



October 2021

Featured Story



We are pleased to share that the featured story for the month of September 2021 is the blog written exclusively for CSTEP by Shri Ravi Agrawal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, on the occasion of **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**. In the blog, titled '[Let's Build a Better Tomorrow](#)', Shri Agrawal reminds us that we must continue to protect the ozone layer for future generations.



CSTEP Changemakers

The Global Goals Week is a reaffirmation of humanity's shared vision and commitment to create a better and sustainable future. We, at CSTEP, share this perspective and through our work support a number of the Sustainable Development Goals in India, where 18% of the world resides.

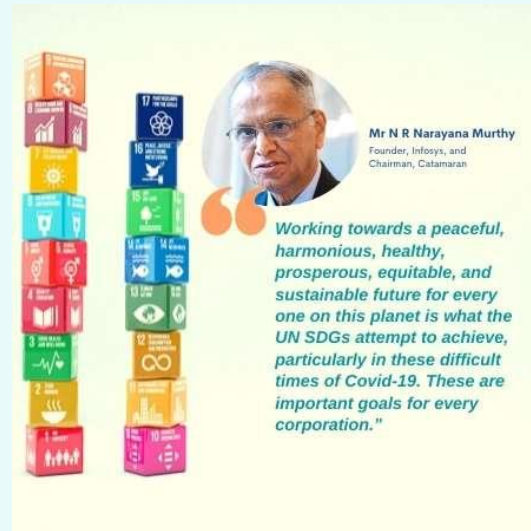
– Dr Jai Asundi - Executive Director, CSTEP

Events

CSTEP celebrated a couple of special events during the month of September 2021.



We marked the beginning of the **Global Goals Week 2021**, which was observed from 17 to 26 September with a [special post](#) carrying a message from Ms Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson, Biocon Ltd & Biocon Biologics Ltd, on how the Indian industry can contribute to furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.



Mr N R Narayana Murthy, Infosys Founder & Catamaran Chairman also shared a [special message](#) exclusively for CSTEP, in which he says, *'Working towards a peaceful, harmonious, healthy, prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for every one on this planet is what the UN SDGs attempt to achieve, particularly in these difficult times of Covid-19. These are important goals for every corporation.'*



We also posted a [video message](#) by CSTEP Executive Director, Dr Jai Asundi in which he talks about what CSTEP is doing to advance the various sustainable development goals, and also, reaffirms CSTEP's commitment to create an inclusive and secure future for all.



The Communication and Policy Engagement (CPE) team at CSTEP prepared a [video](#) as part of the Global Goals Week-related initiatives, showcasing how CSTEP is working towards a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society.



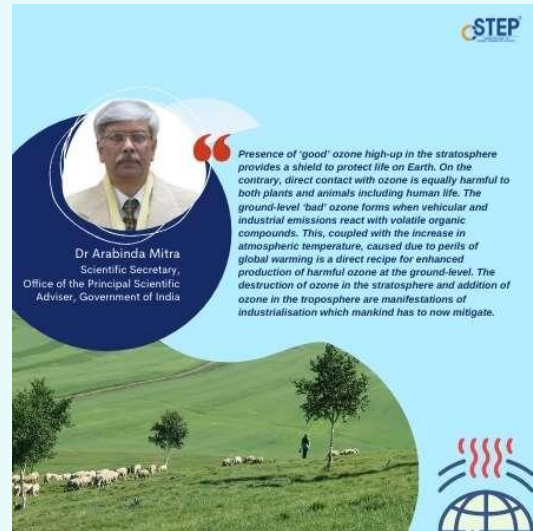
The CPE team also published a special blog, titled '[CSTEP: Improving the Quality of Life](#)', on the CSTEP Medium page. The blog discusses how CSTEP is striving to improve the quality of life by furthering various SDGs through its work in renewable energy, climate, and artificial intelligence.



Also, as part of the Global Goals Week, CSTEP and Southern Voice organised a discussion on the financial challenges faced by utilities in making energy accessible to all. The recommendations from the discussion will feed into CSTEP's policy brief to be submitted to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General. For further details, please visit the [CSTEP Events page](#).

