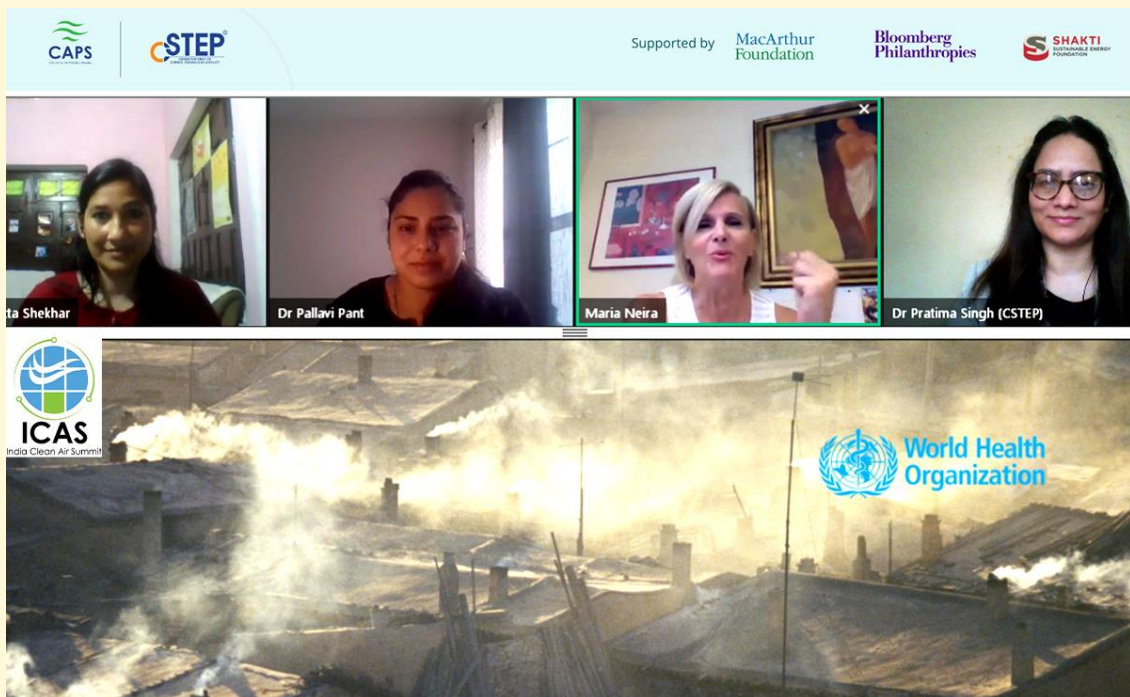




POLICY *Matters*

Featured Story



CSTEP recently concluded the second edition of its annual flagship event on air pollution – India Clean Air Summit (ICAS). The theme for ICAS 2020 was ‘Finding the Missing Evidence’. Over two days – 25 and 26 August, experts such as Prof. S N Tripathi from IIT-Kanpur, Dr. Julian Marshal from University of Washington, Dr. Ramya Suder Raman from

IISER-Bhopal, Dr. Gazala Habib from IIT-Delhi, Ms. Priya Shankar from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Dr. Sumit Sharma from TERI, Dr. Maria Neira from WHO, Dr. Sulekha Chattopadhyay, an air-pollution specialist, and many others, discussed how poor data was hampering the formulation and implementation of effective air-pollution policies. Policymakers such as Shri Vijay Gogi (Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment & Ecosystem), Dr. Ashok Ghosh (Chairman, Bihar State Pollution Control Board), and Shri Ashish Tiwari (Member Secretary, UP Pollution Control Board) shared their experiences and challenges in formulating effective policies to check air pollution.



CSTEP Change-makers

“India still has a long way to go when it comes to achieving the 40 GW rooftop solar target for 2021-22. Our CREST tool intends to bridge this gap for Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) by determining the most suitable rooftops in Bengaluru after considering shading aspects. The tool also allows BESCOM consumers to assess the technical and financial viability of installing solar panels on their rooftops. The concept can be scaled across India, and at a much cheaper cost now, with drones.”

- Saptak Ghosh, Research Scientist

CSTEP in the News

A variety of articles by CSTEP team members were published this month. *Deccan Herald* published an article titled '[Perils of low birth weight](#)' which looked at interventions that can bring down the occurrence of low birth weight in India, while *On Think Tanks*—a global platform dedicated to the study and support of policy research centres—published an article titled '[Adapting to the pandemic with a human touch](#)', from our Human Resources team's perspective. Further, the *Journal of Energy Storage* by Elsevier published an article co-authored by our Senior Research Engineer, Ammu Susanna Jacob, titled '[Trade-off between end of life of battery and reliability in a photovoltaic system](#)', while another article titled '[Climatological trends in satellite-derived aerosol optical depth over North India and its relationship with crop residue burning: Rural-urban contrast](#)', co-authored by Sreekanth Vakacherla, Senior Research Scientist at CSTEP, was published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*.





