

# The Foundation of Vietnam and India Relation, Historical Values

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Received: October 16, 2019

Accepted: October 21, 2019

Online Published: December 31, 2019

doi:10.5539/ass.v16n1p1

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v16n1p1>

## Abstract

Vietnam and India: Timeless friendship is a common feeling of international friends about Vietnam and India friendship. Cultivated from the 50s of the last century, over time, despite the distance of geography, the relationship is constantly being strengthened and developed. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Vietnam from November 18 - 20, 2016 and his wife once again continued to strengthen that rare friendship. Research on the relationship between Vietnam and India in history as well as in the present will help the two countries understand more about each other, about the values that the predecessors as well as the efforts of the leaders of the two countries in the present. Since then, it is a solid foundation for sustainable development in the future. Based on the studies of ancient documents as well as recent state relations of leaders of the two countries. The article sheds more light on the good relations between the two peoples, the source of good relations at the present time and prospects for future development.

**Keywords:** foundation, relation, India, Vietnam, historical values

## 1. Introduction

India and 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. The traditionally close and cordial relations have their historical roots in the common struggle for liberation from foreign rule and the national struggle for independence. However, according to many researchers, Vietnam and India relations actually had a history of up to 2,000 years associated with the introduction of Buddhism from India to Vietnam. The ancient book notes that an Indian monk came to establish a monk at the Buddha pagoda, (Tien Du, Bac Ninh province today) in the 2nd century AD. The economic and cultural exchange between Vietnam and India dates back to the 2nd century AD. The Indian Hindu seal of Cham relics in Central Vietnam and the Funan Kingdom in the South of Vietnam is also a testament to this relationship.

In modern times, from the 50s of the last century, President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation for a deep friendship and strong friendship through visits and contacts overcome the ritual of diplomacy.

Right after the Dien Bien Phu Victory, Prime Minister Nehru became the first foreign guest to visit Vietnam in October, 1954. President Ho Chi Minh paid an official visit to India in February, 1958, leaving a special impression on Indian friends. Since then, the Indian people have become traditional friends, actively supporting the heroic national liberation struggles of the Vietnamese people.

Thus, since the 50s of the last century, President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru have affirmed and developed the common friendship of the two nations. The Vietnamese people acknowledge and express their gratitude for India's active support in previous independent, unified resistance wars, as well as in the cause of Vietnam's national renewal and development in the future.

## 2. Culture Foundation

Buddhism is a philosophical and religious movement that emerged around the end of the 6th century BC in northern India. The founder of the philosophical system - this religion is Siddhatha, the crown prince of the King Sanskrit (Suddhodana) of the Sakiya clan. The prince (about 563-483 BC) had attended the Brahmin monks from the age of seven, married at 16, and thirteen years later lived in regal life, but on a February night when he was 29 years old, he quietly left the royal palace to search for the truth. Spending six years with the methods of cultivating the body but not attaining the right path, but after only 48 days of concentration, Siddhartha clearly

realized the origins of the universe, the transformation of the universe, the root cause of suffering, and devising a method to eradicate that suffering for sentient beings, with the doctrine of “the human condition of birth” and the philosophy of “the Four Noble Truths”, “the Ten Noble Truths”, the “Eight Noble Paths”. This man has become a majestic Shakyamuni Buddha in the life of the Eastern people from generation to generation.

If only considering the Vietnamese, the historical period before expanding the country from the Funan Kingdoms, Chan Lap was influenced by India, first of all Buddhism. Buddhism was transmitted to Vietnam about 2000 years ago, introduced by the Indian monk Marajivab. Vietnam can be considered as a country to receive Buddhism earlier than China, a source of monks and the first scriptures for China. Thus, the introduction of Buddhism into our country in the first basic steps is not actually derived from China, but is transmitted directly from India. Based on reliable historical documents, a number of specialized, reputable researchers of Buddhism have confirmed this (Lang, 1992).

Au Lac nation was annexed by Nam Viet of Trieu Da in 179 BC, and formed Giao Chi (Jiaozhi) district. In 110 BC, Nam Viet became the inner city of Han Dynasty, and Giao Chau followed it, and was divided into two districts, Giao Chi and Cuu Chan. In the territory of the Later Han Dynasty, three Buddhist centers were Luy Lau, Lac Duong and Banh Thanh. The ancient Chinese records also fail to clearly recognize the formation of the two centers of Luoyang and Banh Thanh, only Luy Lau of Giao Chi (Jiaozhi) was clearly and earliest identified, and also a springboard for form the other two centers. Since the second half of the second century, Luy Lau has existed as an important and prosperous Buddhist center. This shows that the introduction of Buddhism into Giao Chau (or Giao Chi) was very early, perhaps from the beginning of the era.

At the beginning of AD, India had a strong trade with the Middle East, and indirectly with the Mediterranean, so they needed a supply of materials and supplies for this trade. They sailed, following the southwest monsoon, going east. They came to Jiaozhi, and then they could go from Jiaozhi and follow the sea or the road to China. While waiting for the northeast monsoon to return to India, the residence of these merchants has spread the Indian culture, including worshipping Buddha, chanting ... Monks whom merchants bring follow the merchant boat to do the work of praying for the Buddha’s support, who directly spread Buddhism and established the Luy Lau Buddhist Center.