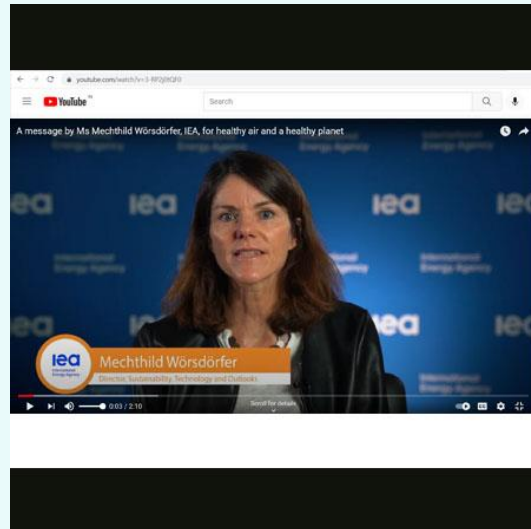


To mark the occasion, the Communication and Policy Engagement (CPE) team at CSTEP prepared a [special gif](#), which was posted on all our social media handles. Also, we published a blog titled '[Healing The Ozone Hole](#)' written by Ms

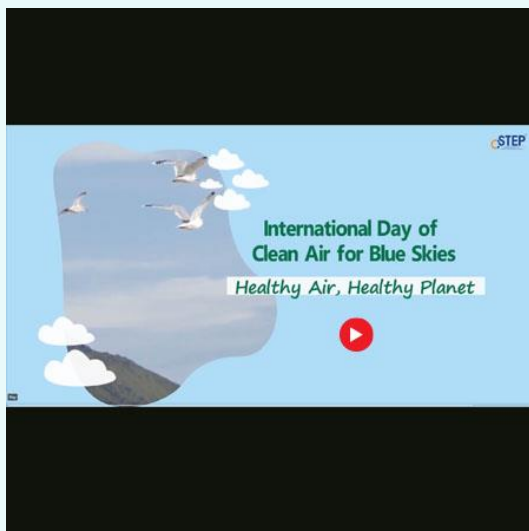


On 16 September, CSTEP celebrated the **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer** with great zeal. To mark the day, we posted a special [quote](#) by Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India.

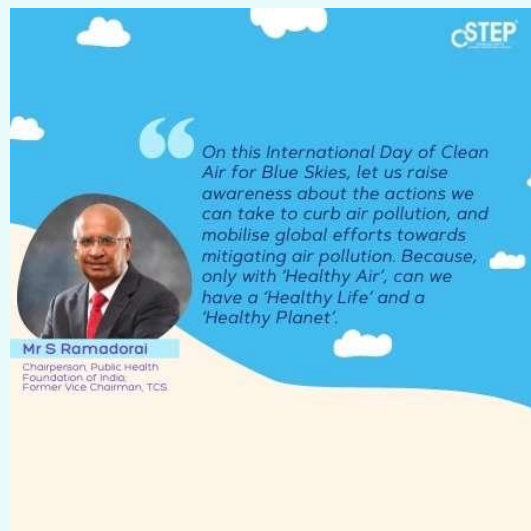
Merlin Francis from the CPE team on our Medium page.



On 7 September, CSTEP celebrated the **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**. To mark the day, we posted a [special video message](#) recorded exclusively for CSTEP by Ms Mechthild Wörsdörfer – International Energy Agency (IEA) Director – Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks. In her message, Ms Wörsdörfer pushes for integrated approaches to fight air pollution.



To mark the occasion, the Communication and Policy Engagement (CPE) team at CSTEP prepared a [special gif](#), which was posted on all our social media handles.



We published a Guest Blog, written exclusively for CSTEP, by Mr S Ramadorai – Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) Chairperson & former TCS Vice Chairman. In his blog, titled '[Be The](#)

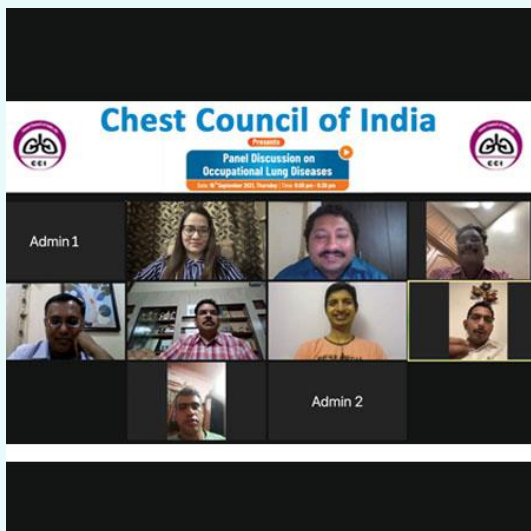
[Change](#)', Mr S Ramadorai urges citizen action for 'Healthy Air' and a 'Healthy Planet'.



Dr Pratima Singh from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector was invited to speak at a couple of key events this month. She attended an event organised by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to celebrate **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**, where she spoke on 'Measures for Improving Air Quality in Non-Attainment Cities of Karnataka'.



