Centre for Social and Economic Progress | CSEP

Independence | Integrity | Impact

ONE YEAR OF IMPACT

President's note

On September 10, 2021, the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) completes a year of becoming an independent Indian public policy think tank. In the past one year, CSEP has renewed its commitment to producing in-depth, evidence-based and policy relevant research in our core areas of Growth, Finance and Development; Energy, Natural Resources and Sustainability; and Foreign Policy and Security.

It is impossible to look back upon CSEP's first year without reflecting on the kind of year it has been. CSEP came into being under the shadow of a global pandemic that brought the world to a grinding halt. We are proud of what we have been able to achieve in this time and the credibility we have built. We approach research as a public good, and are guided by our mottos of independence, integrity, impact.

The past year gave us due notice that the world needs to reimagine and realign its policy priorities. To this end, CSEP and other policy think tanks can essay an important role by bringing informed, non-partisan analysis to policymakers. At our most ambitious, this is what we aim to do: identify key challenges that face the world and offer new, data-backed solutions for progress.

The response from our existing and new donors has been extremely encouraging. Despite the pandemic and the economic downturn, our donors have supported our initiatives with multi-year commitments. This gives CSEP the confidence to build capacity and expand our research agenda in the medium term.

As we mark an important milestone in CSEP's journey, we present to you an array of our research, growth and impact. We thank you for your support and encouragement, and hope that you will continue to engage with CSEP's work and ideas.

Rakesh Mohan
President and
Distinguished
Fellow

Chairman's message

As the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) completes a year of operations as an Indian public policy think tank, I feel a sense of pride. It has been an eventful year. Covid did, of course, hang over everything we did. But in the midst of this crisis, CSEP successfully deepened its capacity to produce in-depth, evidence based and policy relevant research in the core areas of macroeconomics, finance and development, energy and sustainability and foreign policy.

The world is in the midst of a transformative shift. Globalization has acquired a very different hue from that projected by its proponents. The world looks nothing like the global village pictured earlier by this phenomena...a world connected by the liberal norms of free markets and democratic governance. Instead, it is today a riven picture marked by narrow nationalisms, economic barriers and geopolitical fragmentation at a time the planet faces the challenges of climate change, pandemics and fundamentalism which call for a global, integrated response. India faces, additionally, the pressures of endemic poverty, social inequity and economic disparity.

CSEP has built its research agenda against this backdrop and around these contemporary issues. Its endeavour over the past year has been to support policy decisionmakers through informed, non-partisan, empirical and analytically rigorous and relevant research. I am happy to say we have managed to achieve this objective because of the commitment of its research staff, the continuing support of the CSEP Board and its donors and our readers and well-wishers.

The coming year will not be easy . We are not yet on the other side (so to speak). But I am confident that with the continued support and engagement of our stakeholders, we can continue to contribute positively to the policy debate.

Vikram Singh Mehta
Chairman and
Distinguished Fellow

OUR WORK

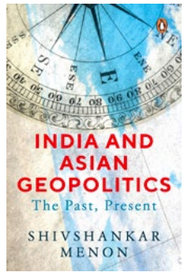
CSEP's core focus is to produce rigorous, evidence-based and independent analysis that informs policymakers and advances public discourse on key issues.

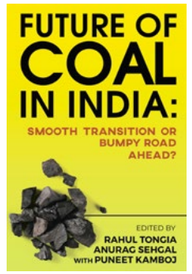
Three well-received books from CSEP's scholars added significant scholarship on coal, natural gas and geopolitics. Our scholars **published** reports, working papers and briefs on third-generation economic reforms, India's housing shortage, improved service delivery in cities, discom stimulus, non-fuel mining auctions, South Asian frontiers, among others.

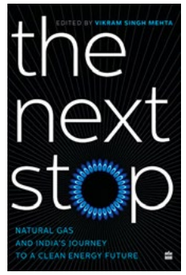
Original research from our scholars was published in leading journals such as *Science, Journal of Asian Economic Integration, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Economic Modelling, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics,* among others.