Some other noteworthy arguments and arguments also reinforce the origins of early Vietnamese Buddhism from Vietnam compared to Chinese Buddhism. Accordingly, at the time of the Han, Confucianism and Taoism periods, especially Confucianism, were strong, Confucianism and Taoism intellectuals were against Buddhism, a treatise proved quite alien to moral standards, Confucianism and Taoism society. Hence, Buddhism was difficult to penetrate in Vietnam. The Han people wanted to bring Buddhism into, and then had to borrow the theory of “Hoa Ho” to make it easier to carry out this work (Note 1). Meanwhile, in Giao Chau, Buddhism seems very suitable for folk beliefs, so the penetration is not difficult, but it was easy and fast.

The history of the opening of Vietnamese people under 700 years is a long and complicated process. The Vietnamese had a cultural exchange with the Indians, in the process of opening the realm, the Vietnamese had merged the territories of the Champa and Chan Lap kingdoms to form the Vietnamese state as today. The territory of Champa and Chan Lap corresponds to the part from the Central to the Mekong Delta on the strip of land shaped by Champa and Chan Lap, which are the most influenced by Indian culture. For example, the Kingdom of Chan Lap, for example, was the Kingdom of Funan. Even the writings of the Funan are considered Indian. Not far away, the cultural relics that we find today like the Cham towers, the Oc Eo cultural relics ... can be seen as heavily influenced by India. And so, Vietnamese people are getting more and more exposed to such cultural values, so being influenced by Indian culture is possible.

In the Central of Vietnam, India’s architectural imprint shows a definite presence in tower temples that exist today. During the development period of the Champa kingdom, there were about 70 towers (most concentrated in My Son Sanctuary), but until 1994, Ngo Van Doanh counted only 19 towers, 40 small architectures (Doanh, 1994, p. 103). In shape, the Cham towers are structured like the temples and mountains of Indians called Shikara (shikara are sharp peaks), on the tower floors there are small towers at the corners.

Cham people absorb and mingle, and at the same time, create constructions with Indian imprints, but the localization becomes more and more strong and the Cham people call them Kalan (tomb). Kalan has the function of worshipping the King, worshipping the Gods, worshipping the gods to sponsor the King (Them, 1998, p. 458).

In the South of Vietnam, “Funan was a large kingdom south of the Indochina peninsula, lies between two great Indian and Chinese civilizations, on the sea route linking India, China to Middle-East area” (Duong, 2007, p. 230). Funan Kingdom had an international that was called Oc Eo. Oc Eo seaport of Phu Nam kingdom was a place between those two stages. It was thanks to this natural element (the regime of ocean currents and periodic

wind regime) that the Funan kingdom became a flourishing sea trade (trade on the sea) at that time. Oc Eo was a place where the process of quite early contact between the state of Phu Nam and other countries takes place. Among the excavated artifacts in Oc Eo, there were artifacts of the Indian, Central Asian, Eastern Han and Northern Wei and Roman dynasties ... Especially, right from the early centuries of the AD, “Indians brought come here to make sea boat technology, develop trade industry and dry agricultural techniques with the plow pulled by cows” (Duong, 2007, p. 231).

Along with the economy, the wave of evangelization from India was inevitable. The missionary wave from India to the ancient Southeast Asian countries (including the Funan) was carried out in several waves, creating a political regime of the rich and rich Phu Nam kingdom. Right from the early days of the founding of the nation, Phu Nam had a close relationship with India. According to Tan Thu, Nam Te Thu and Luong Thu, right from the first century, Indians were present in the South Vietnam today. Mixed with the first king of Funan, an Indian, after had been becoming a king, modified all the rules according to the Indian rule and “considered himself the venerable advocate of the Fatherland” (Hung, 2010, p. 38). By the later dynasties, the king was also Indian, “the Funan country was strange, hiring experts, hiring people to become kings” (Ninh, 2008, p. 81). In the Funan court, there were a lot of officials who were also Indians, which could be recognized by the Chinese people often referred to as the T’chou family (called Chu, Chau).

Archaeologists have discovered many relics bearing the Indian cultural mark as inscriptions of Indian inscriptions, Hindu and Buddhist statues bearing the scent of Indian art. According to Luong Thu (502-556) there is a Tamil trafficking community (East India) which is a branch of the Indian merchant ward and “had the kingdom of Touen Sium vassals of the Funan country bordering India (the West). The East - West border border flea market has up to 10,000 people a day and there was no shortage of anything” (Duong, 2007, p. 251). It was these things that show a flourishing trade at that time on the Phu Nam land and facilitating the diversification of material culture.

In the early centuries AD, Funan residents began contacting Indian culture from merchants, monks and clergy of Indian. These were the people who had lived in an ancient culture of India, when they came here brought customs, dances, musical instruments and a set of aesthetic principles had been shaped. The most obvious imprints of such contact and exchange are expressed from Indian artifacts found in Oc Eo cultural relics such as string beads, glassware, earthenware, bronze...

Unlike the contact with China - Vietnamese culture in the North of Vietnam, the Funan kingdom exposed Indian culture was not subject to Indian rule. Indian culture is conveyed through the way of evangelization and peace trade. Therefore, the path of language and literary contact is mainly through the Balamon religion, Buddhism, “The writing in the Mekong River Delta around the beginning of AD is a product of cultural exchange by traders, Buddhist monks and Hindus brought” (Archaeological Research Center of Vietnam, 1997, p. 49). In addition to the text, the Funan people could write books. “They (Phunan people) also had books, some houses had many books and documents (...). The King of Funan was capable of writing the book of Heavenly (India), the book had about 3,000 words about the cause of the previous life of the king, similar to the Buddhist scriptures” (Ninh, 2005, p. 199).

