

Briefs on India – Vietnam relations

India and Vietnam share traditionally close and warm bilateral relations that are guided by the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries. India is one of the first countries with whom Vietnam entered into a Strategic Partnership in 2007. This was also India's first Strategic Partnership within the ASEAN region. The two countries elevated the relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016.

2. From early years of independence, President Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam maintained active relations with India, and India was the Co-Chair of the International Commission for Supervision and Control formed to monitor the Geneva Accords of 1954 that led to independence of North Vietnam from the French rule. India initially maintained Consulate-level relations with the then North Vietnam (Democratic Republic of Vietnam) and South Vietnam, and after its unification established full diplomatic relations with Vietnam on 07 January 1972.

3. Bilateral relations have developed steadily and are marked by regular high-level exchanges and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. In 2022, India and Vietnam celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Recent Political Exchanges

4. Regular high-level interactions have enhanced the bilateral relationship further in a sustained manner. Recent interactions include visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam to India in July-August 2024, PM-level interactions on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2025, the SCO Summit in China in September 2025 and the BRICS Summit in Brazil in July 2025, meeting with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam in New York on the sidelines of the 79th UNGA in September 2024, virtual participation by the Prime Minister of Vietnam at the 3rd Voice of the Global South Summit in August 2024, in-person interaction in Hiroshima in May 2023 on sidelines of G7+, among others.

5. In September 2016, during the Official Visit of the Prime Minister of India to Vietnam, India-Vietnam relations were elevated to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. Thereafter, in a virtual Summit in December 2020, leaders of the two countries adopted the 'Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People'.

6. Prime Minister of Vietnam undertook a State Visit to India from 30 July to 01 August 2024, wherein, the two sides issued a Joint Statement. A Plan of Action was also agreed upon for implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during 2024-2028 and eight other documents were signed. During this visit, Vietnam announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI). The GoI-grant-based (\$5 million) Army Software Park (ASP) at Telecommunications University Nha Trang, Vietnam was also virtually inaugurated by the two PMs during this visit.

7. External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited Vietnam in October 2023 to co-chair the India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, wherein, he also met the Prime Minister, Chairman of Communist Party of Vietnam's External Relations Commission. During the visit, EAM also visited Ho Chi Minh City.

8. Raksha Mantri visited Vietnam in June 2022. During the visit, Raksha Mantri held meeting on bilateral issues with his counterpart.

9. The then Prime Minister, Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, virtually attended and addressed the inaugural Leaders' Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit in August 2024, and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade addressed the Commerce Ministers session. The then President, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, attended the inaugural Leaders' Session of the 1st VoGSS in January 2023, and former Foreign Minister, Mr. Bui Thanh Son addressed the 2nd VoGSS in November 2023.

Institutional Mechanisms

10. The India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation is co-chaired by EAM and Foreign Minister of Vietnam. The last JCM (18th) was held in October 2023 in Hanoi. The two Ministers released joint postage stamp on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Vietnam.

11. Political Consultation (PC) and Strategic Dialogue (SD) at Secretary-level provides key frameworks for bilateral review encompassing wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries. The 13th PC and 10th SD were held in New Delhi in June 2025.

12. Other mechanisms include the India-Vietnam Joint Sub-Commission on Trade (5th meeting held in New Delhi in August 2023), Annual Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) (the 15th been held in November 2025 in Hanoi), India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue (4th meeting held in August 2024 in Hanoi), Policy Planning Dialogue (4th meeting held in March 2025 in Hanoi).

13. Parliamentary exchanges are also held between the two sides under the Cooperation Agreement between the Lok Sabha and Vietnam's National Assembly since December 2016. Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam visited India in December 2021 and Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Vietnam in April 2022. Vietnam's National Assembly Vice-Chairman visited India in March 2025. India has constituted an India-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group in March 2026 with Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, MP (Lok Sabha) as its President.

Defence Partnership

14. Defence & Security cooperation is one of the central pillars of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Vietnam. This cooperation is guided by the MoU on Defence Cooperation of 2009 and the Joint Vision on Defence Cooperation of 2015. In June 2022, during the visit of Raksha Mantri to Vietnam, the two sides also agreed upon a 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030'.

