

Central American Integration System

September 27, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Central American Integration System Latest News

Recently, the external affairs Minister highlighted India's deepening engagement with the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) during the India-SICA Foreign Minister's Meeting.

About Central American Integration System

- It is the institutional framework of **Regional Integration in Central America**.
- **Background:** It was established on **December 13, 1991**, by the signing of the Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) or **Tegucigalpa Protocol**, which amended **the Charter of ODECA**, signed in Panama on December 12, 1962, and **formally came into operation on February 1, 1993**.
- **Member countries:** It was created by the States of **Costa Rica**, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Subsequently, **Belize and Dominican Republic** joined as full members.
- The SICA initiative was widely supported by the **United Nations General Assembly**, with the Tegucigalpa Protocol being duly registered with the UN.

- **Governance of Central American Integration System**
 - The Presidency of SICA rotates **every six months**.
 - **Secretariat:** It is located in the **Republic of El Salvador**.

Objectives of Central American Integration System

- The fundamental objective of SICA is to **realize regional Peace, Liberty, Democracy** and Development, based firmly on the respect and promotion of human rights.
- It also focuses on **integration of the region, formation of a Free Trade Area and later a Customs Union**, integration of infrastructure, common position on regional and global issues and common passport and visa policy.

Source: ET

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