About from the second century onwards, Buddhism was also introduced into Funan and developed from the 7th century to the 8th century. Although it did not hold an important position like Brahminism, but Buddhism has had a positive impact on the lives of the residents of Funan, creating a wide-ranging relationship with other countries in the region: Nam Tong and South countries Asia and Bac Tong with China and other countries affected by Han culture (East Asia). Whether Bac Tong or Nam Tong had arrived here were localized to suit the living conditions of the residents here.

In assessing India’s influence on Southeast Asia, G. Coedes argues that: “the influence of Indian civilization is primarily an expansion of an organized, reliant culture. India’s point of kingship, characterized of Hinduism and Buddhism” (Doanh, 2011, p. 26).

### **3. Ho Chi Minh and Jawaharlal Nehru, People Who Laid the Foundation for Vietnam and India Relation**

On the diplomatic level, the Vietnam and India friendship relationship has been cultivated since the 50s of the last century by two supreme leaders of two nations: President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The vision and sincerity of the two leaders helped to weave a long-lasting yarn for the relationship that is still shining and stable after 5 decades full of fluctuations.

On December 17, 2018, at the International Research School of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Conference on President Ho Chi Minh took place on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of India’s official visit

(1958-2018). The workshop was organized by the Vietnamese Embassy in India in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University. Speaking at the Conference, emphasizing the significance of President Ho Chi Minh's official visit to India in 1958, Vietnamese Ambassador to India Pham Sanh Chau affirmed that President Ho Chi's official visit to India 60 years ago that laid a solid foundation for the special relationship between the two countries, contributing to strengthening the solidarity between Asian and African peoples, keeping peace in Asia and the world. "President Ho Chi Minh is a big and close friend of the Indian people. He together with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Indian leaders laid the foundation, building and cultivating the long-standing traditional friendship relationship between Vietnam and India". That is reflected in Ho Chi Minh's relations with Indian leaders.

Previously, for a long time, in 1927, Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh) came to the International Congress of oppressed peoples in Brussels (Belgium). That here, Nguyen Ai Quoc met and acquainted with India's prominent revolutionary is Motilal Nehru. At this time, Nguyen Ai Quoc is at 37 years old, he less than Motilal Nehru's son is Jawaharlal 01 year old. This senior sunk into Nguyen Ai Quoc's mind a special affection for the Indian people and the righteous struggle of the Indian people and with Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1942, on the way to China to contact Japanese anti-fascist forces, China's progressive forces supported the anti-fascist Allies, Ho Chi Minh was imprisoned by Chiang Kai-shek Government. Within 13 months of imprisonment, Ho Chi Minh was dissolved in 13 districts of Guangxi Province, confined in 28 extremely difficult prisons and prisons. Despite this, Ho Chi Minh still retained the courage to revolution, Ho Chi Minh expressed his courage with *the Prison Journal* in famous poetry with 133 immortal poems. Two "poems sent to Nehru" were given to Jawaharlal Nehru, a Ho Chi Minh who had never met, but when he heard that J. Nehru also fell into prison, like himself, in Ho Chi Minh prison was touched to write two poems to share with her like-minded friends, the same ideals, a person of the same generation and a common ambition to liberate the nation in particular.

Since 1947, in the context that Vietnam has no diplomatic relations with other countries, Prime Minister Nehru has invited Vietnam to attend the Pan Asian Conference organized by India. This shows that India is the earliest country to recognize the fact that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam regime is chaired by Ho Chi Minh. The people of India and the people of Vietnam also have deep sympathy when they share the same fate of colonialism. In January 1947, Indians "called on the American people to stand side by side with the people of Indochina in their struggle for independence" (Dung, 2013, p. 95). Soon afterwards, India was the first place in the world to launch the first protest to support Vietnam's revolution. On January 19, 1947 was chosen by the people of Kolkata as Vietnam Day and two days later, on January 21, thousands of students took to the streets to protest, protesting the British support for French colonialism, supporting The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. British soldiers opened fire and shot and killed two Kolkata students on the street. Today, the Kolkata people are still proud, calling it "Red Friendship" - the friendship is recorded in blood between two Vietnamese and Indian peoples. In the same year, the people of Kolkata did not agree to refuel for a French fighter aircraft to fly to Vietnam to join the war. After this event, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced that the Indian Government would not subsidize French fighters in the future.

Immediately after the Dien Bien Phu Victory (May 1954), while many countries were cautious and anxious to establish relations with Vietnam, Prime Minister Nehru was the first foreign visitor to visit Vietnam on October 17, 1954, just one week after Hanoi was completely liberated.

During the 50th anniversary (2004) that President Ho Chi Minh met Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, in his speech, the Indian Consul General SK Mandal said the meeting in Hanoi on October 17, 1954 was not the first meeting between the two leaders because they had met before. So what makes this meeting so special and "still imprinted boldly in the hearts of the Vietnamese - Indians", It is its special historical context. "It was a moment in history when the souls of the two great peoples who came out of foreign domination found a common voice", Mr. S. K. Mandal said.

Also in 1954, India opened a Consulate General in Hanoi and only two years later President Ho Chi Minh paid an official visit to India. The official visit of President Ho Chi Minh to India in 1958 continued to open a new chapter in the history of bilateral relations, promoting closer cooperation between Vietnam and India in the liberation movement. Ethnicity and Non-aligned movement. Indian Foreign Minister is Mr. Natwar Singh (2004 - 2005) said: "The meeting between Prime Minister Nehru and President Ho is a great motivation. The friendship that originated from this first meeting laid a solid foundation for India-Vietnam relations. The vision and sincerity of the two leaders helped to weave a long-lasting yarn for the relationship that is still shining and sustainable after five decades of volatility" (Vietnam News Agency, 2004).

