



# 17th Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum

## Why in News

India participated at the Science & Technology Ministerial Roundtable, organized in the **17<sup>th</sup> annual Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum**.

## Key Points

### ▪ Science & Technology Ministerial Roundtable:

- **Hosted by: Japan**
- Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable is held along with the STS forum every year.
- **Major highlights:**
  - Deliberated on the role of international R&D collaboration,
  - Social sciences & humanities,
  - Open science.
- **Participation: S&T** heads from **about 50 countries** around the world participated and explored the **opportunities** arising from **international collaborations** at the Roundtable to address the challenges posed by [Covid 19](#).
- India highlighted initiatives by India regarding **sharing of scientific data- National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy** and an **open government data portal**.

## Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum

- The Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum was inaugurated in 2004.
- The STS forum **aims:**
  - To provide a new mechanism for open discussions on an informal basis.
  - To build a human network that would timely resolve the new types of problems stemming from the application of **science** and technology.
- It holds an annual meeting starting on the first Sunday of October every year, in Kyoto, Japan.

## India's Role in Global S&T Fraternity

- Scientific data sharing with partner nations is being considered for inclusion in the [Science Technology and Innovation Policy \(STIP 2020\)](#) being framed.
- **International Cooperation:** India gives extraordinary importance to **international cooperation** in S&T for development and for addressing challenges of health, water, energy, environment, climate change, communication, and natural disasters. **Example:**
  - India's active S&T participation in international mega-science projects such as **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor [ITER](#), [Thirty Metre Telescope \(TMT\)](#)**.

- **Mission Innovation:**

- **Mission Innovation (MI)** was announced in **2015** due to **pioneering efforts by India, France, and the USA** to combat climate changes.
- MI is a **global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union** to dramatically accelerate global clean energy innovation.
- As part of the initiative, participating countries have committed to double their governments' clean energy Research and Development (R&D) investments over five years.
- Encouraging private sector investment in transformative clean energy technologies.
- The Innovation Challenges cover the entire spectrum of RD&D; from early-stage research needs assessments to technology demonstration projects.

- **India's Global Initiatives:**

- [Coalitions for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure \(CDRI\)](#) - An **international knowledge platform** where countries can collaborate to make their existing and new infrastructure strong enough to withstand natural disasters.
- [International Solar Alliance](#) - An **Indian initiative** that was launched in 2015 in Paris, France with the **objective** to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.

- **For Covid-19:** Vaccines for coronavirus are in advanced phases of trial, and India has the capacity to supply the vaccine to a major part of humanity.

- This is in addition to other medicine requirements that global pharmacy(India) has provided during the pandemic.

### **National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy**

- The NDSA was adopted in **2012**.
- It was a step towards making **non-sensitive government data accessible online**.
- The main thrust of the policy is to **“promote data sharing and enable access to Government of India owned data for national planning, development and awareness”**.
- The implementation guidelines for NDSAP included ideals such as “openness, flexibility, transparency, quality” of data.
- It aims to facilitate **“access to Government of India shareable data in machine-readable form”**.
- The guidelines prescribe open digital formats suitable for analysis and dissemination.
- **Open Government Data Portal:** As part of the Open Government Data (OGD) initiative, data.gov.in was launched in 2012.

**[Source: PIB](#)**