

Eliminating Chemical Weapons

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Eliminating Chemical Weapons: India's Strategic Contributions

Context

In 2025, the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** conducted its **Asia Regional Meeting** in **New Delhi**, marking a significant development in India's engagement with global disarmament and chemical weapons non-proliferation. The event focused on strengthening regional cooperation, sharing best practices, and building capacity for effective implementation of the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

- **Entered into force: 1997**
- **Objective:** To **eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)** by prohibiting the:
 - **Development**
 - **Production**
 - **Acquisition**
 - **Stockpiling**
 - **Retention**
 - **Transfer**
 - **Use** of chemical weapons

- **Membership: 193 countries** are States Parties to the Convention.

- **India's Position:**

- India is an **original signatory** to the Convention.

- **Obligations of Member States:**

- States Parties must **enforce CWC provisions** within their jurisdiction for all individuals and legal entities.
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Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- **Formed in: 1997**

- **Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands**

- **Mandate:**

- To **implement the CWC**
 - To **verify destruction** of chemical weapons worldwide

- **Key Activities:**

- Organises **regional meetings** to:
 - Build capacity of **National Authorities**
 - Promote **bilateral and regional cooperation**
 - Strengthen **institutional networks** for chemical security

- **Global Recognition:**

- Awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2013** for efforts in eliminating chemical weapons

globally

India's Role in Chemical Weapons Elimination

- **National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC):**

- The designated authority for **CWC implementation** in India

- **Indian Chemical Council (ICC):**

- India's **oldest chemical industry association**
 - Works closely with NACWC to:
 - Promote **chemical safety**
 - Ensure **industry compliance** with CWC
 - Strengthen **security practices** across the chemical sector
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India's Global Recognition

- In **2024**, the **Indian Chemical Council (ICC)** received the **OPCW-The Hague Award**

- **Award Significance:**

- Recognises **individuals or organisations** contributing to the objectives of the CWC
- ICC was honoured for:
 - Promoting **chemical safety**
 - Ensuring **compliance** with CWC

- Enhancing **industry-wide chemical security**

- **Notable Achievement:**

- This was the **first time globally** a **chemical industry body** was honoured with this award



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