Since then, the Indian people have become traditional friends, actively supporting the heroic national liberation

struggles of the Vietnamese people. Images of Indian brothers on the streets support the Vietnamese people's resistance to war against the US and the country, and shout the slogan "His name is Vietnamese, my name is Vietnam, our name is Vietnam, Vietnam - Ho Chi Minh, Dien Bien Phu" will be forever engraved in the heart of Vietnamese generations.

On January 7, 1972, amid the resistance war against the people of the Vietnamese people to enter the fierce period, India and Vietnam announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations despite the pressure of those countries hostile force. In 2010, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the liberation of the South, the reunification of the country, journalists, political and social activists Geetesh Sharma confided his feelings and feelings to the Indian people for Vietnam. Male in a letter to the Saigon newspaper freed. He commented: "For us, the Indian people, the phrase "Vietnamese nation" or "Ho Chi Minh" is a familiar, intimate name that is closely related to our own. Especially, the people in Kolkata during the period 1945 - 1975. It was the period when the whole Vietnamese people poured their hearts into the resistance against the French and the Americans and the Japanese fascists were hard and difficult, arduous. During the boiling and burning period of the 30 years of great rescuing war of the Vietnamese brother, the Indian people in general and the people in the West Bengal state were united in the movement Counter - war in Vietnam, supporting the heroic Vietnamese nation, patriotism" (Geetesh Sharma, 2010).

#### **4. The Relationship between Vietnam and India in the New Context**

##### *4.1 From Strategic Partner Ship*

Since then, for 47 years, Vietnam and India have officially established diplomatic relations, the friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries have been constantly strengthened and developed. For 47 years, the two countries have frequently exchanged high-level visits. These visits have become important milestones in the relationship between the two countries in the context of a volatile world situation. In 1992, the two countries established comprehensive economic relations, including oil and gas exploration, agriculture and manufacturing (Frank, 1993).

In May 2003, during the visit to India by General Secretary Nong Duc Manh, Vietnam and India relations had a new step after the two sides signed the "Joint Statement on the comprehensive cooperation framework between the two countries in the 21st century".

During the official visit to India by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (July 2007), the two sides signed a Joint Statement on the Vietnam - India Strategic Partnership. This event is of great significance, marking a new breakthrough in bilateral relations, paving the way for the deep development of bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual concern. The strategic partnership between the two countries continued to be concretized during President Truong's visited to India (October 2011) by signing seven bilateral cooperation agreements.

The outward of Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong (November 2013) was the third consecutive visit to India by senior Vietnamese leaders since 2011 in the context of India pushing the "AEP" and Vietnam strengthens international integration, showing its determination to accelerate the strategic partnership between Vietnam and India in the near future. Taking place just a month after the visit to India by Indian President P. Mu - Khero, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's visited to India (October 2014) continues to confirm the importance of India in Vietnam's foreign policy, as well as demonstrating the potential of strategic partnership between the two countries

First of all, about political, diplomacy: political relations have developed well and the two countries have exchanged many high-level delegations. The Vietnamese side visited India: Prime Minister Pham Van Dong (1978 and 1980), Party General Secretary Le Duan (1984), Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh (1989), General Secretary Do Muoi (1992), President of the Republic Vietnam Association visits India (1994), Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet (1997), President Tran Duc Luong (1999), Party General Secretary Nong Duc Manh (2003) and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (July 2007), Vice President Nguyen Thi Doan visits India (2009). During the outward of Party General Secretary Nong Duc Manh, the two countries signed the "Joint Statement on the Comprehensive Cooperation Framework between the two countries entering the 21st century". During Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's visit, the two sides signed a joint Declaration formally establishing a strategic partnership between the two countries. The Indian visited Vietnam: Prime Minister R.Gandhi (1985 and 1988), President R. Venkatraman (1991), Vice President K.R. Narayanan (1993), Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao (1994), Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee (January 2001), President of Somnath Chatterjee (2007), President Pratibha Patil (2008).

Secondly, in terms of economic relations: although compared to political relations, Vietnam and India economic relations have developed later, but on the basis of strategic partners, relations between the two countries. This area has achieved important results.

In terms of trade, bilateral trade turnover of the two countries has witnessed a remarkable development in recent years. If in 1995, trade between the two countries reached 72 million USD, then in 2009, bilateral trade turnover increased significantly, reaching 2.36 billion USD; 2013-2014 reached USD 8.03 billion ... India's JetAirways airlines open direct flights from New Delhi/Mumbai to Ho Chi Minh City in 2014, contributing to promoting trade relations and tourism between two countries.

Vietnam's export activities to the Indian have always achieved impressive and high growth rates. In 5 years (2009-2013), Vietnam's export turnover to India market increased 46.22%/year (an average increase of about 320 million USD/year). In 2013, India was ranked 16th among more than 200 trading partners of Vietnam in the world.

According to statistics of the General Department of Vietnam Customs, in the past 4 years, India has always been in the group of 20/200 countries and territories with the largest import and export of goods to Vietnam. Vietnam exports to India mainly groups of machinery, spare parts and electronic equipment. In addition, there are other main export products, such as equipment, tools and spare parts, computers, electronic products and components, rubber ... On the Indian side, goods exported to Vietnam including steel, animal feed and raw materials.

