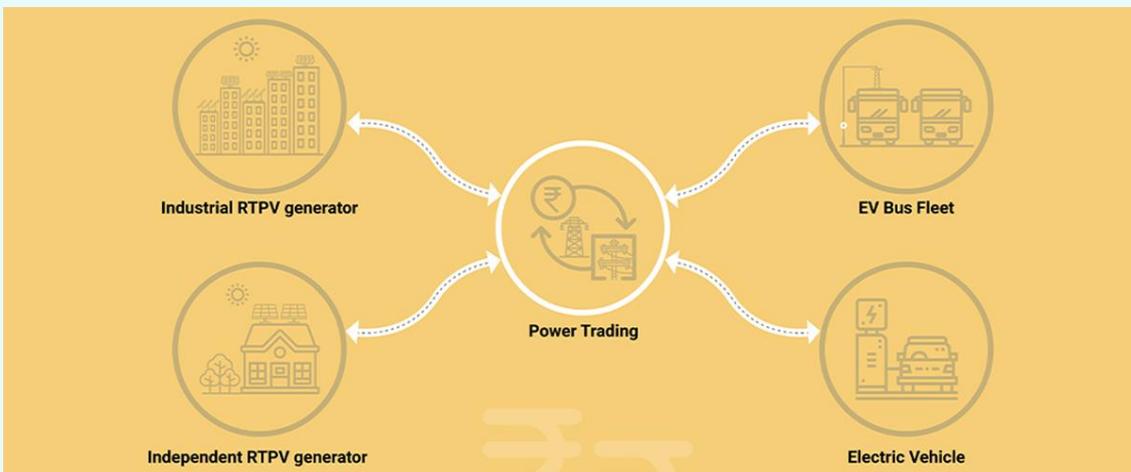




Featured Story



Blog of the Month: In this month's featured article '[Power Markets in India](#)', Vishu Mishra and Rishu Garg from the Energy and Power Sector, CSTEP, discuss the working of power markets in India, highlighting how the growing digitisation in the sector provides an opportunity to the average power consumer or generator to enjoy fair participation in the power market ecosystem. This is the fifth article in the Empower Blog series.



CSTEP Change-makers

“Expanding its role in the area of policy engagement, the Centre for Air Pollution Studies at CSTEP is now acting as a knowledge partner, providing support and guidance to policymakers. Through the MoU signed with Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), CSTEP has become an integral part of the National Clean Air Programme for providing inputs for implementation and performance assessment.”

- Dr Pratima Singh, Research Scientist, Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector, CSTEP

Solutions



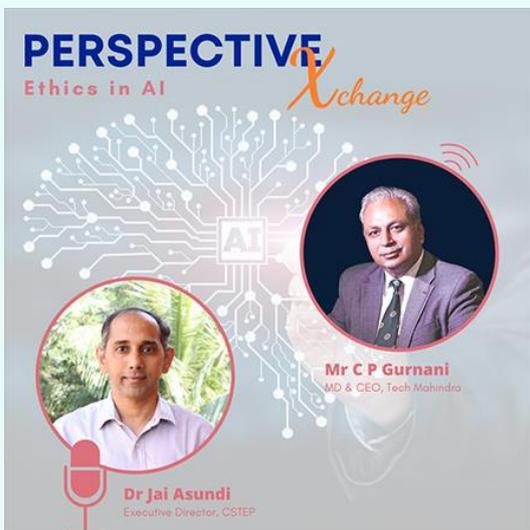
Data holds the key to sound policymaking, planning, and grassroots action. Karnataka government's Department of Health and Family Welfare (DHFW) conducts around 12 health surveys every year to capture various health aspects. However, since most of these are manual, overlap with other surveys, and involve duplicate data entries, the resultant data is often of poor quality, unverifiable, and hence unusable for any analysis.

To address this issue, and improve the quality of data, CSTEP has worked with DHFW to develop an integrated digital health survey platform called **Sameekshe**. It is the first integrated health survey platform in India.

Apart from DHFW, **Sameekshe** has been approved for use by the Department of Women and Child Development, as well as the e-Governance Department, Government of Karnataka. Launched in March 2021, it will function through one lakh field workers, covering almost five crore people.

Events

In March 2021, we published two episodes of our **Perspective Xchange** podcast series.



The first one titled '[Ethics in AI](#)', has Dr Jai Asundi, Executive Director, CSTEP, in conversation with Mr C P Gurnani, MD & CEO, Tech Mahindra, and Former Chairman, NASSCOM, discussing the issues around ethics in AI and how resolving these is key to enabling the scalable use of AI for social good.



The second one, titled '[India's Energy Outlook](#)', has Dr Asundi, and Mr Abhishek Nath, Sector Head, Energy and Power, CSTEP, conversing with Mr Tim Gould, Head of Division, Energy Supply and Investment Outlooks, International Energy Agency (IEA), on the IEA's India Energy Outlook 2021.



We participated in the 3rd Annual Sustainability Fair (Renewable Energy and Water Resources), organised by IIT Gandhinagar on March 26, and showcased our CSTEP Rooftop Evaluation for Solar Tool (CREST).