Dr Pratima Singh also spoke at the 'Jharkhand Clean Air Awareness Workshop on Air Pollution', organised by Asar Social Impact Advisor, in collaboration with CSTEP, Press Club of Ranchi, and Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) as knowledge partners to create awareness about air pollution at Ranchi.



Dr Pratima Singh was also invited to speak at a panel discussion on 'Occupational Lung Diseases', organised by the Chest Council of India. Dr Pratima Singh also moderated a session on 'Identifying key AQ priorities and opportunities for collaboration – Data and Policy' during the India Air Quality Convening 2021, organised by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).



Dr Jai Asundi, Executive Director, CSTEP moderated a panel discussion organised by IIT Bombay on 'Air Quality – The Role of Chemical Engineers'. The discussion featured Chemical Engineering alumni from IIT Bombay.

Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector was invited to speak at a couple of events this month.



Dr Murthy delivered an online training session on 'Nature-based Approach for Forest Landscape Management for Livelihood Security of the Community', organised by IBRAD (Indian Institute of Bio Social Research and Development) for IFS officers.



Forest Research Institute
Deemed to be University, Dehradun
वन अनुसंधान संस्थान (सम विश्वविद्यालय)
(Academic Portal of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun)



Online presentation
on
Impact of Climate Change on Indian Forests




Dr Indu K Murthy
Principal Research Scientist

21 September 2021

Dr Murthy was also invited to deliver an online presentation on 'Impact of Climate Change on Indian Forests' during the REDD+ workshop organised by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

Online Talk show
Ecological Implications of Climate Change and Challenges in Ecological Research



Dr Indu K Murthy
Principal Research Scientist

24 September 2021

Dr Murthy delivered a talk to the incoming batch of 20 PhD Students at the Faculty of Science, M S University Baroda and gave a presentation to the students on Ecological Implications of Climate Change and Challenges in Ecological Research. Dr Murthy also spoke at the session titled 'Do We Listen to Science', organised by Youth Climate Conclave 2021.

ClimathonBLR

A VIRTUAL IDEATION MARATHON FOR BENGALURU

Coming Soon!
29 TO 31 OCTOBER 2021







We are pleased to share that CSTEP is co-organising [ClimathonBLR](#) 2021 along with Melton Foundation. This year, the event will be held from 29 to 31 October 2021 and the theme is developing solutions for building climate resilience. ClimathonBLR is a 50-hour online idea marathon, where students and researchers from educational institutes and universities in and around Bengaluru will brainstorm and develop practical prototypes to combat climate change. The registration link and other details of the event are available [here](#).

In the News

In September 2021, CSTEP was featured **twelve** times in the media, including through **nine** opinion articles and **three** quotes and comments by CSTEP researchers published in leading print and digital media platforms.



On the occasion of **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**, [ET Energyworld](#) published an article titled 'Beyond ACs and Fans: The alternative space-cooling route!', written by Mr Dhruv Rajeev and Mr Gautham Molleti from the Energy & Power sector. The article highlights the potential of two alternate space cooling innovative technologies that can cool buildings in a sustainable manner.



[ET Energyworld](#) also published our monthly column article, titled 'On-ground revamp can make the new DISCOM scheme work', written by Ms Rishu Garg and Mr Abhishek Nath from the Energy & Power sector. In this article, the authors opine that with stringent evaluation and monitoring mechanisms for effective on-ground implementation, the new reforms-based and result-linked DISCOM scheme launched by the Union Government could be a game changer.



An article titled 'Climate change could disrupt transition to renewable energy', written by Dr Indu Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector has been published in the [Deccan Herald](#). In this article, Dr Murthy highlights the need for Karnataka to factor in climate risks while planning the transition to renewable energy.

Solar Quarter published two articles in their special **REI** edition.



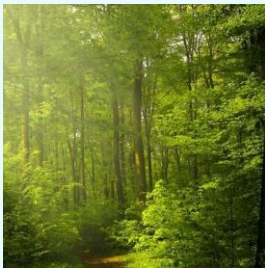
The first article, titled '[Emerging Technologies to Enhance Large-Scale PV Project Performance](#)', was written by Mr Jaymin Gajjar from the Energy & Power sector, in which he talks about the emerging technologies that can boost solar power.



The second article, by Ms Surbhi Sinha from the AI and Digital Labs sector, is titled '[The Changing Role of Data and AI in Green Energy](#)', and discusses how AI's role in the power sector is evolving from supporting point solutions to large-scale distributed solutions, supporting a multi-actor ecosystem of energy markets, smart grids, and distributed generation and storage capabilities.