CSEP'S Research

11 Working Papers	03 Discussion Notes	01 Impact Paper
01 Policy Brief	03 Books	10 Journal publications and submissions







CSEP collaborated with organisations such as the World Bank, IMF, IEA, Boston University, Harvard University, Lancet Commission on Reimagining Health, among others, to hold seminars and panel discussions that convened key stakeholders, spotlighted critical debates and encouraged dialogue.

We held eight webinars under our **Flagship Seminar** series, featuring union ministers, top policymakers, global experts, industrial leaders, discussing diverse subjects such as international trade to India-US relations to India's fiscal architecture to its energy transition.

CSEP's Events

24 Seminars, Panel Discussions & Roundtables	65 Featured Speakers
08 Flagship Seminars	66,902 YouTube views

OUR IMPACT

Our scholars engaged with policymakers at the highest levels and were invited to be a part of expert groups and discussions in their domains.

- In August 2021, Montek Singh Ahluwalia was named member of the World Bank-IMF High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth.
- Dr Rahul Tongia was invited by NITI Aayog to be Member of the Expert Group on Future Coal Demand, whose report is near publication.
- NITI Aayog sought CSEP's views to improve food and nutritional security for women and children using DMF funds vide the PMKKKY Scheme after an expert group consultation where Dr Rajesh Chadha was invited.
- Climate change and a just energy transition remains a common thread of our work. CSEP is part of a Task Force on Climate Policy for Development at the IMF, along with other gloabl institutions such as the Global Development Center, Intergovernmental Group of Twenty Four, Brookings Institution.
- Dr Tongia was invited by the MoEFCC to be a reviewer for the IPCC AR6, and also contribute analysis on the role of coal in India's energy transition. He also presented at the NITI Aayog's Consultative Group on Clean Energy Pathways - Hydrogen Economy for India. When US Secretary John Kerry visited India in April 2021 to discuss climate change, Dr. Tongia was among a handful of invitees for a Civil Society Roundtable.
- In recognition of our work on connectivity, Constantino Xavier was invited to testify as an expert witness to a session of the Parliament's Standing Committee on External Affairs on India's "Neighbourhood First"
- Riya Sinha's deep-dive paper on India's integrated Check Posts was republished on the Land Port Authority's official website.
- Our scholars are in touch with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to study expenditure and service delivery for 10-15 cities within a state and offer concrete recommendations to improve outcomes without spending more.
- Based on our research on the various aspects of reforms and finances, CSEP scholars were asked to present at the Ministry of Power as well as engaged with Electricity Regulatory Commissions.
- Our research teams attended workshops on critical minerals involving Indian and Australian government officials and mining companies.
- CSEP's scholars authored authoritative pieces of opinion and commentary and were quoted in leading global and national media outlets such as the *Washington Post, Bloomberg, New York Times, Times of India, Indian Express, Hindustan Times, Mint, Economic Times, Business Standard, Financial Express, CNBC TV 18, News18, Hindu BusinessLine* among others.

OUR GROWTH

In the last year, CSEP has grown in every aspect, from its research agenda, to its funding, to its staff. Our staff strength grew to 42, with more than 20 senior researchers leading projects and offering mentorship to younger scholars. 26 highly-qualified and bright students passed through CSEP's vibrant internship programme.

We launched significant research programs in the last year. These include, repairing the fiscal and financial sectors, sub-national reforms, and climate change. In addition, CSEP is planning new initiatives in Health, Education, Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Trade, Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal and China's presence in South Asia.

We strengthened and grew our digital presence, reaching a diverse and wide audience, across channels. We reached more than 250,000 page views on our website with rising average monthly views and a growing audience in India, the US, the UK, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Our newsletter subscribers grew to more than 19,000. Across our social media channels, CSEP strengthened and improved its engagement.

CSEP IN THE MEDIA

65	Media mentions
53	Number of media outlets where our work or scholars were featured
140	Op-eds, commentary, interviews published by CSEP scholars

Anoop Singh
Distinguished Fellow

Jaimini Bhagwati
Distinguished Fellow

Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Distinguished Fellow

Shivshankar Menon
Distinguished Fellow

DIGITAL PRESENCE

251,140
Website page views

102,625
Website Sessions

19,122
Newsletter subscribers

8,525
Facebook followers

32,000
Twitter followers

13,579
LinkedIn follower

5,420
YouTube followers

8,318
Hours of watch time