

India – Vietnam Relations

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An MoU for cooperation was **signed between the NSCS and the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security in 2016** establishing an institutional mechanism between the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security.

The inaugural dialogue was held in **April 2018 in Hanoi**.

The two sides agreed that coordinated efforts are needed to combat the nexus of radicalization, terrorism, and the production and trafficking of illegal narcotics and arms in the region.

<u>National Security Council Secretariat</u>: The National Security Council (NSC) of India is an **executive government agency** tasked with **advising the Prime Minister's Office** on matters of **national security and strategic interest**.

It was established by the former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 19 November 1998.

The NSC is the **apex body of the three-tiered structure of the national security management** system in India - the Strategic Policy Group, the National Security Advisory Board and a secretariat from the Joint Intelligence Committee.

India-Vietnam relations have been **exceptionally friendly and cordial since their foundations** were laid by Prime Minister Nehru and President Ho Chi Minh more than 50 years ago.

In recent times, political contacts have strengthened as reflected in several high-level visits by leaders from both sides.

Trade and economic linkages continue to grow. India's thrust under the 'Look East' policy combined with Vietnam's growing engagement within the region and with India has paid rich dividends.

Vietnam is an important regional partner in South East Asia. India and Vietnam closely cooperate in various regional forums such as ASEAN, East Asia Summit, Mekong Ganga Cooperation, Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) besides UN and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Since 1992, the bi-lateral ties between India and Vietnam have developed extensively in many fields such as economic ties, agriculture and manufacturing.

Not being limited to economic reasons alone, there has been extensive fostering of bilateral military cooperation that includes sale of military equipment, sharing of intelligence, joint naval exercises and training in counterinsurgency and jungle warfare.

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