



India-Vietnam Meeting

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Why in News

Recently, the **17th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation** was held.

Both sides reviewed the recent developments in **India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** (since 2016) and discussed the future trajectory of their wide-ranging engagement.



Key Points

Indo-Pacific Region:

- India and Vietnam agreed to enhance their bilateral cooperation in line with India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** and the **ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific** to achieve shared security, prosperity and growth for all in the **region**.
- This has come in the backdrop of **China's aggression** in the Indo-Pacific region including **South China Sea region** and its actions along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** with India.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, which is seen as having huge reserves of hydrocarbons and minerals. However, several **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)** member countries, including Vietnam, Philippines and Brunei, dispute the Chinese claims.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

- IPOI was launched by the Prime Minister of India at the **East Asia Summit** in November **2019**.
- It focuses on **seven central pillars** conceived around Maritime Security, Maritime Ecology, Maritime Resources, Capacity Building and Resource Sharing, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation, and Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport.
- **Cooperation at Multilateral and Regional Forums:**
 - Both sides agreed to coordinate closely at multilateral forums, including at the **UN Security Council**, where both India and Vietnam will **serve concurrently as non-permanent members in 2021**.
 - They also agreed to step up cooperation and coordination at important regional forums under the ASEAN framework.
 - India and Vietnam closely cooperate in various **regional forums** such as **East Asia Summit, Mekong Ganga Cooperation, Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)**.
 - India appreciated the positive leadership provided by Vietnam to ASEAN in 2020 when the world is faced with the **Covid -19 pandemic**.
Vietnam is the chair of ASEAN for 2020.

- **Economic Engagement:**

- They agreed to explore closer cooperation in emerging areas such as **civil nuclear energy, space, marine sciences and new technologies.**
- India invited Vietnam to take advantage of India's new economic capacities and demands.

India underlined its vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** for enhancing resilience through self-reliance and human-centric globalisation as the basis for its economic revival.

- India reaffirmed its **development and capacity building assistance to Vietnam** through initiatives such as **Quick Impact Projects (QIP), Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** and e-ITEC initiatives, **PhD fellowships**, as well as projects in **water resource management in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region, SDGs**, digital connectivity and heritage conservation.

Way Forward

- Vietnam is a key pillar of **India's Act East policy** and there is a scope for further cooperation between the countries.
- The close relationship between the two countries is **significant for the maintenance of strategic balance in South East Asia** which is witnessing aggressive Chinese activities.

Source: IE