Besides the increasing export and import between Vietnam and India, India's FDI into Vietnam accordingly increased significantly. According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, in 2015, India had 95 investment projects in Vietnam, total registered investment capital was about 324 million USD, ranked 30/101 countries and regions. Earth has an investment project in Vietnam. The average capital is about 3.4 million USD / project. Currently, Indian investors have invested in 13/18 sectors in Vietnam's national economic classification system. Most of India's projects are concentrated in the processing and manufacturing industries. In addition, India's FDI project focuses on industries, such as wholesale, retail, media, construction...

The investment of India is present in 23 provinces and cities of Vietnam, however, the scale of the project is small, and so the total investment in these localities is still very modest. Tata Group and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of India (MoIT) have completed the necessary procedures to soon implement the project of building Long Phu Thermal Power Plant 2. Tata Group's investment in this project can show the growing interest of Indian companies in the potential of the Vietnamese market.

*Third, on defense and security relations:* this is a relatively new field in relations between the two countries. In 1994, Vietnam - India relations in this area were established, with the two countries signing a Memorandum of Defense Cooperation. However, it was not until the second half of the 90s of the twentieth century, on the basis of strategic partnerships, security and defense relations between the two countries marked the development step, with many visits and working of leaders. High-ranking military leader of the two countries. In particular, in March 2000, Vietnam - India security and defense cooperation was raised a step when during the visit to India by Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes, the two sides signed a number of documents agreement on defense cooperation, which is particularly important is the new Protocol on military cooperation between the two countries.

On the occasion of the visit to Vietnam by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee (August 2014), 07 agreements were signed between the two parties. In particular, focusing on promoting strategic partnerships on politics, national defense and security and economic cooperation ... The leaders of the two countries said that defense and security cooperation is a pillar. Important column in strategic partnership between the two countries. Following, during the visit to India by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (October 2014), Prime Minister N. Modi said: "Defense cooperation between India and Vietnam is one of the most important relationships of us. India continues to commit to modernizing Vietnam's defense and security forces. This includes the expansion of already diversified training programs, cooperative exercises and cooperation in the provision of defense equipment" (Vinod Anand, 2017, p. 344).

The two countries have organized many national security dialogues. Notably, the 8th Vietnam - India Defense Strategy Dialogue in Ho Chi Minh City (November 8, 2013). The two sides strengthened high-level meetings between the Ministry of Defense of the two countries, cooperated on training cadres, especially on naval cooperation, expanding air cooperation and promoting cooperation in developing defense industry.

After a visit to Vietnam by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, India spent a \$ 100 million credit package to help Vietnam modernize its defense and strengthen its energy cooperation. This credit opens new opportunities for

defense cooperation between the two parties. With profound changes in regional politics and politics, these moves have sent a strong message of India's desire to play a greater role in security in this region. On the other hand, both India and Vietnam agree on the importance of ensuring security, safety and maritime freedom in the South China Sea; resolving disputes by peaceful means, complying with international law, especially the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and soon completing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). At the meeting between Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and President Truong Tan Sang, both sides aspired and determined to maintain peace, stability, growth and prosperity in Asia, which affirmed: "Vietnam and India agreed to freedom of navigation in the South Sea of Vietnam could not be hindered and called on concerned parties to refrain, avoid threatening or using force and resolve disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with the principles of international law".

*In terms of cultural - education - science and technology:* Along with the development of political and economic relations between Vietnam and India, cooperation on educational culture and science and technology is also a field. The area is increasingly more important in bilateral relations between the two countries.

As a large, resource-rich country, having inherited some progressive legacy of British capitalism, India has built a decent training system has been being develop until the 1990s. With hundreds of universities and research institutes, many of them are highly ranked in Asia, such as the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), PUSA Rice Research Institute, National Institute of Agriculture (IARI). In Delhi, India has attracted many scientists from all over the world to study. In the 1990s, cooperation on training scientific and technical staff was identified by the two sides as the priority cooperation area and the most effective field of cooperation between the two countries. Every year, the Government of India offers 110 scholarships to Vietnam during this period. Recently, the Indian side has announced that it will increase the number of ITEC scholarships for Vietnam from 75 to 150 from 2012. Vietnam is the country with the most scholarships among developing countries under the cooperation program Indian technology (ITEC) with foreign countries.

Regarding cultural cooperation, during this period, a number of cultural exchange programs between the two sides were also conducted regularly. Every year, on the Independence holidays of India (August 15) and the National Day of Vietnam (September 2) and anniversaries of the two countries' diplomatic relations, the two countries hold Art photo exhibition, introducing the beauty of the country and people of Vietnam and India to the people of the two countries. At the same time, the exchanges of art troupes of the two countries to perform in the capital and other big cities also contributed to shine the artistic achievements of the two countries in the new era. Besides, Vietnam and India also actively participate in each other's Film Festivals. Many Indian film weeks are held in Vietnam during the Indian National Day and are very popular with Vietnamese audiences.

Cultural cooperation between Vietnam and India is also carried out through education. For the first time in Vietnam, the Indian Studies Department was established at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Science and Technology in 2000 with the first course of 26 students. In 2002, the Department of Indian Studies was also established at the distant University of Science and Humanities in Hanoi. So far, the Department of Indian Studies in both the North and South of the country has trained many graduates, contributing positively to promoting Vietnam-India relations in a deeper way.