15. During the Official Visit of the then Minister of National Defence of Vietnam, General Phan Van Giang, in June 2023, India announced gifting of an indigenously-built missile corvette INS *Kirpan* to Vietnam. The same was handed over in July 2023 during the Official Visit of Chief of Navy Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar, to Vietnam.

16. Bilateral defence engagement has also diversified to wider military-to-military dialogue and capacity building & training among all arms of the forces. These include stationing of Indian Training Teams in Vietnam – Indian Air Force

Training Team at Vietnam Air Force Officers College, Nha Trang for pilot training since 2018, Indian Army Training Team at Tele Communications University, Nha Trang for telecommunications training since 2016 and Indian Navy Training Team at Vietnam Naval Academy, Nha Trang for English and IT training since 2008, regular bilateral exercises (for instance, army-to-army Ex VINBAX), INS and aircraft visits, annual Young Officers' Exchange and about 40 defence training slots annually for Vietnam in India for capacity building. In 2014-2015, India also trained more than 350 Vietnamese submarine crew in India.

17. Defence industrial collaboration is another area of cooperation, wherein, 12 high speed guard boats, built by Indian manufacturer M/s Larsen & Toubro under bilateral credit line of USD 100 million, were handed over to Vietnam in June 2022 under the Lines of Credit agreement. Two more Lines of Credit of USD 120 million and USD 180 million have been exchanged between the EXIM Bank of India and the Finance Ministry of Vietnam on 01 August 2024 during the visit of Vietnam PM to India, and are under implementation.

18. Other defence projects collaboration include establishment of the Army Software Park (ASP) at Telecommunications University, Nha Trang under the USD 5 million grant of GoI; foreign language training lab at Air Force Officers' College, Nha Trang and gifting of training aids to Telecommunications University, Nha Trang. In addition, Vietnam also regularly participates in India-led events viz. AeroIndia editions.

Trade and Economic Cooperation

19. In 2025-2026, India-Vietnam bilateral trade reached USD 16.4 billion, wherein, India's export to Vietnam accounted to approx. USD 6.1 billion while Vietnam's exports to India were approx. USD 10.3 billion. Main Indian exports to Vietnam include engineering goods (automobile parts, iron & steel, machinery & equipment), agricultural items (maize, animal feed ingredients, bovine meat, cotton), marine products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, minerals etc. India's imports from Vietnam mainly comprise of electrical and electronic equipment, machinery and mechanical appliances, inorganic chemicals, plastic, copper and rubber, coffee and tea, spices, iron and steel articles, footwear, garments, etc. The two countries also witness exchange of regular business delegations to each other's markets.

20. There are several Joint Working Groups (JWG) to enhance the trade relationship further. These include JWGs on Agriculture, Health, and Information Technology. In addition, the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) of 2009 is currently under review among ASEAN countries and India.

21. Vietnam ranks 60th in FDI equity inflow into India during 2000-2025, with an FDI equity inflow of approximately USD 87 million. Vietnam has invested in sectors like automobile industry, air transport (including air freight), computer software and hardware, electrical equipment etc. Recently, Vietnamese car manufacturer VinFast announced setting up of an EV manufacturing plant at SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Thoothikudi, Tamil Nadu. Major sectors of Indian investments are energy, mineral processing, agri-processing (coffee, tea, sugar), agrochemicals, IT and auto components.

22. Bank of India operates a branch in Ho Chi Minh City since 2017. Some prominent Indian companies such as HCL Technologies, Tata Coffee, Wipro Personal care, Marico SE Asia, Godrej, KCP Sugar, United Phosphorus Limited and several medium size companies operate their investments in Vietnam apart from numerous trading enterprises. Indigo Airlines operates daily flights between Kolkata and Hanoi as well as Ho Chi Minh City and weekly flights between Delhi and Hanoi. Vietnam Airlines and Vietjet operate direct flights between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Development Partnership/Disaster Relief

