

India – SICA Cooperation

India SICA relationship is built on a strong foundation of mutual respect, shared values of democracy and strong commitment to South-South cooperation.

2. As part of an intensification of relationships with Latin American region, India hosted the visit of an 18-member SICA delegation in February 2004, led by the then Foreign Minister of El Salvador and including Secretary General of SICA, Oscar Santamaria. A declaration for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Cooperation and Dialogue between India and SICA was signed by the then EAM Yashwant Sinha. This was a landmark visit as all these countries for the first time, had sent Ministerial and high-level representatives to India. In addition to a substantive and fruitful meeting with EAM, priority areas of mutual interest including Information Technology, Science and Technology, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, HRD, MSMEs, infrastructure and tourism were identified. It was also agreed to promote people-to- people contacts.

3. On 10 June 2008, the **2nd India SICA Foreign Ministers Meeting** was held in New Delhi. It was attended by the first Vice President and Foreign minister of Panama, Foreign Ministers of Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Vice Ministers of El Salvador, Honduras and Dominican Republic as well as the Director of the SICA Secretariat. It was agreed at this meeting that the two sides would meet every two years either in India or a SICA country and a meeting should be held every year on the margins of the UNGA. It was also agreed to establish an India-SICA Business Forum and India-SICA Joint Technical Committee to facilitate exchanges in trade and other areas of cooperation.

4. Gen. V.K. Singh, MOS (VKS) visited Guatemala in May, 2015 to attend the **3rd India-SICA Ministerial Meeting** during the presidency of Guatemala. During the meeting, the Member States of SICA appreciated the importance of financial cooperation received from India through Lines of Credit (LOC) that had been granted to the region. In the same meeting, India increased the number of ITEC scholarships from 100 to 200, to the SICA Member countries, and also extended 5 exclusive ITEC scholarships to the Secretariat General of SICA. India also offered to establish a Regional Barefoot Vocational Training Centre (RBVTC) for SICA countries in Guatemala, which will train women from remote villages as Solar Engineers.

5. The **4th India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting** focusing on the Mechanism for Political Dialogue and Cooperation between India and the

SICA was held in Panama City on 25 April 2023. In the meeting, India and SICA reaffirmed their commitment to deepen political dialogue and boost trade and investment. They emphasized cooperation in renewable energy, digital transformation, climate action, food security and health. SICA side welcomed India's Vaccine Maitri support, G20 leadership and focus on Global South priorities. They emphasized on sustainable development, financing challenges and South-South Cooperation, including India's LiFE initiative. It was agreed to build a joint SICA-India Action Plan to implement projects in agreed areas, highlighting shared commitments to integration, inclusive growth and resilience.

6. The **5th India-SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting** was held in New York on 25 September 2025 on the sidelines of the UNGA. Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in areas such as SME, delivery of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, trade and business focusing on regional issues such as sustainable tourism, strengthening small and medium sized enterprises, digitization in the commercial sector, green and sustainable investments, development of local clusters and value chains among other mutually agreed-upon topics.

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