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## India-Vietnam Virtual Summit

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### Why in News

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Recently, **India and Vietnam** signed **seven pacts** during their virtual summit, in areas such as defence, petrochemicals, and nuclear energy, and agreed to **intensify their development partnership** that will enable achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and develop capabilities to address **climate change**.



### Key Points

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- **Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)/Agreements:**
  - Agreements covered diverse areas such as **IT, UN peacekeeping and cancer research**.
  - One specific agreement will cover **USD 5 million Indian Grant Assistance for Army Software Park** at National Telecommunications University, Nha Trang, Vietnam.
  - Both sides committed to promote bilateral cooperation between the “regulatory bodies of the two countries in the **fields of radiation protection and nuclear safety.**”
- **Defence and Security:**
  - Defence and security partnership between India and Vietnam will be an important factor of stability in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
  - The two sides will step up their **military-to-military exchanges, training and capacity building programmes** across the **three services and coast guards** and will intensify their defence industry collaboration **building on India’s defence credit lines extended to Vietnam.**
    - VINBAX is the **military exercise** between armies of India and Vietnam.
  - Both sides will **engage more closely through institutionalized dialogue mechanisms** in dealing with traditional and non-traditional security threats in **cyber and maritime domains, terrorism, natural disasters, health security, water security, transnational crimes** etc, including through enhanced legal and judicial cooperation, where required.
    - One such example is the successful implementation of the **High Speed Guard Boat (HSGB) Manufacturing Project** for Vietnam Border Guard Command under the **US dollar 100 million Defence Line of Credit extended by the Government of India** to Vietnam.
- **Terrorism:**
  - The two sides will step up joint efforts in building a strong consensus for early adoption of the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)**.
- **South China Sea:**
  - Both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining **peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea**, while pursuing the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, particularly the **1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
  - Both leaders further called for the full and effective implementation of the **Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)** in its entirety.

- **Cooperation at Various Forums:**
  - Both sides will strengthen multilateral and regional cooperation, including in the **United Nations, ASEAN-led mechanisms** and **Mekong sub-regional cooperation**.
  - **Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN):**  
To foster practical cooperation between **ASEAN** and India in the key areas and in line with the objectives and principles as stated in the **ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** and India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**.
  - The two sides will actively **promote reformed multilateralism to make international organizations**, including the **UN Security Council**, more representative, contemporary and capable of dealing with current challenges.
- **Management of Covid-19 Pandemic:**
  - They will encourage experience-sharing and cooperation in the management of **Covid-19 pandemic**, support **on-line training of health professionals**, forge institutional cooperation in **vaccine development**, promote open supply chains, facilitate essential cross-border movement of people, and maintain close contact and coordination in multilateral bodies like the **World Health Organization**.
  - **Cooperation in the Post Pandemic Era:**  
Acknowledging the new challenges as well as opportunities brought upon by Covid-19 pandemic, the two sides will work towards reliable, **efficient and resilient** supply chains, and will promote **human-centric globalization**.
- **Economic Cooperation:**
  - New horizons for partnership created by **India's goal to become a US dollar 5 trillion economy by 2024** and **Vietnam's ambition to become a high-income economy by 2045** will be fully explored for all segments of economy, including **blue economy**, **MSMEs and farming communities of the two countries**.
  - India and Vietnam share a **comprehensive strategic partnership**. One great example of economic cooperation is completion of the **Development Projects with Indian 'Grant-in-Aid' Assistance** of US dollar 1.5 million for the benefit of the local community in Vietnam's Ninh Thuan province.

- **Cooperation on Climate Change:**
  - Both sides will partner in **new and renewable energy resources**, energy conservation and other climate-resilient technologies.
  - India advocated that Vietnam's possible future participation in the **International Solar Alliance** would bring new opportunities for cooperation in large scale deployment of solar energy.
  - India looks forward to Vietnam's joining the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** in the near future.
  - They agreed to expand the **Mekong - Ganga Quick Impact Projects**.
- **Cultural Cooperation and Links:**
  - Both sides will actively cooperate to publish an **Encyclopedia of India - Vietnam Cultural and Civilizational Relations** to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India - Vietnam diplomatic relations in 2022.
  - The two sides will promote understanding and research of their shared cultural and civilizational heritage, including **Buddhist and Cham cultures, traditions and ancient scriptures**.
    - The traditional systems of medicine like **Ayurveda** and **Vietnam-Traditional Medicine** share many common threads of rich knowledge of health.
    - **Yoga** has emerged as a symbol of peace and harmony and shared pursuit of spiritual wellbeing and happiness.
  - **New Development Partnership projects** in heritage conservation in Vietnam (F-block of Temple at My Son; Dong Duong Buddhist Monastery in Quang Nam and Nhan Cham Tower in Phu Yen) will be materialised.
- **People-to-People Exchange:**

By **increasing direct flights**, providing ease of travelling through **simplified visa procedures** and facilitating **tourism**.
- **Education and Institutional Cooperation:**
  - They will further **strengthen and institutionalize linkages** such as Parliamentary exchanges; relations between Indian States and Vietnamese Provinces; exchanges between social organisations and youth organizations; collaboration between educational institutions; engagement between think tanks; joint research programmes; and exchanges in media, film, TV shows and sports.
  - They will also facilitate cooperation between respective agencies on the two sides to promote contents related to India - Vietnam relations and **their historical links in each other's school textbooks**.

## Way Forward

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- **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.
- Both Countries need to leverage the economic opportunities available because of **anti-China sentiments** and several manufacturing firms deciding to shift from China.
- Keeping in mind the strategic challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, primarily those posed by China, India and Vietnam should work in close coordination at multilateral institutions such as the UN Security Council, where both **India and Vietnam are elected to be non-permanent members** in 2021.

**Source:PIB**