23. India has a long-standing development partnership with Vietnam that has made positive contributions towards training, capacity building, economic development and industrial growth. Currently, about 200 Vietnamese nationals attend ITEC and ICCR training and educational courses in India, annually. 130 civilian ITEC slots and 48 ICCR slots are offered to Vietnam annually. Vietnam is also a partner country within the ASEAN framework and Mekong Ganga Cooperation mechanism such as training and Quick Impact Projects for local communities across Vietnam. Since 2017, 56 QIPs have been completed in 32 out of Vietnam's total 34 provinces and another 10 are currently under implementation. With Vietnam's economic progress and development, the development partnership has adapted towards sharing of best

practices/experiences, technical training, defence capacity building and heritage conservation. India is also providing assistance for conservation and restoration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of 'My Son' in Quang Nam province of Central Vietnam. The completion and handing over after conservation and restoration of A, H, and K group of temples by the Archaeological Survey of India was marked in December 2022. The next phase of work on E & F blocks has started in February 2025.

24. In September 2024, in view of devastation caused by Typhoon *Yagi*, GoI, under Operation *Sadbhav*, delivered 35 tons of emergency relief supplies to the Government of Vietnam in a gesture of support to communities.

Science & Technology, Atomic Energy and Space

25. A framework agreement on space cooperation has been entered into in July 2018. Apart from technical training courses in India and occasional exchanges with ISRO, the two countries are working on setting up of an ASEAN-India Satellite Tracking and Data Reception and Processing Facility. The project, located in Ho Chi Minh City.

26. An MoU on cooperation in IT was signed during the PM's visit to Vietnam in September 2016. As envisaged in the MoU, three sessions of Joint Working Group on IT have been conducted, the last one being in online format in July 2021. In January 2026, both sides also held the inaugural Cyber Policy Dialogue in Hanoi.

27. An Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was signed in December 2016 in New Delhi.

Cultural, Academic and Provincial Level Cooperation

28. The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) under ICCR was established in Hanoi in September 2016. The Centre organizes cultural programmes, seminars, photo exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, workshops in varied areas such as *Yoga*, Indian classical dance, Hindi Language, art and philosophy, languages, traditional medicine, shared Buddhist and Cham heritage etc.

29. The two countries also have regular exchanges at the level of provinces, academic and think-tank institutions, cultural troupes and youth delegations. Some recent exchanges between India and Vietnam included the visits of delegations from various provinces.

30. Yoga is popular in Vietnam with hundreds of yoga clubs across the country, many with Indian yoga teachers. Vietnam Yoga Federation has representation in numerous provinces in Vietnam. In 2025, International Day of Yoga was marked in 35 provinces/cities throughout Vietnam (out of total of 63 provinces/cities) with notable public participation.

31. Buddhism is another strong people-level connection where India is widely respected as the origin of Buddhism. This translates into travel for pilgrimage, Buddhist studies in India, invitation to individual monks from India and cooperation with Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. In 2025, people to people connect of the two countries was rejuvenated through an exposition of the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha from Sarnath at nine provinces across Vietnam between 02 May to 02 June 2025. Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju accompanied the Holy Relics from India to Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City) from 02 – 06 May 2025. Over 14 million devotees, including the then President, Mr. Luong Cuong, Deputy Prime Ministers, and numerous other national and provincial leaders paid obeisance to the Holy Relics during the month-long exposition. The exposition coincided with celebration of the UN Day of Vesak hosted by Vietnam from 6-8 May 2025.

Tourism

32. Currently, there are around 90 direct flights operating every week between six cities of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad) and Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnamese airlines are VietJet and Viet Nam Airlines. Indian airlines operating in Vietnam are Air India & Akasa (to commence soon) and Indigo. A simplified visa regime offering e-Visa in both direction supports travel and tourism for leisure, business and culture. It is estimated that over 850,000 Indians traveled to Vietnam and over 55,000 Vietnamese visited India last year.

Indian Community in Vietnam

33. Nearly 8,000 Indian nationals constitute the Indian community in Vietnam. About 5,500 of them are based in and around Ho Chi Minh City with another couple of thousand living in and around Hanoi. Most of the community members are professionals employed in businesses, sectors such as IT, hotels/restaurants, mining, yoga institutions, civil aviation enterprises, schools, investments, and trading in wide-ranging goods. Large Indian businesses such as ONGC Videsh Limited, Bank of India, Bharat Electronics Limited, HCL Technologies and a few others have offices in Vietnam.

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