



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



G20 Series #40

India's G20 Presidency

Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

Updated: September 4, 2023

May 02, 2023

"The G20 has a critical role to play in finding the right balance between growth and efficiency on one hand and resilience on the other"

-PM Shri Narendra Modi

The G20-CSAR initiative, newly launched under the Indian Presidency, aims to create a space for voluntary knowledge and resource sharing. It brings together the world's top and emerging scientific powers that produce approximately 85% of global scientific knowledge. It is an effective platform to discuss and achieve solutions to some of the long pending as well as anticipated issues related to scientific research, technology development, and deployment. The goal is to exchange best practices in the science advice process based on inclusivity, heterogeneity, interdependency, transparency, a plurality of expertise, and collective interest.

G20 CSAR 2023 Agenda

01

Opportunities in One Health for better disease prevention, control, and pandemic preparedness

02

Synergising global efforts to expand access to scholarly scientific knowledge

03

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEI & A) in Science and Technology Ecosystem

04

Creating an inclusive, continuous, and action-oriented Global Science Advice mechanism

The Chief Science Advisers (or the equivalents) are embedded within the highest level of governance and have a prominent role in shaping policy choices by providing evidence-driven science advice. Under the Indian G20 Presidency, the Chief Science Advisers Roundtable is led by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

FIRST MEETING OF CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISERS' ROUNDTABLE

Ramnagar, Uttarakhand | March 28-29, 2023

The first meeting of the G20-CSAR was held at Ramnagar, Uttarakhand from March 28-29, 2023. The meeting witnessed intense discussion on issues of transboundary Science & Technology issues of mutual interest.¹ Around 54 chief science advisors from 18 countries participated including America, Argentina, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, and Japan.²

The day-long roundtable witnessed discussions under the following broad themes:³

- Opportunities in One Health for better disease control and pandemic preparedness
- Synergizing Global Efforts to Expand Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Science & Technology (S&T)
- An Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive, Continuous and Action- Oriented Global S&T Policy Dialogue



Opportunities in One Health for better disease control and pandemic preparedness

Under this theme, the discussion was held on Pandemic preparedness plan for flexible, adaptive, and timely responses to pandemics, Integrated disease surveillance mechanisms for humans, livestock, and wildlife, R&D roadmap for diseases of One Health importance, and investment in analytics (such as disease modeling, AI/ML tools) and data



¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1911981>

² <https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=458464>

³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1911981>

standards.

Synergizing Global Efforts to Expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge

Under the second theme, delegates discussed that the access should be free, immediate, and universal, high subscription and Article Processing Charges levied by journals must be reduced, the establishment of Interoperable inter-linking of national repositories with international repositories/ archives, and Open Access mandate to make knowledge outputs of public-funded scientific research widely available.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Science & Technology (S&T)

In the third session, the participating countries shared their work in advancing access to the under-represented, under-privileged, marginalized, minority as well as tribal/native communities in the larger scientific enterprise. In the session, the Inclusion of Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) in formal systems of knowledge through due scientific validation process, recognizing the potential of language diversity, and addressing the bottlenecks in accessing scientific knowledge were also discussed.

Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive, Continuous, and Action-Oriented Global S&T Policy Dialogue

The fourth session discussed the need for having an Institutional mechanism for inclusive, continuous, and action-oriented global S&T policy dialogue. It was agreed upon that the scientific advisers play a critical role in shaping policy choices by providing evidence-driven science advice and that in the spirit of cooperation and dialogue, it is the responsibility of chief science advisers to collaborate and engage in international dialogue to address transboundary issues affecting the entire scientific enterprise so that the science and technology can benefit all.

After the meeting, Prof Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India; Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, and Mr. Naman Upadhyay, Under Secretary at the G20 Secretariat also interacted with the local media. To view the press conference, [click here](#).



A GLIMPSE OF CULTURAL EVENING

The G20 delegates had a glimpse of Uttarakhand's vivid culture and mountain life at the cultural evening that ensued after the CSAR meeting. Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand also joined the delegation.



SAFARI IN JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

The delegates were also taken to Safari in Jim Corbett national park on the last day of the meeting.⁴



⁴ <https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=458464>

SECOND MEETING OF CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISERS' ROUNDTABLE

Gandhinagar, Gujarat | August 27-29, 2023)

The second meeting of the G20-Chief Science Adviser's Roundtable (G20-CSAR) was held under the Sherpa Track of the Indian G20 Presidency from August 27th-29th, 2023. The summit culminated into mutual consensus for an [Outcome Document](#) and a [Chair's Summary](#) by all G20 countries and invitee countries.

G20-CSAR is an attempt towards synergizing global science advice mechanism in an inclusive and action-oriented manner to enable evidence-informed policymaking, as well as strengthening science advice at national and international levels.



DAY 1: AUGUST 27, 2023

On the first day of the roundtable, the delegates visited the Sun temple in Modhera and the solar power plant in Sujanpura village near Modhera. A cultural program was organized at the Sun Temple for the delegates by the State of Gujarat.

The Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and other state ministers joined Chair G20-



CSAR, Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, at the Sun Temple cultural evening.

A [Bilateral meeting between India and UK](#) was also held on the sidelines of the G20 CSAR. The bilateral meeting took place at the CSA-PSA level with the Indian delegation headed by Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser and the UK delegation headed by Professor Dame Angela McLean, UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser.