On World EV Day, an article by Dr Vinay S Kandagal from the Materials and Strategic Studies sector was published in the [EVreporter](#) magazine. In the article, titled 'Options to tie solar energy with electric vehicle charging', Dr Kandagal shares multiple ways to source off-site solar energy for EV charging.



Another article, titled 'Nature-based Solutions towards Circular Economy', by Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, was published in the [Harnessing Nature](#) magazine. In the article, Dr Murthy writes how nature-based solutions can be effectively employed in a circular economy to address climate change.



In September, **Mobility Outlook** published the next two articles of the 3 - article guest series by Ms Trupti Deshpande from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector on EV Charging infrastructure. The second article in the series is titled '[Public Charging Infrastructure In Cities – Challenges, Data Needs](#)', and in this article, the author talks about the parameters that should be considered while planning charging stations in public places.



The final article in the series is titled '[Business Models for Public Charging Stations in India](#)', and in this article, the author explores business models that could make public charging infrastructure in India a more viable option.



Dr Sreekanth Vakacherla from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector was extensively quoted in an article in [The Hindu](#) on the revised WHO guidelines for air pollution. In the article, Dr Vakacherla states that India's immediate goal should be to achieve the current national standards as mentioned in the National Clean Air Programme, and to develop region-specific strategies to combat air pollution.



The [Powerline magazine](#) published a perspective story by Mr Abhishek Nath, Sector Head – Energy & Power sector, in their August edition, in which he shares his perspectives on India's achievement in reaching the 100 GW renewable energy milestone, and also talks about the key issues that India will have to face to achieve the 450 GW target by 2030.



Dr Indu K Murthy from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector was quoted in an article by [Hindustan Times](#). In the article, which focused on redevelopment of a pond in Gurugram to mitigate waterlogging, Dr Murthy commented on the need for installation of filter units.

Tipping the Scale

With the COP26 summit commencing on 1 November, the Communication and Policy Engagement (CPE) team at CSTEP has kick-started activities with a few COP26-related initiatives.

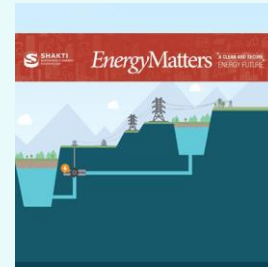
An [email interaction](#) between CSTEP and Mr Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce, and Former Confederation of Indian Industry President on what India's stand should be at the upcoming Climate summit in Glasgow was published as a blog on CSTEP Medium page.



Also, we published a [special quote](#) from Mr N K Singh, Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission of India, in which he shares his expectations from COP26.



Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) has mentioned CSTEP's study '[Pricing Mechanism of Pumped-Hydro Storage in India](#)' in its monthly newsletter, '[Energy Matters](#)'. The study done by CSTEP was supported by SSEF.



We are pleased to share that CSTEP has become an **Associate Member** of the premier industry body – Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), a non-government, not-for-profit organisation and the voice of business and industry in India.



On Our Minds



As the countdown begins for COP26, CSTEP has started a new blog series called 'Risk Watch' on Medium, *which examines the lacunae in the current ways of assessing climate risks*. The first article in the series is titled '[Moving Away from False-Positive Climate Risk Assessments](#)', written by Ms *Tashina Madappa Cheranda* and Ms *Kritika Adesh Gadpayle* from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, *and discusses the importance of using integrated climate risk assessment methods to avoid false positives*.



To celebrate the 'International Day for Clean Air and Blue Skies' on 7 September, we posted two blog articles written by CSTEP researchers. The first blog, titled '[Comprehensive Air Pollution Impact Estimation Can Help Deal with the 'Triple Planetary Crises'](#)', was written by Ms Krithika Ravishankar from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability sector, *in which she* talks about the need for evolved air pollution impact estimation methods.



The second blog article was written by Mr Jaymin Gajjar from the Energy & Power sector. In the article, titled '[Clean Energy for Clean Air](#)', he opines that adopting sustainable technologies can improve air quality and enhance our quality of life.



We also published another blog, titled '[Smart Metering: A Status Check](#)', written by Mr Khileshwar Kumar Priya, an intern with CSTEP. In his blog, the author writes that smart meters have helped electricity distribution companies in India record a 20.5% average increase in monthly revenue per subscriber. But to streamline installations, stakeholder experiences also need to be accounted for.

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

