



## India-Vietnam Talks

### Why in News

Recently, **Defence Ministers of India and Vietnam** have discussed collaboration in defence industry capability building, training and cooperation in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations, etc.



### Key Points

- **Defence Cooperation:** Both countries reaffirmed the strong India-Vietnam Defence cooperation which is a key pillar of **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** (2016).
  - Underlining the vision of **“Atmanirbhar Bharat”** for enhancing self-reliance including defence industries, India **urged closer defence industry cooperation** by concluding an **institutionalised framework agreement in the near future**.
  - **Vietnam thanked India for the assistance** by Indian Armed Forces in capacity building of Vietnamese Defence Forces especially in the field of Human Resource development.
  - **India** conveyed its willingness to **enhance the scope and level of training for all three services** of Vietnam Defence forces in Indian Defence Institutes.
  - It needs to be noted that the two countries **have built ties** on the procurement of weaponry and military hardware, capacity building, collaboration in the area of warship building and repair.
- **UN Peacekeeping:** Discussed cooperation in **UN peacekeeping** operations, which help countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.
- **Cooperation in the field of Hydrography:** This will enable sharing of Hydrographic data and assist in production of navigational charts by both sides.

- **Hydrography** is the science that **measures and describes the physical features of the navigable portion of the Earth's surface** and adjoining coastal areas.
- **ADMM Plus Meeting:** Vietnam invited India for [ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus](#) (ADMM Plus) being hosted by Vietnam in December 2020.
  - The **ADMM-Plus is a platform for the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (ASEAN) and its eight Dialogue Partners** Australia, China, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA (collectively referred to as the “Plus Countries”), to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
  - **Vietnam is a member of ASEAN.**
    - **ASEAN** is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political and security cooperation among its **ten members**.

## India-Vietnam Relations

- India and Vietnam have agreed to enhance their **bilateral cooperation** in line with **India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative** (IPOI) and the ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific.
  - This came 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.
- **Cooperation at Multiple Fora:**
  - At the **UN Security Council**, both India and Vietnam will serve concurrently as **non-permanent members in 2021**.
  - India and Vietnam closely cooperate in various **regional forums** such as **East Asia Summit**, **Mekong Ganga Cooperation**, **Asia Europe Meeting** (ASEM).
- **Economic Relations:**
  - India has on many occasions explained that it will **continue to maintain its oil and gas exploration tie-ups** with Vietnam in Vietnamese waters.
  - Vietnam is also the **second largest export destination for India after Singapore in the ASEAN region**.
  - **Bilateral trade** for the period **April-November 2019** reached **USD 9.01 billion**.
- **India's Assistance:**
  - India has **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**.
- **Tourism and People-to-People Contacts:**
  - The **year 2019 was celebrated as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism**. Both countries have facilitated a **simplified visa regime** to promote bilateral tourism.
  - The **Embassy of India organized various events to celebrate** [\[email protected\]](#) in 2018-19. These include Jaipur artificial limb fitment camps, which were organized in four provinces of Vietnam, benefitting 1000 people, under **'India for Humanity'** initiative of the Government of India.

## Way Forward

- As India and Vietnam geographically lie at the heart of the emerging Indo-Pacific construct, both would play a major role in this strategic space which is becoming a core theatre for competition for power and influence amongst the major powers.
- The strategic partnership under the broad India-Vietnam cooperation framework would be critical towards building the vision laid out under **India's 'Act East' Policy**, which looks to expand

engagement that is mutually positive and which ensures an inclusive growth for all in the region.

**Source: TH**

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