

**Ministry of External Affairs**

**D&ISA Division**

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**Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), an intergovernmental forum initiated in 1992, comprises of 28 member States as on date. India is a founding member of CICA.

2. The CICA Catalogue of confidence-building measures (CBM) adopted in 2004 identified five basic dimensions for the implementation of CBMs- economic; environmental; human; fight against new challenges & threats; and military-political. The Catalogue also lays down procedures for implementation of CBMs. The CBMs will be applied on a gradual and voluntary basis. Any member State or group of member States may, on voluntary basis, take the lead.

3. The then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> CICA Summit in 2002. The 6<sup>th</sup> CICA Summit in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of its inception was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 12-13 October 2022. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi represented India as Prime Minister's Special Envoy. The outcome documents that were adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> CICA Summit are as below:

- i. Astana Statement on CICA Transformation;
- ii. Regulations of the Fund of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia;
- iii. CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and
- iv. CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies.

4. Astana Statement on CICA Transformation (2022) launched the negotiation process for gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization.

5. **Members:** 28 Asian countries viz. Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

6. **Observers:** Turkmenistan, Belarus, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Ukraine, and the U.S. along with five international organizations viz. International Organisation for Migration (IOM), League of Arab States (LAS), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) and United Nations, are observers in CICA.

7. **Structure of CICA**

- The highest decision-making organ of CICA is the Council of Heads of State or Government (Summit). The Summit is convened every four years.
- The Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Ministerial Meeting) are held every two years. The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan in October 2021.
- Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meets not less than once a year to follow-up on previous CICA decisions, carry out consultations on current CICA issues, oversee the work of Special Working Group (SWG) and coordinate the work of other meetings.
- SWG is a deliberative body that studies specific issues, carries out the tasks mandated to it and submits reports to SOC.

- Other bodies include Think Tank Forum (India is represented by ICWA), Council of Eminent Persons (India is represented by former Ambassador Shri Ashok Sajjanhar), Business Council and Youth Council.

**8. Chairmanship**

- a) Kazakhstan (2002-2010)
- b) Turkey (2011-14)
- c) China (2014-18)
- d) Tajikistan (2018-2020)
- e) Kazakhstan (2020-Till Date)

**9. India and CICA**

- Since April 2007, India has placed the services of a diplomat with CICA on secondment basis.
- India recently assumed role of coordinator of the 'counterterrorism' CBM.
- India is co-coordinating three CICA CBMs, the first on 'Development of Secure and Effective Systems of Transportation Corridors' with Azerbaijan as coordinator, the second on 'Energy Security' with RoK as coordinator and the third on 'Human Dimension' with Uzbekistan as coordinator.
- Under CBM on 'Energy Security', India hosted two training events from 30 May-3 June 2016, first on 'Financing in Energy Efficiency Projects' from 30 May-3 June 2016 and second on 'Industrial Energy Efficiency: Learning of the Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme & Future Roadmap'. India also hosted a virtual workshop titled 'Renewable Energy for Energy Security' on 18 June 2021.
- India organized a workshop on Tourism under 'Economic Dimension' in New Delhi on 28-29 September 2017 with the theme "CICA Building Bridges Across Asia through Tourism Workshop".
- India held a webinar on 'Traditional Medicine' on 8 February 2022.
- India regularly participates in events conducted by other member States.