

Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

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About Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting:

- It is pivotal in the international community's ongoing efforts to **safeguard Antarctica's fragile ecosystem** and promote scientific research in the region.
- It is **convened annually** under the **Antarctic Treaty System**, these meetings serve as forums for Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and other stakeholders to address Antarctica's pressing environmental, scientific, and governance issues.
- **What is the CEP?**
 - It was established under the **Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol)** in 1991.
 - The CEP **advises the ATCM** on environmental protection and conservation in Antarctica.

Key facts about the Antarctic Treaty

- It was signed in 1959 and entered into force in 1961.
- It established Antarctica as a region dedicated to peaceful purposes, scientific cooperation, and environmental protection. Over the years, the Treaty has garnered widespread support, with 56 countries

currently party to it.

- **Provisions of the treaty**

- Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only
- Freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and cooperation toward that end... shall continue
- Scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available

- **India** has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty **since 1983**.

- It participates in the decision-making process along with other 28 Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty.
 - India's first Antarctic research station, **Dakshin Gangotri**, was established in 1983.
 - At present, India operates two year-round research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).
 - The permanent research stations facilitate Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica, which have been ongoing annually since 1981.
 - In 2022, **India enacted the Antarctic Act**, reaffirming its commitment to the Antarctic Treaty.
 - The **Antarctic Treaty Secretariat** (ATS) serves as the administrative hub for the Antarctic Treaty System.
 - ATS was established in 2004 and **coordinates the ATCM and CEP meetings**, reposit and disseminates information, and facilitates diplomatic communication, exchanges, and negotiations related to Antarctic governance and management.
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Q1: What is the mandate of the Arctic Council?

It is to promote cooperation among Arctic states on common issues, particularly on sustainable development and environmental protection.

Source: India to formally convey to ATCM its plans to built new research station in Antarctica

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/antarctic-treaty-consultative-meeting/>

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