On International Women's Day, CSTEP acknowledged the contribution made by its women employees through posts and articles on social media.

In the News



March 2021 was a significant month for CSTEP in terms of media visibility. Ten articles written by our researchers on varied topics were published in prominent print publications as well as on reputed digital platforms.

ThePrint published [an article](#) on the need for India to strike a balance between ensuring the quality of water supplied and the sustainability of the water supply process.



Another two articles were published by *The Indian Express*. The [first article](#) discusses how infrastructure projects offer an opportunity for the Government to mainstream climate risks and nature-based solutions in development. The [second article](#) suggests technological and institutional innovations that can help farmers deal better with an erratic monsoon and secure their livelihoods.



ETEnergyWorld published an [article](#) that talks about why India should prioritise sectoral visions that are backed by analytical and evidence-based assessments, and also provides some pointers for formulating the country's long-term climate strategy.

The Wire Science published an [article](#) recommending ways to incorporate green infrastructure in urban planning for improving our physical and mental

well-being, while **EMobility+ India** carried an [article](#) that highlights some of the pressing challenges in fleet electrification.



Another [article](#), published in the launch edition of **Energy Storage Pro** magazine, examines how net metering addresses the problem of mismatch between energy generation and consumption. Yet another [article](#), published in **DownToEarth** (15 March edition), indicates that subsidies alone won't push electric vehicles in India, and calls for policymakers and manufacturers to work alongside consumers for understanding their needs.



Finally, **SolarQuarter India** published two of our articles. The [first article](#) suggests concerted measures by distribution companies, vendors, and banks to improve consumer awareness about residential solar rooftops. The [second article](#) proposes a structured financial approach to make RTPV financing more accessible to meet the national target of 40 GW of clean energy generation.



Dr Indu K Murthy, Principal Research Scientist, Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector, CSTEP, was quoted in an [article](#) in **Research Matters**, on what she thinks can take India towards effective biodiversity conservation.

Tipping the Scale

We are delighted to share that Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has bagged the Diamond prize at the [India Smart Grid Forum \(ISGF\) Innovation Awards 2021](#), in the 'Smart Technology: Electricity-RE Integration' category. BESCOM has won the award for a pilot study, for which CSTEP was the knowledge partner. The CSTEP team was involved in the pilot throughout—from the conceptualisation of the system design to the final implementation of the project.



CSTEP has been appointed as an Institute of Repute (IoR) under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and has signed an [MoU](#) with Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for effective implementation of the NCAP in Bengaluru city.



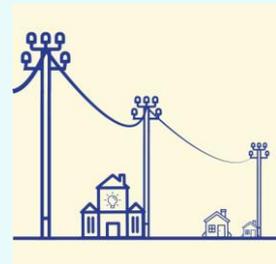
We have also signed an [MoU](#) with Presidency University, Bangalore, to develop research projects in the areas of climate risk mitigation, energy and power, and artificial intelligence, as well as to facilitate student/faculty exchange for research and training in these domains.



Our latest report from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector, titled '[Climate Risk Profile for Power Sector in Karnataka](#)', has been published on our website. The study examines climate risks to infrastructure assets and investments in the power sector, which are large and long term. It also lays out a roadmap for building infrastructure resilience.



Two policy briefs by the Energy and Power Sector, titled '[Seamless DBT for Agricultural Consumers](#)' and '[Seamless DBT for Consumers Below Poverty Line](#)', have been published on our website. The briefs suggest measures for the smooth implementation of the proposed amendment to Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003, related to replacing the current provision with a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme.



On Our Minds

We published a blog [article](#) on *Medium* that discusses the potential of nature-based solutions for providing crucial insights for climate-friendly development.



The journal *Forests*, in its special issue 'Systematic Approach to Agroforestry Policies and Practices in Asia', published an [article](#) by Dr Indu Murthy and Dr Kritika Adesh Gadpayle from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector, CSTEP. The article explores key enabling and constraining conditions for mainstreaming agroforestry systems to meet global climate mitigation targets.



A [journal article](#), co-authored by Dr Jayasankar C B from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector, CSTEP, was published in the *Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS)*. The article discusses the findings of a study conducted to quantify projected changes in mean north-east monsoon (NEM) rainfall and the associated extreme rainfall and temperature events over peninsular India.



Another [journal article](#), co-authored by Dr Padmavati Kulkarni and Dr Sreekanth Vakacherla from the Climate, Environment and Sustainability Sector, CSTEP, was published in *Advances in Space Research*. The article shares the findings of a study which analysed open-access PM data sets from 2015-19 to investigate its relationship with meteorological parameters in eight urban sites in India.

Tickle Tales



It has been our endeavour to keep you abreast with the significant monthly developments at CSTEP through POLICY Matters. As we bring to you this last issue of financial year 2020-21, we would like to have your suggestions on how we can make the newsletter more engaging and interesting for you. Please feel free to share your suggestions, if any, by writing to us at cpe@cstep.in.



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