On July 5, 2011, the Government of Vietnam decided to establish the Institute of India and Southwest Asia, under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. This event proves that Vietnam appreciates India's role and the importance of studying India in the current period. During Vietnam President Truong Tan Sang's visit to India (October 12, 2011), the two sides agreed to take 2012 as the Vietnam-India Friendship Year to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the two countries establishing relations full diplomacy (1972 - 2012) and 5 years of establishing a strategic partnership (2007 - 2012). The Indian side also organized "India Year in Vietnam" in 2012 with many cultural events such as art performances, film festivals, food and pictures in many cities of Vietnam.

#### *4.2 Comprehensive Strategic Partner*

From the foundation of a good strategic partnership, on the occasion of the visit to India by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (September 2016), the bilateral relationship marked a new turning point: raising the relationship of the two countries up the range of comprehensive strategic partners. This is a testament to the deep, reliable and effective development of Vietnam - India relations over the past time. After two years of upgrading the comprehensive strategic partner, the two countries' economic, defense and security relations have gradually stepped into the depth and essence.

Bilateral relations continue to be strengthened and deepened through the official visit to India by National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan (December 2016). The visit has an important meaning to concretize

the comprehensive strategic partnership between Vietnam and India, in the context of the two countries towards the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations ( January 7, 1972 - January 7, 2017) and celebrate 10 years of strategic partnership (2007 - 2017); At the same time, it aims to promote deeper relations between the National Assembly of Vietnam and the Indian legislature, laying a solid foundation for long-term stable relations with India. That is shown as follows:

*In terms of political:* the two sides work closely together and support each other at multilateral fora (Asia - Europe Conference, ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting ...), especially within the framework of the United Nations. The two sides supported each other in the UN Security Council, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Human Rights Council.

Vietnam supports India as a Standing Member when the Security Council expands ... Vietnam supports India in implementing “AEP”, Policy regional connectivity initiatives and development assistance Cambodia - Laos - Myanmar - Vietnam sub-region, Ganges River - Mekong River (MGC).

India has a rather positive and consistent position on the South China Sea issue, emphasizing the importance of peace, stability, safety, security and freedom of navigation and aviation, peacefully resolving disputes. , respect international law, urging to develop an effective, appropriate and legally binding South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC).

*In terms of economic:* If the fiscal year 2015 - 2016, the two - way trade turnover of Vietnam - India had reached 7.826 billion USD (Dinh, 2017, p. 246), now, after 2 years as a comprehensive, bilateral strategic partner between the two countries have exceeded the threshold of 10 billion USD (World electronic newspapers and Vietnam, 2018). Regarding investment cooperation, if compared to September 2016, India has 203 investment projects in Vietnam, with a registered capital of US \$ 524 million, ranking 28th out of 62 countries and territories with capital. Investing in Vietnam, India’s investment in Vietnam is now over 1.2 billion USD. In 2017, India’s investment in Vietnam ranked 28/126 countries and territories invested in Vietnam, with 168 projects, total registered capital of 756 million USD. Many large Indian corporations such as TATA, ONGC and Essar... are investing and doing business successfully in Vietnam (Vietnam News Agency, 2018).

It can be seen that on the high level of comprehensive strategic partners, economic relations, India continues to be one of the ten biggest trading partners of Vietnam, with bilateral turnover increasing by an average of 16% / year in 10 years ago (Nhan dan Electronic newspaper of Vietnam, 2018). Many large Indian corporations have continued to promote investment and business in Vietnam. India not only strengthened economic and trade cooperation, but also prioritized Vietnam in development cooperation in all other important areas; not only in the bilateral framework, the two countries has been being continue to cooperate closely and support each other at multilateral fora. Vietnam has always welcomed India’s strong efforts and commitments in implementing the “Action towards the East”, strengthening connectivity and development cooperation with ASEAN. With the role of coordinating ASEAN - India relations in the current period (2015-2018), Vietnam actively cooperates with India, promoting cooperation between India and ASEAN countries in the direction of increasing go into depth, more substantive.

In the Vietnam-India Joint Statement on the occasion of the visit to India by the late President Tran Dai Quang in March 2016, the two sides agreed that the strengthening of economic relations and strong trade is the battle target. the core and strategic elements of the strategic partnership are comprehensive and necessary for strengthening bilateral relations in general, ... entrusting the relevant authorities to seek specific and practical measures to achieve the target of trade turnover of USD 15 billion by 2020; soon held the next session of the Joint Trade Subcommittee in Hanoi as early as 2018, encouraging two-way investment between Vietnam and India.

In terms of culture and education: India is helping Vietnam train high quality human resources in many areas such as information technology, economics, law, English ... through many short and long scholarships term (about 150 rates). India established: Center for training high quality resources on information and communication technology in Hanoi, English Center at Danang University and promoting the establishment of English and Informatics Training Center at Communication University, Nha Trang of Vienam.

Vietnam and India have signed the Cultural Exchange Program for the period of 2015 - 2017, conducting many exchanges and exhibitions, promoting culture and tourism; signing a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of Nalanda University, paving the way for greater cooperation and exchanges in the field of Buddhism; memorandum of understanding to build a conservation and renovation project of Cham tower groups in My Son (Quang Nam province to day) worth US \$ 3 million. India opened the Indian Cultural Center in Hanoi; promote spreading “soft power” through Bollywood movies, Yoga, Buddhism.

In recent years, the number of Indian visitors to Vietnam has increased impressively, averaging 17% per year in the period of 2010 - 2016; in 2016 increased by 30% (85,000 turns). VietjetAir is also promoting the opening of direct flights to Ho Chi Minh City - New Delhi in the shortest time.