DAY 2: AUGUST 28, 2023

Second day of the roundtable witnessed two bilateral meetings between India and Saudi Arabia and Australia. During the [India - Australia bilateral meeting](#), the delegates discussed key shared priorities for the two countries.



[India - Saudi Arabia Bilateral meeting](#) saw discussions on shared priorities.



Deliberations of the Roundtable also began on the second day with Opening remarks by Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and welcome remarks by Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat.



G20 Delegates deliberated on critical issues for the advancement of **Inclusive Global Science Advice**.



After the meeting, a post-event Press Conference was organized where PSA Prof. Ajay Sood, Scientific Secretary Dr. Parvinder Maini, and Mr. Naman Upadhaya of the G20 Secretariat interacted with the media. An [exhibition of Indian handicrafts](#) was also organised post deliberations at the Mahatma Mandir.

DAY 3: AUGUST 29, 2023

On the third day, the G20-CSAR meeting witnessed proactive engagements from representatives belonging to G20 member countries, invitee countries, and two international organisations; namely WHO and UNESCO. The meeting was led by Principal Scientific

Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India Professor Ajay Kumar Sood who appreciated the commitment fostered by the G20 nations and invitee countries to deliberate on the ways to shape the G20-CSAR initiative as a sustained mechanism.



Addressing the G20-CSAR meeting, Prof. Sood said, *“This initiative is based on the core principles of creating an inclusive and robust global science advice mechanism that would collectively benefit everyone equitably and reflect our shared vision. It is heartening to note the overwhelming support from national and international stakeholders for this initiative.”*

The key priorities areas that were discussed during the roundtable were:

- ❖ Under the theme **‘Leveraging opportunities in One Health, for better disease prevention, control, and pandemic preparedness’**, the G20 countries established the importance of addressing the interdependent health threats to human, animal, plant, and environment collectively through the One Health approach. The countries also emphasised the need for exploring virtual spaces for collaborations and capacity development for knowledge and technologies related to disease control. Connections and continued engagements between **‘One Health Institutes’** for facilitating collaboration in this space were also recommended.
- ❖ Under the theme **‘Synergising global efforts to expand access to scholarly scientific knowledge’**, the G20 countries deliberated on the need to enable immediate and universal access to appropriate publicly funded scholarly scientific knowledge to communities within and beyond G20 members. The importance of evolving approaches to offer immediate and free access to publicly funded research publications was acknowledged.
- ❖ Under the theme **‘Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEI&A) in Science and Technology Ecosystem’**, the G20 nations acknowledged the contribution of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems and recommended that these systems be considered with contemporary science to foster evidence-based innovations that are culturally inspired and locally relevant. The importance of recognizing the plurality of languages and knowledge systems in inclusion-related policy discourse was emphasised.
- ❖ Discussing the way forward in the fourth theme **‘Creating an inclusive, continuous, and action-oriented Global Science Advice mechanism’**, the G20 countries unanimously decided to work towards creating a robust, relevant, and effective mechanism for sustained engagement, bringing together the chief science advisers and their nominated equivalents to deliberate on contemporary issues demanding effective global science advice, and aiming to address existing knowledge asymmetries for equitable global societal benefit.

The G20 countries aim to use the G20-CSAR platform to pave the way for further discussions and deliberations wherein members and international organizations could

converge on multidisciplinary issues, impart synergistic science advice, and use Science Diplomacy to enhance synergies between various stakeholders.

The Meeting concluded with the adoption of the [Outcome Document and Chair's Summary](#) based on the deliberations of the two meetings.

Further, the baton was passed on to Brazil, the coming G20 President to take the G20-CSAR initiative forward.



After the successful conclusion of the meeting, the [delegates went on a Heritage Walk](#).

Delegates also got an opportunity to [explore the innovative GIFT City](#).

References:

[G20- Chief Science Advisers Roundtable \(G20-CSAR\) Outcome Document & Chair's Summary](#)

[2nd Meeting of G20-Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable under Indian Presidency Concludes, releases Outcome Document and Chair's Summary](#)

<https://g20csar.org/report.html>

<https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=458464>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1911981>

<https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=458464>

X Links:

[Shaping policy choices with evidence-driven scientific solutions!](#)

[G20-CSAR Delegates witnessed the magnificent Modhera Sun Temple during the state cultural visit.](#)

[Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel meets the delegates at Modhera Sun Temple during G20 Chief Science Advisers Roundtable in Gujarat](#)

[Gujarat's cultural dance at Modhera Sun Temple during G20 Chief Science Advisers Roundtable](#)

[Delegates arrive at Modhera Sun Temple for the cultural programs during the G20 Chief Science Advisers Roundtable in Gujarat.](#)

[A beautiful convergence - culture and science pave the path to inclusive growth and global harmony](#)

[Successful completion of the 2nd G20-Chief Science Advisers Roundtable in Gujarat](#)

<https://twitter.com/PIBDehradun/status/1641122588540690432?cxt=HHwWgICzrZOTuMYtAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/g20org/status/1641090543102083073>

https://twitter.com/PIBDehradun/status/1641480028390141963?cxt=HHwWlsC94fHY2sctAAA_A

Video Links:

[2nd Meeting of G20-CSAR Post Event Press Conference](#)

NR/HP/RK/KG