Tipping the Scale

Over 200 people participated in CSTEP's flagship event on air pollution—India Clean Air Summit 2020—where experts focussed on a critical hurdle in the formulation of effective policies on air pollution – inadequate data. The two-day summit saw policymakers, specialists, and practitioners discuss issues such as new technologies and methods available for the monitoring and measurement of air pollution, and reflect on interpreting data. Recordings of the discussion are now available on our YouTube page ([Day 1](#) & [Day 2](#)).

Solutions

CSTEP, along with SunMoksha Power and Good Energies Foundation, helped electrify a remote village in Odisha, using smart nanogrid technology. CSTEP has also developed an open-access web-based tool to help policymakers identify locations for setting up utility-scale or mini-grid solar power plants. The tool – CSTEP's Solar Techno-Economic Model for Photovoltaics (CSTEM PV) – does a technical and economic feasibility assessment for setting up solar power plants. We identified wastelands across India where solar power plants can be set up, and found that India's solar potential is far higher than traditionally estimated.



Learn more about the tool [here](#).



Events

We have a number of initiatives unfolding at CSTEP in September. These include the launch of CSTEP's Rooftop Evaluation for Solar Tool (CREST), which can help policymakers accurately estimate the rooftop potential of a city, and a webinar on solar mini-grid showcasing the pilot project that lighted up Kudagaon, a remote village in Orissa, during the course of which, CSTEP also developed another model -CSTEP's Solar Techno-Economic Model for Photovoltaics (CSTEM PV). Please stay tuned for more details.

On 15 September, we will sign a contract with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to develop our Sustainable Alternative Futures for India (SAFARI) model into a decision-support system for policymakers. SAFARI was designed to bridge the gap between development and climate goals, and to aid policymakers in understanding the impact of achieving the sustainable development goals on our materials and resources demand. The virtual signing will take place during an online

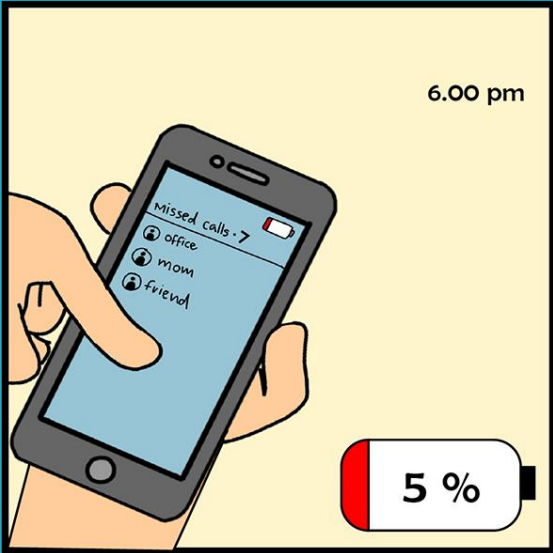
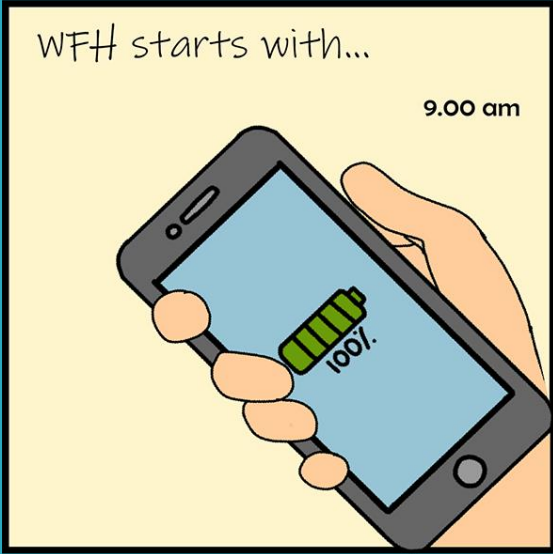
event, Climate and Development: Navigating a Delicate Balance. Shri Suresh Prabhu, India's Sherpa to G20 & G7, and Member of Parliament, will speak at the event. Stay updated with the event by following us on [Twitter](#). You can register for the event [here](#).

On Our Minds

We initiated the 'Enrich' blog series to talk about what happens behind the scenes at a policy think tank. In the first [article](#) of the series, one of our editors talked about how copy-editing is more than a simple grammar check and how adding value is a key mandate of the job. Moving ahead in the 'Empower' blog series that aims to explain how every step of the electricity journey affects the consumer, we published the second [blog piece](#) on Medium. The piece explains the costs involved in the generation of electricity, which is finally reflected in the consumers' power bill. We have also published an [interview](#) with Dr. Pratima Singh, Research Scientist heading the Centre for Air Pollution Studies (CAPS) at CSTEP, on data and its impact on framing effective policies to tackle air pollution. In another [article](#) published on Medium, we look at the challenges faced by the rooftop solar system in Bangalore, and how we can resolve them.



Tickle Tales



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