*Defense relations and security cooperation:* on the foundation of India and Vietnam defense and security relations established in 1994, the cooperation in this field between the two countries continues to grow well. In May 2015, the Defense Minister of the two countries signed the “Statement of common vision on Vietnam - India defense relations in the period of 2015 – 2020” and witnessed the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding between Vietnam and Vietnam. Indian Coast Guard forces in coordinating prevention efforts and developing cross-country cooperation. The statement above is based on mechanisms and processes of defense and security relations between the two previous countries, in order to strengthen defense and security relations. The declaration has shown momentum in expanding strategic relations between India and Vietnam (Vinod Anand, 2017, p. 345). In particular, defense cooperation between the two countries was expanded in all three army troops: navy, army, and air force and focused on areas such as training and defense industry; At the same time, the two sides signed a cooperation program on UN peacekeeping issues and a technical agreement on non-military maritime information sharing.

Regarding security cooperation, the two countries strengthen coordination in the areas of crime prevention and criminal science; Drug prevention, anti-terrorism. At the same time, the two countries also closely coordinated and supported each other in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Regional Security Forum (ARF), and the Association. ASEAN Minister of Defense Conference extends (ADMM +). In the role of coordinator of India - ASEAN relations in the current period (2015 - 2018), Vietnam supports India in implementing the Policy “AEP”, regional connectivity initiatives, etc.

Towards strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership, in a joint statement on the visit to India by the late President Tran Dai Quang (March 4, 2013), on defense and security, the two sides agreed: Defense - security cooperation is an important and effective pillar of comprehensive strategic partnership; welcomed the exchange of high-level defense and security delegations, maintained dialogue mechanisms, strengthened cooperation between army and army units, promoted cooperation in the areas of cyber security, terrorism and mastery extreme forms of violence, transnational crimes, human trafficking, drug trafficking and maritime security, climate change and food security; implementing a Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Indian National Security Council and launching a deputy-level dialogue to strengthen cooperation in traditional and non-traditional security issues, etc. India affirmed that he is always ready to coordinate with Vietnam in defense cooperation, capacity building training for Vietnam; emphasizing the need for strengthening maritime cooperation, etc.

Recently, the comprehensive strategic partnership between Vietnam and India continues to grow well. Political trust is increasingly tightened through the regular maintenance of visits, high-level contacts and levels, on the Party, State, Government, Parliament, local and exchange channels. From the beginning of 2018, President Tran Dai Quang paid a State visit to India (March 2018), Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc attended the ASEAN and India Summit and celebrated 69 years of the Republic of India (January 2018), the Indian Defense Minister visited Vietnam in June 2018 and the Indian Foreign Minister visited Vietnam in August 2018.

Vietnam and India relations are making important progresses, especially after forming a comprehensive partnership framework and bilateral visits of high - ranking leaders of the two countries. The two sides have effective cooperation mechanisms. The mechanism of the Vietnam-India Intergovernmental Committee on economy, trade and science and technology, referred to as the Joint Committee (alternate meetings every two years at the level of Foreign Minister) has been conducted 15 meetings are held.

Defense cooperation between the two countries continues to develop well and effectively, becoming an important and strategic pillar; it was expanded in all three military armies: Hai, Green, Air Force and focused on three areas of training, defense industry and visiting ships.

The two sides organized the First Security Dialogue mechanism for Vice Minister level (July 2018); enhance sharing of information and experiences in preventing transnational crimes, criminal science, drug prevention, cybercrime, high-tech crimes, counter terrorist.

#### *4.3 Prospects for Future Development*

In the past, frequent high-level visits have helped the two countries to constantly strengthen and develop a close and strong political relationship. Through those visits, many agreements, projects, contracts, business agreements ... have been signed, creating favorable conditions for Vietnamese businesses to do business in India,

as well as attracting sources. Investment from India into Vietnam. The two sides should regularly exchange information and recommend to the governments of the two countries to come up with solutions for enterprises' benefits. This is a very important job, we need to maintain and reinforce this, and have appropriate regulatory policies in the country to maximize this advantage.

#### *In the field of economics*

It is the most liberal and transparent foreign direct investment (FDI) policy among the major economies in the world. 100% FDI is licensed under the Automatic Route program, in all areas of operation, except for a few areas that require government approval before investing. Under this automatic licensing method, investors must only report to the Reserve Bank of India within 30 days from the date the investment is transferred into the country. India seeks large FDI to develop infrastructure, upgrade technology of Indian industry, through new investment projects in manufacturing and projects that can create more jobs on a large scale.

The Government of India gives high priority to the development of infrastructure such as highways, seaports, railways, airports, energy and telecommunications ... Currently the Government is actively seeking private investment domestic and foreign personnel for infrastructure development. The draft of India's 11th Five-Year Plan targets the private investment sector to account for 30% of the total investment in infrastructure development over the next five years. The government is also actively pursuing a model of Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) to offset the shortage of capital for domestic infrastructure. Several initiatives have been introduced to promote this model in areas such as energy, seaports, highways, airports, tourism and urban infrastructure.

India has also liberalized and simplified the management of the foreign exchange market. The rupee can be freely converted with any payment deposit account. It is almost fully convertible in the capital account of non-residents. For profits from foreign direct investment, dividends and proceeds arising out of sales of investment projects can be fully transferred to the country. The majority of Indian capital account-related barriers to Indian income have also been removed, as India's foreign exchange reserves have soared.

