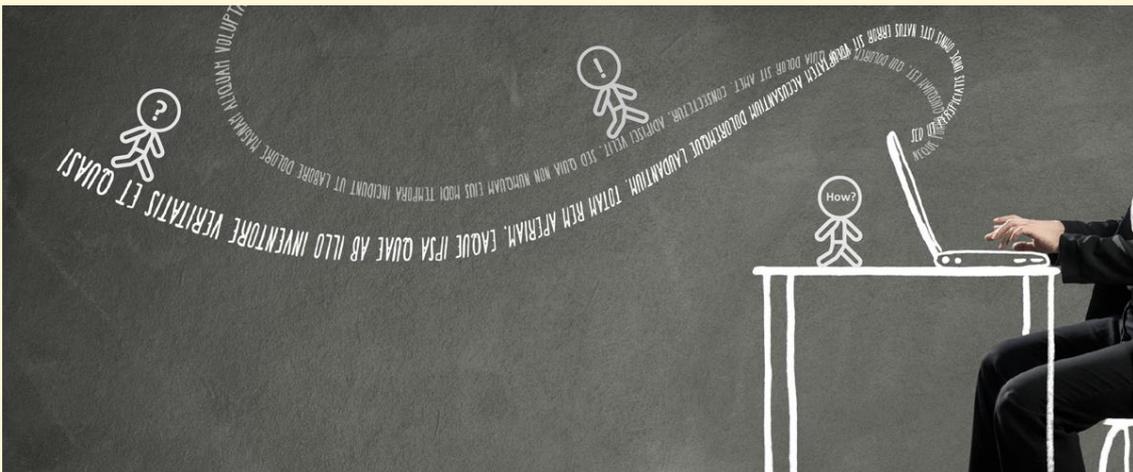


POLICY *Matters*

Featured Story



Scientific scholars are hardwired to believe that everybody else occupies the same stratosphere as them and that their intelligent jargon is part of the normal everyday lingua. However, like any other creative process, outputs from a think tank—especially one working at the interface of science, technology and policy—are the result of a copulation of minds, where the creative meets the analytical. This month's [featured article](#), written by our Chief Editor, Sreerekha Pillai, is the fourth in our 'Enrich' blog series, which looks at what happens behind the scenes at a think tank and how different elements come together to effect policy changes.



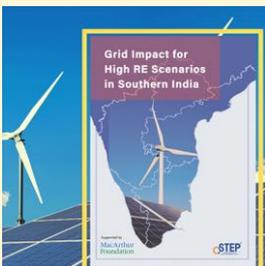
CSTEP Change-makers

The promise of a digital 16th Indian census, smart metering for electricity distribution companies, and proposals for installing an indigenously-developed automatic train protection system to boost passenger safety—there are ample instances of technology in motion in the Union Budget 2021. Technology can drive India's growth towards a sustainable and clean future. Scientific research to leverage the best technologies is the need of the hour. The move to set up a National Research Foundation is a positive step in this regard.

- Dr Jai Asundi, ED, CSTEP

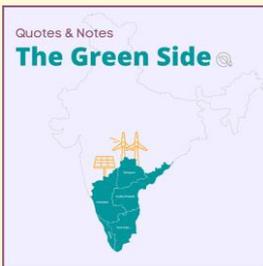
Solutions: Karnataka Urban Observatory

CSTEP has been engaged in building a state urban observatory to manage urban governance in the state of Karnataka. The project is awaiting governmental clearance, and it is proposed to be the first-of-its-kind observatory for the state with a multitude of facilities to diagnose problems, track them to closure, and compare and conduct time-series analysis of issues. It is also aimed at providing a unique perspective of viewing problems from a socio-economic lens.



Events

CSTEP presented its recommendations for strengthening the transmission infrastructure to accommodate high amounts of renewable energy—especially in the southern region of India—at a [workshop](#) organised by the International Energy Agency (IEA).



CSTEP's Transmission and Grid Planning team undertook this study to explore the implications of high amounts of renewable energy penetration on the southern region's transmission infrastructure. The study identifies areas that require infrastructure strengthening and provides recommendations for making RE a dominant source of energy. Listen to our [podcast](#) on the topic, where we go into the details of the implications of the study.

Tipping the Scale

Dr Pratima Singh, Research Scientist, moderated a discussion on 'Air Quality' at the Asian Century Foundation (ACF) Dialogues on Resilient & Inclusive Cities. The discussion explored questions on how governments can prepare themselves to manage local, national, and international targets on air quality over the next decade, what are some best practices from successful examples, and how governments and industries can work together to synergise efforts to check air pollution from road dust and transportation.



In the News

CSTEP was covered extensively in the national and local media in January. Dr Jai Asundi, our Executive Director, shared his expectations of the Union Budget in an interview with the *Financial Express* just before the Budget. Dr VS Arunachalam, our Chairman and Founder, was [mentioned](#) in an article on Tejas, India's Light Combat Aircraft. Dr Arunachalam played a defining role in the development of the aircraft during his tenure as the head of the DRDO. The [media coverage](#) of our work is available on our website.

On Our Minds

All eyes were on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman when she made her Union Budget speech on 1 February 2021. CSTEP researchers shared their initial reactions and analyses of the hits and misses of the Budget via various platforms. According to our Energy and Power team, the attention given to the [renewable energy](#) sector could lead to greater indigenisation of the solar infrastructure.



Dr Indu Murthy, Principal Research Scientist of the Adaptation and Risk Analysis team, felt that the Budget got a lot of things right; however, a golden opportunity was missed by not directing attention towards building [climate-resilient infrastructure](#). Dr Pratima Singh, who heads the Centre for Air Pollution studies, was of the opinion that while the funds announced for the urban centres to tackle [air pollution](#) is a welcome measure, the Government of India could have done more for the non-attainment cities. Dr Jai Asundi [opined](#) that the wheels of technology have been set in motion in the Budget for a healthier and green India.



Tickle Tales



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