop models that ensure a win-win scenario for all – distribution companies, developers, and consumers. Rooftop Solar Explorer tool will help us see how much we can do for rooftop solar considering the various challenges in the sector."

In the current phase, RTSE maps the rooftop solar potential of 5 cities – Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior, and Sanchi. "We are all set to take this initiative further by helping the electricity distribution companies, developers, and rooftop owners achieve successful implementation of the rooftop solar programme, in sync with state and central government policies for net zero emissions, achieving climate goals and national targets for transitioning to clean, green energy systems," said Abhishek Nath, Sector Head, Energy & Power, CSTEP.

Senior Policy Specialist at CSTEP, Saptak Ghosh said that Madhya Pradesh has always championed innovative solar applications. "This gives us the impetus and encouragement to work in the solar



rooftop sector, aided by the fantastic leadership at the state level and proactive distribution companies.”

The launch event brought developers, researchers and representatives from distribution companies and the energy department under one roof to discuss and find solutions for scaling up rooftop solar in India.

The tool is available at <https://rtse.cstep.in/mp/#/>

For further details on using the tool, please reach out to us by writing to cpe@cstep.in

About CSTEP:

The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is one of India's leading think tanks, with a mission to enrich policymaking with innovative approaches using science and technology for a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society. Our work is in the areas of climate, environment, sustainability, energy, AI for social impact, and new materials. Our research leverages innovative technology-based ideas to solve developmental challenges. Our vision is to be the foremost institution for policy analysis in India.

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