Comments from trade experts show that India is currently holding the position of the world's fastest growing economy. This is an important premise in economic and trade exchange between the two countries. Experts also pointed out that: Not only did the trade volume increase, but the categories of commodities exchanged between the two countries were also expanded from traditional agricultural products and materials to manufactured goods reflecting the increasing link between the two economies in a common production chain. Moreover, the entry into force of the Agreement on Trade Liberalization between India and ASEAN since 2015 also has certain effects on trade between the two countries.

In order to continue developing Vietnam - India trade relations, experts said that the two sides should enhance mutual understanding and promotion, introduce themselves to each party; at the same time, improve efficiency and increase trade promotion activities. More importantly, there is a need to have a bilateral trade agreement between Vietnam and India.

According to the Vietnam Trade Office in India, many Indian businesses are eager to invest in Vietnam, especially in the agricultural sector. In addition, India also hopes to export to Vietnam a number of strong agricultural products such as grapes, sesame seeds, pomegranate ... and wait for Vietnam to invest in building a seafood processing factory, planting dragon fruits to supply more than 1.3 billion people in the country.

On the contrary, Vietnam also wants India to create conditions for Vietnam to continue exporting some key agricultural products such as coffee, rubber, cashew nuts, pepper and considering importing blankets products raising such as chicken, pig ... as well as some fruit products.

Indian Ambassador to Vietnam Parvathaneni Harish emphasized: India and Vietnam hold key positions in the region in terms of economy, politics and security. As a member of ASEAN, Vietnam is a country capable of facilitating India's growing relationship with the rest of ASEAN, with a focus on the "AEP" policy.

Moreover, both countries have extensive economic relations in the field of oil and gas exploration, agriculture, manufacturing, defense and most recently services - an area that is a new growth engine in global trade.

#### *Promote exchanges, learn Indian culture, investment and cooperation in education*

Indian culture is extremely unique and has many differences compared to Vietnam, moreover, although the political - economic - legal environment plays the most important role and has the strongest impact on the commercial environment and international investment but the cultural environment is increasingly proving its influence. If you do business in India (or any other country) without understanding the national culture and

business culture here, it will be difficult to achieve the words “success”.

India is defined as an attractive market even at the present and in the future, of course, Vietnam is not outside the list of countries that are targeting this market. Therefore, understanding Indian culture is very urgent that the Government must be proactive. This can be done by organizing “Cultural Exchange” programs, culinary exchange, literature, art, sports, etc., seminars between businesses, businessman of India with Vietnam...

To be able to understand about culture, the most effective way is the education. Cultural education should be included in the curricula in universities, colleges, and even high schools. In fact, Vietnam and India also have some training cooperation programs but are not really effective and only short-term. In the future we need to overcome this. Bringing cultural training programs into schools, especially for students of the economic sector will be a practical effect, it equips students - entrepreneurs, future business owners of the land a country with a certain knowledge of culture, not just of India but of any countries.

Another method is open international cooperation programs, bring Vietnamese students to study in India, so students can have direct contact with Indian culture, and get real experience, serving very well for later when returning to work with Indian businesses and entrepreneurs.

India is helping Vietnam to train high quality human resources in many areas such as Information Technology, Economics, Law, English ... through many short and long-term scholarships; two countries have extended the Cultural Exchange Program between Vietnam and India.

#### *In the field of defense and security*

The two countries continue to strengthen defense and security cooperation on the basis of previous achievements. In particular, the two countries’ defense cooperation has been expanded in all three army troops: Hai, continent, no. troops and focus on three areas: Training, defense industry and visits; At the same time, the two sides signed a cooperation program on UN peacekeeping issues and a technical agreement on sharing non-military maritime information.

The two countries’ security cooperation has been strengthened in the areas of crime prevention, criminal science, drug prevention and terrorism. At the same time, the two countries also closely coordinated and supported each other at multilateral fora such as the United Nations, ASEAN, ARF, ADMM +... In the role of India and ASEAN relations coordinator (2015-2018), Vietnam supports India in implementing the “AEP”, regional initiatives in the coming years.

### **5. Conclusion**

Along with the achievements achieved in other important areas, can be seen, Vietnam - India relations in the fields of politics, economy, defense and security, culture - science – education. There are much potential to continue to grow.

Although the cooperation between the two sides has been and will be faced with many difficulties and obstacles, it is the lack of information about each other’s country and people; difficulty in traveling; cultural, religious, psychological and habitual differences; the South China Sea issue is both an opportunity and poses many challenges for both sides. However, with the development potential of the two countries, the political determination to strengthen the relationship “comprehensive strategic partners” of Vietnam - India senior leaders, for the benefit of each country and regional stability, economic cooperation; Defense and security between the two countries in the time to come face many great prospects. This is the basis and important foundation for Vietnam - India economic, defense - security cooperation to continue developing on a high level of comprehensive strategic partners and increasingly in-depth and effective.

Decades have passed, Vietnam and India friendship relations are still strong and faithful and will remain forever in the same time. Looking back on the Vietnam - India relationship from the 70s to the present, it can be seen that, overcome all the difficulties and obstacles that still exist, the relationship between the two countries has continuously improved and reached great achievements. With these achievements, we believe that the Vietnam and India strategic partnership will grow stronger in the future, meeting the expectation of the two governments and people in the new period.

### **Acknowledgement**

This paper is supported by University of Transport and Communications, Vietnam

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### Note

Note 1. In the Eastern Han Dynasty, Taoism also brought many magical elements. The story of “Hoa Ho” said that Lao Tzu after his nickname in the West went to the Ho (India) and educated, conquered the Ho, and he himself became Shakyamuni Buddha.

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